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Executive Services
5th Floor, 625 Fisgard St
Victoria, BC. V8W 2S6

T: 250.360.3125
www.crd.bc.ca

November 20, 2018

The Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

And

The Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Ministers:

Re: Inclusive Regional Governance with First Nations

The purpose of this letter is to engage with the Province in an exciting, collaborative initiative that will work to overcome systemic barriers to better and more inclusive governance amongst local and First Nations governments in the Capital Region.

On June 12 2018, the past CRD Board Chair, the Chair of the Special Task Force on First Nations Relations and senior staff met with Minister Fraser and his staff. The CRD came away from that session feeling optimistic that the Province expressly supports local government/First Nations Government relations, and to that end, is a willing partner in helping to facilitate stronger connections.

Since that meeting, the Task Force submitted its Final Report to the CRD Board which summarized the work the committee undertook over the course of its four year mandate, and identified a number of recommendations. Some of the recommendations were directed to the outgoing Board and some were directed to the incoming Board. A recurring theme throughout the final report is the need to have the Province at the table, helping to address and identify solutions to those issues that are beyond the jurisdiction of local government to resolve.

The Task Force Final Report recommendations were unanimously adopted by the Board on October 10, 2018. **A copy of the Final Report is included** with this letter; the **digital version** can be downloaded at www.crd.bc.ca/project/first-nation-relations.

The primary purpose of this letter is to draw attention to **Recommendation No. 2** which seeks the Province's leadership and participation in a collaborative, inter-governmental working group that will work to address the challenges and barriers to inclusive regional governance.

This call to action is in keeping with the positive feedback we received from our discussions with Minister Fraser. We believe a working group framework, made up of all levels of government is a practical and pragmatic solutions-based approach. We feel confident that with the Province's leadership and support, many of the neighbouring First Nations will also join the conversation. Attached is a letter from the Tseycum Nation Chief Tanya Jimmy expressing her Nation's interest in joining the table.

As the newly elected Board Chair, I am pleased to play a leadership role in initiating the Task Force recommendations, of which one is establishing a First Nations Relations Standing Committee of the Board (Task Force Recommendation No.8). It is my hope that I can bring to the committee confirmation, as a first order of business, a Provincial commitment to participate and support the inter-governmental working group initiative (Recommendation No. 2).

On behalf of the CRD Board, I look forward to hearing from you on how we may work together to move this important initiative forward.

Sincerely,



Colin Plant, CRD Board Chair

Cc: Robert Lapham, CAO
Kristen Morley, GM Corporate Services
Sue Hallatt, Manager, First Nations Relations

Attachment(s):

Special Task Force Final Report
Support letter - Chief Tanya Jimmy, Tseycum First Nation

