



Making a difference...together

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File: 0230-20

Maja Tait  
President, Union of BC Municipalities  
Via email: [mtait@sooke.ca](mailto:mtait@sooke.ca)

Bill Karsten  
President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Via email: [bill.karsten@halifax.ca](mailto:bill.karsten@halifax.ca)

Dear Ms. Tait and Mr. Karsten:

**RE: COVID-19 AND COMMUNITY WORKS FUNDS**

At the Capital Regional District Board meeting held April 22, 2020, the following Resolution was made:

*That the CRD Board Chair immediately write to Boards of UBCM and FCM requesting their advocacy to the federal government, that in light of the economic and financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the guidelines governing expenditures of Community Works Funds be relaxed for a temporary period of up to a year, allowing a broader range of capital and operating expenditures than currently allowed, subject to the due diligence of local government, and as long as such expenditures are in the broad public interest.*

As you may know, the Community Works Fund (CWF) is one of the most significant financial resources available to local governments, particularly unincorporated electoral areas. Yet the restrictions on the funding explicitly precludes support for important infrastructure investments such as health facilities, seniors and social housing, and public safety buildings.

A temporary relaxation of CWF guidelines would greatly assist local governments in responding to the COVID-19 health emergency and assisting with post-emergency economic recovery. We support and appreciate the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' request for additional federal infrastructure and transit funding. The request to relax CWF guidelines is not intended as a substitute for this additional funding, but would be a very helpful complementary measure without any additional cost to taxpayers.

I would be pleased to discuss this with you to provide some context around how existing Community Works funding could be used to help with the COVID-19 response and economic recovery. Please feel free to contact Carolyn Jenkinson at [cjenkinson@crd.bc.ca](mailto:cjenkinson@crd.bc.ca) or 250-360-3125 to coordinate a phone meeting at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Colin Plant  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: Elizabeth May, MP Saanich-Gulf Islands  
Adam Olsen, MLA Saanich North and the Islands  
Gary Holman, Director, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area  
Dave Howe, Director, Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area  
Mike Hicks, Director, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area  
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD