



The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, PC, MP
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Sohi:

I am writing to you with respect to the status of the **Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project** (the Project) for the Capital Regional District (CRD) in the Province of British Columbia.

In keeping with earlier agreements struck respectively between the provincial and federal governments, including with P3 Canada, and the CRD, I would like to emphasize my support for this project as a priority for the province and for the Capital Region. As you know, on March 9th, 2016 the CRD Board passed a motion endorsing an amendment to the **Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan**. The amendment identifies site selection and requests an extension to the current environmental regulatory deadline. The provincial Ministry of Environment is currently reviewing this request.

As you know, this project has experienced significant difficulties within the region as appropriate technology, scoping and site selection have been worked through. Despite these challenges, the province is confident that the region's local governments appreciate the importance of protecting public health and the environment through sewage treatment upgrades in the CRD; and the province is pleased to note that there has been a resurgence of commitment among the region's mayors to find a successful way forward for the project.

Recognizing the natural complexities of advancing a project of this magnitude within a region featuring multiple municipalities and regional governance for services including wastewater treatment, the Province has offered to provide active facilitation support to enable the region to determine an immediate and positive path forward for the Project so that the CRD can meet its accountabilities by 2020 as required by Environment Canada.

Provincial facilitation will focus on two phases:

1. **Technology Review** - to immediately support, through the engagement of Partnerships BC (PBC), PBC will conduct a fact finding exercise regarding the potential technology options. We anticipate that this initial work will be concluded by May, 2016. This work will be designed to concretely inform the region respecting its preferred approach, and will inform provincial requirements respecting due diligence in relation to our role as a funding partner.
2. **Decision Facilitation** - upon completion of the detailed options analysis, the province further proposes to support the region through the assignment of a specialized facilitator, whose task

will be to work with the region to find consensus and the way forward respecting implementation of a preferred option.

The province recognizes that these activities must be successfully concluded within a very short timeframe to position the CRD to move forward and meet its regulatory requirements. To allow time for this work to occur, we respectfully request latitude regarding the federal March 31, 2016 filing deadline, and welcome your feedback and any necessary discussion toward exploring this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Fassbender', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Fassbender
Minister

Cc:

Mayor Desjardins
Mayor Helps
Minister Polak
Amanda Farrell