

Ref: 133165

AUG 20 2009

Ms. Gerry Giles
Chair
Cowichan Valley Regional District
175 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC V9L 1N8

Dear Chair Giles:

Thank you for your letter of July 10, 2009, indicating that the Cowichan Valley Regional District supports further study on governance for the South Cowichan area.

Due to the current economic climate, I have had to review and prioritize study grants throughout the province. This review has resulted in instructions to Ministry of Community and Rural Development (Ministry) staff to focus on completing current study projects prior to the next local government election. While new study grants are not available at this time, Ministry staff are available to work with clients to help them move their projects forward.

With respect to your project, Ministry staff are currently evaluating the South Cowichan Services and Governance Study Technical Report completed this year. One particular focus will be to determine if the proposed study area reflects the factors that have contributed to positive outcomes in other incorporation processes. This evaluation will provide additional information for you and the committee to consider, in discussing with the Ministry, next steps in looking at incorporation options for the South Cowichan area.

If you have questions regarding the Ministry review, please contact Ms. Karen Lynch, Senior Planning Analyst, Local Government Structure Branch, by telephone at: 250 356-1040, or by email at: Karen.Lynch@gov.bc.ca.

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Ms. Gerry Giles
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Thank you, again, for your letter. Your continued support for considering governance options for the South Cowichan area is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Bill Bennett
Minister

pc: Mr. Dale Wall
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community and Rural Development

Mr. Brian Harrison
Director
Electoral Area A
Cowichan Valley Regional District

Mr. Ken Cossey
Director
Electoral Area B
Cowichan Valley Regional District

✓ Mr. David Towner
Chair
South Cowichan Services and Governance Study
Cowichan Valley Regional District

Mr. Warren Jones
Chief Administrative Officer
Cowichan Valley Regional District

Ms. Karen Lynch
Senior Planning Analyst
Local Government Structure Branch
Ministry of Community and Rural Development



July 10, 2009

File No.: 0112-20-SCOW

Honourable Bill Bennett
 Minister of Community and Rural Development
 PO BOX 9056, STN PROV GOVT.
 VICTORIA BC V8W9E2

*via facsimile: 250 387.4312
 and email: CS.minister@gov.bc.ca*

Dear Minister Bennett,

Re: South Cowichan

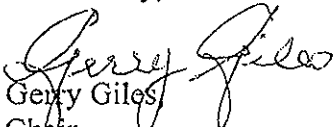
The South Cowichan Service and Governance Committee recently completed a study on service and governance issues (attached) in the Electoral Areas of Mill Bay / Malahat, Shawnigan Lake and Cobble Hill. On July 8, 2009, the Committee formally presented its findings to the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board of Directors. Please be advised that the Board unanimously resolved:

"To request that the Province fund a Phase II Study of the "Combined South Cowichan" concept as recommended by the South Cowichan Services & Governance Committee."

The elected representatives of the three (3) electoral areas, (Directors Harrison, Cossey and Giles) would respectfully request an opportunity to meet with you to discuss support for moving forward with a Phase II Study to explore in detail the possibility of incorporation in South Cowichan. My office will be in contact with yours to try to make the necessary arrangements.

Thank you very much for your attention and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,


 Gerry Giles
 Chair

WJ/ann

pc: Dale Wall, Deputy Minister, Community and Rural Development,
 PO BOX 9490, STN PROV GOVT, VICTORIA, BC V8W9N7
 Director Brian Harrison, Electoral Area A, Mill Bay / Malahat
 Director Ken Cossey, Electoral Area B, Shawnigan Lake
 David Towner, Chair, South Cowichan Services & Governance Committee
 Warren Jones, Administrator

File: ADMINISTRATOR2/Correspondence/Chairperson/fo Minister Bennett Phase II SCSG July 2009