



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

File: 0230-27, 0410-25

January 10, 2012

The Honourable Ida Chong
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Room 323
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Chong;

RE: Auditor General for Local Government

At their Regular Open Meeting held on January 9, 2012 Council for the City of Vernon discussed the above captioned issue, and adopted the following resolution:

'THAT Council directs staff to advise the new Auditor General for Local Governments, that the City of Vernon would consider placement on the list for consideration of a Provincial Audit.

CARRIED.'

We are looking forward to participating in this innovative new program. Thank you for your consideration, and for sharing our request with the 'soon to be appointed' Auditor General for Local Governments.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Bridal'.

Patricia Bridal, Corporate Officer
Manager, Corporate Services

pc: Mayor & Council
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce
Kevin Bertles, Manager, Finance

Tubman, Tammy CSCD:EX

From: Brown, Tom G CSCD:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 1:18 PM
To: Hawkins, Sylvia E. CSCD:EX; Tubman, Tammy CSCD:EX
Subject: FW: Powell River

FYI guys. I would imagine Talitha would be holding the pen.
Thanks, Tom

From: Fast, Don CSCD:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 1:16 PM
To: Paine, Julian C CSCD:EX
Cc: Brown, Tom G CSCD:EX
Subject: Powell River

Pls prepare a response for me to send them by Feb 1 on the issues they raised at the mtg yesterday

Don Fast
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
250-387-4104; cell S17

CORRESPONDENCE BRANCH
Received
JAN 19 2012
Sent: JAN 19 2012
ASSIGN TO:
LGID - LGIF
<input type="checkbox"/> INFO/FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS/ADVICE
<input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION
<input type="checkbox"/> REPLY DIRECT
<input type="checkbox"/> PREM. BULLETS
<input type="checkbox"/> ANH. RESPONSE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DM. RESPONSE

*Is LGIF
(Talitha)
to draft
response for
DfM's signature
due Feb 1*

Jan. 25 '12

Ref: 148992

Mr. Gary MacIsaac
Executive Director
Union of British Columbia Municipalities
Local Government House
525 Government Street
Victoria, BC V8V 0A8

Dear Mr. MacIsaac:

I am writing on behalf of Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, in regard to appointment of members of the Audit Council pursuant to the *Auditor General for Local Government Act*. With the Act anticipated to come into force during the spring 2012 session of the Legislative Assembly, the appointment of no fewer than five persons as members of the Audit Council will be required.

Section 18 of the Act requires consultation with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and with persons or organizations representing business, taxpayers, local government professionals and others, at the discretion of the Minister. In order to ensure the timely appointment of Audit Council members after the anticipated coming into force of the Act this spring, I am taking this opportunity to seek the views of the UBCM to assist the Minister when making recommendations to government with regard to appointments to the Audit Council.

As provided in Part 3 of the Act, the Audit Council will consist of no fewer than five members, appointed by government, with one member designated as Chair. Members will be appointed for up to three years, and different terms may be set for different members. Appointees to the Audit Council must have knowledge, skills, education or experience in one or more of the areas of auditing, accounting, and local, regional or provincial governance. Members will be remunerated in accordance with the standard remuneration policies of the government for agencies, boards and commissions.

.../2

Mr. Gary MacIsaac

Page 2

Appointments to the Audit Council will be made in accordance with the competencies referred to above, and the written appointment guidelines of the Board Resourcing and Development Office (BRDO). An "expression of interest" will be posted on the BRDO website at: www.gov.bc.ca/brdo, inviting qualified individuals to submit their applications for membership on the Audit Council.

As a valued stakeholder in British Columbia's local government system, any input the UBCM has with regard to potential appointments would be most helpful. If possible, please provide the names, addresses and phone numbers of potential candidates to both me and the BRDO prior to Friday, February 10, 2012.

The views of the UBCM with respect to membership of the Audit Council are important, and the input of the UBCM will be considered by the Minister when making recommendations regarding the anticipated appointments to the Audit Council.

Regards,

**ORIGINAL
SIGNED BY**

Don Fast
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Telephone: 250-387-4104; Cell: S17

pc: Honourable Ida Chong
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Ms. Ann Wicks, Managing Director
Board Resourcing and Development Office
Office of the Premier



#149252
Union of BC Municipalities
Suite 60 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC, Canada V6X 2W9

Phone: 604.270.8226
Email: ubcm@ubcm.ca

February 7, 2012

Honourable Ida Chong
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
PO BOX 9056 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Chong:

Thank you for asking Mr. Fast to write to us to seek UBCM's input on potential appointments to the audit council under the proposed *Auditor General for Local Government Act*. Thank you also for the February 3 discussion with our Executive about the process by which these appointments will be made. We appreciate the added context that your discussion was able to provide.

We understand that these appointments will be based on merit and that the Board Resourcing and Development Office will manage the appointment process in collaboration with your Ministry. We also understand that a panel will consider the merits of each candidate against a set of eligibility criteria and desired qualifications before making appointment recommendations to you.

As we discussed with you on February 3, UBCM is supportive of the merit-based approach to these appointments. We also want to make it clear that UBCM has a significant interest in ensuring that appointments made will result in an effective audit council. In essence, our goal is a highly functioning audit council, capable of efficiently fulfilling its primary purpose of reviewing and monitoring the performance of the auditor general for local government.

To this end, Executive asks that UBCM's Executive Director be added to the candidate review panel. While we, like many others that you have consulted, are likely to provide you with some names of suitable candidates, we do not feel that this goes far enough to ensure an effective council. As you know, it is critically important to ensure that the board members collectively meet the required competencies. By ensuring that the skills and strengths of each member complement those of other members, the board as a whole is stronger, more capable, and more effective in meeting its mandate. Consequently, it is important to UBCM to work with you in ensuring that this collective skill set is obtained for the audit council.

.../2

ubcm.ca

Honourable Ida Chong
Page 2

You indicated at the meeting that you would consider this request. We appreciate your willingness to do this, particularly in light of the accountability links between the auditor general and local governments that you have provided for in the legislation.

A good example of this accountability link is provided in section 3 which states that the purpose of the auditor general is to "...provide local governments with objective information and relevant advice in order to assist them in their accountability to their communities". The audit council, in carrying out one of its primary duties of "reviewing and monitoring the performance of the auditor general..." would need to consider how efficient and effective the auditor general was in relation to the purpose of providing information to assist local governments in meeting their accountabilities. By these means, the proposed legislation clearly draws an accountability linkage between the auditor general and local governments. Consequently, UBCM has a particular interest in ensuring that the audit council is able to fulfil its responsibilities in an effective way.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important process. I recognize that you are anxious to get the process started, so look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Heath Slee
UBCM President

pc: Mr. Don Fast
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Ms. Ann Wicks
Managing Director
Board Resourcing and Development Office
Office of the Premier

#149238

Roberts, Connie A CSCD:EX

From: Fee, Colleen [Colleen.Fee@translink.ca]
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2012 9:56 AM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, CSCD CSCD:EX; Mayor Richard Walton (rwalton@dnv.org)
Subject: Letter from Mayor Richard Walton, Chair of the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation
Attachments: 12 02 09 Letter to Minister Lekstrom re including TransLink under the Auditor General for Local Government.pdf

Good Morning Minister Lekstrom,
Please find attached a letter from Mayor Richard Walton, in his capacity as Chair of the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation.
Yours truly,
Colleen Fee

from the desk of Colleen Fee
TransLink | South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority
Phone: 604.453.3096 | Fax: 604.453.4626 | <http://www.translink.ca>
A Better Place to Live/Built on Transportation Excellence

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MINISTRY OF COMMUNITIES
AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER'S OFFICE

RECEIVED

FEB 09 2012

ROUTE TO:

CC ☐ DRAFT REPLY ☐ FILE ☐ FILE ☐ FILE ☐ FILE ☐

*info filed
Feb 17 '12*

**CORRESPONDENCE
BRANCH**

Received:

FEB 15 2012

Sent:

FEB 16 2012

ASSIGN TO:

1/PLCD (Tom)

☐ INFOFILE
☐ COMMENTS/ADVICE
☒ NECESSARY ACTION
☐ REPLY DIRECT
☐ PREM. BULLETS
☐ MIN. RESPONSE
☐ DIR. RESPONSE

X Ref: 148597

Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

Mayors' Council on
Regional Transportation
1600 – 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2
Canada
Tel 604-453-3096
Fax 604-453-4626
www.translink.ca

February 9, 2012

Via email: minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Blair Lekstrom
Minister of Transportation
and Infrastructure
PO Box 9055 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Lekstrom,

Subject: "Including TransLink under the Auditor General for Local Government"

On October 27, 2011 the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation passed a resolution requesting that the Province include the review of TransLink's operations under the auspices of the new Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG). On November 9, 2011 we also communicated that same request to the Premier and we subsequently received a response from the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, the Honourable Ida Chong.

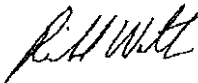
As a result of that response and by motion of the Mayors' Council, the Chair was requested to draft a letter to you with a copy to the Premier and Minister Chong.

As you are aware, there will be significant effort required as we deal with the entire question of the effectiveness of the current governance structure for TransLink and the roles of each of the parties involved. The Mayors' Council, TransLink Board and the Province will need to work together on what changes should be made to ensure greater transparency, accountability and effective oversight. One of the key elements in a refined structure will be the independent review of TransLink operations. We are aware that currently the TransLink Commissioner is required to review efficiencies and the effectiveness of TransLink as part of his responsibilities. However, the Mayors' Council feels strongly that a more in-depth review should be required every two to three years as part of the governance framework. That is why the request was made for either the new AGLG office or the Provincial Auditor General to fulfill this function. Should neither be seen to be appropriate by the Province, then another independent third party process should be agreed to by all parties.

This process we believe is critical so that we can assure the taxpayers of the Region that TransLink's existing resources are being allocated and managed in a fiscally prudent fashion before additional resources are sought for regional priorities. Currently, the Mayors' Council and local governments have a limited role by appointing Directors to the TransLink Board and approving supplemental capital plans, while the oversight of the remainder of the operational decisions, budgeting, and capital allocations continue to be made by a professional, but unelected Board. It is the clear view of the Mayors' Council that this is not sufficient involvement and oversight by the region's elected officials.

The Mayors' Council will meet with you again on March 7, 2012 to consider next steps in regard to moving ahead with the governance and review of TransLink's operations as well as the other key funding issues. We anticipate the support of the provincial government in this step towards greater transparency and accountability and look forward to continuing our work together.

Yours very truly,



Richard Walton, FCA
Chair, Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

cc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier
Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Feb 10 '12

Ref: 148977

His Worship Mayor Dave Formosa
Mr. Chris McNaughton, Councillor
Mr. Stan Westby, Chief Administrative Officer
City of Powell River
6910 Duncan Street
Powell River, BC V8A 1V4

Dear Mayor Formosa, Councillor McNaughton and Mr. Westby:

Thank you for taking the time to meet on January 18, 2012, and discuss some of the issues and challenges that are facing the City of Powell River. I want to assure you that Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development staff and I are prepared to work with you, Council and City staff in seeking out appropriate solutions to your issues.

I was very interested to hear of Council's support for the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) and further, your desire to be considered as a potential pilot community once the AGLG is operating. While I am unable to make any commitment, I would certainly like to hear more from you and any proposal the City may have.

I understand that you have since been in contact with Mr. Glen Brown, Executive Director, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch, to address next steps with the Freda Creek Clean Energy Project and questions around municipal corporations. I also understand that Mr. Brown and Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Westby, are going to set up a meeting to discuss your recent Gas Tax application for the City's Wastewater Treatment Project, in order to review the existing application and make amendments as necessary and appropriate, thus enhancing the opportunity for success in the next intake.

We also discussed two additional issues; the acquisition of crown owned lands leased by the City, and your interest in an 'at the pump tax'. I have instructed Ministry staff to follow up with their appropriate provincial colleagues, review any work previously done, and follow up with you and your staff—whether that be through an additional stakeholder meeting, or simply providing you with the information required.

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His Worship Mayor Dave Formosa
Mr. Chris McNaughton
Mr. Stan Westby
Page 2

Please consider Mr. Julian Paine, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division, as your primary contact with the Ministry. However, feel free to continue to work with other Ministry staff, such as Mr. Glen Brown, as you have in the past.

Once again, I enjoyed the opportunity to meet with all of you to discuss issues affecting the City. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Regards,

**ORIGINAL
SIGNED BY**

Don Fast
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Telephone: 250-387-4104; Cell S17

pc: Mr. Julian Paine
Assistant Deputy Minister
Local Government Division
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development



#149258
Union of BC Municipalities
Suite 60 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC, Canada V6X 2W9

Phone: 604.270.8226
Email: ubcm@ubcm.ca

February 13, 2012

Honourable Ida Chong
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
PO BOX 9056 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Chong:

RE: AUDIT COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Thank you again for meeting with our Executive on February 3, and for providing an update on several initiatives of your government, including the Auditor General for Local Government.

Subsequent to your delegation, Executive considered your request to provide names of candidates for Audit Council, and resolved to provide you with the names of two individuals. We have now had an opportunity to confirm interest in the appointment with these individuals, and are therefore in a position to recommend **Christopher Causton** and **Tim Wood** for appointment.

We have no doubt that these individuals meet the competencies set out for these positions and that they exemplify the personal attributes you are seeking. We are confident that if appointed, they would fulfil their roles on Audit Council with the utmost professionalism and diligence.

Mr. Causton was elected Mayor of Oak Bay in 1996 and served in that position until his retirement in 2011. In addition to this extensive local leadership and governance expertise, Mr. Causton brings considerable previous board experience as both a member and Chair of various local, regional and provincial boards.

Mr. Wood brings over 30 years experience in local government management positions, most recently as the Chief Administrative Officer for the District of Saanich. Mr. Wood brings extensive leadership and management expertise, as well as an understanding of a wide variety of perspectives on issues facing local governments in BC.

.../2

Honourable Ida Chong
Page 2

These candidates can be reached via email as follows:

- Christopher Causton: S22
- Tim Wood: S22

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this important process.

Sincerely,



Heath Slee
UBCM President

pc: Mr. Don Fast
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Ms. Ann Wicks
Managing Director
Board Resourcing and Development Office
Office of the Premier

Mr. Tom MacDonald
Executive Director
Local Government Management Association of British Columbia

Mr. Christopher Causton

Mr. Tim Wood

March 1 '12

Ref: 148924

His Worship Mayor Robert Sawatzky
and Members of Council
City of Vernon
3400 30th Street
Vernon, BC V1T 5E6

Dear Mayor Sawatzky and Councillors:

Thank you for the letter of January 10, 2012, written by Ms. Patricia Bridal, Corporate Officer, City of Vernon, regarding the City's desire for placement on the list for consideration of an audit by the proposed Auditor General for Local Government.

On November 24, 2011, the Province of British Columbia introduced the *Auditor General for Local Government Act* (Bill 20) to establish the legal framework for the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG). Debate on Bill 20 is expected to be held in spring 2012. Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, also announced that the office of the AGLG would be located in Surrey.

If the legislation passes, implementation of the AGLG office will be completed as soon as practicable after the legislation is in force. A number of steps are required before any audits can take place. First among them is the appointment of an Audit Council, whose functions include recommending the appointment of the Auditor General. Once the AGLG is in place, he or she will have full discretion to determine which local governments will be audited.

For more information about the AGLG (including Bill 20 and the news release), please visit the following websites: www.leg.bc.ca/39th4th/1st_read/gov20-1.htm and www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2011/11/surrey-to-host-auditor-general-for-local-government.html.

.../2

His Worship Mayor Robert Sawatzky
and Members of Council
Page 2

Thank you again for sharing the City's interest in the Auditor General for Local Government.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL
SIGNED BY**

Ida Chong, FCGA
Minister

pc: Mr. Eric Foster, MLA
Vernon-Monashee

Ms. Patricia Bridal, Corporate Officer
Manager, Corporate Services
City of Vernon

Mr. Kevin Bertles
Manager of Finance
City of Vernon

Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce

#149411

LeBoutillier, Louise CSCD:EX

From: Teresa Harvey [teresaharvey4colwood@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2012 10:48 AM
To: Minister, CSCD CSCD:EX
Subject: Municipal Auditor General - Public Requests for Investigation

Good Morning Minister Chong,

I have a question with respect to the new Municipal Auditor General legislation. Can a member of the public make a request to the Municipal Auditor General to investigate a program or does a request have to come through Council?

I am heading into a Committee of the Whole this evening and would appreciate a quick e-mail response or phone call to answer my question.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

--
Teresa Harvey
Councillor, City of Colwood
250.516.9664

RECEIVED
MAR - 7 2012
Sent: MAR - 7 2012
ASSIGN TO:
LGD-ADM (Gary)
☐ INFO/FILE
☐ COMMENTS/ADVICE
☒ NECESSARY ACTION
☐ REPLY DIRECT
☐ REPLY SILENT
☐ REPLY RESPONSE
☐ NO RESPONSE

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY,
SPORT AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER'S OFFICE
RECEIVED
MAR 06 2012
ROUTE TO:
CC: ☒ DRAFT REPLY ☐ FNA ☐ M ☐
☒ REPLY DIRECT ☐ FILE ☐ M ☐

→ Gary P has responded
by phone and answered
her questions.
March 8 '12

March 15 '12

Ref: 149250

Mr. Heath Slee
President
Union of British Columbia Municipalities
60 - 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9

Dear Mr. Slee:

Thank you for your letters of February 7 and 10, 2012, regarding the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Executive's request to add UBCM's Executive Director to the candidate review panel for the audit council, as well as questions concerning the expert panel on tax and the Municipal Revenue Sources Review.

With regard to the review panel for the audit council, I appreciate that UBCM has a significant interest in ensuring that appointments to the audit council result in an effective audit council.

As you are aware, appointments to the audit council will be based on merit, using a competency based approach. This competency based approach is consistent with the proposed Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) legislation, under which members of the audit council must have knowledge, skills, education or experience in accounting, auditing, local and regional governance, or provincial governance.

A candidate review panel that is consistent with the competency based approach for the audit council is the most effective way of ensuring that appointments to the council are made in a fair, transparent and independent manner. As such, it is important that the candidate review panel not consist of direct representatives of interests.

As you know, I have undertaken a public consultation process to ensure that a variety of organizations have the opportunity to provide input regarding potential audit council candidates; UBCM's input into this process has been invaluable. Based on this public consultation process and the general application process undertaken by the Board Resourcing and Development Office (BRDO), a candidate review panel with neutral representation will have the opportunity to select audit council members. As such, the three-person candidate review panel will consist of my Deputy Minister, as the representative of the Ministry, the Executive Director of BRDO, as

.../2

Ministry of Community, Sport
and Cultural Development

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Phone: 250 387-2283
Fax: 250 387-4312

Location:
Room 323
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

www.gov.bc.ca/cscd

Mr. Heath Slee

Page 2

the representative for the organization that manages all appointments to agencies, boards and commissions, and Mr. George Morfitt, as an individual who has previously been British Columbia's Provincial Auditor General and who will bring an additional lens of independence to the candidate review panel.

I fully appreciate UBCM's interest in wanting to ensure that the implementation of the AGLG audit council is conducted in a fair and appropriate manner. I am confident that the three-person candidate review panel, as described above, will result in an effective audit council.

With regard to the expert panel on tax and the Municipal Revenue Sources Review, I understand the desire to have a local government representative appointed to the expert panel reviewing business competitiveness or to have Mr. Dale Wall appointed as a full member of the panel. Unfortunately, the panel has already started its deliberations and the timelines established for the panel are fairly short, so it is preferable not to change the membership at this time. Mr. Wall is committed to meeting with staff or executive of the UBCM to ensure that you are aware of the progress of the panel and have an opportunity to share your views.

As discussed at the UBCM Executive meeting, the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development's internal review of local government revenues is not intended to make recommendations to the expert panel but to provide information that will inform both me and the panel. Given that this is primarily an information gathering activity that, again, has short timelines, there is not an opportunity to expand the process beyond its current scope. However, I look forward to your comments on the draft terms of reference and to having Ministry and UBCM staff connect, so that UBCM views and input are considered throughout the review.

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts and ideas. I am sure they will provide valuable insight and information for the audit council, expert panel and the internal Ministry review.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL
SIGNED BY**

Ida Chong, FCGA
Minister

pc: Mr. Don Fast
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Mr. Heath Slee
Page 3

bpc: Ms. Ann Wicks
Managing Director
Board Resourcing and Development Office
Office of the Premier

Mr. Heath Slee
Page 4

Minister: file copy Branch: file copy Branch: pending copy ARCS/ORCS#: 0280-30
Date Typed: March 15, 2012 Prepared by: LGD:LGIF:TSoldera:pab
Document Location: C:\Users\janehall\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet
Files\Content.Outlook\A9AGK9I7\149250_MIN_LGD_LGIF_Slee_UBCM_Final120315.docx

MS. ANN WICKS
MANAGING DIRECTOR
BOARD RESOURCING
AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
SUITE 730 – 999 CANADA PLACE
VANCOUVER, BC V6C 3E1



Office of the Mayor

March 27, 2012

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier
Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

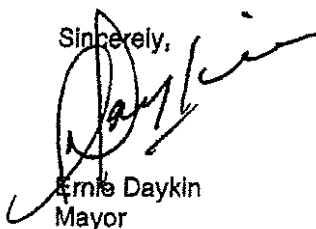
Dear Premier Clark:

At the open District of Maple Ridge Council Workshop of March 19, 2012, the following resolution was passed for your consideration:

THAT a letter be sent to Premier Christy Clark requesting that the Terms of Reference for the Municipal Auditor General include consideration of remuneration for Municipal Councils.

We are looking forward to your consideration and response to our District of Maple Ridge Council request.

Sincerely,



Ernie Daykin
Mayor

cc Maple Ridge Council
Jim Rule, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Maple Ridge
Frank Quinn, General Manager Public Works & Development, District of Maple Ridge
Paul Gill, General Manager Corporate & Finance, District of Maple Ridge
Kelly Swift, General Manager Community Development Parks & Recreation, District of Maple Ridge

District of Maple Ridge

11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, British Columbia V2X 6A9 CANADA
Telephone: 604-463-5221 • Fax: 604-467-7329 • Email: enquiries@mapleridge.org • www.mapleridge.org



MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY,
SPORT AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER'S OFFICE
RECEIVED
APR 24 2012
ROUTE TO: _____
CC: _____
DRAFT/REPLY ☐ RIA ☐ PM ☐
REPLY DIRECT ☐ FILE ☒ IN ☐

April 20, 2012

His Worship Ernie Daykin
Mayor of the District of Maple Ridge
11995 Haney Place
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 6A9

Dear Mayor Daykin:

Thank you for your letter advising of your Council's resolution to request that the Terms of Reference for the Auditor General for Local Government include consideration of remuneration for municipal councils. I appreciate hearing from you.

I have asked the Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, to ensure that you are sent a response on my behalf.

It was good to hear from you and thank you again for notifying me of your Council's wishes.

Sincerely,

Christy Clark
Premier

pc: Honourable Ida Chong

MINISTER'S OFFICE
MAY 01 2012
DESIGN TO:
☐ INFO/FILE
☐ COMMENT/ADVISE
☐ REPLY DIRECT
☐ REPLY DIRECT
☐ REPLY DIRECT
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☐ REPLY DIRECT

ps added to 149872

Office of the
Premier

Web Site:
www.gov.bc.ca

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria



JUN 08 2012

Ref: 149872

His Worship Mayor Ernie Daykin
and Members of Council
District of Maple Ridge
11995 Haney Ridge
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 6A9

Dear Mayor Daykin and Councillors:

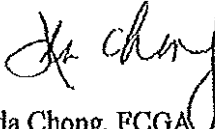
Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2012, addressed to Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, regarding the resolution passed by the District of Maple Ridge Council at the workshop of March 19, 2012. As Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, responsible for the local government system, I am pleased to respond on behalf of Premier Clark.

I appreciate the resolution to "include consideration of remuneration for Municipal Councils" in the AGLG's Terms of Reference. The mandate of the AGLG allows them to perform value for money audits on operations of specific local governments and prohibits them from calling into question the merits of local government policy decisions and objectives. Deciding what to pay council members is a policy choice of a local government, and remuneration for Municipal Council members will not be included in the AGLG's Terms of Reference. The role of the AGLG is to help local governments determine if their operations are the most effective, efficient and economical they can be.

Once the AGLG is in place, he or she will have full discretion to determine which programs and local governments will be audited.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,


Ida Chong, FCGA
Minister

.../2

Ministry of Community, Sport
and Cultural Development

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Phone: 250 387-2283
Fax: 250 387-4312

Location:
Room 323
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

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His Worship Mayor Ernie Daykin
and Members of Council
Page 2

pc: Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

Mr. Marc Dalton, MLA
Maple Ridge-Mission



Ref: 151034

SEP -4 2012

Her Worship Mayor Deb Walters
and Members of Council
City of Pitt Meadows
12007 Harris Road
Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2B5

Dear Mayor Walters and Councillors:

Thank you for your letter of July 19, 2012, regarding a Municipal Price Index (MPI). As Deputy Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, responsible for the local government system, I am pleased to respond.

In your letter you express some concern that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is not a strong indicator of municipal cost pressures because it tracks price changes for common household purchases, whereas a local government's major cost pressures are labour, contracts, and materials. Therefore, you would prefer some independent body to develop an MPI, specifically for local governments, to address their unique cost pressures.

Some municipalities in Canada have already taken the initiative of defining an MPI for their own unique local circumstances. Also, the City of Calgary and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities have been jointly working to encourage Statistics Canada to develop regional MPIs throughout the country. You may consider approaching these organizations regarding their efforts.

I will advise the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) about your suggestion once that individual has been appointed. The AGLGs mandate is to conduct performance audits of local government operations, with a view to efficiency and effectiveness. The AGLG has sole discretion to decide upon specific audits.

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Her Worship Mayor Deb Walters
and Members of Council
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Also, by way of this letter, I am informing my colleague Ms. Kim Henderson, Deputy Minister for Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government, and responsible for BC Stats, of your interest.

Thank you again for writing.

Regards,



Don Fast
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Telephone: 250-387-4104; Cell: S17

pc: Ms. Kim Henderson
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government

Mr. John Doyle
Auditor General of British Columbia

His Worship Mayor Ernie Daykin
and Members of Council
District of Maple Ridge

Mr. Heath Slee
President
Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Mr. Jim Rule
Chief Administrative Officer
District of Maple Ridge

Ref: 149952

His Worship Mayor David J. Formosa
and Members of Council
City of Powell River
6910 Duncan Street
Powell River, BC V8A 1V4

Dear Mayor Formosa and Councillors:

Thank you for your letter of April 25, 2012, requesting that the City of Powell River be considered as a pilot project community for the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG).

The *Auditor General for Local Government Act* (Bill 20) establishing the legal framework for the AGLG received royal assent on March 29, 2012. On April 25, 2012, five individuals were announced to the Audit Council overseeing the AGLG. The five members appointed are Mr. Anthony Ariganello (Chair), Mr. J. Richard Heney, Ms. Donalda MacDonald, Ms. Lisa Payne and Mr. Tim Wood.

Work is now underway to implement the AGLG office. A number of actions are required before any audits can take place. First and foremost, the AGLG must be appointed. Once in place, he or she will need to prepare an Annual Service Plan.

I appreciate your request for consideration of Powell River as a pilot project community. Once the AGLG is in place, he or she will have full discretion to determine which programs and local governments will be audited.

Thank you again for writing.

Regards,

Don Fast
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Telephone: 250-387-4104; Cell: S17

.../2

His Worship Mayor David J. Formosa
Page 2

pc: Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

Honourable Ida Chong
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Mr. Heath Slee
President
Union of British Columbia Municipalities

His Worship Mayor David J. Formosa
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HONOURABLE CHRISTY CLARK
PREMIER
PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E1

MR. HEATH SLEE
PRESIDENT
UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
MUNICIPALITIES
SUITE 60, 10551 SHELLBRIDGE WAY
RICHMOND, BC V6X 2W9



JUN 08 2012

Ref: 149872

His Worship Mayor Ernie Daykin
and Members of Council
District of Maple Ridge
11995 Haney Ridge
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 6A9

Dear Mayor Daykin and Councillors:

Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2012, addressed to Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, regarding the resolution passed by the District of Maple Ridge Council at the workshop of March 19, 2012. As Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, responsible for the local government system, I am pleased to respond on behalf of Premier Clark.

I appreciate the resolution to "include consideration of remuneration for Municipal Councils" in the AGLG's Terms of Reference. The mandate of the AGLG allows them to perform value for money audits on operations of specific local governments and prohibits them from calling into question the merits of local government policy decisions and objectives. Deciding what to pay council members is a policy choice of a local government, and remuneration for Municipal Council members will not be included in the AGLG's Terms of Reference. The role of the AGLG is to help local governments determine if their operations are the most effective, efficient and economical they can be.

Once the AGLG is in place, he or she will have full discretion to determine which programs and local governments will be audited.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Ida Chong, FCGA
Minister

.../2

His Worship Mayor Ernie Daykin
and Members of Council
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pc: Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

Mr. Marc Dalton, MLA
Maple Ridge—Mission



JUL 24 2012

Ref: 150808

Mr. Garry Nohr
Chair
Sunshine Coast Regional District
1975 Field Road
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A1

Dear Mr. Nohr:

Thank you for your letter of June 7, 2012, regarding the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG). I very much welcome the interest in the AGLG by the Sunshine Coast Regional District.

As you may know the *Auditor General for Local Government Act* came into force on April 25, 2012, and on the same day, the five-member Audit Council was appointed.

Under the Act, the Audit Council is responsible for recommending a qualified individual to be appointed as the AGLG. The Audit Council has been actively recruiting and assessing potential AGLG candidates since its appointment. Once the Audit Council completes its process and makes a recommendation, Cabinet will be asked to appoint an AGLG for a five-year term.

Before the AGLG can commence audits, the Act requires that he or she prepare an annual service plan for review by the Audit Council and then publish the plan.

In establishing the AGLG, government sought to ensure that the office had a high degree of operational independence while maintaining the office's accountability to citizens. This means that government cannot direct the AGLG or set its priorities.

We anticipate that the AGLG will commence audits during the fiscal year 2012/13, but timing will depend on factors such as when the AGLG is appointed and when the annual service plan is published. Other operational considerations like those identified in your letter will rest within the discretionary ambit of the AGLG.

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Mr. Garry Nohr
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With regard to the financial obligations of local governments, the AGLG is fully funded by the provincial government. There is no cost to local governments for the AGLG's performance audits. Local governments may incur costs when implementing recommendations arising from AGLG audits, but it is entirely at their discretion whether they choose to implement the AGLG's advice or not.

I fully expect that the AGLG will consult broadly with local governments and other stakeholders in order to understand their needs and concerns. Once the AGLG is appointed, you may wish to discuss the regional district's interests with the AGLG at that time.

Thank you again for your letter and for your interest in the AGLG.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ida Chong'.

Ida Chong, FCGA
Minister