



June 3, 2021

Re: Meeting of Regional District Chairs to Discuss Legislative Reform – June 25, 2021

Dear Regional District Chairs:

Following up on several recent discussions about legislative reform, including at April's Chair/CAO Forum, I am organizing a virtual meeting of Regional District Chairs to gauge interest in initiating a collective effort to bring about legislative reform with a view to modernizing the *Local Government Act* to reflect a more responsive approach to the needs and realities of communities today, and achieving greater equivalence between the powers of regional districts and municipalities.

Such an initiative would no doubt include a review of the models of taxation and funding for services between municipalities and regional districts which plays into challenges in establishing services in ways that optimize the most efficient scale, or that distribute costs and participation most fairly.

At the AVICC Convention on May 28, 2021 Minister Josie Osborne noted that she has heard from UBCM on the need for legislative reform and would be open to hearing about specific changes to the *Local Government Act* that are being sought.

Don Lidstone of Lidstone and Company has kindly agreed to attend this virtual session to discuss his work in this area and to help set the context for a path forward, including suggestions for a roadmap for policy and legislation. We are grateful for his guidance and expertise and look forward to coming together for a robust discussion to share ideas.

To that end, it is my pleasure to invite you to a virtual meeting on Friday, June 25, 2021 from 1 pm to 4 pm. An agenda will follow shortly, along with a calendar invitation and Zoom details. I very much hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Tyler Brown, Chair
Regional District of Nanaimo
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cc: Regional District CAOs