



August 31, 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 Phase II Study – Your Correspondence of August 20, 2009

We are writing to express our extreme disappointment in response to your letter of August 20, 2009 informing the CVRD Board that your Ministry is not going to fund a Phase II "incorporation study" for the South Cowichan area.

The South Cowichan community comprised of the Electoral Areas of Mill Bay/Malahat, Shawnigan Lake and Cobble Hill has a population nearing 17,000. Development applications approved and currently submitted to the Regional District could see the population more than double in the next 20 to 30 years. To illustrate, Mill Bay, represented by a single Electoral Area Director, has a population of approximately 4,200. Today there are approved and pending development applications for approximately 9,000 additional residential units in Mill Bay. The people of South Cowichan and the development industry deserve a governance model that will be more representative, democratic, responsive and consistent so that the future of this wonderful area is well served.

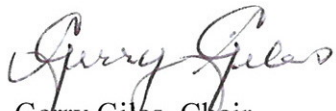
While the regional district structure may have served these communities well in the past, there is a strong desire by many in the South Cowichan to pursue alternative governance models that are more representative and able to better utilize provincial and local government regulations and tools to manage affairs at the local level.

The Phase I study, completed in May 2009, confirmed a strong community desire to pursue a Phase II Incorporation Study. The community's expectations have been raised and your decision to not fund a Phase II Study will leave the community and the Community Steering Committee questioning the value of their work and uncertain about the future. Unfortunately, we fear that your decision to stop the potential incorporation process from moving forward may result in the community "giving up" and the \$40,000 for the initial Phase I study having been wasted.

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We respectfully request that you reconsider your decision and thank you for your consideration.

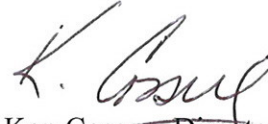
Yours truly,



Gerry Giles, Chair
Electoral Area C
Cobble Hill



Brian Harrison, Director
Electoral Area A
Mill Bay / Malahat



Ken Cossey, Director
Electoral Area B
Shawnigan Lake

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/to Minister Bennett Phase II SCSG Reconsider Request August 2009