



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

of BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Constituency Office:**

3 – 2429 Dobbin Road  
West Kelowna BC V4T 2L4  
Phone: 250-768-8426  
Fax: 250-768-8436

**Legislative Office:**

Room 201 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8W 1X4  
Email: Ben.Stewart.MLA@leg.bc.ca  
[www.benstewartmlabc.ca](http://www.benstewartmlabc.ca)



Ben Stewart  
M.L.A. Kelowna West

June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Shannon O'Brien  
[shannonobrien@shaw.ca](mailto:shannonobrien@shaw.ca)

Dear Ms. O'Brien,

Further to your letter on June 6<sup>th</sup> and my response on June 8<sup>th</sup>, I wanted to clarify my position.

Your letter expressed concern of how the Central Okanagan Regional District (CORD) has handled your current Fire Chief and one of the Lieutenants. I sympathize with your community members, but unfortunately this is a human resources matter with the Central Okanagan Regional District.

Secondly, I have had a joint call today with CORD West Director Carson, North Westside Communities Association (NWCA) President Wayne Nixon, and NWCA Self Governance Director Callie Simpson. Ms. Simpson originally wrote myself regarding both the foregoing matters. In regards to a NWCA delegation making a presentation to the CORD board, I'm pleased that Ms. Simpson advised that CORD Chair, Gail Given, has invited a delegation (10 maximum) to the CORD regular meeting to discuss self governance on June 22, 2020.

Further, I have advised Mr. Carson, Mr. Nixon and Ms. Simpson I would write Minister Robinson, of Municipal Affairs and Housing, for a further reconsideration of her Ministry's March 2, 2018 decision which outlined the following:

"The North Westside area is comprised of small and isolated rural communities stretched along a significant stretch of Westside Road. The vision of residents, as expressed in the Official Community Plan, is to remain a predominantly rural area with major residential development directed to other areas of the region, where urban services and infrastructure are available, and to limit further commercial and resort development beyond that which is already zoned or approved. In light of the low-growth vision, relatively small population, narrow tax base, and the concerns you have expressed regarding sensitivity to service costs, it would not be appropriate to recommend a municipal incorporation process to the Minister."

It is important that the last sentence's comments are fully covered by the NWCA, self governance committee.



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This request to review the Ministry's decision was sent earlier today to Minister Robinson with my full support. I look forward to meeting with the Minister in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your letter regarding this local Governance matter.

Sincerely,

Ben Stewart, MLA  
Kelowna West

CC: Gail Given, Regional District Central Okanagan Chair  
Wayne Carson, Regional District Central Okanagan Director  
Wayne Nixon, North Westside Communities Association President  
Callie Simpson, North Westside Communities Association Self Governance Director