



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Ben Stewart  
M.L.A. Kelowna West

June 16, 2020

Ref: 233877

The Honourable Selina Robinson  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Room 310, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC

Dear Minister Robinson,

The communities of North Westside and Central Okanagan have asked for a review of the decision of Assistant Deputy Minister, Tara Faganello from March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 to reconsider the following statement:

“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.”

Central Okanagan Regional District Chair, Gail Given, has agreed to hear from the North Westside Communities Association Self Governance Director, Ms. Callie Simpson, on a new recent petition of 800+ local residents who wish to better understand the cost-benefit analysis of incorporation as a rural community.

Since the Ministry looks to local government for direction and input on the feasibility of incorporation, I ask that you accept my support allowing the residents of North Westside the ability to self-determine an alternative to the current Regional District model.

I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss this community’s options for a proper governance study.



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I look forward to meeting at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

Ben Stewart, MLA  
Kelowna West

CC: Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Gail Given, Central Okanagan Regional District Chair  
Wayne Carson, Central Okanagan Regional District Director  
Wayne Nixon, North Westside Communities Association President  
Callie Simpson, North Westside Communities Association Self Governance Director