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CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT
For Information:
☒ CAO ☒ Mayor/Council
☐ _____
RECEIVED: NOV 10 2015
Referred: Anya
☐ For Action ☒ For Response ☐ COTW
☐ For Report ☒ Council Agenda ☐ IC



NOV 05 2015

Ref: 164951

Her Worship Mayor Barbara Desjardins
Township of Esquimalt
1229 Esquimalt Road
Victoria, BC V9A 3P1

Dear Mayor Desjardins:

As the new Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, I am writing to provide you with a brief update regarding discussions on the topic of service and governance integration in the Capital region.

I am very pleased that, following two final meetings held during the week of UBCM Convention, Minister Oakes and I have now met with all of the Capital region municipalities. It was very useful for me to hear directly from some of the region's local government representatives, and to learn about the other meetings from my staff and from Minister Oakes.

While individual interests and perspectives are diverse, there have been shared views on the common thread from the 2014 referenda results -- namely, that there may be benefit to the region from local governments exploring further the question of how to better integrate services and governance. I know that informing the public and others about the current governance and services profile of the Capital region will be of continuing interest to many of you, especially respecting the number of services already undertaken in a shared or integrated way.

Recognizing the range of ideas we have heard, I propose that we continue our conversation, with all local governments at the table, to consider how the region might wish to move forward and how the Province of British Columbia could support these efforts.

Accordingly, I would like to invite the region's Mayors to meet with me later in November or in early December 2015. Dates I can be available include November 27th (either 2:00-3:30 or 2:30-4:00) or December 3rd (3:00-4:30). As this will be an important conversation and understanding that we will need to accommodate many schedules, I respectfully request this first meeting be direct with Mayors and we will build in future opportunities to engage your councillors and Chief Administrative Officers.

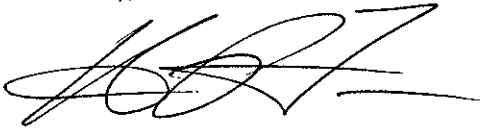
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I look forward to receiving a representative response as to which date you can all be available to meet. Please send your collective response on which time works for all Mayors to Ms. Lia Robbins, via email at: Lia.Robbins@gov.bc.ca, or by telephone at: 250 387-6478. I have requested that Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development staff develop a short agenda to guide our dialogue, to be provided for your review prior to our meeting. Staff will provide location details for our meeting as soon as we have a date.

I trust that you find this a reasonable path forward, and I thank you in advance for your contributions to this important topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Fassbender', with a stylized, flowing script.

Peter Fassbender
Minister