

From: [Schmidt, Heike MAH:EX](#)
To: [Bill Brown](#)
Cc: [Mueller, Brent MAH:EX](#); [Nicol, Lee A MAH:EX](#)
Subject: Referral of Esquimalt Official Community Plan
Date: April-30-18 8:20:25 AM

Dear Bill Brown:

Thank you for your referral of April 4th, 2018 of the draft Township of Esquimalt Official Community Plan (OCP) to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Ministry) for comment. Please consider this email as the Ministry's response to your referral.

As part of the OCP review process it is important to address the key challenges your local government is facing, as well as to explore opportunities for community partnerships and collaboration.

The Province is committed to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. As part of this, the provincial government continues to encourage local governments to work with the First Nations whose traditional territory they are situated within.

In keeping with referral best practices, please ensure that you have referred the proposed bylaw to the appropriate ministries, First Nations and other agencies that may have significant interests in the specific actions and policies identified in the proposed bylaw before entering into the final bylaw approval and adoption process. Please also ensure that you keep a detailed record of your First Nations referral efforts as outlined in the Interim Guide to First Nations Engagement on Local Government Statutory Approvals:

http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/gov_structure/library/First_Nations_Engagement_Guide.pdf.

I encourage you to keep the Ministry informed of any significant issues or concerns. The earlier we are aware of bylaw development or agency concerns, the better we are able to be of assistance. The Ministry has no concerns with the proposed OCP at this time, subject to any provincial interests that may be raised through your broader referral process. I trust this will help you with your ongoing work. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you again for referring the proposed bylaw to the Ministry.

Best regards,
Heike Schmidt

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