



October 20, 2021

Ref: 268120

Karla Kozakevich, Chair
and Members of the Board
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
101 Martin St
Penticton BC V2A 5J9

Dear Chair Kozakevich and Board Members:

Thank you to your delegation for meeting with me during this year's virtual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention two-week process. It was a pleasure to hear from you in my first UBCM Convention experience as Minister, and the issues you brought forward were of great interest to me.

At our meeting, we discussed the importance of inter-jurisdictional co-ordination, particularly for rural electoral areas within regional districts on matters that have potential health and safety impacts. I found our conversation to be extremely interesting and I appreciate you bringing these concerns forward both to me and through the UBCM resolutions process. As you know, whenever multiple jurisdictions and agencies are involved, it can be challenging to strike the right balance of co-ordination.

I was interested to hear that other regional districts have experienced similar concerns with regulatory enforcement on Crown land and road rights of way in electoral areas and I encourage you to continue to discuss this topic with them further. In the meantime, Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff will reach out to other ministries to help determine appropriate staff contacts, so that there might be better co-ordination on some of these concerns across government. I would also encourage the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS)—and any other regional district in a similar situation—to consider how it can exercise influence in a co-ordinating role to bring the right people to the table on multi-jurisdictional issues. I also encourage you to contact ministry staff in the Governance and Structure Branch by email at: lggovernance@gov.bc.ca, to outline specific issues of concern in the RDOS.

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RDOS staff may also be interested in reaching out to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) to learn more about efforts to modernize land use planning on Crown lands. Working in partnership with Indigenous governments, and with the engagement of local governments, communities, industry and other stakeholders, FLNRORD has been working to identify priority areas in the province to resolve current land use and resource management challenges. For more information, please feel free to contact FLNRORD staff by email at: landuseplanning@gov.bc.ca.

I found it very valuable to hear from you and other communities directly at the UBCM Convention. Meetings such as this help me better understand the issues or opportunities your community is facing.

Thank you again to your delegation for taking the time to meet with me. I look forward to seeing you—hopefully in person—at UBCM Convention next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josie Osborne', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Josie Osborne
Minister

pc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development