



October 29, 2020

File: 0280-30

Ref: 193110

Doug Holmes, Councillor
And Council Members
Okanagan- Similkameen Regional District
Email: dholmes@summerland.ca

Dear Doug Holmes and fellow Council Members:

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for meeting with me at this year's virtual Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention process to discuss some of the agricultural issues and pressures Okanagan-Similkameen is experiencing. As a provincial election has been called, and we are currently in an interregnum period, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Ministry.

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, we have had to develop new approaches and adaptations to many aspects of our everyday life. I thank your delegation for its flexibility with provincial appointments this year and I am pleased that our governments still had the chance to connect.

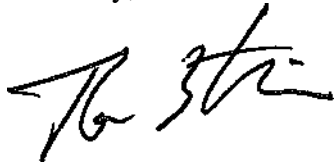
We discussed agricultural burning and the use of curtain burners, which is typically a cleaner method of burning vegetative waste. We look forward to receiving the documentation you mentioned in this regard. Further, we spoke about the reduction of waste in landfills, the organics facility at the Oliver landfill and the 80 hectare parcel beside the landfill that you intend to use as a compost facility. Please continue to work with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy regarding all waste management facilities and authorizations.

Now that we are in the election period, issues regarding future funding programs and other policy decisions must be deferred until after the election is complete and the incoming government is in place. All topics brought up in your meeting will be shared with the incoming Minister.

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Again, thank you for participating in this year's convention and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Ethier". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and the last name "Ethier" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Ethier
Deputy Minister