



March 16, 2019

Chair Bob Wells  
Comox Valley Regional District  
600 Comox Road, Courtenay  
BC V9N 3PG

**RE: Letter of Support – Mount Washington Resort Assn. 5 Year Municipal & Regional District Hotel Tax Renewal**

Dear Chair Wells,

Mount Washington Resort Association (MWRA), doing business as Tourism Mount Washington, has been successful in being the 'Eligible Entity' to facilitate the process of managing and administering the funds collected through the 2% Municipal & Regional District Hotel Room Tax (MRDT), with the unanimous support of the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) since it was first implemented in January 2010.

The MRDT that is currently being collected in the Mount Washington Resort area that is in the Comox Valley Regional District (electoral Area C). A 5 year renewal is required at this time, and as such the Ministry of Finance has requested that we submit our renewal application by April 1, 2019, the deadline to move from the current 2% to the 3% MRDT collection level. While 'Eligible Entity' status does not require a Regional District Bylaw, the Ministry has requested a letter of support from the Comox Valley Regional District similar to those previously provided, supporting MWRA to continue to implement the tax at the 3% level on all commercial resort properties at Mount Washington, and to support the renewal of Mount Washington Resort Assn dba Tourism Mount Washington's 'Eligible Entity Status' as originally granted.

Additionally, in recent years, the MWRA has collaborated via a Memorandum of Understanding with Comox Valley Economic Development (CVEDS) to carry out much of MRDT campaigns due to limited capacity of the volunteer Board of Directors. This partnership has been recognized by Destination BC (DBC) as being a successful framework, and we would ask that the CVRD's letter of support acknowledges and supports this working relationship.

Approval and support has been secured from the Mount Washington Resort Association Board of Directors for the Business Plan, together with unanimous support from the property owners for the renewal and ongoing implementation of the tax. It should be noted that as part of this renewal planning process, MWRA conducted an extensive stakeholder engagement process encompassing owners, visitors and related stakeholders and user groups that confirmed the importance of the organization in providing marketing services via a partnership with CVEDS and the communities Destination Marketing programs, and the need for increased focus on community activities on the mountain.

Should there be any questions, kindly contact John Watson, Executive Directors, CVEDS, 250-792-0375 or [john@investcomoxvalley.com](mailto:john@investcomoxvalley.com).

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Defert", is written over a white background.

Tim Defert  
President, Board of Directors  
Mount Washington Resort Assn

Cc: Director Edwin Grieve, CVRD Area C