

**DATE:** September 17, 2021

**FILE:** 2730-01

**TO:** Directors  
Regional District Board

**FROM:** Jesse Ketler  
Chair

**RE: Minister and Ministry Meetings held during UBCM Convention**

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### **Purpose**

To provide an update on meetings held with various Comox Valley Regional District representatives during the UBCM Convention.

### **Recommendations from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

For information only.

### **Executive Summary**

The following are the meetings held during the 2021 UBCM Convention, including a brief summary.

#### **Minister of Agriculture**

Provided appreciation for Food Hub funding and anticipation that CVRD will begin developing Agriculture Plan in fall 2021

- Attendees: Chair Jesse Ketler  
Director Daniel Arbour  
Director Arzeena Hamir  
Director Edwin Grieve  
Russell Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer

**OUTCOME:** Positive meeting with Minister Popham to describe food hub feasibility and foundational elements that will support development of an agricultural plan. Funding opportunities may be available for projects such as water storage and related infrastructure.

#### **Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation**

To introduce CVRD/KFN relations and partnerships on major infrastructure projects.

- Attendees: Chair Jesse Ketler  
Hegus Nicole Rempel  
Councillor Richard Hardy  
Mark Stevenson, Solicitor, K'ómoks First Nation  
Todd Boychuk, Director of Intergovernmental Relations  
Russell Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA

**OUTCOME:** Positive support from Minister Rankin on efforts undertaken between CVRD and KFN, with particular attention on regular project meetings and benefit agreements between the parties.

**Ministry (Staff) of Tourism, Arts and Culture**

Future of provincial recreation and sports funding (continued conversation from last year).

- Attendees: Chair Jesse Ketler  
Recreation Commission Chair Daniel Arbour  
Recreation Commission Vice-Chair Maureen Swift  
Director Edwin Grieve  
Russell Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer  
Doug DeMarzo, General Manager of Community Services

**OUTCOME:** Acknowledgement that, to reduce competition with other core services, federal grant streams were community culture and recreation specific for the first time. The grant program received responses far surpassing funding available. CVRD directed to continue applying for various grants such as Viasport hosting grant, and investing in Canada infrastructure streams.

Three local sports organizations in the Valley accessed the COVID local sport funding relief and no similar funding reliefs are being contemplated at this time.

**BC Hydro**

Express our appreciation for BC Hydro’s support with the Comox Valley Water Treatment Facility

- Attendees: Chair Jesse Ketler  
Comox Valley Water Committee Chair, Wendy Morin  
Russell Dyson, Chief Administrative Officer

**OUTCOME:** BC Hydro reflected on the positive relationships coming out of, and enhanced by, the water treatment plant construction project.

Respectfully submitted by:

***J. Ketler***

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Jesse Ketler  
Chair