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Donna Mikkelson

From: Alison Sayers <asayers@ccrd-bc.ca>
Sent: March-27-15 3:26 PM
To: Selina Robinson
Cc: rmoody@ccrd-bc.ca; Cathi McCullagh; sschooner@ccrd-bc.ca; rhall@ccrd-bc.ca; cao@ccrd-bc.ca; Donna Mikkelson; jennifer.rice.mla@leg.bc.ca
Subject: Questions from CCRD for Ministry Estimates

Dear Ms. Robinson

Thank you very much for giving Central Coast Regional District the opportunity to provide you with questions regarding budget priorities for local government, to be asked at Ministry Estimates next month.

I am newly elected to the CCRD and therefore don't have any experience with how to formulate these questions, so I am sure you will rework them as there is probably a better way to ask them in the Estimates setting.

Question 1: In recent years the province has downloaded several costs to local government; dike management and emergency management (*I am sure there are more from other regions that perhaps you know of that could provide more examples here*) are some examples. What is in this year's budget to help local governments deal with those extra costs?

Question 2: As you know there are many small resource-based communities in BC that are struggling to create and maintain jobs while also trying to keep taxes low for their residents. This government says it's top priority is building the economy and improving things for families, so where in the minister's budget is the money specifically targeted to help our small rural communities do that?

Question 3: Central Coast Regional District has an economic base of small-scale forestry, fishing, agriculture, and tourism. Its remote wilderness setting, sparse population, clean air, and clean water provide residents with a great quality of life but inherently low tax base. It is the gateway to the Great Bear Rainforest, a region with a high and growing profile. CCRD is also unique in the province as a regional district with no municipalities, and as such it struggles to perform many functions of a municipality without the level of funding granted to municipalities. And, CCRD has been asked by residents to provide many basic services which most other communities enjoy and take for granted, for example: dog licencing and animal control; sidewalks, traffic control, and parking; building inspection, noise control and regulation, fire protection, building permits, a recreation centre, and tourism related infrastructure and signage, to name just a few. However they have been unable to provide any of this due to lack of funding. Clearly this is an unfair situation, and the residents of this vast and very remote Central Coast region are paying the price of this unfairness through inadequate basic services. Where in this minister's budget are the resources to address this inequity for CCRD?

And finally, assuming the minister will not be giving satisfactory answers to the above questions, CCRD would very much appreciate you trying to get the following commitment:

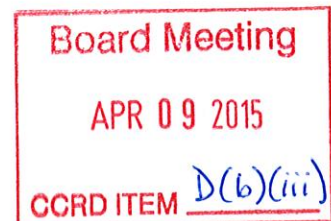
Question 4: Will the minister commit to the people of this remote BC region that she will look into this unique situation of underfunding for the CCRD?

Thank you so very much for this opportunity and for your help with this, Selina. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any other information.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Alison

Alison Sayers, Vice Chair
Central Coast Regional District
Director Area C



Electoral Area C
Report