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October 17, 2014

Central Coast Regional District

Colin McMillan
P.O. Box 553
Hagensborg, B.C.
V0T 1H0

File: CCRD Board 20141017

To: CCRD Board - Reginald Moody (Chairman), Cathi McCullagh, Brian Lande, Ivan Tallio, David Anderson, Coralee Oakes (Minister), Marijke Edmondson (Director LGB)

cc. Darla Blake, (CAO), Donna Mikkelson (CFO), Cheryl Waugh, Wendy Kingsley,
Ken Dunsworth (CCEARS – Chairman).

Subject:

***B.C. Electoral Boundaries Commission: 2014-15 Review
Colin McMillan Recommended Changes
Copy of My Presentation.***

Herewith for your information and consideration is a copy of the subject recommendations.

Initially I presented these recommended changes to the Commission in Williams Lake on September 26, 2014.

Subsequently I added the Preface and posted the whole package today as Public Input to the Commission.

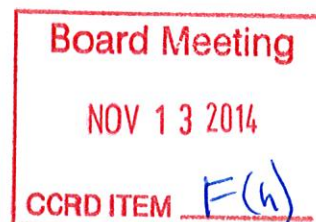
If you have any questions please contact me at (250) 982 – 2925.

Sincerely,



Colin McMillan

Encl: 3 pages.



October 17, 2014

Colin McMillan
P.O. Box 553
Hagensborg, B.C.
V0T 1H0
File:

B.C. Electoral Boundaries Commission: 2014-15 Review
Colin McMillan Recommended Changes
Preface

I have lived in the Bella Coola Valley for about 20 years, and have worked here intermittently since 1991 on a large variety of projects, including some related to the local governance activities of the Central Coast Regional District (CCRD).

The Bella Coola Valley (BCV) is the principal Mainland part of the CCRD. It presently has a voting population of about 800 of the 1000 approximately for the whole CCRD. It has no incorporated municipalities. There is one First Nation, the Nuxalk, which presently is not represented directly on the Board of the CCRD.

The two principal communities in the BCV are Bella Coola, at the mouth of the Bella Coola River and Hagensborg, the BCV centre of population, 16 km east of Bella Coola

The Bella Coola General Hospital, long established in Bella Coola, serves all of the CCRD – relying upon air transport. BCGH is administered by Vancouver Coastal Health of North Vancouver.

Critical infrastructure for the BCV is:

- Highway 20;*
- Bella Coola Airport;*
- Anahim Airport;*
- Air Ambulance – MediVac Service; and,*
- Bella Coola Harbour.*

The business and shopping centre, and transportation connection point to elsewhere in B.C. and beyond, that is most accessible to the BCV is Williams Lake, about 460 km from Bella Coola.

Having seen the floods and fires of recent years and their effects, I have been concerned for the safety and sustainability of the Valley and of the people and other life in it. I have watched political changes such as change to the ferry service and its impact on Tourism for the area and I become concerned for the sustainability of the Valley.

I present to you a series of recommendations that I hope go some way to providing a sound framework within which future endeavours will be appropriately considered.

Respectfully,


Colin McMillan

Colin McMillan
P.O. Box 553
Hagensborg, B.C.
V0T 1H0

File: BC-EBC - WL 20140926

Date: September 26, 2014

To: **B. C. Electoral Boundaries Commission, Public Hearing,
Williams Lake, September 26, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.
Recommendation Concerning Revision To The Boundaries Of The
Central Coast Regional District – namely, the part presently defined as:
Electoral Areas C, D and E.**

Dear Commission,

Given (1) the distinctly different physical characteristics and climate of the Bella Coola River Watershed part of the Central Coast Regional District compared to the remainder of this Regional District; and, (2) the natural easterly alignment of all infrastructure and access to supplies, household and business and services; and, (3) the fact that the Nuxalk First Nation is not yet represented directly on the Board of this Regional District, although that change was recommended in the 1993-1994 Restructure Study by Municipal Management Services; and, (4) the lack of a viable long term plan to deal with the frequently recurring, floods, landslides, and other hazards, make it evident that innovate consideration of possible solutions is overdue.

I have spent much effort over the last three years studying the situation and have identified logical, viable changes that should be considered by your Commission in the interests of public safety, the ongoing viability of a substantial remote community with a scattered population, the possibility of self-sufficiency and general wellbeing including broad recognition of known wildlife corridors and appropriate land development zoning.

I recommend that the present Electoral Areas C, D and E be split off from the present Central Coast Regional District be re-defined as a new single Electoral Area and extended East to Charlotte Lake to comprise the whole of the Bella Coola River Watershed.

The new single Electoral Area could be a new Local Governing entity based in Hagensborg, the centre of its population.

To eliminate the present undemocratic competition for funding to deal with mitigation of

hazards ongoing, and the on-going needs of a healthy remote community, a working group of four (4) members at large, two from each of the Nuxalk Nation and two (2) from the present Electoral Areas C, D and E.

Consideration should also be given to the option of having this new Electoral Area becoming Electoral Area M, adjacent to Electoral Area L, of the Cariboo Regional District.

The potential savings over present administration costs is known to be substantial, albeit with the temporary addition of an inter-Federal Ministry of Finance advisor during the initial period of transition.

A considerable amount of reference material has been accumulated and can be made available in due course.

I request that my recommendations be given your serious consideration.

Please call me at (250) 982 – 2925 if you need any clarification.

Sincerely,



Colin McMillan