

MAR 03 2010

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Ref: 135092

Chair Harry Nyce, President  
Mr. Robert Hobson, Past President  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
60 – 10551 Shellbridge Way  
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9

Dear Chair Nyce and Mr. Hobson:

I am pleased to have received the final report from the Regional District Task Force (RDTF) entitled “Enhancing the Tools for Problem Solving in Regions.” This report marks a key milestone in the 40 years of evolution of regional districts.

Since their inception, regional districts have been the subject of several reviews aimed at ensuring this form of local government has kept pace with British Columbia’s changing challenges and opportunities. These reviews and subsequent legislative change have resulted in many improvements to the performance and flexibility of regional districts. However, more work must be done to ensure that regional districts continue to meet the needs of British Columbians.

The RDTF was created with the challenging tasks of articulating challenges facing regional districts and identifying practical solutions and strategies to address those challenges which balance the interests of municipalities and electoral areas. Completing this work required a real focus and determination from the RDTF members, and I appreciate the time and work the RDTF members invested to produce this report.

The RDTF’s final report is an important step in building a common understanding of what action is needed for strengthening and improving the performance of regional districts. I look forward to reviewing the report and continuing to work together with you and regional district interests to determine how we can best move forward using the RDTF’s recommendations.

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Thank you, again, for the opportunity to review the report. I look forward to continuing to partner with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bill Bennett  
Minister