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September 8, 2017

File No.: 0595-20 AMAL

Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Robinson:

Re: Amalgamation

Please accept this letter as a formal request from the Municipality of North Cowichan and the City of Duncan that a referendum on amalgamation be ordered to take place during the spring of 2018.

North Cowichan and Duncan municipal councils (on July 19th and September 5th respectively) have passed motions to request the Province to direct both municipalities to hold a referendum on amalgamation in the Spring of 2018.

Councils' motions follow non-binding community opinion questions at the last local general election at which the electors of both municipalities voted in favour of conducting an amalgamation study. A study was subsequently undertaken with provincial funding and reviewed by a 36-member local citizen's assembly. The assembly recommended that a formal referendum on amalgamation be held. Attached for your information is a copy of the Assembly's report and the technical study.

We understand that the next step would be to have Ministry staff work with our staff to settle on an appropriate date prior to your office issuing the above noted order. For further information or to discuss dates, please contact Mark Ruttan, Director of Corporate Services / Deputy CAO at 250-746-3100 (mark.ruttan@northcowichan.ca) and/or Talitha Soldera, Director of Finance at 250-746-6126 (talitha@duncan.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Lefebure".

Jon Lefebure
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Kent".

Phil Kent
Mayor

c: Peter de Verteuil, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Duncan
Marijke Edmondson, Director, Local Government Structure



Public Notice

Duncan and North Cowichan to Hold Amalgamation Referendum Spring 2018

(September 6, Duncan, BC) - Duncan City Council and the Municipality of North Cowichan Council have agreed to hold the referendum on amalgamation in the spring of 2018. Subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, both municipalities will choose a date to hold the referendum in the spring next year.

Earlier this year, the Duncan-North Cowichan Citizens' Assembly on Municipal Amalgamation recommended the amalgamation of Duncan and North Cowichan. Their report is available at www.dnc-cama.ca.

A Duncan-North Cowichan Working Group, consisting of two Councillors from each municipality, will work with an external consultant to provide unbiased information, covering both the pros and cons of amalgamation, to the public prior to the vote taking place. "I am pleased the communication plan will be providing unbiased information prior to the residents of both municipalities voting on amalgamation, enabling them to be fully informed and make their own determination," said Phil Kent, Mayor of Duncan.

Amalgamation would require the approval of the provincial government and residents of both municipalities by public referendum. "It's encouraging to see both Councils move forward with a spring referendum," says Jon Lefebure, Mayor of North Cowichan. "With such a big decision on the table, we hope to see a large turnout of voters coming out to have their say on the future of the community."

More information about the timing of the referendum will be distributed as it becomes available.

For more information:

Mayor Phil Kent, City of Duncan
250-746-6126
mayor@duncan.ca

Mayor Jon Lefebure, Municipality of North Cowichan
250-746-3203
mayor@northcowichan.ca