

SUN PEAKS INCORPORATION STUDY COMMITTEE

c/o - P.O. Box 1002
Sun Peaks, BC V0E 5N0 Canada
Ph: 250-319-0035

October 26, 2009

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The Honourable Bill Bennett
Minister of Community & Rural Development
PO Box 9056, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Dear Mr. Minister:

During our September 24, 2009 meeting, your staff indicated that municipal incorporation for Sun Peaks by June 30, 2010 can be achieved if your office receives a referendum request from the Sun Peaks Incorporation Study Committee before the end of October. The Study Committee is still waiting for a response from your office regarding the potential contribution from the Ministry of Transport to return roads in the resort to acceptable standards. You also indicated that on a longer term horizon your staff would investigate the possibility of an adjustment to the Small Community Grant calculation to more fairly treat resort municipalities.

As we are now in the last week of October, it is impossible to hold public meetings prior to the Minister's Order for a Referendum by November 12th. We understand this to be the last possible date in the proposed schedule for an incorporation vote that could lead to municipal status by June 30, 2010.

The Study Committee is receiving an increasing number of inquiries regarding the incorporation and we believe that a community update is required. However, as we stated in our meeting, the Study Committee is very divided on the current offer from your Ministry. This is mainly because the financial terms now offered are worse than those presented in public meetings in the Spring of 2007. Sun Peaks already has extremely high property taxes, yet receives minimal services. There is a concern in the community that incorporation will lead to unacceptably high levels of property tax and the updated Incorporation Technical Report points in this direction.

The Sun Peaks community recognizes the critical timeline of the incorporation schedule and the Study Committee feels that we must make some kind of announcement within 14 days. We look forward to an early response.

Sincerely,



Darcy Alexander
Co-Chair



Ines Popig
Co-Chair

cc: Dr. Terry Lake, MLA Kamloops-North Thompson
Hon. Kevin Krueger, Minister of Tourism, Culture & the Arts and
MLA Kamloops-South Thompson