



Mayne Island Improvement District

520 Felix Jack Road, Mayne Island BC V0N 2J2

Phone/Fax: 250-539-5116

Email: MIID@shaw.ca

Web: miidonline.com

November 28, 2017

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

105 Lower Ganges Road

Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T1

Attention Andrew D. Peat

**Re: Your Letter of November 2, 2017
Regarding Improvement District Access to Grants**

As you suggested, our Board of Trustees has written both the Deputy Minister and our MLA regarding the present policy of excluding Improvement Districts from access to various provincial and federal grants, and called for a reconsideration of the policy.

It may be of interest to you that an initiative to have this policy reconsidered was set in motion by Hedley Improvement District in 2011.

Copies of our letters are enclosed.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Somerville'.

Katherine Somerville
Corporate Administrative Officer
Mayne Island Improvement District

Encl



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November 28, 2017

Ms. Tara Faganello
Assistant Deputy Minister
Local Government Division
Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing
PO Box 9490 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9N7

Improvement District Eligibility for Federal and Provincial Infrastructure Funding Grants

Since Improvement Districts were first established to provide services, public management and ownership, over 200 Improvement Districts in BC now function as a form of local authority under the Local Government Act. Most Improvement Districts were formed to provide and manage domestic water service, however a number now provide fire protection and other public services. Under our Letters Patent, Mayne Island Improvement District provides Fire Protection, Garbage Collection and a Health Services Centre, including Emergency Heliport.

Funding infrastructure at a rate reasonable for taxpayers has long been a challenge for all local governments. To address this need, the Federal and Provincial governments have provided "matching grants". For example, the Government of Canada established criteria for matching funding under the "2014 New Building Canada Fund: Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component-Small Communities Fund".

However, in British Columbia, Improvement Districts are excluded from such grants under the restrictions placed by our provincial government. Grant applications must be made through, and managed by Regional Districts in BC. In other provinces, no such restrictions for Improvement Districts apply.

The infrastructure needs of rural and unincorporated areas serviced by Improvement Districts should have the right to have their proposals for matching funding considered on the merits of the project(s) and proven management abilities of the Improvement Districts applying.

Please review the existing policies regarding eligibility for infrastructure funding, and consider changing a policy which affects largely rural areas and residents of our province. Consider removing barriers to Improvement Districts receiving equal and direct access to Federal and Provincial grant funding for capital assets without those assets being transferred to Regional Districts.

Thank you for your consideration;

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Maude', written in a cursive style.

David Maude, Chair, Board of Trustees,
Mayne Island Improvement District



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November 28, 2017

Adam Olsen, MLA
Saanich North and the Islands
215-2506 Beacon Ave.,
Sidney, BC V8L1Y2

Dear Sir;

Improvement District Access to Grants

Since Improvement Districts were first established to provide services, public management and ownership, over 200 Improvement Districts in BC now function as a form of local authority under the Local Government Act. Most Improvement Districts were formed to provide and manage domestic water service, however a number now provide fire protection and other public services. Under our Letters Patent, Mayne Island Improvement District provides Fire Protection, Garbage Collection and a Health Services Centre, including Emergency Heliport.

Funding infrastructure at a rate reasonable for taxpayers has long been a challenge for all local governments. To address this need, the Federal and Provincial governments have provided "matching grants". For example, the Government of Canada established criteria for matching funding under the "2014 New Building Canada Fund: Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component-Small Communities Fund".

However, in British Columbia, Improvement Districts are excluded from such grants under the restrictions placed by our provincial government. Grant applications must be made through, and managed by Regional Districts in BC. In other provinces, no such restrictions for Improvement Districts apply.

The infrastructure needs of rural and unincorporated areas serviced by Improvement Districts should have the right to have their proposals for matching funding considered on the merits of the project(s) and proven management abilities of the Improvement Districts applying.

The change in our government provides an opportunity to review the existing policies regarding eligibility for infrastructure funding, and change a policy which affects largely rural areas and residents of our province.

Thank you for your consideration;

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Maude', written over a large, light-colored circular scribble.

David Maude, Chair, Board of Trustees,
Mayne Island Improvement District