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November 13, 2024

File No.: 2000-04 Municipal Regional District Tax

Mr. Swabey, CAO
Municipality of North Cowichan
7030 Trans Canada Highway
DUNCAN BC V9L 6A1

via email: ted.swabey@northcowichan.ca

Dear Mr. Swabey:

Re: Request for Letter of Support

On November 13, 2024 the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Committee of the Whole approved a recommendation to the Board for the continued use of Online Accommodation Platform (OAP) Municipal Regional District Tax (MRDT) revenue to affordable housing within the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) effective January 1, 2025 to July 1, 2027 and hereby requests a letter of support.

The CVRD is currently in year 3 of a 5-year agreement with the Province of BC to administer the MRDT within the region at a rate of 2%. In light of the housing crisis, there is an opportunity to continue to allocate OAP revenues to affordable housing with the annual submission of the MRDT Tactical Plan and Budget, which is presented to the CVRD Board.

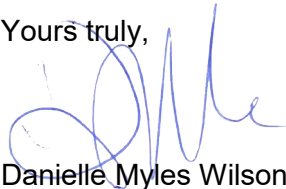
Please find attached an Economic Development Cowichan (EDC) staff report presented to the Committee of the Whole on November 13, 2024 that provides details of the background, analysis, stakeholder engagement, and financial considerations. As well, a sample letter and resolution are attached for consideration.

On November 13, 2024 the CVRD Committee of the Whole approved the following recommendations to the Board:

- 1. The CVRD allocate Online Accommodation Platform Municipal Regional District Tax revenues to affordable housing for the remainder of the 5-year MRDT agreement period, up to the repeal date of July 1, 2027, subject to municipal support; and*
- 2. The CVRD send letters to each municipality seeking support for the continued allocation of Online Accommodation Platform Municipal Regional District Tax revenues to affordable housing.*

To ensure the application required to continue allocating OAP MRDT revenues towards affordable housing initiatives is submitted on time, a response to the undersigned is requested by December 9, 2024.

Yours truly,



Danielle Myles Wilson
CAO

Attachments

DMW/bo

pc: Terri Brennan, Executive Coordinator
Barry O'Riordan, Manager, Economic Development Cowichan

