

March 2, 2022

0400-20

Tara Faganello
Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
PO Box 9490 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9N7
Via email: Tara.Faganello@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Faganello:

RE: GRANT REQUEST FOR A GOVERNANCE AND SERVICES STUDY OF MAGIC LAKE ESTATES ON NORTH PENDER ISLAND


We write with respect to a request from the Magic Lake Property Owners' Society (MLPOS) on North Pender Island to fund a formal governance study to explore the potential for incorporation. The letter from the MLPOS to the CRD is attached for your reference.

On February 9, 2022 the CRD Board considered the request and passed the following motion:

That the Board advance the request of the Magic Lake Property Owners' Society to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to evaluate the local context of the Magic Lake Estates neighborhood on North Pender Island and request the Ministry consider funding a Governance and Services Study to examine governance concerns within the community and provide options and alternatives to address those concerns.

For further background and context, please see the attached staff report that was received by the Regional Board. Magic Lake Estates is comprised of approximately 1200 small lots (+/- 0.5 acres), predominantly occupied by single family dwellings with a population of approximately 2000 people. Developed in the 1960s, the community is the highest density residential development in the Islands Trust Area. Within the community there is not a commercial centre, however, there is a fire hall, a baseball field, parks and a marina. Originally serviced by a public water utility, Magic Lake Estates now receives water and wastewater service from CRD through the CRD Magic Lake Estates local area water and sewerage system.

Other services provided by the CRD in Magic Lake Estates (and on all of North and South Pender Islands) include parks and recreation, library services, economic development, emergency preparedness, building inspection, Harbours, and regulatory enforcement (animal and noise control). The CRD administers Community Works Fund (Gas Tax) grants on behalf of the Union of BC Municipalities and the Federal Government and issues CRD grants-in-aid for community groups.



The North Pender Local Trust Committee is responsible for community planning and land use on North Pender Island pursuant to the *Islands Trust Act*. There is also a Local Trust Committee for South Pender Island and as such representation on the governing body of the Islands Trust Council is provided through the election of four Trustees for North/South Pender Island.

In Magic Lake Estates, like in all unincorporated areas of the Province, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has authority over the roads.

MLPOS has requested a governance study to explore possible restructuring or incorporation. In advancing this request, CRD is not endorsing the goal of incorporation. We do, however, acknowledge that the multi-jurisdictional governance model in place on North Pender Island (and all the Southern Gulf Islands) can create challenges for residents and service providers. For this reason, CRD is requesting that the Province consider providing a grant for a governance and services study that would enable community consultation to identify any gaps or areas for improvement in the current governance model.

We would be pleased to meet to discuss this further. If you require any additional information that may assist in your consideration of this request, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at kmorley@crd.bc.ca or 250.360.3638.

Sincerely,



General Manager, Corporate Services
Corporate Officer

Attachments: 2

cc: Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Dave Howe, CRD Director, Southern Gulf Islands
Paul Brent, CRD Alternate Director, Southern Gulf Islands
Bob Coulson, President, Magic Lake Property Owners Society (MLPOS)