



July 27, 2021

Ref: 267586

Their Worship Mayor Fred Haynes
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

Their Worship Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Sq
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Haynes and Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed Citizens' Assembly for the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria Terms of Reference (TOR) to guide its work.

I very much appreciate the collaborative approach that the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria have taken to reach this significant milestone. I understand the timelines for delivering the TOR have been shifting due to many unforeseen issues such as the City of Victoria's byelection schedules and the evolving situation with COVID-19. I understand that municipal staff have continued to connect with ministry staff during the development of the TOR.

This is a comprehensive and detailed proposal, which I look forward to reviewing. There is always a high demand for restructure funding and many factors need to be balanced when making funding decisions. Considerations such as local, regional, and provincial interests, scope of work, timing of deliverables, and readiness of local governments to undertake the work are of particular importance.

I anticipate meeting with senior ministry staff to discuss steps, and they may reach out to your municipalities for further details. These may include clarity or advice related to timing, budget, communications, or oversight. Once any questions are addressed, I will be able to consider your funding request.

If any questions arise, the lead for this project is Karen Lynch, Senior Planning Analyst, Governance and Structure, Local Government Division. Ms. Lynch can be reached at by telephone at: 778 698-3229 or by email at: Karen.Lynch@gov.bc.ca.

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Their Worship Mayor Lisa Helps
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Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josie Osborne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "O".

Josie Osborne
Minister

pc: Paul Thorkelsson, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Saanich
Jocelyn Jenkyns, City Manager, City of Victoria
Karen Lynch, Senior Planning Analyst, Governance and Structure