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November 27, 2024

File: 0400-20

The Honourable Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs  
**Via email: [HOUS.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HOUS.minister@gov.bc.ca)**

Dear Minister Kahlon:

**RE: REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT**

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I write to request your consideration of a legislative amendment to the *Local Government Act* that would allow for the establishment of two-year terms for the positions of Board Chair and Vice-Chair within regional districts in British Columbia.

Currently, Section 215 of the *Act* mandates that these positions are elected on an annual basis after November 1<sup>st</sup> each year. While this annual process ensures a regular review of leadership, it can be disruptive to operational and strategic decision-making.

A two-year term would allow for increased stability in leadership and enhance the strategic focus of the Board, allowing leaders to carry multi-year initiatives through critical phases from planning to implementation. In addition, extended terms would provide continuity in governance, ensuring smoother transitions and aligning regional district leadership with the best practices of other orders of government.

While we believe this change would contribute to more effective governance, better long-term decision-making, and enhanced leadership capacity, we understand that there are varying needs across the different regional districts and suggest that this change could be made optional. This would allow each regional district the flexibility to adopt a two-year term if it suits their local context.

The CRD Board respectfully requests your consideration of this proposed amendment to the *Local Government Act* and I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss this proposal with you or your staff.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Cliff McNeil-Smith  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board  
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD