



April 20, 2007

Ref: 68987

Ms Brenda Binnie
Councillor of Castlegar
President
Union of British Columbia Municipalities
Suite 60 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9

Dear Ms Binnie:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and the UBCM Executive this past Wednesday.

I appreciated the opportunity to discuss the misinformation campaign your members have faced regarding the application of the BC-Alberta Agreement on Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility (TILMA). I am sure your efforts to provide more accurate information will go a long way to dispel unfounded fears. I also appreciated your outline of the concerns you are hearing regarding issues like procurement thresholds.

In our meeting, you asked that I formally invite the UBCM to nominate someone to participate in TILMA negotiations. You noted that the request for such an arrangement was consistent with your existing participation in the negotiation of treaties.

You also asked that we consider a Consultation Agreement as provided in Article 277 of the *Community Charter*. This would clarify our approach as negotiations proceed.

In response to your first request, I would like to emphasize that UBCM's participation in the TILMA negotiations would be welcomed. Your expertise and knowledge of local issues will certainly benefit the discussions required to ensure maximum benefits to your members as the TILMA's coverage is extended to the broader public sector.

With respect to the Consultation Agreement, I have directed staff to work with your Executive Director, Richard Taylor, to complete work in this area.

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Ministry of
Economic Development
and Minister Responsible
for the Asia Pacific Initiative
and the Olympics

Office of the
Minister



Mailing Address:
PO Box 9046 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
Telephone: 250 356-7411
Facsimile: 250 356-6376

Location:
Parliament Buildings, Victoria
website: www.gov.bc.ca/ccdev

Thanks once again to you and your colleagues for the constructive meeting. I look forward to a successful conclusion of our work.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Hansen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "H".

Colin Hansen
Minister

cc: Honourable Ida Chong
Minister of Community Services

Mr. Richard Taylor
Executive Director