



August 27, 2014

File: 280-30
Cliff: 208350

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Local Government

Dear Chief Administrative Officer:

I am writing regarding the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations response to the Ombudsperson of British Columbia's report, "Striking a Balance: The Challenges of Using a Professional Reliance Model in Environmental Protection- British Columbia's Riparian Areas Regulation". The province has committed to implementing the Ombudsperson's recommendations from this report in order to strengthen and improve the RAR program.

The first two recommendations made by the Ombudsperson focus on local government implementation of RAR:

R1: The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations review, by October 1, 2014, local government implementation of and compliance with the Riparian Areas Regulation and report publicly on the results of that review.

R2: The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations work with local governments to bring them into compliance with the Riparian Areas Regulation. If the ministry is not able to achieve full compliance by local governments with the RAR, the ministry should, by October 1, 2015, develop a mechanism to require local government compliance with the RAR.

In keeping with the first recommendation, the ministry will be reviewing local government implementation of RAR over the next few months. At this time, we are requesting your cooperation with this process to ensure a timely response to the Ombudsperson and the public. Could you please have the staff member who is most familiar with the RAR provide their name and contact information to Chris Ritchie (Chris.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca or 250-387-7927), who is leading this review, by September 12, 2014. He will follow up with some questions on RAR implementation in your municipality and request copies of your RAR bylaws.

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Chief Administrative Officer

We understand that your staff are under workload pressures. With your cooperation and assistance we anticipate a straightforward process.

Thank you for your participation and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Ethier". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Ethier
Assistant Deputy Minister