



District of Lantzville

Incorporated June 2003

April 15, 2016

Email: CSCD.minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
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Victoria, BC V8W 9N7

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The Honourable Michelle Stilwell
Minister of Social Development & Social Innovation
& MLA for Parksville-Qualicum
Parksville-Qualicum Constituency Office
Unit 2B-1209 Island Highway East
Parksville, BC V9P 1R5

Dear Ministers:

RE: District of Lantzville Phase 3 Wastewater (Sewer) Application

Thank you for taking time out of your schedules to meet with myself and other representatives of the District of Lantzville on April 27, 2016 to discuss the importance of completing the 3rd phase of municipal wastewater infrastructure in Lantzville. This letter will provide some background as to the progress made by the District of Lantzville to secure appropriate waste water management, as well as highlight the urgency of being successful on our Phase 3 application.

HISTORY

The District of Lantzville was incorporated in 2003, with the governance previously supplied through the Nanaimo Regional District as Lantzville was designated as an Improvement District (LID). Upon incorporation of the District, one of the directions given to Council by the residents of the community was to initiate a wastewater system and remove the reliance on septic fields on small lots where septic failures were occurring. During its strategic planning, Council identified the need for a community sanitary sewer collection system as a top 5 priority.

In 2005, the District carried out a *Sanitary Sewer Servicing Feasibility* study. The study indicated that the optimum sewage collection system for the District would be a gravity system with a few sewage pumping stations. The overall District of Lantzville *Sanitary Sewer Collection System Plan* consists of 7 phases, with the first 3 accommodating small lots.

Once the District had the results of the study mentioned above, it began testing the waters in the roadside ditches for contaminants. Ditches that were within the areas of the first 3 phases were found to have high levels of E-coli and Fecal Coliform with the area within Phase 3 of the overall plan being the worst. In order to service Phase 3, both Phase 1 and Phase 2 needed to be constructed.

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Council (now having the information it was seeking) directed staff to investigate potential funding opportunities to assist in the creation of a community sanitary sewer collection system. Staff has since been directed to move forward with applying for grants to facilitate this community need. The District applied for two grants under the Federal and Provincial programs for Sanitary Sewer Collection in the past. The first one in 2005 for Phase 1 of the Sanitary Sewer Collection System, another in 2007 for Phase 2 of the Sanitary Sewer Collection System has been successful in moving residents from septic fields to a municipal wastewater system. Unfortunately the District has been unsuccessful twice in acquiring grant funding for Phase 3, once in 2008 and then again in 2015.

PHASE 3 APPLICATION

District of Lantzville staff, with the direction of Council, has again applied for funding support for Phase 3 of its municipality wide sanitary sewer collection system plan. Phase 3 will see the last of the small lots within the District connected to a municipal sanitary sewer collection system. Any future phases of the Districts sanitary sewer collection system plan will be carried out by development when required. Several benefits are realized should this funding be approved which are presented in the *New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund* Application (Attachment #1). The following are high level broad benefits that will be achieved should the application be approved and the District receives funding:

- 1. Environmental/Health/Safety:**
 - a. The discontinuance of failing septic systems leaking into the roadside ditches;
 - b. Healthier beaches due to the increased quality of the runoff; and
 - c. Increase resident's ability to utilize yards for other purposes such as gardens and family recreation.
- 2. Infrastructure completion**
 - a. Phase 3 will see the final area that contains small lots connected to a community sanitary sewer collection system.
- 3. Economic Growth potential**
 - a. Phase 3 will free up lands used for septic fields within industrial and commercial properties;
 - b. With access to usable lands, business' can add to their buildings increasing the square footage to promote growth;
 - c. With the growth of business comes increased employment potential; and
 - d. With an increase to usable residentially zoned space, it will offer the potential for subdivision of lots and resulting efficiencies in the use of community infrastructure.

On behalf of the District of Lantzville, we appreciate this opportunity to discuss the importance of the funding approval for the municipality and look forward to our meeting on April 27, 2016.

On behalf of the District of Lantzville Council,



Mayor Colin Haime
District of Lantzville

c. Council; B. McRae, Chief Administrative Officer; and F. Spears, Director of Public Works