



Making a difference...together

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The Honourable Lana Popham, MLA Saanich South  
Minister of Agriculture and Food

**Via email:** [AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Popham:

**RE: REQUEST FOR MEETING TO DISCUSS IMPACTS OF THE 2026 PROVINCIAL BUDGET**

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I write to request a meeting with you to discuss the implications of the 2026 Provincial Budget on the capital region's priorities and to reinforce the importance of continued provincial partnership in key areas of shared responsibility.

The CRD appreciates the Province's ongoing commitment to support communities across British Columbia. As we work to meet the needs of a growing and evolving region, continued collaboration between the Province and local governments remains essential.

The CRD Board is particularly interested in engaging you to discuss the following priorities:

- **Housing:** including the importance of sustained capital investment and your consideration to reinstate the Community Housing Fund which has been instrumental in enabling the Capital Region Housing Corporation (CRHC) to work together with non-profit and community partners to deliver much needed affordable housing;
- **Transportation:** ensuring stable, long-term partnership in the development and implementation of the CRD's recently established Regional Transportation Service, which aims to improve connectivity across municipalities, strengthen coordination, and ensure our transportation system can meet future needs of a growing region;
- **Climate Action:** aligning provincial and regional strategies and ensuring adequate funding tools to support mitigation, adaptation, and resilience initiatives; and
- **Critical Infrastructure:** maintaining partnerships that enable local governments to build and renew core infrastructure required for healthy, sustainable, and livable communities, including drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure.

As the capital region continues to grow, provincial support and predictable funding mechanisms are critical to our ability to plan responsibly and deliver on the priorities we collectively share with the Provincial government.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss these matters further and to explore opportunities for continued collaboration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Cliff McNeil-Smith*

Cliff McNeil-Smith  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

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

