



SEP 22 2012

His Worship Mike Frazier
Mayor and NCLGA Resolution Committee Chair
North Central Local Government Association
206 – 155 George Street
Prince George BC V2L 1P8

Dear Mayor Frazier: *Mike:*

I am responding to your letter regarding the North Central Local Government Association's 2012 Resolutions. I have forwarded the resolution regarding transitional housing in rural and remote communities to the Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Housing.

With regard to the resolution related to the National Sex Offender Registry, the Government of Canada established the National Sex Offender Registry in 2004. This national database containing information on convicted sex offenders is only available to law enforcement officials for the purpose of preventing or investigating crimes of a sexual nature. This model was created by the federal government after consulting with the provinces and territories and was never intended to be a public warning system.

On April 15, 2011, Bill S-2, *Protecting Victims from Sex Offenders Act*, came into force. This Act has strengthened the National Sex Offender Registry by providing for a number of reforms. Of particular interest is the proactive use of the registry by police. Police now have the authority to use the registry before a crime has occurred, thereby enhancing the ability of police to prevent sexual crimes before they happen.

With regard to the release of dangerous offenders, the federal *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* governs the release of federal offenders in Canada, and the Correctional Service of Canada is responsible for the administration of federal penitentiary services (including supervision of federal parole, statutory release, and provincial offenders released on parole by the Parole Board of Canada). B.C. Corrections is responsible for the supervision of provincially sentenced offenders released into communities, in conjunction with its mandate to protect communities and reduce reoffending.

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B.C. Corrections collaborates with Correctional Service of Canada and other justice partners, when a federal offender has an active and/or pending provincial term of community supervision to follow their term of custody. The authority to release offenders into the community and set the terms of that release rests with the courts; this includes the court authority to impose a residency approval condition. In circumstances where B.C. Corrections is involved in the supervision of offenders in the community, public safety is the priority and this includes being responsive to the justice needs identified in small rural communities.

B.C. Corrections is committed to the assessment and management of offenders through case management and programs proven through research to reduce offending. Case management and supervision consists of:

- assessing offender risk and needs;
- linking risk and needs to a case management plan;
- delivering structured interventions that address identified risk and needs;
- assessing the offender's response to the intervention and adjusting the case management plan in response to circumstances and assessment results; and
- monitoring offenders for compliance with court order conditions.

In its commitment to reduce offending, core programs are a strategic priority for B.C. Corrections; these treatment readiness programs apply a cognitive behavioural approach to respond to key risk factors of offenders. Delivered by Corrections staff in the community, offenders are referred to core programs based on assessment of risk, and match offenders to programs that best address their criminal behaviour. Core programs delivered by B.C. Corrections include: Relationship Violence Prevention, Violence Prevention, Substance Abuse Management, and Sex Offender Maintenance. These programs are delivered in rural and remote communities when there are sufficient numbers of offenders. If sufficient numbers of offenders cannot be achieved, funding may be available for offenders in rural communities to travel to urban centres to attend the sex offender treatment program or relationship violence treatment program that are delivered by contracted treatment providers. In other circumstances, the sex offender treatment program may be offered on a one-to-one basis to an offender in their rural community when travel can be accommodated by the treatment provider. In keeping with evidence-based research, B.C. Corrections concentrates its resources on offenders who present the highest level of risk and needs.

B.C. Corrections has developed relationships with justice system partners, social program ministries, health authorities, and local communities to enhance and coordinate the delivery of services to meet the needs of offenders. Partnering with police, B.C. Corrections takes steps to protect communities in remote areas.

In certain cases, where an offender is deemed to pose a high risk, B.C. Corrections and police authorities have a duty to notify the public of this risk. These notifications are undertaken to an individual, group, community or the province to ensure that the public are informed and can take general precautions for themselves and their families. They also provide a mechanism to enable the public to report alleged breaches of court ordered conditions.

With respect to the Canada-European Union Trade Agreement (CETA), I can assure you that the Government of British Columbia is working closely with the federal government and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) to ensure an agreement, if reached, would not hinder local government authority. Specifically, an agreement with the European Union is not expected to affect the ability of municipal governments to source locally, nor prevent them from using custom selection criteria, such as social and environmental factors, quality, price, relevant experience or technical requirements, in the procurement process.

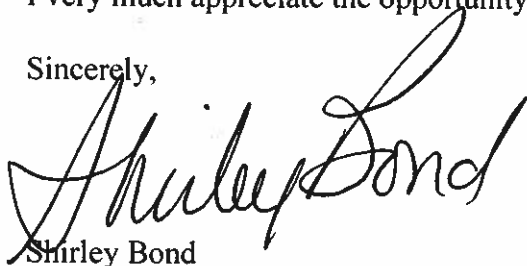
You will understand, I hope, that providing information on the Province's specific negotiating positions related to procurement, services and investment, as you have requested, is not possible while negotiations are still underway.

In response to the request that the provincial government explain the impacts a CETA could have on municipal governance, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Don White, Executive Director of Trade Initiatives (Don.D.White@gov.bc.ca or 250-952-0708) or Ms. Janel Quiring, chief negotiator for the Province in these negotiations (Janel.Quiring@gov.bc.ca or 250-356-5867).

These negotiations are a significant undertaking and I recognize the need to ensure that all levels of government are well informed. The provincial government has been in regular contact with UBCM as well as the federal government to consult and, to the extent possible at this time, assess the potential impacts an agreement may have on municipalities.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to review these resolutions.

Sincerely,



Shirley Bond
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General

*Thank you for
sharing your
resolutions
with me!*

pc: The Honourable Pat Bell
Mr. Don White
Ms. Janel Quiring

