

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014
7:00 PM**

(RDN Board Chambers)

A D D E N D U M

PAGE

COMMUNICATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE

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| 2 | Coralee Oakes, Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development re Electoral Area 'A' Restructure Study Funding Request. |
| 3-4 | Scott Tanner, District 69 Recreation Commission re District 69 Arena / Parksville Curling Club Permission Tax Exemption. |



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CHAIR			

MAR 04 2014

Ref: 155090

Mr. Joe Stanhope
Chair
Regional District of Nanaimo
6300 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2

Dear Chair Stanhope:

Thank you for your letter of February 11, 2014, advising me of the Board's decision to prioritize Electoral Area A of the Regional District of Nanaimo for a restructure study funding request.

I would ask that Mr. Alec McPherson, Director, send the information requested in my letter of October 21, 2013, directly to Ms. Liz Andersen in the Governance and Structure Branch. Should you or your staff have questions regarding the request or the process involved, Ms. Andersen can be reached by telephone at: 250 356-6333.

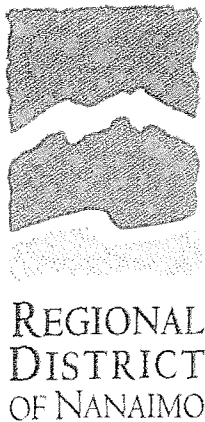
Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Coralee Oakes
Minister

pc: Mr. Alec McPherson
Director
Regional District of Nanaimo

Ms. Liz Andersen
Governance and Structure Branch
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development



March 3, 2014

City of Parksville
100 East Jensen Avenue
Parksville, BC
V9P 2H3

Re: District 69 Arena / Parksville Curling Club Permissive Tax Exemption

Dear Mayor and Council:

At the February 25, 2014 Regular Meeting of the District 69 Recreation Commission a delegation from the Parksville Curling Club was in attendance. The Curling Club provided information to the Commission on the financial impact they are facing with the reduction and potential elimination of the City of Parksville's permissive tax exemption on the leased area for the facility at the Parksville Community Park.

The Commission then approved the following two resolutions.

1. *That staff prepare a report on the impacts the Parksville Curling Club and the District 69 Arena facility is facing with the reduction and removal of the Permissive Tax Exemption by the City of Parksville for the leased parklands and to provide options that will ensure the Club and the Regional District facility can be sustained in the long term.*
2. *That the District 69 Recreation Commission Chairperson send a letter to City of Parksville with a copy to BC Assessment requesting the reconsideration of the reduction and elimination of the Permissive Tax Exemption for the Parksville Curling Club / District 69 Arena leased lands at the Parksville Community Park and for staff to work with the Parksville Curling Club on the verification of the current property and land assessment with BC Assessment.*

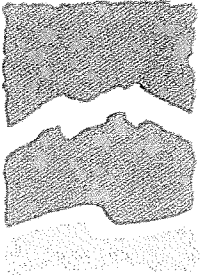
The District 69 Arena is a facility that is owned by the Regional District of Nanaimo and is situated on parkland leased from the City of Parksville. Upon completion of the arenas at Oceanside Place, the District 69 Arena Lands were subleased and the facility leased to Parksville Curling Club. This arrangement has provided for the continued use of this publicly owned facility at no cost to the local tax payer for the past 10 years. As the facility was operated by a local government prior to 2003 it received automatic tax exemption status. With a non-profit society operating the facility from 2003 onwards, a permissive tax exemption had to be applied for annually by the Regional District on

RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

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behalf of the Curling Club. As you are aware this tax exemption status was granted up until the year 2014.

With the loss of 50% of the tax exemption in 2014 followed by potential loss of 100% of the exemption in years to come, the financial pressures on the non-profit group's resources have placed the facility and Curling Club's future in doubt.

Without a tenant in the building, the demolition of the public facility would become more relevant and at a considerable expense to all participating members of the District 69 Arena Function which includes the City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G' and 'H'.

The RDN's District 69 Recreation Commission is requesting the City of Parksville reconsider the decision of not granting property tax exemption to the facility or provide alternative means to eliminate the financial burden. The granting of a tax exemption or significant reduction in taxes payable for the site would be consistent with practices done at adjacent curling clubs in Qualicum Beach and the City of Nanaimo. This move would reduce an additional financial burden on the Curling Club that has provided a valued recreational service to the area who have also provided a consistent source of economic generation to the local tourism industry.

On behalf of all members of the District 69 Recreation Commission, we respectfully request the City of Parksville reconsider this matter.

Sincerely

Scott Tanner
Chair, District 69 Recreation Commission

cc: District 69 Recreation Commission
Regional District of Nanaimo Board
Parksville Curling Club
BC Assesment

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