

Date: July 24, 2026

File No:0530-01

Mayor Sylvia Pranger
District of Kent
PO Box 70
Agassiz, BC V0M 1A0

Dear Mayor Pranger:

Subject: Lets'emot Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre Regional Partnership

I am writing on behalf of Village Council regarding the Lets'emot Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre (the LRRAC). Council recognizes and supports the District's efforts to promote the LRRAC and generate public awareness and enthusiasm for this important regional facility. Sharing information about the fee structure, amenities, programming opportunities, and overall benefits of the project helps ensure that Village residents are informed and prepared to take advantage of what I believe will be an exceptional addition to our region—one that will benefit District and Village residents alike.

Having said that, Council and I are deeply disappointed that the District chose not to honour our request to return to the Village later this year to further discuss the possibility of a Village contribution toward the capital and operating costs of the LRRAC.

Instead, the District's CAO made public statements regarding the Village that, in my view, are both inaccurate and misleading. Specifically, the statement that "the Village has reneged on their previous commitment to contribute \$1.85 million to the costs of the Aquatic Centre" does not accurately reflect the position of Village Council.

At the Special Council Meeting held on February 13, 2025, Council passed the following resolution:

THAT staff be directed to form a regional partnership with the District of Kent using population-based financial contributions towards the capital and operating costs of the new Lets'emot Regional Recreation & Aquatic Centre, with the contributions coming in the form of an annual requisition from the Fraser Valley Regional District.

THAT staff be directed to research better integration between the Village and the District of Kent regarding recreational and community-based programming.

Throughout our discussions, I was clear that approval of the electors would be required before the Village could make any financial commitment toward the Aquatic Centre. No binding commitment was ever made by the Village to contribute \$1.85 million to the project.

By communicating incomplete information directly to Village residents, without acknowledging this important context, the District has unfortunately created confusion and undermined efforts to build the community support that would be necessary for any future Village contribution toward the facility's capital and operating costs.

I must also express my disappointment with the manner in which information has been shared throughout this process. Village staff repeatedly sought financial details related to the project, yet critical information was either withheld or provided only during Council-to-Council meetings instead of in advance. Information regarding user fees, taxation impacts to District residents, and other financial details presented publicly to Village residents was not first shared with Village staff or Council. In my view, this is not the approach one would expect from a partner seeking a transparent and collaborative working relationship.

I have also learned that the proposed user fee structure would see District residents paying a \$7.00 admission fee while non-District residents would pay \$12.00. I am surprised that the District would choose to impose a 71% premium on residents from neighbouring communities who wish to access what has consistently been promoted as a regional facility.

Despite these concerns, our offer remains unchanged. The District is welcome to return to Village Council later this year to discuss the possibility of a Village contribution toward the capital and operating costs of the LRRAC.

The Village and the District have enjoyed a long history of cooperation and mutual support on many important matters. These relationships and partnerships have delivered meaningful benefits to residents of both communities. As one example, the Village will continue to extend its resident-rate discount for use of the Village boat launch to District residents. I remain confident that, with continued dialogue and a commitment to transparency and good faith, we can find a mutually beneficial path forward regarding Village residents' use of the LRRAC as well.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the District on the approaching completion of the LRRAC. I sincerely hope it proves to be a successful and valued asset for the entire region.

Respectfully,



Fred Talen
Mayor

cc: Council