

# BC Improvement District - Petition Submission

April 10, 2026

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs  
Local Government Division  
P.O. Box 9838 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9T1

Attention: Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs  
Local Government Division

Delivered via e-mail: [HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

## RE: IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PETITION

This letter presents our official request to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to review their policy regarding senior government support to British Columbia's Improvement Districts (IDs). Improvement Districts provide essential services to communities throughout the Province. Under current provincial government policy, BC Improvement Districts are ineligible to receive senior government support for infrastructure improvements unless they are supported through a Regional District or local municipality.

In November of 2025, a province-wide request was made to 185 IDs to see if they would support a petition requesting the Province of BC to revise their policy regarding the provision of Provincial funding to ID infrastructure projects.

The petition request was simply that the Province change its policy from

***“Not supporting direct senior government funding to Improvement Districts”***  
to

***“Supporting funding to Improvement Districts equal to that of Regional Districts and Municipalities”***

This letter provides a summary of the process followed and more details on the request made to the Province. Included with this letter are the following appendices.

**Appendix A** presents a listing of the IDs that have signed the petition. The petition submission window closed on February 27, 2026. Of the 189 IDs in the province, 84 IDs provided a representative signed copy of the petition.

**Appendix B** provides the blank form of petition and support documentation issued to IDs explaining the challenges being faced. The process that was followed through the petition is presented in Appendix B.

**Appendix C** presents items for consideration by a Policy Review Committee who could be assigned to review this issue.

**Appendix D** provides supplemental correspondence and letters received from IDs and Regional Districts during the process. These documents provide some insight for the Province to consider when reviewing the policy.

April 10, 2026


We thank you and the Ministry for your attention to this complicated and challenging issue. With having worked with the staff and resources of many Improvement Districts over the past 40 years, we have found many ways in which to cost-effectively provide services to our communities. There is substantial value in the service provided by IDs in this province.

Although financial issues are always raised, an issue that is not often discussed is the human element. The responsibility placed on Improvement District staff is significant. Their role is to serve and protect their communities. The ways in which to build community support and trust in these small organization needs to be supported by senior government. Human resources and staff support should be part of the discussion when reviewing the Provincial government's policies regarding Improvement Districts.

This summary letter and supplemental information has been copied to all Improvement Districts. Input has been requested from the IDs to bring forward the policy issues that should be discussed by a review committee. A request has also been made so that this process can take place away from the media spotlight.

At this time, we are asking that you review our request and consider setting up a multiple-agency Policy Review Committee to evaluate how to best support the administrative, operational, human resources, and community aspects of Improvement Districts in BC.

Sincerely,



Robert Hrasko, P.Eng.  
Petition Coordinator

cc: BC Improvement Districts (185 contacted)  
Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

**APPENDIX A - PETITION RECEIVED 84 of 189**

Note: (Duplicates, Petition response No's 13 and 41 are duplicates of Petition No. 11)  
 Petitions Improvement District Name, number received, and date of receipt are listed in the table below in chronological order of date received.

Two Weeks Ago				
	Pam McKenzie	86_Petition Response - Allison Lake Improvement District	Fri 2026-02-27 12:13 PM	3 MB
Good afternoon Bob, Attached is the signed petition for the Allison Lake Improvement District. Pam McKenzie Sec/Treas.				
	Myles Radchenko	85_Petition-Response_Vaseux Lake Improvement District	Fri 2026-02-27 12:10 PM	1 MB
Here is our signed petition, Robert. Thank you for all your work. Myles Radchenko Chair, Vaseux Lake Improvement District <end>				
	Debbie Murphy	84_Petition Response - Mill Bay Fire Improvement District	Wed 2026-02-25 10:06 AM	1,011 KB
Good Morning Please see attached. Thank you Debbie Murphy ===== Forwarded message =====				
	Don Alberg	83_Petition Response - Little Qualicum Waterworks District	Wed 2026-02-25 10:01 AM	305 KB
Sent from my iPhone <end>				
	spidadministrator@columbiawireless.ca	82_Petition Response - Slocan Park Improvement District	Wed 2026-02-25 8:23 AM	766 KB
Good Morning, Please see enclosed signed petition from Slocan Park Improvement District. Kind regards, Shay Starchuk, Administrator Slocan Park Improvement District Box 87, Slocan Park, BC, V0G 2E0				
	QBHL Waterworks District	81_Petition Response - Qualicum Bay Home Lake Improvement District	Tue 2026-02-24 1:56 PM	522 KB
Hello, Please find attached our signed petition. Thank you. Laina Koskela Administrator Qualicum Bay-Horne Lake Waterworks District				
	cbonowic@telus.net	80_Petition Response Playmor Junction Improvement District	Mon 2026-02-23 8:16 PM	2 MB
Pleas find attached the Petition Response from the Playmor Junction Improvement District. Cheryl Bonowicz Secretary-Treasurer <end>				
	Martin Bühler	79_Petition Response - Cranberry Fire Protection District	Mon 2026-02-23 2:46 PM	210 KB
Good afternoon, Please see the attached petition submitted on behalf of the Cranberry Fire Protection District. Sincerely, Martin Bühler, C.D., K.C. Chair, Board of Trustees Cranberry Fire Protection District <end>				
	bereczki@shaw.ca	78_Petition Response - Shawnigan Improvement District	Mon 2026-02-23 1:19 PM	382 KB
Good afternoon, Please refer to the attached signed petition. Thank you, Karen				
	twong30@telus.net	77_Petition Response - Otter Lake Water District	Mon 2026-02-23 10:53 AM	2 MB
Good morning, Robert The Otter Lake Water District has signed your petition. Good Luck, Terri Wong Operator/Administrator				
	Admin Office - SION Water	76_Petition Response - Sion Improvement District	Mon 2026-02-23 9:23 AM	1 MB
Hello Robert - please find attached the signed ID Petition Request. Have a great day! Heather Act'g Office SION Improvement District				
	Bennett Bay Waterworks District	75_Petition Response Bennett Bay Waterworks District	Sun 2026-02-22 3:42 PM	343 KB
Sorry about that! Here it is. Thank you, Ana				
Three Weeks Ago				
	Brew Bay Improvement District	74_Petition Response Brew Bay Improvement District	Sat 2026-02-21 2:16 PM	766 KB
Please find the attached response to the petition from: From Brew Bay Improvement District				
	North Canyon Improvement District	73_Petition Response - North Canyon Improvement District	Sat 2026-02-21 11:01 AM	355 KB
Hello Bob, Please find attached the signed petition. Thanks and have a nice weekend, Jenna Traxel Administrator North Canyon Improvement District Box 60 Canyon BC V0B 1C0				
	barry garfield	72_Petition Response - Georgina Improvement District	Fri 2026-02-20 2:59 PM	655 KB
Petition Response form Georgina Improvement District, Mayne Island, BC <end>				
	Wolfe Waterworks	71_Petition Response - Wolfe Waterworks District	Fri 2026-02-20 2:21 PM	329 KB
On Feb 11, 2026, at 2:13 PM, Robert Hrasko <rhasko@bmid.ca> wrote:				
	BeaverFalls Waterworks District	70_Petition Response_Beaver Falls Waterworks District	Thu 2026-02-19 12:27 PM	288 KB
Attached is our signed petition Thanks Shirley Fletcher Secretary Treasurer Beaver Falls Waterworks District Box 138 Montrose BC V0G 1P0				
	BMID Scanner	69_Petition Response - Rutland Waterworks District	Thu 2026-02-19 12:14 PM	175 KB
	Alyssa Nielsen	68_Petition Response_Canyon Alpine Improvement District	Wed 2026-02-18 3:10 PM	3 MB
Hello, Please see attached the signed petition from Canyon Alpine Improvement District. Thank you for your efforts. Sincerely, Alyssa Nielsen				
	Chase Irrigation District	67_Petition Response - Chase Irrigation District	Mon 2026-02-16 8:41 AM	860 KB
Good morning, Please find attached the signed petition from the Chase Irrigation District. Thank you, Kate Ashman Secretary, Chase Irrigation District <end>				
Last Month				
	wnedjelski@gmail.com	66_Petition Response - Pouopore Improvement District	Fri 2026-02-13 9:37 AM	875 KB
Hello Robert Thank you for the effort you are putting into this! Wayne Nedjelski Pouopore Improvement District				
	Stillwater Waterworks District	65_Petition Response - Stillwater Waterworks District	Fri 2026-02-13 9:11 AM	891 KB
Melanie Williams Corporate Officer & Manager Stillwater Waterworks District				
	WLLID	64_Petition Response Wasa Lake Land Improvement District	Fri 2026-02-13 8:44 AM	293 KB
Signed petition attached. Wasa Lake Land Improvement District Box 133 Wasa BC V0B 2K0				
	Gerry Wellburn	63_Petition-Response_Stepney Waterworks District	Thu 2026-02-12 10:00 PM	96 KB
Hi Bob, Please find attached our signed petition Thanks for your work on this Gerry Wellburn Stepney Waterworks District; Chair <end>				
	Buckhorn Improvement District	62_see-18-Petition Response_Buckhorn ID	Thu 2026-02-12 5:07 PM	73 KB
Hello Bob This is Holly Herzog.				
	Shawn Murray	28_Wilmer Waterworks District	Thu 2026-02-12 5:02 PM	315 KB
Hello, I am sending the signed petition for Improvement District - Petition for Equitable Funding from the Wilmer Waterworks Improvement District. Thank You, Karen Barkley Secretary, WWID <end>				
	OFID	61_Petition Response	Thu 2026-02-12 4:06 PM	413 KB
Hello, Please see attached. Thank you, Amber Minich Ocean Falls Improvement District Corporate Officer				
	KALEDEN IRRIGATION DISTRICT	60_Petition Response Kaleden Irrigation District	Thu 2026-02-12 8:29 AM	2 MB
Good Morning, Please see attached signed petition. Thank-you, Lynn				
	phfire@dccnet.com	59_Petition-Response_Pender-Harbour-Fire-Protection-District	Thu 2026-02-12 8:29 AM	519 KB
Good morning, Please find attached our signed petition from the Pender Harbour Fire Protection District. Diana Rae Administrator Pender Harbour Fire Protection District				

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Last Week			
	OID Hi, Please find attached Oceanview's signed petition for your further handling. Janet Yee Secretary Janet	58_Petition-Response _ Oceanview ID	Sat 2026-02-07 2:44 PM
	Rodney Dieleman As requested.	57_Petition Response	Fri 2026-02-06 11:25 AM
	Otto Schulte Please see signed petition from the Gossip Island Improvement District. Thank you <end>	56_Petition Response - Gossip Island Improvement District	Thu 2026-02-05 8:55 AM
	Mountain View Water District Hi Bob,	55_Petition Response_Mountain View Water District	Thu 2026-02-05 12:51 AM
Two Weeks Ago			
	wacecreekid@gmail.com Good afternoon Bob Hrasko, Please refer to the attached, completed Petition. Best regards,	54_Petition Response_Wace-Creek-ID	Fri 2026-01-30 12:12 PM
	Meredith Road Improvement Distr... Good afternoon Bob Hrasko, Please refer to the attached, completed Petition. Best regards,	53_Petition Response_Meredith Road ID	Fri 2026-01-30 12:07 PM
	Catherine Berris From Spanish Hills Thank you for coordinating this. <end>	52_Petition Response_Spanish-Hills-ID_Galiano Island	Fri 2026-01-30 9:49 AM
	Keith Rush Sorry...had a typo in your address Bob Keith Keith Rush RPF (Ret)	51_Petition Response copy	Wed 2026-01-28 12:15 PM
	Keith Rush Bob, Please find attached the signed petition from the Thetis Island Improvement District. Good luck with it. For your interest Bob, Fire Improvement Districts are currently in a	51_Petition Response_Thetis Island Improvement District	Wed 2026-01-28 12:13 PM
	Clerks Department Webmail Hi Bob,	50_Petition Response - Logging Ditch Improvement District	Tue 2026-01-27 2:58 PM
	brid55 brid55@telus.net Hi Robert, Please find the signed petition from the Blue River Improvement District attached. We are 100% supportive of this initiative. Please let us know if any further inform	49_Petition Response - Blue River Improvement District	Mon 2026-01-26 7:29 PM
	David Fast	48_Petition Response - Fanny Bay Waterworks District	Mon 2026-01-26 1:20 PM
	Genelle Improvement District Please see the attached signed petition. Thank you for your work on this project! Kind Regards, Amy Lockhart Administrator Genelle Improvement District Mondays 9am-3pm	47_Petition Response - Genelle Improvement District	Mon 2026-01-26 11:43 AM
Three Weeks Ago			
	SHIPS POINT IMPROVEMENT DISTR... Bob, Ships Point Improvement District discussed the petition at our recent board meeting and we wish to join in your efforts. Attached please find our executed petition. Pleas	46_Petition Response - Ships Point Improvement District	Sat 2026-01-24 10:42 AM
	L Plotnikoff From: Glade Irrigation District (GID) Thank you Lora A. Plotnikoff	45_Petition Response - Glade Irrigation District	Fri 2026-01-23 5:58 PM
	Janelle Lawson Hello, Attached, please find the signed requested petition. Thank You, Janelle Lawson Administrative Assistant Mayne Island Improvement District	44_Petition Response - Mayne Island Improvement District	Fri 2026-01-23 9:55 AM
	Keremeos Irrigation	43_District Petition - Keremeos Irrigation District	Fri 2026-01-23 8:47 AM
	Similkameen Improvement District Good morning Bob; Please find attached the petition signed by two trustees of the Similkameen Improvement District. Enjoy your day! Cheryl Halla SIMILKAMEEN IMPROVEMEN	42_Petition Response - Similkameen Improvement District	Fri 2026-01-23 8:43 AM
	Phil Hartley Attached find the petition as signed by Mount Parke Estates Improvement District. Phil Hartley Trustee	41_Petition Response - Mount Parke Estates Improvement District	Thu 2026-01-22 7:01 PM
	Traders Cove Waterworks District ... Hi Bob, Here's our signed Petition on behalf of the Traders Cove Waterworks Trustees. Thank you for spearheading this initiative! Thanks, Marianne Dahl, Secretary/Treasurer Tra	40_Petition Response - Traders Cove Waterworks District	Thu 2026-01-22 2:46 PM
	cww@shaw.ca Hello Robert, I have attached the support from Cherry Creek Waterworks District. Thank you so much.	39_Petition Response - Cherry Creek Waterworks District	Thu 2026-01-22 10:08 AM
	Darryl Luscombe Please find attached a copy of the signed petition on behalf of the Sointula Waterworks District.	38_Petition Response - Sointula Waterworks District	Tue 2026-01-20 12:50 PM
nth			
	Bourke Creek Improvement District From Bourke Creek Improvement District Nelson, BC	37_Petition Response - Bourke Creek Improvement District	Fri 2026-01-16 2:18 PM
	Grandview Water District Good morning Robert, Please see the attached Petition to the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, B.C., which has been signed by the Trustees on behalf of the Grandview	36_Petition Response - Grandview Water District	Fri 2026-01-16 11:47 AM
	Carla Bacon	35_PETITION RESPONSE - Lower Nicola Waterworks District	Thu 2026-01-15 3:05 PM
	contact@vananda-id.ca Hi, Thanks for initiating this. We tried something similar a couple of years ago but lost momentum. The website we created still exists however ... improvementdistrictfunding.ca f	34_Petition Response Van Anda Improvement District - plus SUPPLEMENTAL LETTER	Wed 2026-01-14 6:12 PM
	Alex Wallach Signed petition from Sitkum Creek Improvement District Alex Wallach, Secretary SCID	33_Petition response Sitkum Creek Improvement District	Wed 2026-01-14 2:06 PM
	STANLEY VANKEULEN From Mud Bay Dyking District Stan VanKeulen <end>	32_Petition Response Mud Bay Dyking District	Wed 2026-01-14 10:09 AM
	Taghum Improvement District Good morning, Please find attached the signed petition on behalf of the Taghum Improvement District. Our apologies on the delay, we signed this and intended to send out in I	31_Petition Response - Taghum Improvement District	Tue 2026-01-13 9:05 AM
	Cobble Hill Improvement District Good afternoon Bob Hrasko, Please refer to the attached, signed improvement district petition to the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, BC, from the Board of Trustees of	30_Petition Response Cobble Hill ID	Sat 2026-01-10 1:13 PM
	Laura Hwalstad ----- Forwarded message -----	29_Petition- Response _ Casino Waterworks District	Tue 2026-01-06 12:51 PM
	Shawn Murray signed petition from wilmer waterworks	28_Petition - Wilmer Waterworks District	Thu 2026-01-01 6:44 PM
	Nasookin Improvement District Attached is signed petition requested Pat Hodgson NID Chair	27_Petition - Nasookin Improvement District	Sat 2025-12-27 8:24 AM
	Tom Mueller Please find attached a signed copy of the petition from Scott Point Waterworks District. <end>	26 - Petition Response Scott Point Waterworks District	Fri 2025-12-26 12:53 PM

Send/Receive error All

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↩	📧 Amanda Fowler Good morning	25_Petition Response_Cowichan-Bay-ID	Tue 2025-12-23 10:11 AM
↩	📧 Fletcher Creek Secretary	24_Petition Response_Fletcher-Creek-ID Attached is the signed petition from The Fletcher Creek improvement District. Thank you, Donna.	Mon 2025-12-22 4:05 PM
↩	📧 SLEID	23_South Lake Erroch ID Please find the signed petition attached.	Fri 2025-12-19 10:59 AM
↩	📧 Trustees - PVDD	22_Pemberton-Valley-Dyking-District Signed A copy of the signed petition is attached. Pia Fotsch / Kathie Bergen Administrator Pemberton Valley Dyking District PO Box 235 Pemberton, BC V0N 2L0	Thu 2025-12-18 4:50 PM
↩	📧 OID	21_Osoyoos-ID - Signed Please find attached a signed version of the petition from the Osoyoos Irrigation District (OID), Sincerely David Ryan Treasurer, OID <end>	Thu 2025-12-18 11:37 AM
↩	📧 Raleigh WaterWorks	20_Improvement District Petition - Raleigh ID Please find the signed petition attached. Heidi Kind Regards, Raleigh Waterworks Raleigh Waterworks District	Tue 2025-12-16 10:56 AM
↩	📧 Jennifer Bradley	19_RE: Improvement District Petition - North Cedar ID Good Morning Please find attached a petition signed by NCID trustees. Thank you Jennifer Bradley   Administrator   North Cedar Improvement District	Mon 2025-12-15 11:05 AM
↩	📧 Pineview Improvement District	18_Petition Response_Pineview-ID Please find two different petition responses attached. Holly Herzog Administrative Manager Pineview Improvement District (250) 963-8212	Fri 2025-12-12 12:46 PM
↩	📧 FHID Similkameen	17_Petition Response_Fairview-Heights-Irrigation-District Hi there, I have attached a signed copy from the Fairview Heights Irrigation District in Cawston, BC. Thanks, James Morrison <end>	Fri 2025-12-12 9:19 AM
↩	📧 irrid@telus.net	16_Petition Response-Robson-Raspberry_ID Good morning, Please find attached signed petition. Thanks! Tracey Smith Administrator/Community Liaison Robson-Raspberry Improvement District	Thu 2025-12-11 11:15 AM
↩	📧 Rob Greenwood	15_Petition Response_Philimore-Point-ID Please find attached, petition response. Signed by Chair of Philimore Point Improvement District on behalf of Trustees. <end>	Wed 2025-12-10 12:05 PM
↩	📧 admin@gillies-bay.ca	14_Improvement District Petition - Gillies Bay ID Hi Robert, Attached you will find a signed copy of the petition, signed by myself and our Board Chair. Cheers, Juanita Juanita Walton Corporate Officer Gillies Bay Improvement District	Wed 2025-12-10 9:04 AM
	📧 BMID Scanner	13_Petition-Response - Mount Parke Estates ID	Wed 2025-12-10 7:35 AM
↩	📧 eddie@doublemexcavating.com	12_Petition Response - Threthewey-Edge Dyking District Our signed petition response is attached. E.J. Holmes, Administrator TRETHEWEY-EDGE DYKING DISTRICT <end>	Tue 2025-12-09 3:58 PM
↩	📧 Robert McFarlane	11_Petition - Mount-Park-Estates-ID Attached is the signed petition, on behalf of Mount Parke Improvement District. Best regards, Rob McFarlane, Chair	Mon 2025-12-08 3:55 PM
↩	📧 ssidadmin	10_RETURN PETITION E-MAIL SavaryShores ID	Mon 2025-12-08 12:27 PM
↩	📧 Mbid Secretary	09_Petition Response_Mt-Belcher-ID	Thu 2025-12-04 2:07 PM
	📧 BMID Scanner	08_Petition-Signed_Black-Mountain-Irrigation-District	Thu 2025-12-04 10:46 AM
↩	📧 Ootischenia Improvement District	07_Petition Response_Ootischenia-ID	Thu 2025-12-04 9:34 AM
↩	📧 admin@daidinfo.com	06_Petition Response- Dewdney Area I.D. On behalf of the Dewdney Area Improvement District (DAID), please find attached signed RETURN PETITION EMAIL. Merry Christmas	Wed 2025-12-03 12:06 PM
↩	📧 savonadistrict@telus.net	05_Petition Response Savona ID Good Morning, Please find our signed petition response attached. Administrative Officer Yoriko Susanj	Wed 2025-12-03 10:54 AM
↩	📧 Mark Faubert	04_Petition Response Armstrong Bay ID Please find attached a signed petition from the Armstrong Bay Improvement District. When sending to our MLA, we should send her the two pages of this petition. Is there any	Fri 2025-11-28 5:01 PM
↩	📧 Dwight Davison   Chief   Sechelt Fi...	03_Petition Response-Sechelt Fire Department Good morning Bob, The Sechelt Fire Protection District supports the move to open dialog in a respectful process with the Province. We feel it is imperative for the Province to rec	Thu 2025-11-27 9:22 AM
↩	📧 Sharon Meekes	02_Petition Response_Rykerts-Irrigation-District Sent from my iPad <end>	Wed 2025-11-26 11:41 AM
↩	📧 Mark Boysen	01_Petition Response_North-Salt-Spring-Waterworks Please find attached a letter with our signed petition. Look forward to discussing more in the coming weeks. Mark Mark Boysen Chief Administrative Officer	Tue 2025-11-25 3:07 PM

## APPENDIX B - PETITION PROCESS

A concise two-page document was developed to define the petition and present the reasons for it. According to CivicInfo, there are 189 Improvement Districts (IDs) in the province.

The two-page petition document is provided in Appendix B.

Of the 189 IDs, there were 4 IDs without e-mail addresses. Those IDs were phoned at least twice each to obtain contact information. Messages were left where possible. Those 4 IDs did not return the phone calls.

The initial petition request was e-mailed to all IDs on November 24, 2025. A closing date for petition submission was set as Friday, February 27, 2026. Reminder e-mails were issued in early January 2026 and again in early February 2026.

In early February, with the number of signed petitions received being less than half of the total number of IDs, a separate request was e-mailed to the entire ID group. The question asked was:

*“Why did those IDs that have not yet responded decline to participate? Anonymity of responses was offered in exchange for some insight on why the lack of response.*

There were only two responders to the question. Both provided similar response. The IDs stated they simply avoid dealing with senior government due to the increasing regulation and requirements to operate their utility, e.g. the recent greater dam safety and domestic water quality regulations and requirements. The IDs stated that those items coupled with system renewal are overwhelming and they just wished someone would take over their district.

In total 84 separate IDs provided a signed petition to our receiving email address. There were no negative responses to being against the petition.

Attachment (Petition submission sheet).

# PETITION TO THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, B.C.

**ATTENTION: HONOURABLE MINISTER CHRISTINE BOYLE  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

This petition is to respectfully request that the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs consider revising its current Policy regarding funding to Improvement Districts (IDs).

The current policy, as understood by the Improvement Districts, is that "Senior government funding is not made available to Improvement Districts unless the District is sponsored and/or supported by a local Regional District or Municipality." This policy has been held by the Province since 1990. Since 1990, the number of IDs has been reduced from approximately 340 to less than 190. The policy is not seen by the IDs as a proactive approach that puts community first. The petition requests that the Ministry change its Policy from:

***"Not supporting direct senior government funding to Improvement Districts"***

to

***"Supporting funding to Improvement Districts equal to that of Regional Districts and Municipalities"***

There are 187 Improvement Districts in BC that operate under Part 17 of the Local Government Act. They are public utilities that serve their communities. The majority of them are small, and all have the same or greater challenges than the larger municipal organizations.

The reasons for this petition are set out on page 2. This document is to raise awareness of the challenges facing Improvement Districts and request revisions in the policies and approach by senior government so that IDs can provide improved services to our communities

SUBMITTED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Improvement District

DATE

\_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION RELATED TO THE PROVINCIAL POLICY OF NOT ALLOWING FUNDING TO IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (IDs)**

**CHALLENGES FACING IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS**

**Economy of Scale:** Most IDs are small with small service populations, many are in rural areas, and all have small revenue streams, limited economic capacity, and expend only what is necessary.

**Aging Infrastructure:** Aging infrastructure is a huge issue facing utility providers. The ARDA program from 60 years ago saw significant infrastructure being installed, some with remaining lifespan. Extending the lifespan is a focus. Renewal contributions and reinvestment are necessary.

**Escalating Costs:** In the past 5 years, utility construction costs have risen substantially. Toll and tax rates have not matched the construction increases. As a result, IDs has less purchasing capacity.

**Water Quality Regulations:** Since Walkerton, water quality criteria has become more stringent. Expensive treatment upgrades are required for many utilities. The Health Authorities recognize that they have the greatest challenges in progress with the smaller sized water utilities.

**Dam Regulations:** Recent changes in the Provincial Dam Safety Regulation have resulted in classification changes for many dams and increased criteria for safety. Many of the dams constructed in the 1900s now require stability upgrades. The only money available to IDs comes from their ratepayers.

**DE-ESCALATING THE ISSUES FOR IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

The Province has an agenda for the transition of IDs into Regional Districts or Municipalities. The Province has respected the autonomy of the IDs in allowing them to transition when they are ready. Because of the above issues, the economic viability of IDs is now being challenged more than ever.

Without financial support that is afforded to the other Local Government organizations, the small IDs will be unable to meet the standards. The Health Authorities have recognized that in the last 10 years good progress has been made on water quality upgrades for large systems but little for small systems.

With insufficient support to IDs, the Municipality is put into a difficult position as it is currently the only available path forward for the ID. The IDs are unwanted as the Municipal Councils know there will be rate shock, even if grants are provided. Because of the above pressures, the IDs elected officials, and staff are worn down by the regulators and have overwhelming requirements. Community persons do not want to serve the public where they cannot make a difference. ID staff care about their communities, but they may not have the solutions for the public. Twenty years ago, the Province had full-time staff dedicated to supporting IDs. The staff would attend conferences and meet with the ID elected officials and managers and guide them. These resources are harder to access, particularly for small organizations.

A revised strategic approach for ID support, which includes immediate funding to those IDs that are organized and set up to make cost effective system upgrades, is necessary. The strategy should engage ID staff and guide them towards good community decisions so that the Province has confidence in funding them. The present provincial plans for ID transition sets out what to do after it is too late. A proactive approach is needed to support IDs, conduct necessary works, reduce the huge rate increases, and set up the ID services to be viable, regardless of form of governance. It is the responsibility of the IDs and the Province together to make the IDs viable organizations.

BC IDs provide critical community services to approximately 10% of the Provincial population. As per their large counterparts, they need funding support. Please reconsider the current policy before the situation becomes significantly worse. Setting out a Steering Committee to develop a revised strategic direction would be a good first step.

## APPENDIX C - POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

This section presents several issues for consideration that would be useful in selecting and tasking out a Policy Review Committee.

- **Committee Make-up:** The committee members may have varying objectives and should have complimenting expertise. The committee should consider water quality (Ministry of Health), governance (MHMA), dam safety and water sources (MWLRS), ID operations (ID), an organization that has inherited an ID (RD or MUN), a senior water supply person (Consultant), a financial person (ID Administrator), and others.
- **Committee Objectives:** The committee should be looking at the ways that IDs currently operate and then determine what can realistically be achieved with funding, without funding, with lower standards that are still safe, without changes in service standards. The committee should agree on community service principles, including effective cost expenditures, and how to achieve them
- **Utility Decay:** For a small service provider, the current policy is proving to be one that is designed to promote failure. An objective should be to sustain and renew the aging infrastructure. Agencies such as Worksafe, Health, Dam Safety, all have standards, all are inflexible due to their objective to provide for the “greater good” and all have issues that raise costs. An exercise in working from most critical service (getting water to property line), then next most critical, then next, etc. could provide perspective of what is important and what might be sustainable.
- **Transition of IDs to RDs/MUNs:** The water supply industry is now occasionally seeing rejection and an unwillingness by the RDs to take-over a run-down ID, thus creating a point of contention with existing residents. This is partially due insufficient funding available to these small communities.
- **Geographical considerations:** BC is a vast and geographically challenging province with many remote communities, particularly in the north and in the Gulf Islands. The people that care the most about a community are those that live there. Utility operations by a geographically distant RD will usually not have the same community care and attention as a local service provider. Remote operations and administration of an ID for a MUN or RD can be an inconvenience to them.
- **Peer Review Specialists:** There is need for specialist review service of engineering designs for small utilities. The designs and costs for upgrades by consultants is to the highest standard, and many times cannot be afforded, yet the consulting communities are relatively inflexible in recommending a lower cost option or a staged approaches to upgrades.

Please consider the above issues.

## APPENDIX D - SUPPLEMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Additional letters and documents submitted are listed below and included in Appendix C.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>
2018	Backgrounder Document developed by Coastal Water Suppliers
Nov. 25, 2025,	Letter North Salt Spring Island ID – letter of support
Jan 14, 2026,	Supplemental to Petition – Van Anda ID Chair
Jan 28, 2026,	Thetis Island ID – Fire Safety Act Issue – authority removed issue
Feb 6, 2026,	Letter – Salt Spring Island ID - Issues
Feb 10, 2026,	Resolution regarding IDs – Qathet Regional District
Feb 10, 2026,	Qathet RD, Board resolution
Feb 22, 2026,	Anonymous Responder – Email – Overwhelming challenges
Feb. 27, 2026,	Letter – Van Anda Improvement District
March 2, 2026,	Email – City of Surrey – Agriculture support requested
March 20, 2026,	Letter, Atlin Improvement District – Not within a Regional District

## **Providing Improvement Districts with Equal Access to Grants 2018**

The financing and delivery of services such as water, fire protection, street lighting and lake level control are important issues for rural residents and businesses in British Columbia. Across the province, these services are delivered to approximately half of the 609,363 people that live in rural areas by improvement districts, a form of local government (Bish and Clemmens, 2009, p. 70 and Statistics Canada, 2011b).

Government of British Columbia policy, outlined in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing's Improvement District Governance: Policy Statement, restricts improvement districts from accessing sewer and water infrastructure grants (British Columbia, 2006, p. 12). However, both municipalities and regional districts have access to these grants. The aim of this policy is to shift jurisdiction of improvement district systems to regional districts so that "at some point in time all improvement districts will be under municipal or regional district jurisdiction" (BC Government, 2006, p. 10).

Improvement districts must rely on user fees and taxation of property owners who access services to generate capital funds. To access public funding, improvement districts must ask their regional district to apply for funding for infrastructure upgrades to rehabilitate water and sewer systems for example. If the application is successful, ownership of the system will shift to the regional district.

This is a policy that some improvement districts across the province find objectionable. The burden this policy places on the residential and business tax base within improvement districts is also of increasing concern to the citizens and businesses in the communities served by improvement districts.

### **Background**

Improvement districts were first created in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia in the 1920's under the Water Act with oversight by the Department of Lands (Bish and Clemmens, 2009, p. 68).

Improvement districts are different from other forms of government being "specially incorporated, limited-purpose local government that undertakes one or more local services" (p. 69). Until 1965 - 1968, when regional districts were created, most British Columbians living outside of municipalities relied on improvement districts for their local public services (p. 68). In 1979, the legislative provisions relating to improvement districts were removed from the Water Act in recognition that improvement districts had more in common with local governments than they had with private water utilities. Responsibility for all improvement districts was transferred from the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

In 1990, the Task Force on Rural Services and Governance created the Rural Service Delivery and Governance in BC report, which was released internally but never published. As an outcome of the report, the ministry started limiting the incorporation of new improvement districts and started a practice of "actively encouraging existing improvement districts to restructure instead" (Local Government Structure Branch, 2000, p. 9). The focus would now be on "reinforcing the role of regional districts as the primary local government for rural areas" (BC Government, 2006, p. 5). This approach also recognized that "both the province and local governments would benefit if the province remained actively involved in local government restructuring processes" (Local Government Structure Branch, 2000, p. 15). An outcome of the rationale for the recommendation to focus on regional districts would later become the government policy around access to funding that "Regional districts have access to

grant programs for study and capital cost purposes. Improvement districts do not have direct access to these grants” (British Columbia, 2006, p. 5).

In 2006, the then Ministry of Community Services created the Improvement District Governance Policy which directly references the 20 year old practice of restricting access to funding as a means of shifting ownership of Improvement Districts to the Regional Districts. However, there were 240 Improvement Districts in the province when that report was written over a decade ago. As of April 2017, there were still 211 improvement districts operating across British Columbia, many struggling with rapidly increasing capital cost demands.

### **Current Situation**

Rural and remote property owners served by improvement district pay taxes in return for services. They have an interest in access to funding given the millions of dollars across the province that improvement districts are prevented from accessing for capital repairs and upgrades. In the case of drinking water or fire protection, rural and remote property owners are affected by diseconomies of scale compared to those serviced by regional districts or municipalities. This is due to the infrastructure requirements of their systems and small tax base to draw from for the entirety of their revenue. From a public safety perspective, rural and remote property owners are also affected by funding deficits for capital upgrades that may make drinking water unsafe or fire protection ineffective.

The Government of BC has maintained its policy of encouraging improvement districts to restructure through the restriction of grant funding for capital costs for over two decades. This is a policy issue that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing is charged with administering and maintaining. The policy argues that improvement districts are not held to the same standard of financial accountability as regional districts. They also do not have the same transparency requirements for the election of trustees. Also, the spectrum of accountability in improvement districts varies. However, some improvements are very sophisticated and voluntarily meet the same requirements around financial reporting and elections as regional districts and municipalities. The provincial government could modify or eliminate its improvement district policy without changing the current legislation. However, legislation changes would be required to increase the statutory accountability of improvement districts in the areas of financial transparency and electoral process.

Regional Districts and Municipalities have their own priorities and infrastructure needs. For example, in 2013 the Hagensborg Waterworks District asked the Central Coast Regional District (CCRD) to consider an application through the regional district for Community Works funding to address their aging infrastructure. The CCRD replied on February 13, 2014 that this request was denied as the regional district had “so many significant regional district infrastructure issues of its own” (Blake, personal communication, 2014).

The Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD) states that any water systems that wish to be acquired “must be financially viable with sufficient revenue to cover ongoing operating costs and future improvements. The reason is to ensure that the water system is financially self-supporting and sustainable for the long term” (TNRD, p. 4). Consequently, improvement districts struggling to operate financially or meet the capital costs of infrastructure repairs or upgrades are ineligible to dissolve into the regional district under this policy. This leaves the improvement district with no alternatives without

grant funding other than to increase rates to levels that may not be sustainable, not complete the required improvements, or walk away from the system.

## **Conclusion**

The BC Government's long-term objective to eliminate improvement districts as a form of local government will take more than a generation to complete. However, there is also a strong likelihood that it will never be fully successful. The policy is over 20 years old, has not received a comprehensive published review since 2006 and improvement districts across the province are seeking change. It is time to conduct a review to determine the policy's relevance and if objectives are still being met.

Furthermore, improvement districts, with their volunteer structure and high level of business representation on the boards, do not form an additional costly bureaucratic layer of government. In fact, they are an efficient means to deliver a critical infrastructure service that supports local economies. As a specialized form of local government, improvement districts have less hierarchy and bureaucracy which leads to more efficient focus on service delivery.

Research demonstrates that unit costs in small communities tend to be significantly higher than in large ones. This places an unfair burden on smaller improvement districts to deliver essential services at a comparable cost to municipalities or regional districts. Furthermore, municipalities and regional districts have access to grants such as the federal gas tax transfer which improvement districts do not. This puts rural and remote residents of BC served by improvement districts at a disadvantage. Furthermore, there is no published research to support that service or cost efficiencies will be gained by amalgamation.

## **THE CHAMBER RECOMMENDS**

That the BC Government:

- 1. Create an eligibility list for improvement districts to compete without restrictions for funding.**  
The Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing would create an eligibility list that identifies those improvement districts that have voluntarily met increased standards of public accountability and fair elections through:
  - a. the creation of an annual financial plan that is adopted annually (LGA, Part 11, Sec. 374);
  - b. a bylaw requiring assent of the electors, or approval of the electors by alternative elector approval process, for long term capital commitments; and
  - c. a bylaw requiring voting by secret ballot (LGA, Part 3, Div. 13, Sec. 123).

In the alternative to voluntarily meeting these requirements, a legislative change may be enacted to create another form of improvement district with the statutory requirement to meet the thresholds of accountability and transparency in finances and elections.

Improvement districts that meet the requirements will no longer be restricted from applying for sewer and water infrastructure grants and competing on an even basis with regional districts and municipalities. Should an improvement district be accepted for funding, it will not be assumed that ownership of the system will shift to the regional district.

Improvement districts that do not meet these three additional requirements, and aspire to meet them, will be assisted by the Local Government Branch of the ministry with staff resources to prepare and adopt these items. All decisions of eligibility for the list will be made by the Municipal Affairs & Housing Local Government Branch.

- 2. Conduct a comprehensive review of the effect on rates when improvement districts merge with regional districts.** This review will provide specific and credible data for improvement districts to consider when contemplating whether to dissolve into a regional district or municipality. The research will determine whether there is a positive or negative effect on user rates and whether the conversion process is desirable from an efficiency standpoint. The result of the study would be to definitively address the issue and demystify the financial effects of the amalgamation process.

## References

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November 25, 2025

Bob Hrasko  
Administrator  
Black Mountain Irrigation District

**Re: Improvement District Petition to the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs**

Dear Mr. Hrasko,

On behalf of Chair Brian Pyper and the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Board, we are pleased to provide the attached signed petition to the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs.

NSSWD has had a long history of discussions with the Province and the Capital Regional District regarding the provincial approach to improvement districts.

Thank you for providing leadership on this and look forward to making progress on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Boysen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Boysen  
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Board of Trustees, North Salt Spring Waterworks District

**Every Drop Counts**

## **PETITION TO THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, B.C.**

### **Supplemental Information**

The Van Anda Improvement District (VAID) signed and wholeheartedly agrees with the resolution proposed in the petition brought forward by the Black Mountain Irrigation District. The resolution that “*the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs consider revising its current Policy regarding funding to Improvement Districts (IDs)*” has been a decades long objective that VAID has been advocating for.

While VAID fully supports the petition we wish to include supplemental information that more reflects VAID’s background and experiences. Our sense is that the major restrictive issue with upgrading our water treatment and distribution system is the BC Government’s policy on not allowing IDs to apply for Provincial infrastructure grants unless they agree to turn over all their assets to the nearest RD. Removing this stipulation from BC Government grants would give the ability of IDs to obtain infrastructure funding based on the competitive merits of their projects and applications. In addition, the BC Government could increase the number of applications each RD is allowed to submit to UBCM for Federal grants, with at least one of the proposals being allocated just for IDs. This last would address the suggestion made in the petition. Instituting both these changes would be equitable and fair.

VAID has been extremely lucky in accessing grant funding and are grateful. We received a Federal Gas Tax grant that was administered through qRD that enabled us to upgrade our water treatment and storage. Currently we received a Provincial grant to install water meters throughout our District. This was surprising as IDs were eligible to apply and the grant didn’t come with the stipulation that we give all of our assets to qRD. Also, we were pleased with how the award was disbursed (handed over in a lump sum) and the various stages of the project are being mentored by the grantors and affiliated experts. This experience has us hopeful that the BC Government can modify their ID Policy as discussed above and, further, move to an infrastructure granting framework modelled on their water metering grant. Hopefully, these changes can be made soon

as we would like to apply for grants to replace our leaking 70 year old pipes in Van Anda, a project estimated to cost on the order of a million dollars.

As an aside, VAID abides by the premise that ID's are the least expensive, most accountable to their ratepayers, and most effective (when funding is made available) form of local government. It is apparent that those in the 190 or so IDs that remain think similarly. This begs the question - why would the government wish to maintain the failed policy of disbanding them? In fact, we suggest that the BC Government consider recommending other jurisdictions create IDs when situations warrant as opposed to forming municipalities or Local Community Commissions.

Ron Smith

Chair of the Trustees

Van Anda Improvement District

## Robert Hrasko

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**From:** Keith Rush <keithrush17@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** January 28, 2026 12:13 PM  
**To:** BMID Info  
**Cc:** rhasko@bmid.ca; Keith Rush  
**Subject:** 51\_Petition Response \_Thetis Island Improvement District  
**Attachments:** ID petition 2026, signed by KR and MS.pdf

Bob,

Please find attached the signed petition from the Thetis Island Improvement District.

Good luck with it.

For your interest Bob, Fire Improvement Districts are currently in a dispute with the same Ministry of Municipal Affairs over the new Fire Safety Act. They have, without notice or consultation, removed our authority to appoint fire inspectors and investigators. It is particularly problematic for small ferry dependent departments like ours.

If needed we would welcome the support of your Improvement District on this issue.

Best Regards

*Keith*

Keith Rush RPF (Ret)  
Chair,  
Board of Trustees  
Thetis island improvement District

Ph: 250.416.0013  
Cell: 250.732.2766  
[keithrush17@gmail.com](mailto:keithrush17@gmail.com)



## **Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District**

### **Board of Trustees**

Salt Spring Island, British Columbia

**February 6, 2026**

To Whom It May Concern,

The Board of Trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District writes in support of efforts to reform provincial funding policies that exclude Improvement Districts from direct access to senior government capital and infrastructure programs.

As an Improvement District operating under Part 17 of the *Local Government Act*, the District delivers an essential public safety service within a rural and resource-constrained environment. Like many Improvement Districts, we face escalating capital costs, aging infrastructure, increasingly complex regulatory requirements, and limited economies of scale. The absence of equitable access to provincial funding materially constrains our ability to plan, finance, and deliver compliant and resilient fire protection services.

The Board shares the concern that the Province's longstanding policy requiring sponsorship by a municipality or regional district is outdated and misaligned with current service delivery realities. Improvement Districts are accountable local governments with taxing authority and statutory responsibilities comparable to other local government forms. Continued exclusion from funding programs places disproportionate financial burden on ratepayers and increases long-term public safety risk.

In addition to supporting broader sector advocacy, the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District is pursuing its own direct lobbying efforts to advance policy changes that provide Improvement Districts access to provincial funding on terms equivalent to municipalities and regional districts.

We strongly urge the Province to modernize its approach and engage directly with Improvement Districts to implement funding frameworks that recognize their essential role and ensure service sustainability.

Sincerely,

Rodney Dieleman, CAO  
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District



## **Improvement District Governance: Policy Statement 2006 Resolution Backgrounder**

Improvement districts are created under provincial statute and operate within a governance and financial framework established by the Province of British Columbia. The Province's Improvement District Governance: Policy Statement (2006) outlines an objective of encouraging the eventual transition of improvement districts to municipal or regional district jurisdiction, while limiting provincial involvement primarily to protecting critical provincial interests. Consistent with this approach, the policy framework restricts improvement districts from directly accessing provincial sewer and water infrastructure grant programs, which constrains their ability to independently finance capital infrastructure.

Under the current policy framework, improvement districts face significant structural financial constraints. In particular, most improvement districts are not eligible to access provincial sewer and water infrastructure grant programs and do not have access to long-term borrowing through the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia. These limitations restrict their ability to finance infrastructure renewal, address regulatory compliance requirements, and plan for long-term asset sustainability, particularly for aging systems.

The Province's policy articulates objectives and principles intended to guide the management of improvement districts, including minimizing the risk of system failure, promoting financial accountability, supporting effective administration, and taking a proactive role in identifying and addressing administrative or financial challenges. The policy also anticipates that provincial oversight and early intervention will help mitigate risks to residents, improvement districts, and local governments.

However, the policy framework does not include updated financial mechanisms that reflect current infrastructure costs, regulatory standards, or asset management expectations. In the absence of access to long-term borrowing and direct capital grant programs, improvement districts may experience increasing infrastructure deficits over time, which can complicate both continued independent operation and any future transition to municipal or regional district service delivery.

These conditions create challenges not only for improvement districts and their residents, but also for regional districts and municipalities that may ultimately assume responsibility for aging infrastructure without sufficient transition funding or financial support mechanisms. Modernizing the Improvement District Governance: Policy Statement would help align provincial objectives with contemporary infrastructure realities, support sustainable service delivery, and reduce long-term financial risk to residents, local governments, and the Province.

### **Additional Reports**

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/local-governments/governance-powers/improvement\\_district\\_governance\\_policy.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/local-governments/governance-powers/improvement_district_governance_policy.pdf)

*Whereas “remote port facilities” are essential services, defined by Transport Canada as serving isolated communities where marine transportation is the primary mode of transportation;*

*And whereas Transport Canada has ongoing efforts to divest remote port facilities despite the remaining remote port facilities in BC not being conducive to transfer according to Transport Canada’s 2020 evaluation of its Port Asset Transfer Program:*

*Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and FCM request Transport Canada and the Federal Government to cease further efforts to divest remote port facilities, to continue the National Marine Strategy commitment to ongoing maintenance of remote port facilities, and to provide transition funding for divested facilities that provide critical access to remote communities without the capacity to maintain the infrastructure.*

**#2 Improvement District Governance: Policy Statement 2006 Resolution**

THAT the Committee recommends to the Board that the Board endorse the updated Improvement District Governance: Policy Statement (2006) resolution and resubmit it for consideration at the 2026 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities AGM and Convention, and authorize staff to make any minor formatting or wording amendments necessary to meet AVICC submission requirements:

*Whereas the Province of British Columbia’s Improvement District Governance: Policy Statement (2006) establishes a framework that encourages the eventual conversion of improvement districts to municipal or regional district jurisdiction with the main tool being prohibiting improvement districts’ access to provincial sewer and water infrastructure grants and long-term borrowing through the Municipal Finance Authority;*

*And whereas these policy constraints limit improvement districts’ ability to finance required infrastructure renewal and regulatory compliance, creating significant financial barriers to both continued independent operation and orderly conversion, and increasing the likelihood that deteriorating systems and unfunded liabilities will ultimately be transferred to regional districts without adequate transition support, provincial guidance, or in any shape worthy of conversion.*

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to modernize the Improvement District Governance: Policy Statement (2006) to remove structural financial barriers to the sustainability and orderly transition of improvement districts, including by enhancing provincial oversight capacity, enabling improvement districts to access long-term borrowing through the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, and removing barrier to enable improvement districts to access provincial sewer and water infrastructure grant programs.*

## Robert Hrasko

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**From:** Submissions  
**Subject:** FW: Final Note ID Petition Request for Comments

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**From:** ANONYMOUS ID CONTRIBUTOR EXPLAINING HUMAN ELEMENT  
**Sent:** February 22, 2026 5:57 PM  
**To:** Robert Hrasko <[rhrasko@bmid.ca](mailto:rhrasko@bmid.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Final Note ID Petition Request for Comments

We replied and signed the petition. But I just want to say I hesitated as we also don't like to have correspondence with the regulators as will it just lead to more and more being asked of us? If we could hand the whole thing over to someone else to run, I know personally, I would.

On Feb 22, 2026, at 3:43 PM, Robert Hrasko <[rhrasko@bmid.ca](mailto:rhrasko@bmid.ca)> wrote:

Good Day

This is a final note to all Improvement Districts prior to the February 27, 2026 Petition closing date. Our contact to the IDs was extensive with 183 Districts of 187 contacted. We could not reach 4 districts as they did not answer our phone calls or return messages left by us.

As of today's date, Monday, February 23, 2026, we have received 75 signed petitions. This is a reasonable response and the Province is taking our initiative seriously. I have been informed that they are facilitating resources to organize a committee to review their funding policies for IDs.

We provided suggestions as to who would be valuable to sit on such a committee. Our recommendation included:

1. Senior staff from Municipal Affairs and Housing
2. Ministry of Health or Health Authority representatives (not all Health Authorities as there would be 6 or 7 persons)
3. Municipality or Regional District representatives that have gone through taking over IDs
4. Water Supply Association of BC representative or Coastal WS association rep.
5. Provincial Dam Safety person

We also stated that the objective would be to determine the best way to support and facilitate the small public service provider organizations throughout the Province. Sometimes that takes financial support, sometimes it requires less regulation and more self reliance, but what works for large service providers does not work for all.

### **WE HAVE ONE LAST IMPORTANT REQUEST**

This applies to both those Districts that provided a signed petition and those that did not: We have over 100 Improvement Districts that have not responded.

If possible, please take the time to send us a paragraph for why you have not responded or, what a steering committee needs to hear.

We will keep the responses confidential and anonymous and not forward persons names or ID names to the government.

Example responses could be:

*“We avoid contact with the regulators as their requirements are overwhelming” or*

*“We have insufficient resources to deal with this” or*

*“Nothing will happen, good luck!”*

or whatever your reasons may be. Please take the time to send us a note.

We will be documenting the petitions and the feedback in a Summary Brief to the Ministry.

It will be circulated to all ID’s.

Your feedback is very important to improving the inequity we have been facing.

If you made it this far down the email, thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Bob Hrasko, P.Eng.

Administrator

<image001.jpg>

Phone (250) 765-5169

Email [rhasko@bmid.ca](mailto:rhasko@bmid.ca)



## **PETITION TO THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, B.C.**

### **Supplemental Information**

The Van Anda Improvement District (VAID) signed and wholeheartedly agrees with the resolution proposed in the petition brought forward by the Black Mountain Irrigation District. The resolution that “*the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs consider revising its current Policy regarding funding to Improvement Districts (IDs)*” has been a decades long objective that VAID has been advocating for.

While VAID fully supports the petition we wish to include supplemental information that more reflects VAID’s background and experiences. Our sense is that the major restrictive issue with upgrading our water treatment and distribution system is the BC Government’s policy on not allowing IDs to apply for Provincial infrastructure grants unless they agree to turn over all their assets to the nearest RD. Removing this stipulation from BC Government grants would give the ability of IDs to obtain infrastructure funding based on the competitive merits of their projects and applications. In addition, the BC Government could increase the number of applications each RD is allowed to submit to UBCM for Federal grants, with at least one of the proposals being allocated just for IDs. This last would address the suggestion made in the petition. Instituting both these changes would be equitable and fair.

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by the grantors and affiliated experts. This experience has us hopeful that the BC Government can modify their ID Policy as discussed above and, further, move to an infrastructure granting framework modelled on their water metering grant. Hopefully, these changes can be made soon as we would like to apply for grants to replace our leaking 70 year old pipes in Van Anda, a project estimated to cost on the order of a million dollars.

As an aside, VAID abides by the premise that ID's are the least expensive, most accountable to their ratepayers, and most effective (when funding is made available) form of local government. It is apparent that those in the 190 or so IDs that remain think similarly. This begs the question - why would the government wish to maintain the failed policy of disbanding them? In fact, we suggest that the BC Government consider recommending other jurisdictions create IDs when situations warrant as opposed to forming municipalities or Local Community Commissions.

Ron Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Smith", written in a cursive style.

Chair of the Trustees

Van Anda Improvement District

## Robert Hrasko

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**From:** Clerks Department Webmail <clerks@surrey.ca>  
**Sent:** March 2, 2026 9:50 AM  
**To:** Robert Hrasko  
**Subject:** RE: Final Note ID Petition Request for Comments

Hi Bob,

Here is a comment from a Trustee:

“Local farms supply food for British Columbians. As such, we need to regulate the water for our crops; that is, let water into our fields when needed and pump water out when there is excess. We have insufficient funds to maintain the necessary maintenance and equipment for the long-term and if food production is going to be continued in B.C., the Province needs to help fund the food supply network, including Improvement Districts.”

Best Wishes,  
Stanley



**CITY OF SURREY**

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T 604.591.4132 | F 604.501.7578 | [www.surrey.ca](http://www.surrey.ca)



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**From:** Robert Hrasko <[rrhasko@bmid.ca](mailto:rrhasko@bmid.ca)>  
**Sent:** February 22, 2026 3:39 PM  
**To:** BMID Info <[info@bmid.ca](mailto:info@bmid.ca)>  
**Subject:** Final Note ID Petition Request for Comments

Good Day

This is a final note to all Improvement Districts prior to the February 27, 2026 Petition closing date. Our contact to the IDs was extensive with 183 Districts of 187 contacted. We could not reach 4 districts as they did not answer our phone calls or return messages left by us.

As of today's date, Monday, February 23, 2026, we have received 75 signed petitions.

This is a reasonable response and the Province is taking our initiative seriously.

I have been informed that they are facilitating resources to organize a committee to review their funding policies for IDs.

We provided suggestions as to who would be valuable to sit on such a committee.

Our recommendation included:

# *Atlin Community Improvement District*

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Rodney Dieleman  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

March 20, 2026

Dear Rodney

Thank you for your email. The Atlin Community Improvement District (ACID) agrees with your letter of February 19, 2026.

ACID is different from most improvement districts as it is the only Improvement District in the province that does not belong to a regional district.

Under the Letters Patent of the Atlin Community Improvement District, the board has the mandate of operating the following services: Drainage, Fire Protection, Sidewalks, Solid Waste Disposal, Street Lighting. Waterworks and representing the Community in communication with provincial agencies on land use matters and advising or making recommendations to the Minister of Community Development on land use matters.

The ACID requires clarity as to what liability, responsibility and long term implications will be if the roles of Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator be added.

Atlin Improvement District supports:

- the proposed coalition of improvement districts and
- the request for a formal meeting with the OFC and Ministry of Public Safety to clarify the intent, rationale and impacts of the additional obligations.

We also support a united front of all Improvement Districts to ensure future regulatory changes recognize the historical, legal, and functional role of improvement districts in BC.

Regards,

The Atlin Community Improvement District board of Trustees