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Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association



... our communities association

March 11, 2020

RE: Proposed dual language signs for portions of the Sunshine Coast

Reference: from email letter to SCRD, no file #, 9 Jan 2020 from Elana Farmer, Associate District Manager, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

To: Elana Farmer, Associate District Manager, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Dear Elana Farmer:

On behalf of both the Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association (PHARA) and the Pender Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce, we are writing to share our associations' concerns with the total lack of process and consultation that has taken place regarding dual language signs along Highway 101.

As per the Foundation Agreement (2018) between the shíshálh Nation and the Provincial Government, local stakeholders and governments that may be impacted by proposed changes in land use and other significant issues are to be consulted prior to decisions being finalized. Local government (SCRD) and local community stakeholder groups such as ours, were clearly not consulted in this instance. It was only after the media broke the news with photos of the new sign layouts that we were made aware of this as what appears to be a "fait accompli," reinforced by the email letter referenced above.

We have not been told who initiated the new signs nor who decided their format, merely that they were apparently already fabricated and a deadline set for their installation.

Our concerns include sign formats differing as the travelling public transits Squamish, shíshálh and Tla'amin traditional territories as well as the missed opportunity to demonstrate appropriate consultation during the planning and implementation of this important reconciliation initiative. To say we are disappointed would be an understatement. Decisions

such as this will only hinder efforts at reconciliation with our neighbouring indigenous communities.

Due to this lack of consultation, we are requesting that the process to have the signs installed be put on hold until appropriate discussions can be initiated with all affected parties.

Respectfully yours,

Peter Robson
President, Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association

Dave Milligan
President, Pender Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce

Cc; Chief Warren Paull, SIB; Lori Pratt, Chair, SCRD; Leonard Lee, Director Area A SCRD; Chair, Area Advisory Planning Commission