



Reference: 30813

August 29, 2023

VIA EMAIL: avicc@ubcm.ca

Director Penny Cote, President
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District AVICC
525 Government Street
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 0A8

Dear Penny Cote:

Thank you for your letter of May 31, 2023, regarding the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Regional Resolution R4: E&N Land Grant Biodiversity and Restoration. Your letter was referred to me as Minister of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship by George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Your resolution calls upon the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to work with First Nations, local governments, and landowners to identify areas within the E&N Land Grant on southeast Vancouver Island as a priority for the protection and conservation of biodiversity.

As the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), I am committed to working in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, the federal government, and other partners to protect 30% of British Columbia lands by 2023, including Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas. In addition to work currently underway on Vancouver Island that will contribute to this target, my ministry supports the careful planning that will help to advance shared progress towards this important goal.

WLRS works with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI) to follow the established resolution referral process that exists between the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the Province of British Columbia. The practice has been for MUNI to coordinate governments' response to all local government resolutions, once endorsed by UBCM members, following the UBCM Annual Convention.

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Director Penny Cote, President

If there are issues raised in resolutions brought forward to the upcoming UBCM Annual Convention that cannot be addressed through this coordinated process, WLRS may review those specific topics at a later date.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Cullen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nathan Cullen
Minister
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

pc: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs