



7170 Cheam Avenue
PO Box 70
Agassiz, British Columbia
Canada V0M 1A0

Tel: (604) 796-2235
Fax: (604) 796-9854
Web: www.kentbc.ca

COPY

May 14, 2026

File: 0540-20

Via Email: ftalen@harrisonhotsprings.ca

Mayor Fred Talen
Village of Harrison Hot Springs
P.O. Box 160
Harrison Hot Springs, BC
V0M 1K0

Dear Mayor Talen:

Re: Follow Up to May 5, 2026 Joint Committee of the Whole Council Meeting

On behalf of the District of Kent, thank you for attending the In Camera meeting held at the District of Kent on May 5, 2026. We appreciate your participation and the discussion regarding the Lets'emot Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre (LRRAC) and the broader context of regional recreation services.

We are writing to clarify several points raised during that discussion. First, it was suggested that the Village of Harrison Hot Springs was not meaningfully consulted or engaged in the planning and design of the LRRAC. This is not the case at all. The District of Kent has documentation of correspondence exchanged on the pool as early as 2020, as well as consultation meetings with Village representatives and Council prior to the submission of the grant application. There were active discussions and engagement on the project scope, regional use, and design considerations. Based on the Village's positive feedback on the project, and willingness to be part of a regional service, the District included the Village's comments and feedback into the project design that will create opportunities for activities that promote year-round healthy and active lifestyles for residents of Harrison Hot Springs.

It was also suggested that the District of Kent is requesting regional participation at this stage due to financial distress. We respectfully clarify that this is not the case. This is not about the District of Kent asking the Village of Harrison Hot Springs to buy into something new. Rather, it is about recognizing an existing relationship between our communities in terms of residents of Harrison Hot Springs already relying on recreation services provided and operated by the District of Kent and paid for by the taxpayers of the District.

This discussion is fundamentally about what fair regional support looks like moving forward. It is about acknowledging shared use, shared benefit, and how we move forward together in a manner that is equitable for both communities. The Lets'emot Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre represents a continuation and an opportunity to formally recognize the services that Harrison residents already access, and we believe it is a reasonable request to have a financial commitment from your Council that we can talk about at a public meeting without having an official signed off agreement.

The District of Kent is prepared to assist the Village in pursuing the Alternative Approval Process (AAP) if your Council wants to participate in public information sessions to clearly communicate the purpose of the facility, its regional benefits, and the proposed funding model to Village residents. In addition, we are prepared to attend as a delegation at the Village of Harrison Hot Springs' next regular Council meeting, scheduled for May 19, 2026, to address Council directly and respond to questions. We believe a clear, transparent, and informed process will be critical to advancing a fair and sustainable regional service relationship.

With this context in mind, the District of Kent is formally requesting that the Village of Harrison Hot Springs participate as a funding partner in the Lets'emot Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre through the following commitments:

- A capital contribution of \$1.85 million, amortized over a 20-year period; and
- An annual operating contribution of \$100,000 per year, subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

This approach supports a fair and sustainable framework that recognizes the existing relationship between our communities and ensures the long-term viability of shared recreation services. We are flexible to other options or alternative solutions you may have.

We understand that your Council is really concerned about the upcoming election and have expressed perhaps running the AAP or public referendum after the election. We could work with that if your Council would consider contributing a \$100,000 operating for 12 months and then pursue the referendum question or AAP after the election. This funding would help offset operating costs, and the District can hold off on implementing a two-tier (resident/non-resident) fee structure until after the AAP or referendum results.

If Harrison Council wishes to proceed with the AAP this year, then we respectfully ask for some tentative dates to hold public meetings before the AAP date is set, so that our staff can prepare for the public presentation.

The new facility is a tangible reflection of the long-standing relationship between our two communities, and is aptly named Lets'emot, Halq'eméylem for "one heart, one mind". We look forward to continuing to work together for the shared purpose of bringing accessible and inclusive year-round aquatic services to our residents.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pranger", with a large, stylized initial "P" that loops around the first part of the name.

Sylvia Pranger
Mayor

Cc: T. Koch, CAO, Village of Harrison Hot Springs
W. Mah, CAO, District of Kent
District of Kent Council
Village of Harrison Hot Springs Council