

Ministry of **Community, Sport and Cultural Development** and Responsible for **TramLink**

Local Government Restructure Program Overview

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Presentation Goals

- Improve your understanding of Governance and Structure Branch
- Answer your questions about restructure processes
- Learn a little about you and your communities



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Show of Hands



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Local Government Division



Structure Team

Simon Marijke Brad Linda Liz Dannie

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Strategic Approach

- Build relationships to enhance local and regional governance
- Work with partners to prevent, manage and resolve governance and structure problems
- Provide timely, meaningful advice to local government staff
- Provide accessible education opportunities and programs to fit local government needs

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What is Local Government Structure?

Physical representation of governance 'zones'

In BC, we have: **Regional Districts**
Municipalities
Improvement Districts
Specialized entities

Facilitating local:

- **Taxation and service delivery**
- **Representation**
- **Decision-making authority**
- **Community and land-use planning**

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Key Structure Principles

Principle	Intent
Local leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally focused studies • Local committee leadership
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDs conferred with on change that affects governance, finance • Municipalities advised of electoral area changes
Consider perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with business, resident groups, stakeholders and servicing entities
Informed consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study the current governance, servicing models and values, interests, concerns and identity of community • Approval of the electors
Long-term focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider sustainability and alignment with long-term plans
Provincial implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The buck stops at the Cabinet table and CSDC Minister sends it there

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Is a structure approach needed?

- Restructuring local governance is a sweeping change
- Spend time to explore existing governance situation
- Look for solutions first within existing governance model



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Study Process

- Process steps can vary according to scope and complexity
- Most important that consistency with key structure principles is maintained

<p>Boundary Extension</p> <p>Scoping/Referrals</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Proposal Submission</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Ministry Review</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Electoral Approval</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Provincial Approval</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Implementation</p>	<p>Governance Restructure</p> <p>Preliminary Scoping</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Restructure Committee</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Restructure Study</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Decision/Vote</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Implementation</p>
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Roles in Restructures

Province - CSCD

- Technical expertise, input, and advice
- Support public & stakeholder consultation
- First Nations consultation
- Issue and monitor grant funds (if applicable)





Local Governments


- Lead study design and delivery
 - ✓ Define scope of work
 - ✓ Hire and direct consultants
 - ✓ Select and manage study committee
 - ✓ Lead Public/stakeholder consultation
 - ✓ First Nations engagement
- Manage and allocate grant funds (if applicable)

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Public/Stakeholder Input

- Can be considerable impact to public/stakeholder interests
- Affected property owners must have opportunity to be heard
 - Extent depends on circumstances of proposal
- Municipal electoral approval required
- Members of public may be involved in local committee



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Role of Local Committee

- Objective fact-finding body – selection methods vary
- Input on study design, study outputs, and community issues
- Support public and stakeholder consultation
- Provide recommendations on governance changes



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First Nations Obligations


- Legal responsibility for consultation rests with Province
 - Must be able to demonstrate duty has been met
 - Obligation exists on a spectrum, varies with circumstances
- LGs encouraged to 'engage' with First Nations early and often
- Ministry has wealth of information to support LGs



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Referral Requirements



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    LG[Local Government] --> LG1[Other Municipalities and Regional Districts]
    LG --> LG2[Improvement Districts and other LG entities]
    LG --> LG3[Government Ministries/Agencies]
    
    CSCD[CSCD] --> CSCD1[Other Provincial Ministries (e.g. MOTI, PIANO, JFST)]
    CSCD --> CSCD2[Provincial Agencies (e.g. Agricultural Land Commission)]
    CSCD --> CSCD3[Federal Agencies (e.g. Port Authorities)]
  
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Restructuring Assistance

3 Types of Assistance:

- Restructure Planning Grants
- Municipal Restructure Assistance Grants
- Restructure Implementation Grants



Over **\$5,000,000** allocated to B.C. communities since 2010

Scope of Planning Grant projects include:


- Municipal incorporations/amalgamations
- Municipal boundary extensions/restructures
- RD and Electoral Area boundary reconfigurations
- Service delivery, planning, and taxation assessments

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Planning Grant Process

- Funding request initiated by a local government
 - Regional District or Municipality
- Background, rationale, basic study design, expected timelines
- Funding commitment subject to:
 - Jointly agreed Terms of Reference
 - Stipulation agreement between Ministry and LG
- Funds are allocated to LG to manage locally



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Success Stories


- Stories on 'successful' restructure initiatives



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More Resources



Weblinks

- Local Government Structure Branch Homepage
http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/ggd/gov_structure/structure_branch_index.htm
- Municipal Boundary Extension Policies Guide
http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/ggd/gov_structure/library/Municipal_Boundary_Extension_Policies_Guide.pdf
- Municipal Boundary Extension Process Guide
http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/ggd/gov_structure/library/Municipal_Boundary_Extension_Process_Guide.pdf

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Thank You! Questions?



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