



BRITISH COLUMBIA

October 6, 2021

Ref: 115567

Gail Given, Regional Board Chair
Regional District of Central Okanagan
1450 KLO Road
Kelowna BC V1W 3Z4
Via email: gail.given@rdco.com

Dear Gail Given:

I would like to personally thank you and your delegation for meeting virtually with me and my Ministry staff during the 2021 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention. While COVID-19 has continued to challenge our ability to meet face-to-face, our call was a positive opportunity to discuss where we can work together.

It was a pleasure to hear from you in my first convention experience as Minister of Citizens' Services, and I appreciated hearing about the issues and opportunities in your region. Topics raised during the virtual meeting included:

- Supporting economic recovery in the regional district by waiving fees for all BC Stats products and data.
- Availability of Vicinity Jobs analytics; and
- BC Manufacturers Directory discontinuation.

I am happy to confirm that BC Stats will reinstate Municipal Building Permits data on its public website at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/economy/building-permits-housing-starts-sales>, effective October 4, 2021. Ongoing, monthly reporting will follow with updates occurring on the second working day of the month, which is when data is received from Statistics Canada.

Vicinity Jobs Inc is a Canadian Big Data analytics and Internet search technologies company that provides regional, real-time labour market information data. Vicinity offers its proprietary data via fee-based subscription, which has been purchased by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training. Unfortunately, due to the proprietary nature of the data, it cannot be made publicly available.

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I heard in our meeting that the discontinuation of the BC Manufacturers Directory is an issue. I can confirm that my staff reached out to the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation who hold accountability on this file, and have passed on your message that there is demand for the Directory.

As mentioned on the call, staff in the Digital Platforms and Data Division (DPDD) would be happy to follow up with any additional questions. Please reach out to Assistant Deputy Minister, Hayden Lansdell at 250-415-0118 or Hayden.Lansdell@gov.bc.ca, or James Prouten, A/Executive Director, BC Stats at 250-580-4823 or James.Prouten@gov.bc.ca for more information.

I found it very valuable to hear from you and other communities throughout the week. Meetings such as this help me better understand the issues your community is facing around data availability.

Thank you again to your delegation for taking the time to meet with me. I look forward to seeing you—hopefully in person—at UBCM Convention next year.

Sincerely,



Lisa Beare
Minister

pc: Hayden Lansdell, ADM, Digital Platforms and Data Division