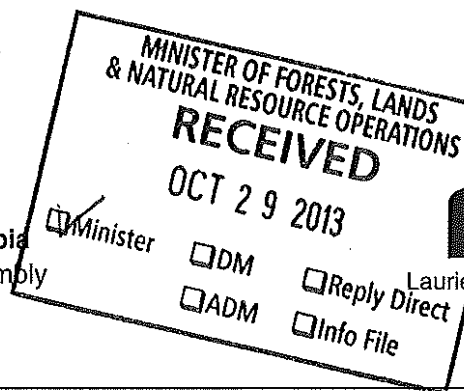


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Province of
British Columbia
Legislative Assembly



Laurie Throness, M.L.A.
Chilliwack-Hope

October 24, 2013

Minister Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister:

Yesterday I toured Ford Mountain Correctional Centre in my riding, a provincial institution located in the beautiful Chilliwack River Valley. At the Centre, housing 125 male offenders, inmates cut wood and sell it to pay for programs that benefit the local community as well as the rehabilitation of the inmates. They also have a small mill on site, with which they cut lumber that they use to build picnic tables and other useful public structures.

A problem they are experiencing is a shortage of raw wood, in part due to a new policy of your Ministry. Apparently once an area has been logged, the land cannot be entered until it is checked by Ministry officials, and then replanted. After replanting, the new seedlings cannot be disturbed, so wood cannot be dragged out of the area.

In times past staff from the Centre used to be able to pick up stray pieces of wood that were not desired by the harvester, in order to keep the operation at the Centre going. Under the new policy they are denied access to this wood, which then rots on the ground.

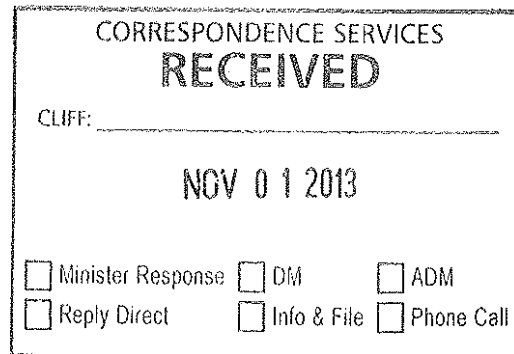
In the Chilliwack River Valley there are areas yet to be cut, including an area directly beside the Centre. Could an arrangement with the Centre be made to allow them access to the 'gleanings' of this harvested wood prior to the replanting of the area? This would present no cost to government, and it would be of benefit to the inmates as well as our local community.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Laurie Throness

cc: Don Tosh, Deputy Warden



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**Province of
British Columbia**
Legislative Assembly



Laurie Throness, M.L.A.
Chilliwack-Hope

October 24, 2013

Hon. Steve Thomson
Minister of Lands, Forests and Natural Resource Operations
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4



Dear Minister:

Today I met with our local recreation officer from your Ministry and was rather surprised to discover just how many recreational sites are in my riding, and how many people from the Greater Vancouver area make use of them.

We have had complaints recently regarding noise and land use issues as thousands of quads and motorbikes descend daily on the beautiful areas of the Chilliwack River Valley, the Harrison Lake area and other key spots close to highly populated areas.

I am concerned that order be imposed on these recreational areas, so that families and others will be able to enjoy our great outdoors in a safe way. However, only two recreation officers from your Ministry oversee the 26 existing recreation sites and the 50 as-yet undeveloped recreation sites, stretched over thousands of square kilometres. The issues are numberless, and they are growing in complexity and intensity as the population expands.

I would therefore request that human resources be adjusted within your Ministry so that another full time recreation officer can be assigned to the Chilliwack recreation area in order to cope with the escalating demand for services in my constituency.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Laurie Throness





Ref: 201820, 201821

November 5, 2013

Laurie Throness
MLA – Chilliwack Hope
10 – 7300 Vedder Road
Chilliwack, British Columbia
V2R 4G6

Dear Mr. Throness:

Thank you for your letters of October 24, 2013, regarding the lack of available wood for the Ford Mountain Correctional Centre's on site mill and construction program as well as the use of quads and motorbikes in the Chilliwack River Valley, the Harrison Lake area and other key spots close to highly populated areas.

Your concerns have been noted and I appreciate you writing to share them with me. In order to provide you with a thorough and comprehensive response, I have asked ministry staff to compile the necessary information for my review.

Please be assured your comments are given every consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson
Minister



Ref: 201820

December 9, 2013

Laurie Throness, MLA
Chilliwack-Hope
10 – 7300 Vedder Road
Chilliwack, British Columbia
V2R 4G6

Dear Mr. Throness:

Thank you for your letter of October 24, 2013, regarding policies that may limit availability of salvage timber for use by the Ford Mountain Correctional Centre in the Chilliwack Valley. I am pleased to take this opportunity to respond.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations encourages use of post harvest timber material. Policies currently in place provide an orderly transition for closure of the primary harvester's revenue responsibilities to the Crown and transition to post harvest salvage opportunities. After an area is logged, waste and residue material is measured by the primary harvester and reported to the Crown. After that point the remaining material on the logged area is available for salvage harvesters. Salvage opportunities are most often found in roadside and landing accumulations. Coordination of salvage activities with the primary harvester may be required around reforestation and road deactivation operations.

I am advised that the Chilliwack Natural Resource District office has a long history of successfully working with the Chilliwack Valley Correctional Institutions around operation of their mill and various silviculture activities. I recommend that the Ford Mountain Correction Centre contact Allan Johnsrude, Chilliwack District Manager to discuss possibilities for salvage of post harvest timber material and any other opportunities that may arise to provide logs for the mill operations.

Chilliwack's District Manager, Allan Johnsrude, and his staff would be pleased to meet with the Ford Mountain Correction Centre representatives at their convenience. Mr. Johnsrude

may be contacted by phone at 604 702-5700 or by email at allan.johnsrude@gov.bc.ca.
Douglas Campbell, Tenures Officer is also available by phone at 604 702-5766 or by email at douglas.campbell@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Thomson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steve Thomson
Minister

pc: Allan Johnsrude, District Manager, Chilliwack Natural Resource District
Douglas Campbell, Tenures Officer, Chilliwack Natural Resource District



Ref: 201821

November 20, 2013

Laurie Throness, MLA
Chilliwack-Hope
10-7300 Vedder Road
Chilliwack, British Columbia
V2R 4G6

Dear Mr. Throness:

Thank you for your letter of October 24, 2013, regarding your request to increase recreation staff in the Chilliwack Recreation District to address escalating public demand in the area.

For more than a year, the ministry has been operating under a government wide staffing strategy to fill only the most critical vacancies. At this time there are no opportunities in the ministry to adjust human resources so that an additional recreation staff person can be hired in Chilliwack. I appreciate your concerns and the ministry recognizes the staffing shortfall in the Chilliwack Recreation District as well as in other recreation districts, such as Quesnel/Central Cariboo, 100 Mile House/Chilcotin, and Sunshine Coast/South Island, where only a single district recreation officer manages an entire district without the support of a recreation technician. The ministry recognizes that this strategy may result in pressures with some areas of the ministry's mandate; however, we need to balance that challenge with the need to be financially prudent in this economic climate.

Critical positions will be reviewed on an ongoing basis by Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, who is responsible for determining which positions within the ministry will be filled. In this context, the recreation technician position in Chilliwack will be reviewed and given careful consideration by the deputy minister.

Thank you for your interest in recreation management in your constituency.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson
Minister

pc: Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

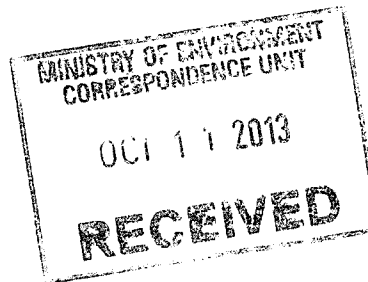
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RALPH SULTAN, M.L.A.
Member of the Legislative Assembly
West Vancouver - Capilano

198970

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October 1, 2013

Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Environment
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4


Dear Minister:

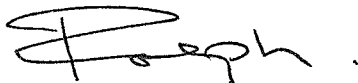
I was pleased to read your piece in the Vancouver Sun on September 10, outlining the province's commitment to water sustainability, and a new Water Sustainability Act.

As you pursue that quest – assuredly with my enthusiastic support! – I would ask you to keep in mind the plight of our fresh water fish.

You may recall my formation of the “steelhead caucus” some years ago. With caucus turnover, its composition has become somewhat frayed, but its goals remain intact: to raise the sensitivity of citizens, lawmakers, and regulators, to the challenges facing this magnificent species, as a “canary in the coalmine” for all species challenged by our province’s somewhat casual approach to the management of its rivers and streams and groundwater.

Therefore, let me pledge my caucus and legislative support for a robust new Act, and also implore you to “DON'T FORGET THE STEELHEAD!”

Thank you.



Ralph Sultan, MLA
West Vancouver-Capilano

cc: Al Lill
Craig Wightman
Brian Riddell, President, the Pacific Salmon Foundation
John Yap, MLA Richmond-Steveston
Richard Lee, MLA Burnaby-North
John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

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| MINISTER'S OFFICE – RECEIVED | | | |
| MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT | | | |
| OCT 09 2013 | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Min Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Reply Direct | <input type="checkbox"/> DM Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Info/File |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Send Interim | | <input type="checkbox"/> Redirect to _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cc: _____ | | | |
| Off# _____ | | | |

X ref 177129



Reference: 198970

NOV 26 2013

Ralph Sultan, MLA
West Vancouver-Capilano
East Annex - Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Dear Colleague:

Ralph

Thank you for your letter of October 1, 2013, regarding your support for the proposed *Water Sustainability Act* and your concern over British Columbia's (BC's) freshwater fish.

I appreciate your support for the proposed *Water Sustainability Act*. BC's surface and groundwater are among our most precious and important resources. The health of the environment, our communities and our economic prosperity depend on a safe and sustainable supply of high quality water. It is important we take good care of this valuable resource for future generations.

There are a number of provisions in the proposed *Water Sustainability Act* that would improve protection for freshwater fish, including the requirement to consider Environmental Flow Needs in all new water allocation decisions and amendments to existing authorizations. The Act will also expand the prohibitions on dumping debris that currently exist under the *Fish Protection Act*— including human and animal waste, pesticides and fertilizers—into streams and aquifers.

Groundwater can be an important source of water to support fish and other aquatic life. Regulating the extraction and use of groundwater as proposed in the *Water Sustainability Act* legislative proposal will help ensure that aquifers are not over exploited and that their important environmental function as a source water during dry periods is maintained.

During times of water scarcity or drought, the proposed new Act will also enable temporary water use restrictions (surface and groundwater) to protect Critical Environmental Flows in order to avoid irreversible harm to an ecosystem. The new Act will also maintain the minister's power under the *Fish Protection Act* to order temporary reduction of water use to protect fish habitat.

...2

The proposed new Act also includes provisions for defining Water Objectives for streams aquifers or areas of land as well as the development of Water Sustainability Plans to improve consistency in decision making and help ensure the long-term health of our watersheds.

I encourage you and your constituents to visit the new *Water Sustainability Act* website at <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/watersustainabilityact/> where we have posted the detailed Legislative Proposal, an Overview document and a number of videos covering the key policy areas. Government invited comments on the proposal until November 15, 2013, through the blog, email, fax or post. All feedback will be considered as government prepares a final version of the legislation for introduction in spring 2014.

As the implementation of the new Act falls under the purview of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, I have shared a copy of your enquiry with the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, for his review and consideration, and I understand you will be receiving a response at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Mary Polak
Minister

cc: Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource
Operations

P.S. we need Steelhead T-shirts!


From: Hintz, Nancy P FLNR:EX
Sent: November-21-13 12:54 PM
To: McGroarty, Shannon FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: Tumbler Ridge Museum Foundation
Attachments: Theropod trackslab b - Copy.jpg; birdtracks.docx

From: Hintz, Nancy P FLNR:EX
Sent: November-21-13 12:52 PM
To: Vessey, Claire FLNR:EX; Cyr, Cole FLNR:EX; Shannon McGroarty
Subject: FW: Tumbler Ridge Museum Foundation

Please add to invites. If MST is ever up in that region, this should be on the agenda.

Thanks,

Nancy

From: Strongitharm, Bruce FLNR:EX
Sent: November-20-13 10:38 AM
To: Goad, Jennifer FLNR:EX
Cc: Hintz, Nancy P FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: Tumbler Ridge Museum Foundation

It would be good to get our fossil person (and no that is not me) to contact MLA Bernier to discuss what might be done to help protect and preserve this area.

From: Bernier, Mike [<mailto:M.Bernier@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: November-19-13 1:52 PM
To: Strongitharm, Bruce FLNR:EX
Cc: Fisher, Cindy L LASS:EX
Subject: Tumbler Ridge Museum Foundation

Hi Bruce...

Further to our discussion last week, here is a perfect example of what I was referring too for Tumbler Ridge. They just made another fossil discovery to go along with the thousands they have over the last decade. They have a great group of local dedicated people as well as two Paleontologists who are working hard to protect and preserve the history in the area as one of the most diverse fossil beds in the world but are struggling in getting recognition or support for their initiatives. I am advised that the two staff at the Tumbler Ridge Paleontological museum were instrumental in helping put together the fossil management act which was never completely administered in Legislation I understand, but I am hoping there is some way to work with this group, for the betterment of British Columbians, and help to recognize the amazing find we have in Tumbler Ridge before we lose this opportunity. They have a lot of local support. Presently they have a great working relationship with the mines in the area which coincidentally, if it wasn't for these businesses, many of the fossils may never have been found.

I would also like to send a personal invite to the Minister to come to my riding to come and see firsthand the amazing story that Tumbler ridge can tell and so he can hear from the scientists what is happening. It is truly a story that most people are not even aware of and it would go a long way if Minister Thompson could visit sometime during his busy schedule.

In the meantime as we try to find a date when he can hopefully attend, can you let me know what if anything can be done to assist this area to help protect or recognize these finds. We are open to suggestions and different options...

NEW DISCOVERIES NEAR TUMBLER RIDGE:

AMONGST THE OLDEST BIRD TRACKS AND THE NORTHERNMOST SAUROPODS

CHARLES HELM

Analysis of a rock retrieved by helicopter from a canyon near Tumbler Ridge in October has yielded an unexpected discovery by palaeontologists at the Peace Region Palaeontology Research Centre (PRPRC): four footprints probably made by birds. The rock was flown out because of two obvious medium sized theropod dinosaur tracks, but the nearby bird tracks only became apparent when the rock was examined and prepared under better lighting conditions in the PRPRC laboratory in Tumbler Ridge. Work is in progress to further prepare and describe them, and ready them for display in the Dinosaur Discovery Gallery.

The canyon in which these prints were discovered cuts through vertical rock layers laid down about 140 million years ago near the Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary, making these footprints the oldest in the Peace Region and amongst the oldest bird tracks in the world. This find nicely complements a previous similar discovery from south-eastern BC. Fossil bird tracks are already known from Tumbler Ridge and the Peace Region from four younger Cretaceous rock formations, providing one of the most globally significant records of fossil avian tracks.

This and other canyons in the mountains west of Tumbler Ridge were systematically explored for their fossil potential in 2013. In addition to these bird tracks, a number of other important finds were made. A single left sauropod footprint natural cast has extended the known North American range of these largest of all dinosaurs north by hundreds of kilometres, and in the process established a global latitude record. (Even more impressively, at the time these rocks were formed this region was located at approximately latitude 62 degrees north.) Another site with huge depressions on a near-vertical canyon wall possibly represents trampling of a sandy surface by sauropods.

In another canyon, when a huge vertical rock wall was examined in good sunlight conditions, multiple dinosaur trackways covering an area of almost 1000 square metres were apparent. These have already been examined on rope by PRPRC palaeontologists and filmed by a national film crew, to be aired on the History Channel in 2014. They were made by large theropod and ornithomimid dinosaurs.

Such discoveries and exhibits add further weight to the application recently submitted to UNESCO for the creation of the Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark. These new discoveries, all from within the proposed Geopark boundary, will be exhibited in the near future in the Dinosaur Discovery Gallery in Tumbler Ridge.

