

Legislative Office:

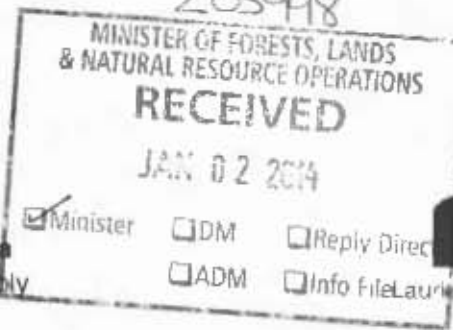
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Province of
British Columbia
Legislative Assembly



Throness, M.L.A.
Chilliwack-Hopo

December 5, 2013

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



Dear Minister:

I am writing in support of nineteen landowners at a ski resort in my riding called Hemlock Valley.

Long ago, in 1982, the local Regional District declared certain areas in Hemlock Valley to be in danger of avalanche. Properties were affected by this decision that owners wished to develop. Over time some owners received a land swap from the Province and were satisfied. Others did not, for no reason that I have been able to ascertain. The remaining landowners have always seen this as an injustice.

A large development at Hemlock Valley is now contemplated, and a formal Master Plan is nearing completion following a long process of consultation. This will entail the sale of crown land to the developer; land that is owned by your Ministry. Ministry officials have wisely built provision into this Master Plan for including the nineteen land owners in a land swap, should the provincial government decide to do so.

It would not cost the government any money to do this exchange, but because revenue might be foregone, a Treasury Board submission may be required. The revenue that might be foregone (and this is in question because it is difficult to know if there would be any other demand for that land) would be very small, because only a few acres of land are involved.

Please accept this as my request to draft a Treasury Board submission (or any other more appropriate instrument) that would facilitate an exchange of crown land, in order to ensure the safety of future development and put to rest this decades-long controversy once for all.

Because the master plan will soon be actioned, timing is of the essence. I appreciate your early attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Laurie Throness

cc: Fraser Valley Regional District





Ref: 203998

January 8, 2014

Laurie Throness, MLA
Chilliwack-Hope
East Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear MLA Throness:

Thank you for your letter of December 5, 2013, requesting a submission that would facilitate an exchange of Crown land for landowners in the Hemlock Valley area.

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