



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
[Date]

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum
Resources

Province invests in community-owned clean energy projects

VICTORIA – The Province is supporting local governments and First Nations investments in projects that will lower energy costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lead to more affordable and sustainable community infrastructure ~~in their communities. communities.~~

Among the projects receiving funding is a solar powered Zamboni at the Chilton Regional Arena in the Regional District of Mount Waddington. The unique project began as a propane-powered Zamboni, was subsequently converted to solar charged/lithium ion battery electric and is estimated to save \$9,000 per year in operating costs.

Projects in ~~Four~~Five different additional communities across British Columbia are receiving funding for projects that ~~and~~ include energy efficiency retrofits to community-owned facilities in the District of Clearwater and the Township of Langley, a run-of-river hydro project in Wuikinuxv Nation, and a solar energy system in Xeni Gwet'in First Nations, ~~and the conversion of a Zamboni to solar power in the Regional District of Mount Waddington.~~

“Congratulations to the local governments and First Nations receiving a share of our support to build new, community-owned clean energy projects,” said Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy and Mines and Petroleum Resources. “From renewable energy projects in remote First Nations communities to energy efficiency retrofits in public buildings and a solar-powered Zamboni, these innovative projects are reducing will reduce energy costs and GHG emissions, promoting promote conservation, creating create good jobs and encourage stimulating economic activity in that will benefit communities across around the province.”

Total funding of \$620,000 comes from the Clean Energy Leadership Program (\$482,000) and the Remote Community Implementation Program (\$138,000).

“The Zamboni project was first proposed to the Arena Committee as just a conversion to replace the existing 20 year old unit,” said Chilton Regional Arena Manager Gerry Little. “However, by fundraising with corporate and private partners and with provincial support, we were able to come up with this innovative machine which saves us money and will help bring our arena service to operational carbon neutral in 2018.”

The Community Energy Leadership Program (CELP) supports investments in energy efficiency and clean energy projects that help communities reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increase energy efficiency, stimulate economic activity and promote partnerships that advance British Columbia’s growing clean energy sector.

Funding for CELP comes from the B.C. Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund, designed to support the Province's energy, economic, environmental and greenhouse gas reduction priorities and advance B.C.'s clean energy sector.

The Remote Community Implementation (RCI) Program has assisted B.C.'s remote communities in reducing their dependence on diesel generation by funding capital costs of implementation or construction of clean energy systems, such as hydro, wind and solar energy.

Support for these projects is aligned with the Government's commitment to re-invigorate the Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund to boost investments in ground breaking new energy technologies, climate change solutions, and community-focused energy projects, especially projects that drive development in rural, northern and First Nations communities.

Quick Facts:

- CELP contributions for 2017/18 range from \$30,000 to \$160,000 per project and applicants are required to cover a minimum of 5% of total project costs and secure alternate sources of funding as needed.
- CELP funding for 2017/18 will leverage \$3 million in investment from communities and other funding partners.
- Since its launch CELP has provided \$1.2 million for 19 projects to help communities implement local energy efficiency and clean energy projects.
- The 19 projects that have received funding from CELP will result in annual greenhouse emissions reductions of over 4,000 tonnes, equivalent to taking 850 passenger vehicles off the road each year.

Learn More:

CELP: www.gov.bc.ca/communityenergyleadershipprogram

ICE Fund: www.gov.bc.ca/innovativecleanenergyfund

RCI Program: http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/ccaq_rci.html

The Regional District of Mount Waddington's Zamboni is featured in the Recreation Facilities Association of British Columbia's Fall magazine:

<http://www.rfabc.com/Assets/RFABC+Digital+Assets/pdf/fallf2f2017.pdf>

A backgrounder with more information on the projects follows.

BACKGROUND

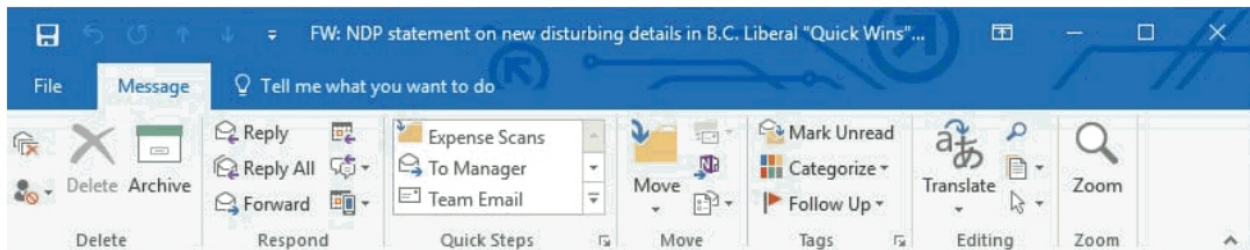
Community-owned energy projects around B.C. receive funding

The following projects received CELP funding for 2017/18:

- **District of Clearwater** – \$160,000 for a district energy system in the North Thompson Sportsplex. The project will replace the existing propane/hydro heating system with a biomass woodchip-fuelled system, saving the community approximately \$29,000 annually and reducing GHG emissions by 62 tonnes of CO₂e per year. The total project cost is \$521,251.
- **Township of Langley** – \$80,000 for a heat recovery system in a hockey rink ice plant. The project will install a heat recovery ventilator and a heat pump to recover heat from the hockey rink chiller system. The project will produce operational cost savings of approximately \$21,000 per year while partially switching the fuel source from natural gas to electricity and reducing GHG emissions by nearly 120 tonnes of CO₂e per year. The total project cost is \$265,000.
- **Regional District of Mount Waddington** – \$30,000 to convert a gas-powered Zamboni ice resurfer to solar powered. The project will save the community \$6,700 per year – which represents 80% of the annual operating costs for the Zamboni – and reduce GHG emissions by 9.7 tonnes of CO₂e per year. The total project cost is \$221,000.
- **Wuikinuxv Nation** – \$106,000 of CELP funding and \$69,000 of RCI funding for a total of \$175,000 for a run-of-river hydropower project on the Nicknaqueet River. The project will reduce the use of diesel in the community by approximately 92% with savings of \$271,500 annually for over 40 years and reduce GHG emissions by 806 tonnes of CO₂e per year. Provincial funding is contributing to a component of the project worth \$599,823 and the total project cost for the hydropower project is \$11 million. The Wuikinuxv Nation is located in the remote area of the Central Coast of British Columbia.
- **Xeni Gwet'in First Nations** – \$106,000 of CELP funding and \$69,000 of RCI funding for a total of \$175,000 for Phase 2 of the Electrical Power System Project. The project will install solar photovoltaic panels, energy storage, and a smart grid to supply clean, reliable, affordable, renewable electrical energy to Xeni Gwet'in community members. The project will replace existing fossil fuel generators and reduce GHG emissions by approximately 382 tonnes of CO₂e per year. The total project cost is \$1,875,000. The Xeni Gwet'in First Nations are located in the Nemiah Valley within the Cariboo Chilcotin region.

Contact:
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Media Relations

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum
Resources 250 952-0628



Tue 2018-01-16 3:30 PM
ME May, Ed LASS:EX
FW: NDP statement on new disturbing details in B.C. Liberal "Quick Wins" hearings today
To

The following statement went out. The hearing continues tomorrow.
<http://ow.ly/T3Dr30hP6e9>

Edward May | Director of Communications | c 250.208-2554 | Edward.May@leg.bc.ca | New Democrat - BC Government Caucus
www.facebook.com/johnhorganbc/

NEW DEMOCRAT

BC GOVERNMENT CAUCUS

<http://bondpcaucus.ca> 250-208-2554

STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
Jan. 16, 2018

New Democrat statement on new disturbing details in B.C. Liberal "Quick Wins" hearing today

VANCOUVER – New Democrat MLA Ravi Kahlon (Delta North) issued the following statement regarding new disturbing details surfacing from today's B.C. Liberal "Quick Wins" sentencing hearing:

"In court today, we heard new and disturbing details about how the B.C. Liberal government systematically abused people's public dollars for their own benefit. We learned how deep and high up the scandal went, in both the B.C. Liberal government and B.C. Liberal party.

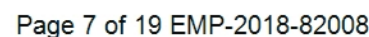
"We heard for the first time in court today that the premier personally had briefings and updates on the scandalous 'Quick Wins' program. We learned that even after the scandal was made public, the B.C. Liberals didn't stop, and that components of the plan continued in hopes of influencing the election outcome for the B.C. Liberals. We also heard that at that same time, sitting B.C. Liberal MLAs were not cooperating with the investigation.

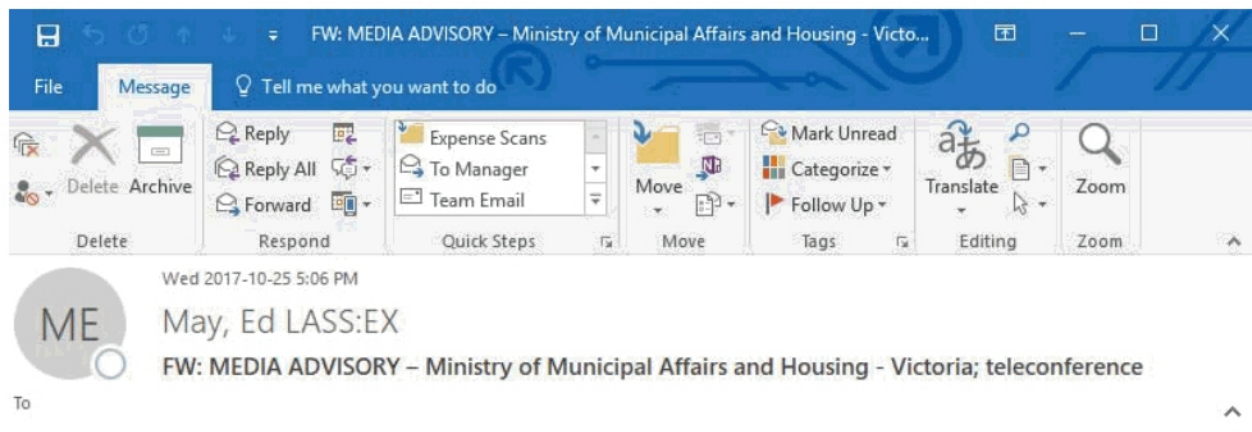
"It shows something rotten at the heart of the B.C. Liberals, where they put themselves ahead of British Columbians time and time again.

"I'll have more to say when the hearing concludes."

-30-

Media contact: Edward May 250-208-2554





Edward May | Director of Communications | c 250.208-2554 | Edward.May@leg.bc.ca | New Democrat - BC Government Caucus
www.facebook.com/johnhorganbc/

For Immediate Release

Oct. 25, 2017

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

MEDIA ADVISORY

VICTORIA - Media are invited to join Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, as she announces changes to provide stronger protection for renters in British Columbia.

Event Date: Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017

Time: 11:15 a.m. (Pacific time)

Location:

Front steps

Parliament Buildings

Victoria

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ME Tue 2017-10-24 11:48 AM May, Ed LASS:EX FW: BC Gov News - New management plan to be developed for grizzly bears

To

For Immediate Release
2017FLNR0349-001802
Oct. 24, 2017

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

NEWS RELEASE
New management plan to be developed for grizzly bears

VICTORIA - In response to an auditor general's report on the management of grizzly bear populations over the past two decades, the B.C. government will develop a provincial grizzly bear management plan with clear objectives, roles, responsibilities and accountabilities.

The government is accepting all 10 recommendations in the report, which identified historic gaps in the management of grizzly bears. The Province will work with First Nations, natural resource industries, stakeholders and the public in implementing the auditor general's recommendations.

In August 2017, government announced that it will end grizzly bear trophy hunting throughout the province and stop all hunting of grizzlies in the Great Bear Rainforest, at the end of November.

At the same time, government announced that it will begin consulting on a renewed wildlife management strategy for the province. The auditor general's report will help to shape and form that strategy to develop short- and long-term plans for wildlife resources and protect habitat for all wildlife.

Quotes:

Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development -

"As a new government, we agree that more needs to be done for this iconic species and to improve wildlife management overall in British Columbia, but we know that grizzly bears remain in 90% of their historic range. We look forward to implementing the auditor general's recommendations."

George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy -

George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy -

"We will build a robust plan to manage and protect this vital species by applying more conservation resources where they are needed - in the most effective manner. A strong, clear and proactive management plan will help to ensure that grizzly bear populations will thrive in this province. We also look forward to working with all interested British Columbians to develop long-overdue Species at Risk legislation for our province."

A backgrounder follows.

Contacts:

Media Relations

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

250 356-5261

Media Relations

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

250 953-3884

BACKGROUND

Response to auditor general's report on grizzly bear management

Recommendation 1: The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations* and the Ministry of Environment* create and implement a grizzly bear management plan that includes:

- * Clear indication of how the plan fits into the ministries' overall wildlife management planning (where is it in the priority);
- * Clear goals and targets;
- * Prioritized activities and timelines, including accountabilities for those activities; and
- * Resources and expertise required to undertake the activities in the plan.

Response: The ministries will work together to complete a provincial grizzly bear management plan to guide the

Response: The ministries will work together to complete a provincial grizzly bear management plan to guide the development of area-based management plans where they are needed.

The Province is also committed to a collaborative process with First Nations, stakeholders and the public to improving wildlife management and habitat conservation for all species.

Recommendation 2: The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment develop and implement an adequately resourced inventory and monitoring strategy for grizzly bears.

Response: The ministries will prepare a B.C. grizzly bear inventory and monitoring strategy. To support the resourcing of identified priorities, government is exploring options for dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat conservation.

Recommendation 3: The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations revise its policy and procedures to determine how uncertainty will be accounted for when determining grizzly bear-hunt allocations and to be transparent about the process.

Response: The Grizzly Bear Harvest Management Procedure will be modified to address uncertainty explicitly, and guidance for reporting uncertainties in population estimates will be developed. This will be done so it aligns with the Province's broader objective to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation in the province.

Effective Nov. 30, 2017, the grizzly bear hunt will end in the Great Bear Rainforest and a ban will be implemented on trophy hunting, while allowing food and First Nations hunting opportunities for grizzly bears in the remainder of the province.

Recommendation 4: The Ministry of Environment ensure the Conservation Officer Service has the appropriate resources and tools for preventing and responding to conflicts with grizzly bears.

Response: The Province is committed to greater investment in the Conservation Officer Service. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy will work closely with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to increase activities that aim to reduce human-bear conflicts and lethal methods of control.

Recommendation 5: The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment develop clear policies and procedures for bear viewing.

Response: In 2016, provincial government staff began meeting with the Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC

Response: In 2016, provincial government staff began meeting with the Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC and other stakeholders to discuss concerns and opportunities with the bear-viewing industry. Government is committed to formalizing a collaborative process with First Nations, industry and stakeholders to develop clear policies and procedures for wildlife viewing in the interest of bear conservation and viability of bear-viewing businesses.

Recommendation 6: The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment identify those grizzly bear populations that are in need of recovery and outline what actions will be taken and when.

Response: Over a decade ago, the Province classified nine grizzly bear population units where populations were in decline or had the potential to become extirpated (locally extinct). Today, four population units (the Granby, South Selkirk, South Chilcotin and Squamish Lillooet) which have been the focus of research, monitoring and enhanced management have increasing grizzly bear numbers.

As part of the Provincial Grizzly Bear Management Plan, a formal process to prioritize specific populations for enhancement activities will be developed.

Recommendation 7: The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment evaluate and adjust as needed the tools used to mitigate industries' impacts on grizzly bear habitats.

Response: Government is committed to improving wildlife management and habitat conservation. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is implementing new guidance to statutory decision makers and professionals to ensure enhanced consideration of wildlife values including grizzly bear.

As well, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has monitoring requirements and conducts inspections on the conditions of certificates issued under the Environmental Assessment Act. The auditor general's recommendations will also be considered during revitalization of the environmental assessment process.

Recommendation 8: The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment evaluate and adjust as needed tools to conserve grizzly bear habitats.

Response: British Columbia has established management provisions for approximately 340,000 km² (150,000 km² of high quality) of grizzly bear habitat through establishment of designations under the Forest and Range Practices Act, Land Act, Parks Act and Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order. The two ministries are currently evaluating these designations through the Forest and Range Evaluation Program and Cumulative Effects Framework assessments. The effectiveness review of these tools will continue and adjustments will be recommended as

of high quality) or grizzly bear habitat through establishment of designations under the Forest and Range Practices Act, Land Act, Parks Act and Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order. The two ministries are currently evaluating these designations through the Forest and Range Evaluation Program and Cumulative Effects Framework assessments. The effectiveness review of these tools will continue and adjustments will be recommended as required.

Recommendation 9: The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment report out to the public and legislators on how well it is managing grizzly bear populations throughout British Columbia.

Response: Grizzly bears are already a key "Environmental Reporting B.C." value that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy reports to the public about the status of grizzly bear populations in the province. The Province uses web-based tools, updated regularly, to report on key aspects of grizzly bear management. The Province will revise its provincial status assessment, web-based metrics and maps, and associated reporting pages as required, while reviewing the effectiveness of ongoing efforts in making the information available to the public and legislators.

Recommendation 10: Government review the legislation, policies and accountabilities for wildlife management and ensure that roles, responsibilities and accountabilities allow the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Environment to be fully effective in delivering grizzly bear management.

Response: Legislation, policy, and accountabilities for grizzly bear management span both ministries. The natural resource sector agencies have a governance structure and processes that foster collaboration and integration.

In addition, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy will work together to review the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for grizzly bear management and include them in the Provincial Grizzly Bear Management Plan. If changes are needed to ensure greater effectiveness in co-ordination, effectiveness and accountability they will be brought forward and considered.

* After the audit was complete, the Ministry of Environment became the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations became the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Contacts:

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Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
250 953-3884

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Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Government Operations

FW: Ministries' management of grizzly bears did not meet expectations -...

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ME Tue 2017-10-24 11:47 AM

May, Ed LASS:EX

FW: Ministries' management of grizzly bears did not meet expectations

To

For Immediate Release

Oct. 24, 2017

Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia

NEWS RELEASE

Ministries' management of grizzly bears did not meet expectations

VICTORIA - The Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia has released a new report, An Independent Audit of Grizzly Bear Management.

British Columbia is one of the last areas of North America where grizzly bears live in their natural habitat. The health of B.C.'s 15,000 grizzly bears is important because, as an umbrella species, they are an indicator of how well other species and ecosystems are doing.

"Grizzly bear populations in some areas of B.C. are increasing, but this is likely happening independently from an adequate management framework," said Auditor General Carol Bellringer.

The Ministry of Environment* and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations* have long-standing public commitments for managing grizzly bears. Bellringer and her team found that the ministries have not fulfilled many of their commitments, including a grizzly bear management plan and the implementation of a recovery plan in the North Cascades. Also absent was an inventory and monitoring strategy of grizzly bears in B.C. and clear policies for bear viewing.

Bellringer's office did find that the greatest risk to grizzly bears is not the hunt. It is the degradation of grizzly bear habitat.

"The expansion of development in oil and gas, forestry and human settlement makes it more difficult for grizzly bears to mate, and results in food source loss, as well as more human-bear conflict," said Bellringer.

An increase in resource roads - 600,000 kilometres existing and more added every year - also leads to more human-bear conflict, and ultimately, grizzly bear deaths.

An increase in resource roads - 600,000 kilometres existing and more added every year - also leads to more human-bear conflict, and ultimately, grizzly bear deaths.

The Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations have undertaken activities to reduce grizzly bear habitat degradation, but have not evaluated whether their efforts are effective.

Bellringer has made 10 recommendations, including a recommendation for government to review legislation to clarify roles and responsibilities between the two ministries. This is because the ministries have overlapping responsibilities.

* After the audit was complete, the Ministry of Environment became the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations became the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

News Conference Date: Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017

Time: 12:30 p.m. (Pacific time)

Dial-in Information:

From Vancouver: 604 681-0260

From elsewhere in Canada and the USA: 1 877 353-9184

Participant Pass Code: **s.15**

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About the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia

The Auditor General is a non-partisan, independent Officer of the Legislature who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The Auditor General Act empowers the Auditor General and staff to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

Contact us:

To speak with the Auditor General, call Elaine Hepburn: 250 419-6108

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To speak with the Auditor General, call Elaine Hepburn: 250 419-6108

For general questions, call Colleen Rose, Manager, Communications: 250 419-6207

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Wed 2017-10-18 10:50 AM

ME May, Ed LASS:EX

FW: BC Gov News - Statement by the Premier and Minister of Labour on the three workplace fatalities

To

For Immediate Release
2017PREM0104-001774
Oct. 18, 2017

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Labour

STATEMENT
Statement by the Premier and Minister of Labour on the three workplace fatalities in Fernie

VICTORIA - Premier John Horgan and Minister of Labour Harry Bains have issued the following statement on the workplace fatalities in Fernie:

"Late yesterday afternoon, British Columbians were saddened to learn of three workplace fatalities in the community of Fernie. The circumstances surrounding the accident at the Fernie Memorial Arena are still under investigation and the community has declared a local state of emergency while HAZMAT teams address a suspected ammonia leak. WorkSafeBC, the BC Coroners Service and the Ministry of Environment are on scene.

"This is a tragic situation. Families and friends are grieving, and our hearts are with them. We send them our deepest condolences.

"We want to thank those who responded so quickly and valiantly, such as the Fernie Fire Department, Elk Valley RCMP and the BC Ambulance Service.

"Like every British Columbian, our thoughts are with the loved ones and the families of those involved and the entire close-knit community of Fernie.

"Neither workers nor their families should have to fear for their safety when they are on the job. Tragedies like this force us to underscore our commitment to ensure that B.C. families can rely on safe workplaces."

Contact:

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Contact:

Jen Holmwood
Deputy Director of Communications
Office of the Premier
250 818-4881

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Government Operations, Labour, Office of the Premier