

**Fraser, Agnes TRAN:EX**

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**From:** Woodcock, Danielle TRAN:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2017 9:04 AM  
**To:** Fraser, Agnes TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** FW: STONE/s.22  
Reimbursement  
**Attachments:** s.22

-----Original Message-----

From: Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX  
Sent: November 6, 2017 7:48 AM  
To: Brown, Tom G TRAN:EX; Woodcock, Danielle TRAN:EX  
Cc: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX  
Subject: FW: STONE/s.22 - Outstanding Reimbursement

another one

-----Original Message-----

From: Blixrud, Becky [<mailto:Becky.Blixrud@leg.bc.ca>]  
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2017 4:59 PM  
To: Harrison, Veronica PSSG:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX  
Subject: STONE/s.22

Good Afternoon, Veronica and Liam.

My name is Becky Blixrud and I'm a Constituency Assistant for the Kamloops - South Thompson Constit Office. I'm pleased to meet you by way of email. I'm kindly wondering if you can look into an outstanding reimbursement for s.2 s.22

s.22

Thanks in advance for looking into this for s.2

Kind Regards,

Becky Blixrud  
Constituency Assistant Todd Stone, MLA Kamloops – South Thompson

446 Victoria Street Kamloops, BC V2C 2A7  
Office 250-374-2880 Toll Free 1-855-474-2880  
Email [becky.blixrud@leg.bc.ca](mailto:becky.blixrud@leg.bc.ca)

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22  
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2017 2:50 PM  
To: Caldow, Leah <[Leah.Caldow@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Leah.Caldow@leg.bc.ca)>  
Subject: s.22

s.22

## MLA Coralee Oakes – Cariboo North

#401 410 Kinchant Street Quesnel BC V2J 7J5

Tel: 250.991.0296 Fax: 250.992.5629

### Certificate of Authority to Obtain Personal Information

To: FLNORP PUBLIC SAFETY

From: MLA Coralee Oakes, Cariboo North Constituency Office

For the purposes of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, I certify the following:

1. MLA Coralee Oakes, in whose office I am employed as a constituency assistant have been asked by the constituent whose name and address are set out below to assist that constituent in resolving the problem described below;
2. I have explained to the constituent that, in order to assist the constituent, I and the other individuals named below, all of whom are employed in the MLA's office, may need to obtain the constituent's personal information from your ministry;
3. I have explained to the constituent that personal information disclosed to us may be of a sensitive nature; and
4. Personal information you disclose to us is necessary for the purpose of assisting the constituent to resolve the problem described below and will be used only for the purpose.

s.22

The problem for which the constituent has requested the MLA's assistance is describe in the corresponding email

MLA employees covered by this certification: Deb Burton, Sheila Mitchell and April Webb

Date: SEPT 14/17

Signature: DBurton

Constituency Office:  
#401 410 Kinchant Street  
Quesnel, B.C. V2J 7J5  
Phone: 250.991.0296  
Fax: 250.992.5629  
email: coralee.oakes.mla@leg.bc.ca



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Legislative Office:  
Parliament Buildings  
VICTORIA BC V8V 1X4  
website: coraleeoakesmla.ca

November 2 2017

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Parliament Buildings  
VICTORIA BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Farnworth:

Re s.22

s.22 due to the Plateau fire. They too have concerns about structural protection of their property and would like answers from the Ministry of Citizens' Services.

s.22

s.22 I would like their questions on structural protection answered as soon as possible from the Ministry of Citizens' Services. On an individual case by case basis, are there processes and funding in place to help the s.22 recover from the devastation of the Plateau fire?

I await your response on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Coralee Oakes  
MLA, Cariboo North

c.c. Honourable Jinny Simms  
Honourable Doug Donaldson

## MLA Coralee Oakes – Cariboo North

#401 410 Kinchant Street Quesnel BC V2J 7J5

Tel: 250.991.0296 Fax: 250.992.5629

### Certificate of Authority to Obtain Personal Information

To: FLNRORD - PUBLIC SAFETY

From: MLA Coralee Oakes, Cariboo North Constituency Office

For the purposes of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, I certify the following:

1. MLA Coralee Oakes, in whose office I am employed as a constituency assistant have been asked by the constituent whose name and address are set out below to assist that constituent in resolving the problem described below;
2. I have explained to the constituent that, in order to assist the constituent, I and the other individuals named below, all of whom are employed in the MLA's office, may need to obtain the constituent's personal information from your ministry;
3. I have explained to the constituent that personal information disclosed to us may be of a sensitive nature; and
4. Personal information you disclose to us is necessary for the purpose of assisting the constituent to resolve the problem described below and will be used only for the purpose.

s.22

The problem for which the constituent has requested the MLA's assistance is describe in the corresponding email.

MLA employees covered by this certification: Deb Burton, Sheila Mitchell and April Webb

Date: SEPT 14/17

Signature: DBurton

**CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN PERSONAL INFORMATION**

To: Ministry of \_\_\_\_\_

From: Patricia Nagy, Leah Caldwell or Becky Blixrud

For the purposes of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, I certify the following:


1. **Hon. Todd Stone** ("MLA"), in whose office I am employed as a constituency assistant, has been asked by the constituent whose name and address are set out below to assist that constituent in resolving the problem described below;
2. I have explained to the constituent that, in order to assist the constituent, I and the other individuals named below, all of whom are employed in the MLA's office, may need to obtain the constituent's personal information from your ministry;
3. I have explained to the constituent that personal information disclosed to us may be of a sensitive nature; and
4. Personal information you disclose to us is necessary for the purpose of assisting the constituent to resolve the problem described below and will be used only for that purpose.

s.22

MLA employees covered by this certification: Patricia Nagy, Leah Caldwell and Becky Blixrud.

Date: AUG 25/17

Signed at the Constituency Office of Todd Stone, MLA – 446 Victoria Street, Kamloops BC

  
Signed by Constituency Assistant

Constituency Office:  
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email: coralee.oakes.mla@leg.bc.ca



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Legislative Office:  
Parliament Buildings  
VICTORIA BC V8V 1X4  
website: coraleeoakesmla.ca

November 2 2017

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Parliament Buildings  
VICTORIA BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Farnworth;

Re: s.22

s.22 residents that suffered substantial loss due to the Plateau fire. s.22  
s.22

s.22 I have questions around the structural protection of their properties during the evacuation of this area which should be forthcoming from the Ministry of Citizens' Services.

s.22 has tried to get help with CFIB, BCEDA, BC Cattlemen's Association, Aeri-Recovery and Red Cross. He is feeling frustrated as the help is slow and often disappointing. S.22 that he does not qualify for help with feeding his horses. s.22 . He does qualify for funding to restore fencing. He states he was told he can receive \$4 per metre, however this amount will cover the cost of materials or labour, not both. He has been turned down for help with fire clean-up, corrals, barns, mustering and transport. When our office last spoke with s.22 on Friday, he told us his well is now muddy and that he has to filter more than normal.

s.22 would like their questions on structural protection answered as soon as possible from the Ministry of Citizens' Services. On an individual case by case basis, are there processes and funding in place to help the Frasers recover from the devastation of the Plateau fire?

I await your response on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

*Coralee Oakes*

Coralee Oakes  
MLA, Cariboo North

c.c. Honourable Jinny Simms  
Honourable Doug Donaldson

s.22



## MLA Coralee Oakes -- Cariboo North

#401 410 Kinchant Street Quesnel BC V2J 7J5

Tel: 250.991.0296 Fax: 250.992.5629

### Certificate of Authority to Obtain Personal Information

To: Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
AND BC Hydro

From: MLA Coralee Oakes, Cariboo North Constituency Office

For the purposes of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, I certify the following:

1. MLA Coralee Oakes, in whose office I am employed as a constituency assistant have been asked by the constituent whose name and address are set out below to assist that constituent in resolving the problem described below;
2. I have explained to the constituent that, in order to assist the constituent, I and the other individuals named below, all of whom are employed in the MLA's office, may need to obtain the constituent's personal information from your ministry;
3. I have explained to the constituent that personal information disclosed to us may be of a sensitive nature; and
4. Personal information you disclose to us is necessary for the purpose of assisting the constituent to resolve the problem described below and will be used only for the purpose.

s.22

The problem for which the constituent has requested the MLA's assistance is describe in the corresponding email.

MLA employees covered by this certification: Deb Burton, Sheila Mitchell, April Webb

Date: Aug 22 - 2017

Signature: [Signature]

Constituency Office:  
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of BRITISH COLUMBIA

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November 2 2017

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Parliament Buildings  
VICTORIA BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Farnworth:

Re: s.22

s.22 and lost fencing, hydro and timber due to wildfire in July 2017. s.22  
s.22 do not have their private hydro line restored and winter is upon us in the region. They have been told by the electrical company that in order to restore hydro, the danger trees would have to be removed.

s.22 has been dealing with FLNRORD in Williams Lake and feels that the process is very slow. Our office contacted FLNRORD in Quesnel on October 12<sup>th</sup> and we were informed that s.22 would be contacted by FLNRORD (Harold Stollar) to gather information. s.22 informs us that Harold has not contacted him to date. Danger trees also lie on the road and as such are a Ministry of Transportation issue. As it is now November 2<sup>nd</sup> it is urgent that the trees are removed in order for s.22 to remain on their property. The cost for s.22

s.22 would like to remain on their property, however they cannot see how this can happen without financial help. s.22 is willing to speak to anyone who can help and he has some ideas on recovery that he would be willing to share.

s.22 tried to reach out to Stéphanie Masun, CRD Recovery Manager and states that he has not had a response. It is imperative that someone reach out to s.22 in order to listen and help them recover.

I await your response on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Coralee Oakes  
MLA, Cariboo North

C.C.  
Honourable Doug Donaldson  
Honourable Claire Trevena

## MLA Coralee Oakes – Cariboo North

#401 410 Kinchant Street Quesnel BC V2J 7J5

Tel: 250.991.0296 Fax: 250.992.5629

### Certificate of Authority to Obtain Personal Information

To: FLYBACK - CITIZEN SERVICES - PUBLIC SAFETY

From: MLA Coralee Oakes, Cariboo North Constituency Office

For the purposes of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, I certify the following:

1. MLA Coralee Oakes, in whose office I am employed as a constituency assistant have been asked by the constituent whose name and address are set out below to assist that constituent in resolving the problem described below;
2. I have explained to the constituent that, in order to assist the constituent, I and the other individuals named below, all of whom are employed in the MLA's office, may need to obtain the constituent's personal information from your ministry;
3. I have explained to the constituent that personal information disclosed to us may be of a sensitive nature; and
4. Personal information you disclose to us is necessary for the purpose of assisting the constituent to resolve the problem described below and will be used only for the purpose.

s.22

The problem for which the constituent has requested the MLA's assistance is describe in the corresponding email.

MLA employees covered by this certification: Deb Burton, Sheila Mitchell and April Webb

Date: SEPT 14/17

Signature: OBUELO

**Oakes,MLA, Coralee**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 3:20 PM  
**To:** Oakes,MLA, Coralee  
**Subject:** s.22 Fire situation Update

Hello Coralee,

FYI

Just got off the phone with Kathleen Werstiuk from Cariboo BC Wildfire Service. She has informed us that there is 'officially' no help or compensation from Emergency Management BC as wildfires are an insurable claim and they don't cover anything that is insurable. BC Wildfire are not accountable for their actions or inactions regarding fires. s.22

s.22

I'm not sure if there will be progress from the Ministry. We still appreciate your advocacy on our behalf. If we had the same outcome from the fire and we knew that the BC firefighters did everything they could have to save our place I could have lived with that. Knowing that they removed the pumps and sprinklers and as much as decided to let our place burn is what really bothers me. Accordingly we should have lost our house in the fire too but by some miracle we are not homeless, just struggling to live in our home. Who knows where we would be if we'd have lost our home too. s.22

s.22

s.22

We are humbled by her gift but it is personally difficult to be on the receiving end of charity especially in light of the negligence of BC Wildfire actions. So my feeling are mixed but will not let pride keep me from acting in a way that would be detrimental to us moving forward and continuing to live in the house my wife and I built together. I really hoped that the BC Government would step up and take responsibility for their FLNR department's actions.

Sincerely,

s.22

snowmobile. This of course, will make transporting home fresh vegetables and other foods very difficult at best.

This outlines our grievance with BC Wildfire Branch as they were responsible for fighting the fire and protecting assets and structures. Someone made the decision to not to follow protocol and provide due diligence to protect our property. We feel they were negligent in their duties regarding our property, are culpable and therefore, they should be liable for any and all losses we incurred due to their decisions, actions, inactions and misrepresentation of the situation on the ground. We also hold them responsible for the clean up and removal of debris and the reconstruction (materials and labor) and transportation costs to replace what we have lost. They can never replace the resources and the long-term enjoyment of the forest and wildlife we thought we would enjoy in our retirement years. Our idea of building furniture from our wood resource as a supplement

s.22 . Our dreams burned in this fire too. It's pretty hard to replace that. There is also a significant health hazard living in the ash left by the fire and our beautiful home is permeated with wood smoke. These fires could have been controlled much earlier when they started had the proper resources and management been applied in a timely fashion and the community would not have to be through all the anguish, grief, financial loss

s.22 , and dislocation associated with the fire. The government could have been saved millions of dollars by getting on the fires right away instead of allowing them to burn for over two weeks before anything was done. We also feel there is some underlying reason or agenda that the government, Freedom of Info personnel, and Forestry will not allow us to obtain any information we require regarding this fire event. Recently more cooperation has been given but still not information. Throughout the entire fire situation we have gone through 8+ weeks of evacuation from our home anxiety, frustration, feeling dismissed and disrespected by the Forestry Fire Management personnel.

Respectfully submitted,

s.22

According to their predictions the wind / fire event occurred on Aug 12. During this event the BC wildfire Service was busy moving the fire camp location as "it was getting very smoky" in the area. At a public meeting on August 14 we tried to get information about our place. Just prior to the meeting, s.22

s.22 whispered to us that we "lost a shed but our house seems to be OK". My wife asked the Incident Commander if this was the case and for more details and he said that he "is not familiar with any of the properties". Our property had been flown over the previous day to determine what was lost or damaged. When this "fire event" occurred there were only 5 properties that were threatened. The main community of Nazko was not in endangered at this time. We were informed that the Cariboo Regional District would contact any property owners that sustained loss. I had to contact the CRD 5 days later as no report had come from them. They told us we lost a chicken coop and a shed. This is totally wrong information.

On August 15 we tried to get to our property but at the new fire center were told that we must have an official permit to enter the area. At this time we saw a SPU Triage map that excluded our property. This was the map from which daily tasks were assigned to fire personnel. I asked for a copy of this map and the Assistant IC said he doesn't have to give any information to "Joe Public" He told me that any information would have to come from the Risk Management Coordinator with BC Wildfire. Subsequently we were told by the Risk Management Coordinator to get information about our place from Freedom of Information. FOI told us it would cost ~\$5000.00 to get the information we are seeking.

We obtained a permit to visit our place on Aug 16 to find the property completely burned, our house intact but all of our out-buildings and equipment destroyed by fire. We also saw that the water pump and 5 sprinklers around our house had been removed. Our home was left to burn s.22

s.22

s.22 due to the choices made and negligence our the BC Wildfire Branch. It was evident that not only was the pump not operated in our absence, it had been removed !! A decision had been made to let our place burn and we feel BC Wildfire should be accountable for their actions or rather their inaction!!

The Risk Management Coordinator has now informed us that neither BC Wildfire Branch or Emergency Management BC with offer any compensation due to this fire. They say that they are insurable losses. We could not insure our home and buildings with most companies as we have s.22

s.22

Other consequence of this fire is that we have now lost our wood supply s.22 property with which we heated our home and used for cooking. Our winter's wood supply which was cut and stacked in our wood shed is gone along with the forest. Also, as our snowplow is destroyed this winter we are forced to access our property via

Oct 23, 2017

Dear Honourable Doug Donaldson,

My wife and I are victims of this past summer's North Plateau Fire. We live about s.2  
s.22 of the small village of Nazko BC in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region.

Recently our MLA, Coralee Oakes, has brought to your attention in the legislative assembly some of the issues surrounding the fire and the affect that it has brought to our lives. I am disappointed to have had no response from your or your ministry.

I am sympathetic to the fact that the new NDP government has taken over during this major fire event and that the structures in place to fight these fires were established prior to you taking the reins of government. I do feel however, that is now incumbent on the current government to attend to this issue.

I will briefly outline the circumstances surrounding this fire event:

The fires in our area started very early in July and a fire camp was established in Nazko on July 16, but little was done to extinguish these fires when they were still very small and a minimal threat to "assets". Mostly the fire was "monitored".

July 28, 2017, we were instructed to evacuate our home and property and if we did not we would be offered no fire protection by the Structural Protection Unit (SPU) of BC Wildfire. We complied with the order, removed our own fire protection (pumps, hoses and sprinklers) and waited until the SPU installed and successfully tested their system. We were told that the SPU system would be operated and maintained every 2-3 days so our home and outbuilding would be kept wet. Air support would be provided if necessary. We were not allowed to return to our property (police barricades) so we trusted that the SPU would carry out due diligence in regards to the care and protection of our home, structures and the equipment contain in them. The SPU told us that our home and structures were "highly defensible" because of our 'Fire Smart' location and materials used in construction.

After the Fire Camp was set up in Nazko there were several changes in the crews fighting the fire. We made regular contact with each new crew and were assured that the system at our place was being maintained and operated every 2 -3 days. Daily public bulletins stated this. We were also told that a fire-guard was successfully constructed to contain the fire north, east and south perimeters. Our place was southeast of the fire during this period. On Aug 10 we attended a fire information meeting in Quesnel. Weather predictions and Fire Behavior Specialists were predicting high winds and major change for the worse in fire activity in 2-3 days time. Once again, we were reassured by the Information Officer that our place would be looked after and pumps would be running.

Constituency Office:  
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Legislative Office:  
Parliament Buildings  
VICTORIA BC V8V 1X4  
website: coraleeoakesmla.ca

November 2 2017

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Parliament Buildings  
VICTORIA BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Farnworth:

Re: s.22

s.22 have been severely impacted by the Plateau fire the destroyed their property on August 12, 2017. They have lost outbuildings, equipment, s.22 They were entirely self-sufficient before the fire and have lost their ability to live in this manner. They have issues with expected structural protection during the fire and have filed an FOI which I believe they are receiving help with, however it has come at a cost to them in terms of stress. Their immediate issue is how to live in their home now that winter is upon us. They approached Moti and FLNRORD about getting their road ploughed (as they lost snow removal equipment in the fire) and were told that they would not be getting their road ploughed by either Moti or FLNRORD.

s.22

s.22 would like their questions on structural protection answered as soon as possible from the Ministry of Citizens' Services. On an individual case by case basis, are there processes and funding in place to help the s.22 recover from the devastation of the Plateau fire?

I await your response on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

*Coralee Oakes*

Coralee Oakes  
MLA, Cariboo North

c.c. Honourable Jinny Simms  
Honourable Doug Donaldson  
Honourable Claire Trevena



**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug <Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 3, 2017 8:32 AM  
**To:** Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Hunting Regulation changes in response to Wildfires

Hi Lisa,

Minister has asked for positive responses to the vehicle ban prior to QP. Can you get these to him? I will be sending a few more after this email.

Thank you,  
Tristan

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** October 2, 2017 10:37 PM  
**To:** [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca); Donaldson.MLA, Doug <Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Hunting Regulation changes in response to Wildfires

Dear Honourable Premier and Honourable Minister:

Thank you very much for implementing restrictions on the use of motor vehicles by hunters in the Elephant Hill and Chilcoten areas. I hope that this will go a considerable way to protecting vulnerable wildlife (although I would have preferred an outright ban except for First Nations). The fires this past spring and summer have been devastating for not just for people but also for wildlife - loss of life, habitat, and sources of food. You have made a great decision in restricting motor vehicle use in hunting - I trust that you will continue to monitor our wildlife populations in the coming years and continue to make appropriate policy decisions.

Yours truly,  
s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2017 9:48 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX

Thank you!!!!!!!  
Sent from my iPhone

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2017 10:00 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX

Thank you so much MLA Doug Donaldson for your wonderful decision in protecting wildlife in the aftermath of BC's forest fires. They deserve and you have them protection at this vulnerable time. I'm so happy that you are able to help make this powerful decision for this Province. Thank you so much again!

Warmest regards,

s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2017 9:57 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** THE GOVERNMENT LISTENED AND HAS TAKEN ACTION TO PROTECT WILDLIFE!!  
THANK YOU!!

Thank you for listening to the voices of many people in BC who were concerned about the fate of wild life in the fire zones. It is wonderful that you have given the survivors of this disasterous summer a chance to at least make it through until the spring. Given the fact that wildfires happen yearly, perhaps a ban on hunting in any area hit with a major fire in the future would be a good policy to adopt going forward.

Thank you for your present effort, and again thank you for listening to the people. It is a huge change from past governments.

s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2017 9:48 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Thank you

Dear MLA Donaldson,

Thank you for protecting wildlife in the fire devastated areas of BC by restricting use of vehicles used for hunting.

Sincerely,

s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2017 10:03 PM  
**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Thank you

Premier Horgan, Minister Donaldson,

I am one of the BC citizens who signed a petition to restrict hunting in the areas affected so severely by wildfires this year. Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue and to enact the restrictions that will help protect wildlife.

Sincerely,

s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2017 10:15 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Thank you s.22

Just a thank you, for the protection from hunters - concerning the wildlife within the devastated areas of the province affected by the fires - Warmly -s.22

Sent from my iPad

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2017 10:31 PM  
**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Hunting restrictions

Thank you both  
for stepping up, acting quickly and doing 'the right thing' in regards to hunting and the wild fire zones.

Hopefully you will continue to act on other important issues that are in keeping with the concept of 'for the good of all'.

I'll remember this when it's time to vote again.

s.22



**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2017 10:49 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** great

Good on you for helping to protect out wild life here in B.C. Thank you.

s.22



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2017 11:04 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** hunting restrictions

A heartfelt thank you for your prompt action in issuing hunting restrictions in areas ravaged by wildfires.  
Blessings: s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2017 10:37 PM  
**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Animal Cruelty Legislation Advocates Canada

Thank you, personally for acknowledging and taking action.

I signed the change.org petition, and s.22 asked us participants to show our appreciation.

Wildlife is losing territory at a very rapid rate. It bothers me.

Thank you again..

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2017 10:53 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Access restrictions in fire areas

"To address the increased vulnerability of wildlife to hunters, two motor vehicle restrictions are being implemented under the Wildlife Act."

I would like to thank you and other members of the legislature for enacting these restrictions to vehicles. Personally, I feel there should be a moratorium on hunting, period, in those and adjacent areas for at least a year until the ground begins to provide browse for the animals and at least a bit of cover but your action on this is certainly a great step to take. It has made many concerned people heave a sigh of relief that something good (and necessary) is being done for our wild animal population. Thank you again.

s.22

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 30, 2017 1:16 AM  
**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** NDP Government - hunting regulations have been changed vulnerability of wildlife to hunters

The Government of British Columbia announced late this afternoon that hunting regulations have been changed in response to wildfires: "To address the increased vulnerability of wildlife to hunters

**Bravo and a huge thank you Premier Horgan and Minister Doug Donaldson.**

**If you keep this up I will definitely look more favorably on the NDP - Something I never thought I'd think or say!**

The animals need a place to live and should not be targets because they were burnt out of their homeland. Let them live out their lives without worrying about some hunter coming to shoot them. Let the endangered species live!

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 30, 2017 6:16 AM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Wildlife Act

Thank you for passing the Wildlife Act.

Sincerely and respectfully,  
s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 1, 2017 1:39 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Change in regulations on hunting and trapping in BC wildfire zones

Thank you for listening to the concerns around the wellbeing of wildlife in this province, and changing the regulations to protect animals after the BC Wildfire season.

sincerely, s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 1, 2017 8:27 AM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Thank you.

Hello, I am a high school student in Ontario who occasionally signs petitions in hopes of making a bit of change. When I heard of the animals being hunted in BC's wildfire zones, it made me terribly upset. I signed a petition in hopes that it would help so when I heard of the regulation changes that were put I was thrilled. Thank you so much for the part you played in changing the hunting regulations!



**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 30, 2017 7:16 PM  
**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** THANK YOU!

Thank you SO much for changing hunting regulations in response to the wildfires! I am just thrilled about this and so many changes that your government has made and will continue to make!

With a whole hearted thank you,

s.22



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 1, 2017 11:46 AM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Protection of wildlife in BC.

Thank you Minister Donaldson for protecting wildlife in BC currently at greater risk due to the extensive wildfires this past summer.

Sent from my iPad

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 1, 2017 8:24 AM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Thank You!

Dear Mr. Doug Donaldson,

Your wise decision to protect the wildlife from hunting, due to the recent fires devastating their food and natural habitat, will have a very positive impact for our ecosystem. Thank you for keeping the vulnerable safe.

Respectfully,  
s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 30, 2017 7:03 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Hunting

Thank you for making changes re hunting in the areas that were impacted by the wild fires.  
s.22

Sent from my iPad

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 1, 2017 9:23 AM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** PROTECTING

Thank you for protecting wildlife from being hunted in some of the wildfire areas. These animals are trying to recover from habitat loss and don't need anymore trauma added to their lives.

s.22

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 1, 2017 7:28 AM  
**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** wildlife protection

Thank you for protecting wildlife in fire zones!!

s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 30, 2017 6:57 PM  
**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Thank you for taking action to protect wildlife!

Thank you!

s.22

Oscar Wilde once said:  
"Always forgive your enemies;  
nothing annoys them so much."

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 30, 2017 6:28 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Hunting retrictionss

Dear Doug Donaldson,

Thank you for limiting the hunting in the summer,s wildfire areas. You have given a chance of survival to those species that would be shot or trapped so easily. Those of us who try to bring the hunters and those who kill, into the 21st Century, to stalk and hunt with a camera, without a weapon, very much appreciate your help.

Regards

s.22



From: s.22  
Sent: Saturday, September 30, 2017 3:56 PM  
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
Cc: Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
Subject: New Hunting Regulations re Wildfires in B. C.

Dear Mr.

Premier,

After

having signed a petition, which requested of our new British Columbia government, a revised regulation concerning, the hunting and killing of our B. C. wildlife, issued by Animal Cruelty Legislation Advocates Canada, in consideration of the horrific wildfires this year, that destroyed many of the animals and their habitats, I wish to thank you, Mr. Premier, for this sensible, kind, and most proper action.

With natural habitat becoming less and less available each decade, due to habitat loss through the encroachment of private and commercial development, as well as through natural disasters, which seem to be increasing yearly, perhaps a further consideration re these regulations might be considered. Perhaps a higher restriction on the numbers of particular animals that may be taken, the situation regarding our Grizzly Bears comes to mind. Perhaps establishing a shorter hunting season, and, possibly, even a greater number of select animals which could be banned from the hunters' guns entirely.

As an artist and painter of our British Columbia wildlife for many years,

I think often of the animals' plights and hope that fewer shots will be directed at them by guns, cross-bows etc. and more shots directed to them by camera lenses. It must be true that all B.C. wildlife belongs, in some way, to all British Columbians, both residents and taxpayers.

Regards and thank you for this positive and constructive new regulation on behalf of our wilderness and it's inhabitants.

s.22

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 30, 2017 2:05 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Thanks

Thank Doug

A big thank you to you and your staff for what you have done so far to protect game in the fire ravaged areas of our province. Now I don't know how, but maybe you can get First Nations on side as well, but I think they will probably help as well. The next step now is to put a moratorium on trapping as well, till the game and fur animals have a chance to regenerate, right?? As you know, so long as the fires didn't burn so hot that they have ruined the soil, it won't take to long before the plant life regenerates and animals start moving back in, but it's going to take a few years for this to happen. In the mean time maybe some crop dusters could spread some fertilizer and grass seed, in their off season, from high up, so it covers a large area, I feel the expense for doing this could be chalked up to the fire cost bill. Yes I know money is short, but things like this and more funding for the game department are a lot more important then buy fancy art, and lot of other things that I could mention, like four staff all going to the same meetings in far out places, each renting their own car, and hotel rooms, and don't tell me it doesn't happen, because I've seen it with my own eyes. But thanks anyway for what you have accomplished so far protecting the game that is left. ( My God can you imagine the job of the ranchers in the area trying to gather their cattle that are left and sorting out who's cattle are theirs, I fear that it may take some government help here, as well to keep the peace. Also there's probably some that are already in local freezers. But it's going to take the ranchers years to recover, if some can, but a lot will be finished as very few had insurance, and I doubt that the federal government, that are running on borrowed money, will help as their to busy giving money a way to off shore countries.) s.22

[illegible]

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 30, 2017 5:43 PM  
**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Hunting restrictions.

Dear Sirs,

I am one of those that signed to petition you to make changes to the law to take into account the increased vulnerability of game following the recent fires.

While I am sure that you would have arrived at the same outcome anyway, I wish to thank you for implementing those restriction that you have put in place.

I am totally pro hunting so long as the wildlife stocks are rationally managed. For this reason I have difficulty comprehending why the Government does not re-negotiate the obsolete treaties with First Nations Canadians. Since the times when they were negotiated not only has wildlife habitat been diminished but the number of hunters who have carte blanche access to hunting has increased and will continue to do so.

s.22 my sympathies are with those who are charged with managing wildlife stocks when only a portion of the harvesters have to abide by rules and render hunting returns.

Your faithfully,  
s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 30, 2017 2:53 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Thank you!

Dear Premier Horgan and Minister Doug Donaldson,

Thank you for implementing a couple of measures to protect vulnerable wildlife as a result of the BC fires this summer.

I had hoped to see a complete moratorium on hunting this fall. However, I am pleased that you implemented some measures.

For these measures to be effective, I hope that adequate resources have been allocated to ensure enforcement of these measures.

Thank you,

s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 30, 2017 4:10 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** HUNTING REST

Dear Sir:

As a Change.org petitioner, I wish to thank you for your wisdom and foresight in realizing that the animals of your province need our help to recover after the devastating fires your province has suffered. It is decisions such as these which give us hope that our politicians will do what is right and not always what is easy. It is good stewardship and a realization that our environment requires all the protection we can give it. If we protect those animals who remain, they will help us rebuild the forests and the land more quickly.

Thank you for helping those with no voice.

s.22

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 30, 2017 2:11 PM  
**To:** Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX  
**Subject:** PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE IN AREAS AFFECTED BY WILDFIRES

Dear Doug Donaldson, Thank You For Listening To The Concerned Voice Of The People And Doing The Right Thing.  
Additional Restrictions For The Protection Of Wildlife In Areas Affected By Wildfires Is Welcome News.  
Thanks, s.22

Sent from my iPad

**Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX**

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**From:** Donaldson, MLA, Doug <Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 3, 2017 8:46 AM  
**To:** Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** FW: New Hunting Regulations

**From:** Donaldson, MLA, Doug  
**Sent:** October 2, 2017 10:18 AM  
**To:** Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX <[FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: New Hunting Regulations

**From:** s.22  
**Sent:** October 2, 2017 8:07 AM  
**To:** [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)  
**Cc:** Donaldson, MLA, Doug <[Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** New Hunting Regulations

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for realizing that the devastating wildfires in BC will have a negative impact on wild life and making the decision to to change the hunting regulations with the two motor vehicle restrictions implemented under the Wildlife Act.

This decision will benefit wild life whose numbers have been greatly impacted by the fires.

s.22





#### Next Steps:

- MSDPR Regional Director Grace Cowan will be travelling to Williams Lake November 6-8<sup>th</sup> and will meet with the local WorkBC office to discuss worker transition assistance, as the impacts on workers will hopefully be more fully understood.
- Given the wildfire impacts plus any impacts from this millfire, REO Regional Manager Emily Colombo will remain in contact with the City of Williams Lake, Tolko, FLNRO district staff, MSDPR and other relevant stakeholders to monitor and assess the need for additional community transition services, based on the needs of the City and the impacted workers.
- REO and SDPR will continue to share information on the millfire and provincial actions, on a daily basis, to ensure coordination of provincial efforts.

#### 1. General CT bullets

FLNRORD (Regional Economic Operations) is the provincial lead in the coordination of assistance to communities which are undergoing economic dislocation, usually due to the closure or indefinite shut-down of a major employer in the community.

The Ministry coordinates an integrated provincial response to industrial events involving significant job loss. REO works closely with other ministries and organizations to plan and implement transition support that is comprised of:

- coordinating and facilitating information and services to impacted workers,
- assisting the community with economic development and diversification efforts and
- monitoring and assessing impacts on community services.

Through the integrated provincial approach led by FLNRORD, each response is tailored to the unique circumstances in each community and is based on an initial assessment of the preferred approach of key stakeholders such as the local government and the employer.

The Province's Community Transition team works with many stakeholders and partners during the transition process including other provincial ministries, federal government, arms-length and non-government organizations as well as the private sector. Partnerships are essential to a successful community transition process.

- While transition responses are tailored to each community, there are three core elements of a response: worker transition; economic development; and, community service supports.
- With the cooperation of the employer, REO staff bring together a worker transition team comprised of entities such as the local government, union, WorkBC, Service Canada, local post-secondary institution, Industry Training Authority and the Ministries of Social Development and Social Innovation, and Advanced Education.
- REO staff lead and facilitate the worker transition team to put in place coordinated actions to support workers through the layoff process. REO also advocates for additional resources and programs to be provided, based on emerging needs identified.
- REO staff monitor the ability of community service providers to meet any emerging needs for additional supports that may be required due to the increased individual and family stress that typically occurs in a job loss situation. If required, REO will liaise with appropriate community service Ministries or non-government agencies to make them aware of the stressors/gaps and to facilitate interventions which can address service gaps and challenges.
- REO works with local governments to advance their economic development interests and explore diversification opportunities that have potential to reduce their reliance on a single industry. Specifically, staff work with local governments to identify economic priorities and to ensure economic development plans are in place; locate resources; and assist with plan implementation.

## 2. Actions to date re: Lakeview:

### Actions – November 3<sup>rd</sup>:

- On Friday, November 3, REO staff contacted MSDPR staff to inform and share information related to the Lakeview mill fire in Williams Lake.
- Based on the Protocol (referenced above), given the size of Williams Lake (population 10,508), MSDPR will lead on the provision of worker transition services, and as the impacts to workers become more fully known.
- Staff agreed that the Province's approach to potential worker and community transition services needs to take into account both Lakeview millfire and wildfire recovery impacts, and be flexible as more information becomes known.
- Horton Ventures is the WorkBC office (contractor) in Williams Lake and is well established in the community.
- MSDPR staff have contacted the local WorkBC office to discuss the millfire and next steps. WorkBC/Horton Ventures will be contacting the mill to determine extent of impacts to workers and to offer/discuss potential worker supports and services.

- Based on further information on the worker impacts, WorkBC will alert Service Canada to the situation.
- REO Regional Manager Emily Colombo has contacted the FLNRORD District Manager for Williams Lake to share information, be coordinated, and discuss next steps. Emily will be providing information into the EWN (will confirm that this is being led by the District office).

**Next Steps:**

- MSDPR Regional Director Grace Cowan will be travelling to Williams Lake November 6-8<sup>th</sup> and will meet with the local WorkBC office to discuss worker transition assistance, as the impacts on workers will hopefully be more fully understood.
- Given the wildfire impacts plus any impacts from this millfire, REO Regional Manager Emily Colombo will remain in contact with the City of Williams Lake, Tolko, FLNRO district staff, MSDPR and other relevant stakeholders to monitor and assess the need for additional community transition services, based on the needs of the City and the impacted workers.
- REO and SDPR will continue to share information on the millfire and provincial actions, on a daily basis, to ensure coordination of provincial efforts.

Page 053 to/à Page 055

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## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural  
Resource Operations and Rural Development  
Update: Nov. 21, 2017  
Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

## Wildfire Salvage Logging

### ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

s.13

### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

Opposition MLAs and media continue to raise concerns that the ministry is not approving cutting permits for burnt timber fast enough.

Communications Contact:	Vivian Thomas	250 356-2475
Program Area Contact:	Ken Vanderburgh	
File Location: programs\2017\wildfires and prevention		

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Disaster  
Financial  
Assistance  
Agreement

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

Nov. 26, 2017

## ISSUE: Wildfire Recovery

### Key Messages:

The 2017 wildfire season was unprecedented. Over 65,000 people were displaced, 1.2 million ha of land impacted and approximately 50 communities directly affected (both indigenous and non-indigenous).

An integrated cross-ministry recovery initiative is being coordinated by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Government staff are engaging with First Nations, communities and stakeholders to ensure immediate needs are addressed and long term recovery plans developed.

The provincial government is working closely with the federal government. Federal government has recently announced that it would advance \$100 million under the Disaster Financial Assistance Program (not new funding but reimbursement of funds that province has disbursed). This is separate from the \$100 million the Province provided to the Red Cross in July to assist those impacted by the wildfires.

The Province is designing a recovery program with an all-hazards approach that can be applied to any natural disaster, in any part of the province, in the future.

### Activities to Date:

#### **Citizen and Community Support**

- The Province has funded Community Recovery Managers for 12 local governments; they are developing Community Recovery Plans. In addition, province's community wildfire recovery branch staff are on-the-ground in 6 communities.
- Ministries of Children and Family Development, Health, Mental Health and Addictions, and Social Development and Poverty Reduction are working with Interior Health, First Nations Health Authority, RCMP Community Policing, community groups and NGOs
- Community-based mental health and wellness working groups are established in 100 Mile House, Williams Lake and Quesnel and have delivered mental health outreach sessions
- The First Nations Health Authority has engaged with 7 impacted First Nations in 28 communities
- Specific mental health and other supports for indigenous peoples being delivered through the Province, First Nations Health Authority and Red Cross
- Province is coordinating support with INAC and First Nations Health Authority for Indigenous communities



- Provincial staff are engaging with First Nations in government-to-government recovery planning; consulting on resource decisions and investigating economic opportunities for First Nations (salvage harvest, fence rebuild and reforestation) s.13
- First Nations engagement capacity has been funded at \$50 K per First Nation
- Red Cross provided financial assistance to over 20,000 households (as of Sept. 30)
- 5 Rural Dividend grants for \$758,000 approved in wildfire zone under special circumstances, and an additional \$1.7 M as regular projects
- Cariboo Regional District is holding Wildfire Outreach sessions in 18 communities; government staff are participating in the sessions
- Post-Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Assessment (danger trees, landslide risks, etc.) almost completed; priority activities underway

#### **Small Business Support**

- Red Cross provided financial assistance (\$1,500) to over 1600 small businesses and not-for-profits, and is rolling out with the province Phase II business support up to \$18,500/business
- Agencies are examining the possibility of relieving businesses of fees for 2017

#### **Industry Support**

##### Ranchers/Agriculture:

- Fall/winter emergency feed supply has been provided to ranchers
- \$20M available for non-insured compensation to ranchers under Agri/Recovery
- \$6.2M to replace Crown range infrastructure and highway fences. Assessments of highway fences 95% complete as of Nov. 24.
- Assessments of dug-outs on ranchlands underway.

##### Tourism

- \$1.6 M provided to regions where tourism business affected by wildfires

##### Forestry

- Fair stumpage rates have been established to reflect degree of damage to burnt timber (which varies from stand to stand and on tree species).
- Cutting permits are being approved within 40 days. For burnt timber, 974,00 cubic metres under development by licensees; 257,000 cubic metres in submitted cutting permits; 381,000 cubic metres in approved cutting permits.
- Staff are working with Tolko to minimize the impact of the fire at their Lakeview sawmill in Williams Lake

##### Land-based Activities

- Timber from fireguards is being harvested. Integrated Investment Plan being developed to guide all the potential forest rehabilitation activities that will commence post-winter
- Ministry of Environment considering options for site rehabilitation in Parks

- Hunting restrictions have been applied in wildfire areas to protect wildlife

**Red Cross**

- As of Nov 17, \$36.4 M distributed
- Phase II support for Small Businesses of up to \$18,500 per business launched Nov. 20.
- Red Cross actively engaged with Province on potential additional programs to address immediate needs; very open to ideas from the Province

**Next steps:**

- Province's operational After Action Review is proceeding in communities. Strategic, independent external review leads and terms of reference to be announced within two weeks.
- Local governments applying to special circumstances provision of Rural Dividend. Fourth intake of Rural Dividend closes Dec. 15.

## Wildfires – Uninsurable Losses

### Highlights:

- Donna Barnett has brought forward examples of people who lost property that was uninsured and may not qualify for disaster assistance funds.

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## **Mt Milligan Mine**

### **Highlights:**

- The Mount Milligan Mine, north of Fort St. James, is running short of water needed for operations.
- The situation will become critical by January 2018 and the company says they will be forced to shut down for a few months starting February if they don't get a permit for more water.

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## **Background:**

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- Thompson Creek Metals Company's Mount Milligan Mine is a 62,500 tonnes per day open-pit copper and gold mine northeast of Fort St. James with an estimated life of 15 years. It began commercial production in February 2014.
- The project currently employs 530 employees, 15 percent of whom are First Nations and 64 percent of whom live in the nearby communities of Prince George, Mackenzie, Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake and Fort St. James.
- The project is located within the traditional territories of the Takla Lake First Nation, Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, West Moberly First Nations, Halfway River First Nation and Yekooche First Nation.
- The project's mill production relies upon water collected and reclaimed from the Tailings Storage Facility which, prior to this year, has been adequate.
- The project's initial authorized design included a freshwater reservoir to store water to ensure sufficient water during dry conditions. However, the reservoir was never built in part due to cost considerations.
- The company notified MEMPR and the EAO in July 2017 that they were projecting a critical water shortage in early 2018. Ministry staff have since been working with the company on solutions.
- An alternate water source is required before January 15, 2018 in order to avoid a 3 month shutdown which the company says would impact 450 employees, \$5 to \$8 million in lost revenue and \$6 to \$12 million of lost regional income.
- In order to temporarily withdraw water from two nearby lakes, the company requires an EAC amendment, a short term Water License and other permits.
- EAO and the Major Mine Permitting Office have received letters of support from two First Nations and Vanderhoof and Mackenzie for the request.
- First Nations have expressed concerns about potential impacts to Aboriginal interests from water quantity reductions, potential impacts to fish and cumulative effects.
- EAO, EMPR and FLNRORD are engaged in expediting a solution to allow continued operations.
- Consultations need to be finished with local First Nations on the possibility of drawing water from nearby lakes.

## Forestry Recovery

### Background:

- The unprecedented wildfires this year have placed strain on the already struggling forestry sector.
- Wildfires have destroyed approximately 53 million cubic metres of timber this year.
- The softwood sector had already been struggling for years due to neglect on the part of the BC liberals as well as pine beetle infestations in the Interior.

s.13

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### **How much burnt timber is being harvested?**

Logging of burnt timber under pre-existing permits is underway and staff are expediting approval of additional cutting permits. Districts have no backlog in cutting Permits and they are processing them as fast as they are coming in.

Licensees are developing the salvage timber now for submission.

Over 21 new permits have been issued totalling well over 1 million cubic metres.

**Cariboo Chilcotin Natural Resource District:** Roughly, a couple thousand metres of burnt timber has been brought into the mills in Williams Lake. At this point private wood is the main source of this harvest.

There has been a salvage permit issued to the Toosey First Nation; they will be harvesting burnt timber from their woodlot.

West Fraser Mills has been issued a salvage permit for the burnt area of Bald Mountain, this area is roughly 1200 hectares.

**100 Mile House Natural Resource District** has issued two salvage permits to West Fraser.

A request has been put forward to create a separate stratum for burnt timber at all the sawmills, so it can be tracked and kept separate from the regularly harvested timber.

**Quesnel Natural Resource District** has had 9 woodlots CP's Applied and one has been issued, 38 regular CP's applied for but only 15 issued. Some are not yet issued due to post fire backlog and FN referrals taking certain allotted legal time, short staffed as well. Not all are salvage permits. There is no current estimate as to what is in the Quesnel mills already. It is anticipated that any burnt timber that is in the mills in Quesnel at this point would be from private timber harvests.

Cariboo: In addition to the permits listed above, there is a large volume of private wood being processed.

### **Thompson Rivers District:**

1 permit in woodlot has been issued.

Elephant Hill: Bonaparte shared decision table has been shaped to not hold up any salvage – chiefs have been advised that decisions will be made as salvage permits come in, and business will be conducted transparently.

**Cascades District:**

The Weyco Princeton salvage permit is in the Cascades office and will be on the District Managers desk by tomorrow. Weyco was proactive with Chiefs, and has key leaders support in place already (UNDRIP), so anticipating quick processing.

**District of Okanagan Shuswap:**

No submitted salvage applications to date on the Joe Rich fire, however, expect Road Permit submission next week and Cutting Permits at end of November. Re fire guard still waiting for BCWS to skid wood to a reasonable access point. Discussions continue between Tolko and BCWS.

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: 2017/11/02

**CLIFF: 233781**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development]

**ISSUE:** Status of the Post Fire Review of Allowable Annual Cuts (AACs). Bullets for Minister for meeting with Mayor of Quesnel.

**BACKGROUND:**

- In 2017, fire has affected about 1.2 million hectares of forest to varying degrees with the majority of that impact (over 80%) occurring in the Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House Timber Supply Areas (TSAs).
- Approximately sixty percent of the impacted land (about 700,000 ha) was considered available for timber production and harvest.
- Fires in these areas have impacted stands previously killed by Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) as well as additional green stands.
- Fire intensity mapping is nearing completion for all fires in the Cariboo Region. In addition, all growth and yield monitoring plots within the perimeter of the Cariboo fires have been re-visited to determine fire impacts on stand volume.
- \* • Fire intensity mapping and analysis of monitoring plots is scheduled to be complete by November 10, 2017.
- While data collection and mapping have been occurring, “worst case” timber supply projections have been developed for Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House TSAs in which we assumed all timber within fire perimeters is burnt and cannot be used for anything (historically 50% of timber within the perimeter is lost).

**DISCUSSION:**

- Since a significant portion of the AACs in Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House TSAs were predicated on the harvest of considerable volumes of dead stands which remain on the landscape, this mitigates the “worst case” scenario somewhat
- Changes to dead/live partitions within the AACs may need to be considered, as timber supply projections are refined with data currently being assembled that will provide better estimates of the timber volume lost to fire.
- Mid-term timber supply will be reduced to varying degrees for each of the three TSAs analyzed.
- Within the context of a solid retention plan to protect non-timber values, existing AACs must remain focused on salvage of MPB or fire-killed trees to every extent possible to help maintain the remaining mid-term timber supplies.

**SUMMARY:**

**Contact:**

*ADM: Diane Nicholls  
Office of the Chief  
Forester  
Phone:*

**Alternate Contact:**

*Name: Albert Nussbaum  
OCF/Victoria/FAIB  
Phone: 250 356 5958*

**Prepared by:**

*Name: Albert Nussbaum  
OCF/Victoria/FAIB:  
Phone: 250 356 5958*

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO	RM	17-11-08
ADM	DN	17-11-02

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: November 10, 2017  
File: 280-20  
CLIFF: 233786

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

**ISSUE:** Update on Thompson/Chilcotin steelhead

**BACKGROUND:**

Steelhead are an iconic fish species of significant economic, social and ecological importance and thus are of high priority to the province. This species is extremely valuable to recreational angling communities, businesses that support these communities, and to First Nations for food, social and ceremonial purposes within BC.

Interior Fraser steelhead, or Thompson/Chilcotin, stock aggregate has been near or within conservation concern for most of the past decade. Threats to the health of steelhead include interception by salmon fisheries managed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and losses to freshwater habitat.

Impacts to steelhead from salmon fisheries can be significant with some bycatch mortality estimates of 20-30% of the total run. Non-selective commercial chum salmon fisheries in the Lower Fraser River present the most immediate impact to the current status of Thompson/Chilcotin aggregate due to the overlap in spawning migration arrival and timing into the lower river.

Despite the impacts of the lower river commercial fisheries to steelhead, chum salmon continues to be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). MSC is a non-profit eco-labelling organization that certifies fisheries that demonstrate that they are well managed and sustainable using science-based criteria, ultimately making the product marketable worldwide.

The Ministry of Agriculture, DFO, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) have discussed MSC certification of various salmon fisheries that intercept Thompson/Chilcotin steelhead. Specifically, FLNRORD has been engaged in discussing "Condition 14" of the MSC certification process that evaluates the impact of the commercial salmon fishery under review has on Thompson/Chilcotin steelhead (see attachment 1).

**Current Status:** Catches to date of steelhead in test fisheries continue to suggest that Fraser River late-run summer steelhead stocks are at extremely low levels of abundance and in a state of extreme conservation concern. Interior Fraser steelhead is a group of stocks comprised of ten spatially discrete spawning stocks distributed in the Fraser watershed upstream of Hell's Gate. The aggregate commonly referred to as "Thompson and Chilcotin steelhead" comprises seven out of these ten spawning stocks.

The current abundance estimate of Thompson and Chilcotin steelhead, prior to fishing mortalities, is 290. Twenty percent (20%) is expected to be lost from fishing mortality effects in the fall of 2017.

The current spawning population forecast for the Thompson watershed is 175 and the current spawning population forecast for the Chilcotin watershed is 55 (Attachment #2). These forecasts represent record low spawning abundances for Thompson and Chilcotin steelhead over monitoring time frames of 41 and 47 years, respectively.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Thompson/Chilcotin stock aggregate is in extreme conservation concern and has been declining for the last two decades. It is well recognized by user groups that the province has limited management options in stemming the decline of the aggregate stock. Without substantial intervention, it is highly probable that the Thompson/Chilcotin aggregate could be eliminated within ten years.

Due to the low abundance the province has closed the recreational fishery on the Thompson and Chilcotin systems, eliminating any potential mortality from recreational fishing. In addition, First Nations including the Cook's Ferry Band and Tsilhqot'in National Government have reduced or eliminated steelhead harvest for food and ceremonial purposes to conserve steelhead.

While reductions in fishing mortality have occurred over the time period, DFO continues to allow non-selective commercial openings on the lower river that are still impacting steelhead and causing further stock decline. Despite the imminent threat to the aggregate stock, certification standards by MSC continues to facilitate commercial openings and economic fisheries for chum, potentially removing the last remnants of steelhead returning to spawn in the Thompson/Chilcotin watersheds.

While the Province is committed to provide access and opportunity to all British Columbians who rely on these fish for First Nations use, enjoyment and livelihoods, there are limited options to stem the decline of these once prolific runs unless drastic action is taken.

Developing joint fisheries management plans with DFO is critical if declining trends in steelhead abundance are to be reversed in populations incurring significant mortality from salmon fisheries (e.g., Thompson stocks). The plan would assist with implementation with the objective of increasing the abundance of interior Fraser steelhead to the routine management zone, while maintaining or increasing the genetic diversity, adaptive potential, and productivity of the steelhead.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- November 20, 2017 - Management meeting with BC and DFO to confirm work plan for technical working group and actions assigned to meet year 1 MSC condition 14.
- November 20, 2017 - Meeting with DFO Area Director to debrief this year's chum fishery and identify improvements and priorities for next year.
- December 2017 (TBD) - Technical meeting between BC and DFO to confirm model approach.
- January 2018 through March 2018 – BC and DFO build agreement on conservation and management objectives for interior Fraser steelhead and other salmon stocks where salmon harvesting may have impacts on interior Fraser steelhead, including a fishing plan evaluation framework to support assessing impacts of alternative fisheries management approaches.
- March 2018 (TBD) - Depending on outcome of the above noted steps, explore need for executive or Minister-level support to elevate steelhead considerations in DFO management decisions and expedite changes in management approaches.

## **Lakeview Mill**

On Nov. 17, provincial government signed an agreement with USW to fund a needs assessment (\$9,000) for employees at Lakeview Mill to assist affected employees with employment agencies and to provide workers with information on employment services in their community and credit counselling services.

### **Background:**

50 workers are impacted by the mill fire.

Agreement with FLNRORD's regional economic operations. Funding is provided through MAEST's Rapid Response Fund program.

The Ministry has a Community Transition Protocol agreement with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) that defines ministry leadership on worker transition services, based on population and extent of labour force impacts. Specifically, if the population of the community exceeds 10,000 and there is no immediate threat to the ongoing viability of the community as a result of the layoffs, SDPR leads on the provision of supports and services to the impacted workers. Since Williams Lake (pop is over 10,000) is also a wildfire-impacted community, SDPR and FLNRORD continue to closely monitor and assess the need for additional worker or community transition services, based on the needs of the City and the impacted workers.

Re: Gustafson Wildfire/property damage and financial recovery assistance

Please accept this letter as our formal request for your help to obtain financial recovery assistance regarding the damage the Gustafson Wildfire caused to our s.22 , buildings and fencing at s.22

The Legal Description of our property is:  
s.22

Although we realize this letter is rather lengthy we do believe it is necessary in order to emphasize the reasons we need financial assistance as well as why we have become frustrated and disappointed trying to deal with the various entities and individuals that initially made promises concerning financial assistance for wildfire victims and have so far failed to deliver it.

The damage the Gustafson Wildfire caused to our s.22 is extensive and it has managed to destroy our dream of building ; s.22 We were developing the property so we cou<sup>s.22</sup> . Our property was perimeter fenced and we had completed clearing four other fence lines within that perimeter to block off cattle access to a 2 acre area where our well, shop are now and have a protected spot to build a smaller retirement home. We were uninsured on that property because our insurance company refused coverage because s.22

My wife and I<sup>s.22</sup> and we have to s.22 We do not have the extra finances available to start re-fencing <sup>s.22</sup> again let alone trying to deal with the cost of rebuilding the small cabin we lost, or for clearing the land after the burned timber is logged off. Logging it will only generate about half of what the 40/45 acres of green timber was worth before the fire. After paying the logging contractor \$30.00 per meter of the \$62.00 West Fraser has promised for saw logs, and the \$33.50 Norbord is paying for the Aspen and other small species residue, the balance left won't cover any where near the actual dollar figure this wildfire has cost us. Without securing some of the financial assistance promised by governments and others involved we have no chance to recover from this disaster at our ages.

To make matters worse the Federal Government thinks logging our burned timber is some sort of capital gain which at best is a bad joke. They will tax us on 50% of what we manage to receive from logging our decimated property. They also apparently won't allow us to deduct any land clearing unless it is completed in the same year as the logging. This wildfire has already taken a huge financial toll on us and to have a capital gains tax added onto the financial burden we already have is a slap in the face on the part



of our Canadian government and its representatives. It certainly is not in keeping with any pledge made to assist wildfire victims. We did not choose to log our property, we have been forced to do it.

The Gustafson Wildfire and the toll it took on us was absolutely no fault of our own. Initially when the BC wildfires broke out there were a lot promises of assistance made by those in power that aren't being fulfilled. We have discussed our situation with everyone possible including our MLA, MP, CRD, and the Cattlemen's Association that we thought might be able to help us out a bit with some replacement of fencing etc, and to date when it comes to any "real" assistance that had some dollars, material or labour attached to it the result has added up to absolutely zero. Quite frankly we are fed up hearing about how wildfire victims are being assisted because it would appear that unless it involves cattlemen, farmers, businesses and natives, no-one else seems to count. At this point in time the provincial government, federal government, and the Red Cross have left us up Financial Loss Creek without a paddle. s.13

Wasn't the 150 to 200 million dollars the Red Cross was handed by our two governments and generous donors supposed to be used to assist wildfire victims in BC? They refused to assist us because in their estimation we didn't qualify for help because our wildfire losses didn't involve a permanent residence. When did that nonsense become part of the wildfire victim recovery assistance criteria? Our s.22 s.22 was turned into a charred disaster area by the Gustafson Wildfire and in the estimation of the Red Cross we don't qualify as victims of a wildfire, really?

Something is seriously wrong with our system when our governments hand over millions of our hard earned tax dollars to an organization that is supposed to use that money to assist wildfire victims but appears more interested in how much of it they can hang onto. From what I understand less than 40 million dollars has been spent so far, and of that I question how much of it has actually gone into the hands of the wildfire victims to help in their recovery? Refusing wildfire financial assistance based on the damages having not involving a permanent residence is utter nonsense and is unjust.

Wildfire financial assistance should not just be confined to the Cattlemen's Assn, farmers, businesses and natives which seems to be the normal government approach to things when disasters of this sort take place. Other people in the province who foot the bill for these disasters deserve equal consideration.

Please review our included list of items lost in the Gustafson Wildfire. If after any government representative, authority and/or organization in charge of funding reads our request for financial assistance, and as well reviews our list of losses determines that we do not qualify as wildfire victims needing financial assistance please have them provide us with a signed statement to that effect detailing their reasoning. I will gladly forward their written comments along with this letter to various media outlets for nation wide publication.

Sincerely,

s.22

Cc: Cathy Mcleod, MP

Page 079

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.22



*O- (a) on for  
fencing on private  
Mgt 20 mil*

## Summary of **DISASTER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

From time to time disasters happen in BC. When a disaster has a significant impact on a community, the province may declare the disaster eligible for Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA).

Those impacted by such a disaster may apply to the province for DFA where the losses could not be insured or where other programs are not available. The Disaster Financial Assistance helps to replace or restore essential items and property that have been destroyed or damaged to pre-disaster condition.

Assistance is available to qualifying home owners, residential tenants, small business owners, farm owners, and charitable organizations. Applicants should be aware of the following:

- Financial assistance is provided for each accepted claim at 80 percent of the amount of total eligible damage that exceeds \$1,000, to a maximum claim of \$300,000.
- Claims may be made in more than one category (e.g., home owner and farm owner).
- A home owner or residential tenant must show that the home is their principal residence. Seasonal or recreational properties, hot tubs, patios, pools, garden tools, landscaping, luxury items (like jewelry, fur coats and collectibles), and recreational items (like bicycles) are not eligible for assistance.
- Small business owners and farm owners must demonstrate it is their primary source of income. Owners of damaged rental property must apply and qualify as a small business.
- Charitable Organizations must provide a benefit of service to the community at large.
- Applications for DFA must be submitted to Emergency Management BC (EMBC) within 90 days of the date that DFA was authorized.

Assistance is also available to local governments for:

- Recovery measures to replace essential materials and rebuild or replace essential public infrastructures to the condition it was in before the disaster. Assistance is provided for each accepted recovery claim at 80 percent of the amount of total eligible damage that exceeds \$1,000.

Further information regarding DFA may be obtained from:

Emergency Management BC  
PO Box 9201 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9J1  
Phone: 1-888-257-4777 Toll Free  
Fax: 250-952-5542  
Email: [dfa@gov.bc.ca](mailto:dfa@gov.bc.ca)  
Website: [www.gov.bc.ca/disasterfinancialassistance](http://www.gov.bc.ca/disasterfinancialassistance)

Nov. 7, 2017

## **ISSUE: Wildfire Recovery**

### **Key Messages/Activities to Date:**

The 2017 wildfire season was unprecedented. Over 65,000 people were displaced. We recognize the hardships placed on individuals, families and small businesses. We're thankful for all the work by firefighters, emergency responders and volunteers to keep people safe – not one life was lost.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is leading the provincial government's support for First Nations and communities in terms of wildfire recovery.

Ministry staff are engaging with First Nations, communities and stakeholders to ensure the provincial government is providing the necessary supports.

The provincial government is working closely with the federal government. The federal government has an ad hoc cabinet committee for the BC Wildfires and provides disaster financial assistance.

Wildfire recovery is focused on four areas:

#### **People and communities**

- // • A total of \$100 million has been allocated to the Canadian Red Cross. To date, \$21 million has been provided to 52,000 individuals.
- To date, funding has been provided for recovery managers for the Ashcroft Indian Band, 100 Mile House, Williams Lake, Quesnel and the Cariboo Regional District.
- The ministry's community wildfire recovery branch is supporting those efforts. The branch's six staff are based in the communities affected by the 2017 flooding and fires and are helping to manage the economic and social aspects of recovery. This includes helping individuals and businesses getting the assistance they need.
- Recovery staff are also collaborating with local agencies to align support programs. These agencies include Community Futures, Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association, the First Nations Health Authority, local economic development departments and regional mental health service providers.
- // • Through the Rural Dividend, \$758,000 was awarded to five projects as part of the "special circumstances" funding provision. Under the regular program stream, about \$1.7 million is going to communities affected by the 2017 wildfires.
- Support for mental health outreach in 100 Mile House and Quesnel is available, and for connecting with local organizations that provide mental health supports.
- A First Nation liaison position has been established.

- Community Wildfire Recovery Branch staff are also engaging directly with First Nations to learn more about how the 2017 wildfires impacted their communities. First Nations priorities will be included in recovery efforts and staff will assess how to maximize economic opportunities for First Nations in recovery projects.
- Staff are also participating in the 18 community outreach sessions planned by the Cariboo Regional District. To date, they have met with over 300 rural and regional residents to: hear their experiences related to wildfire response; distribute information about recovery supports; and plan for recovery needs.
- Community Wildfire Recovery Branch staff have distributed applications to seven of the 17 First Nations in the Cariboo region, including the Tsilhqotin National Government and made all First Nations in the region of available supports. The Provincial Recovery Branch is also commissioning a detailed economic impact analysis.
- Starting November 8, Emergency Management BC and BC Wildfire Service are hosting engagement sessions to get feedback on emergency response activities. These sessions are in addition to the external review that the Province has committed to.
- During the summer, Minister Adrian Dix, Minister Mike Farnworth and Parliamentary Secretary Jennifer Rice all met with evacuees in reception centres. Minister Scott Fraser met with the T'kemlups Chief and Council.

## Economy

- Tourism –
  - \$1.6 million - \$200,000 each to the Cariboo Chilcotin, Thompson Okanagan and Kootenay Boundary Tourism Associations and Destination BC has provided \$500,000 to promote tourism in the Interior (and another \$500,000 to the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association through the Rural Dividend)
  - Minister Lisa Beare visited the Cariboo Chilcotin
- Agriculture –
  - With the federal government, provided \$20 million under the Agri-Recovery Initiative
  - Working with BC Cattlemen's Association to provide emergency feeds, identifying alternate grazing lands
  - Minister Lana Popham has visited affected areas
- Small business –
  - Through Canadian Red Cross, providing emergency assistance grants of \$1,500 each to small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in areas that were under evacuation order and impacted by highway closures. (As of Sept. 30, 2,375 applications had been received.)
- Forestry –
  - The Ministry's Cariboo Region has developed a draft Integrated Investment Plan (land-based funding), which has the following goals:
    - outline provincial, regional and district land-based investment priorities

- identify specific land manager objectives for the Cariboo Region and each of the districts
- clearly identify the areas of focus and the types of land-based projects/activities that will be considered for funding within the region and districts
- provide an overview of key initiatives and their associated objectives, opportunities and parameters
- District offices are preparing to receive submissions from licensees for relief of reforestation obligations for plantations damaged by fire (section 108 of the Forest and Range Practices Act).
- The ministry's Cariboo region engaged with First Nations, communities and licensees on the draft plan on Oct. 30 and 31. Minister Donaldson has visited the affected areas.
- On Oct. 17, 2017, a full-day meeting was held with 15 First Nations and forest industry representatives in the Cariboo. Follow-up meetings to the Oct. 17 session are being scheduled with individual First Nation communities.
- Offers for \$50,000 engagement capacity funding has gone out to 17 First Nation communities.
- Timber harvested from fireguards and damaged timber from both private land and woodlots has been or is being milled.
- Cutting permits are being expedited and areas being prioritized for salvage harvesting and reforestation.
- Salvage Strategy principles and the Draft Mule Deer Winter Range exemption, which will allow licensees to operate where it is not practicable to comply with the regulations regarding mule deer winter range management, have been circulated to First Nation communities for review and input. Licensees have also been engaged.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is processing priority salvage cutting permits. Licensee salvage operations are starting in November (and have already started on the Princeton fire). To date, licensees are able to use their existing licences.
- Fair stumpage rates have been established to reflect the range of circumstances and degrees of damage (which will vary from stand to stand).

## Environment

- As part of Budget Update 2018, \$140 million is being allocated over three years for reforestation, wildlife habitat restoration, wildfire risk reduction and promoting FireSmart (includes Forest Enhancement Society funding)
- Rehabilitation of fireguards and areas damaged by fire suppression activities.
- Danger trees being assessed and will be removed in BC Parks and recreation sites and trails
- Forests being assessed for damage to wildlife habitat
- To protect wildlife, the areas around the Plateau Fire and Elephant Hill fire are closed to hunters on ATVs and motor vehicles; two management units in the Cariboo have had the moose hunt season closed.

- Post-Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Assessment work is underway. The current status of the reconnaissance reports is as follows:
  - Cariboo Region: 5 complete, 10 in progress
  - Thompson-Okanagan: 5 complete, 1 in progress
  - Kootenay Boundary: 1 complete, 2 in progress
- Reconnaissance reports are based on a survey of a fire area and describe post-fire soil and terrain hazards and recommended actions. Results from the reconnaissance reports may indicate the need to complete more detailed assessments.

### **Infrastructure and Reconstruction**

- To date, \$6.2 million has been committed to replace range fencing and other Crown range infrastructure. BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) is coordinating assessment replacement of highway fences and is 80% complete. Range staff are assessing 1,100 kilometres of Crown range fences and reconstruction of 450 kilometres of burned fences has begun. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development signed an agreement with the B.C. Cattlemen's Association on Sept. 27 to assist with the reconstruction of fences lost on Crown range.
- Assessing dug-outs on ranchlands.
- \$15 million committed over three years to upgrade priority wildfire bases.

# MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

## INFORMATION NOTE

**DATE:** November 6, 2017

**PREPARED FOR:** The Honourable Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

**ISSUE:** Lakeview Mill Fire - Tolko Williams Lake

### **BACKGROUND:**

Williams Lake is a city in the Central Interior of British Columbia. Located in the central part of the region known as the Cariboo, it is the largest urban centre between Kamloops and Prince George, with a population of 10,832 in city limits.

On Thursday, November 2, 2017, a fire started at the Lakeview Mill in Williams Lake. The mill employs approximately 150 people. The employee impacts are unknown at this time. As of Friday, the fire had not been extinguished. On Friday afternoon, CFJC News noted that approximately 175 employees are temporarily out of work and that the extent of the damage cannot be assessed as they do not yet have access to the interior of the mill as of the time of the report.

### **DISCUSSION:**

On Friday, November 3, 2017, Regional Economic Operations (REO) with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRO) staff contacted SDPR Ministry staff to inform and share information related to the Lakeview mill fire in Williams Lake. Given the size of Williams Lake (population 10,508), SDPR will lead on the provision of worker transition services as the impacts to workers become more fully known.

Staff agreed that the Province's approach to potential worker and community transition services needs to take into account both the Lakeview mill fire and wildfire recovery impacts, and be flexible as more information becomes known.

Horton Ventures is the Employment Program of BC (EPBC) Contractor in Williams Lake and is well established in the community. REO Regional Manager Emily Colombo, has contacted the FLNRO District Manager for Williams Lake to share information, ensure coordination, and discuss next steps. Emily will be providing information into the Early Warning Note and will confirm that this is being led by the District office.



## MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION INFORMATION NOTE

The regional Contract and Partnership Agent (CAPA) contacted the WorkBC Employment Services Center (ESC) and spoke with the Chief Executive Officer. She advised that ESC staff had connected with one of the mill managers to advise of the ESC services available. ESC staff are maintaining contact with the mill, and keeping the CAPA apprised. Depending on impact to employees, the ESC will connect with Service Canada to arrange information sessions, if needed. (7)

REO is reaching out to the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer of Williams Lake to (1) share information on the mill's situation (based on her call with the Mill Manager); (2) to inform them of the approach the Province is taking to support workers (as the impacts are becoming known); and (3) to listen to the City's views/concerns/needs regarding how it is managing through both this impact event and from impacts related to the wildfires.

Based on the population of the community (greater than 10,000), a formal Community Event transition committee will not be implemented. The Employment and Labour Market Services Division (ELMSD) will take the lead, through the local ESC to provide Employment Services to impacted workers.

The ESC contacted the employer Friday to inform them of available employment services. At the time, the employer was not sure how many employees would be impacted and agreed to keep in touch once impacts were understood. We understand there is immediate impact to 50 workers who would not report to work the following day. The ESC has attempted to contact the employer but so far have been unsuccessful in obtaining updates.

### CONCLUSION:

At this time no formal community transition team will be implemented due to the population of the community, however ELMSD's Regional Manager is reaching out to the local Mayor, Walt Cobb, and MLA due to the wildfire impacts and it may be deemed necessary to create this transition team due to the impacts to the community.

Pending the discussion with the Mayor, REO and SDPR will adjust the worker and community transition services approach, as needed, in order to provide the City with the provincial or other assistance it needs.

Without confirmation of the number of impacted workers, it is too soon for the ESC to determine whether on-site information sessions to affected workers will be necessary. If it does become necessary, the ESC will collaborate with Service Canada to determine if joint Employment Service and Employment Insurance information sessions may be offered.

## **MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION INFORMATION NOTE**

Given the wildfire impacts plus any impacts from this mill fire, the REO Regional Manager will remain in contact with the City of Williams Lake, Tolko, FLNRO district staff, SDPR and other relevant stakeholders to monitor and assess the need for additional community transition services, based on the needs of the City and the impacted workers. REO and SDPR will continue to share information on the mill fire and provincial actions, on a daily basis, to ensure coordination of provincial efforts.

**Prepared by:**

Geoff Bridge  
Director, Finance  
ELMSD  
250 507-8371

**Reviewing path:**

Val Beaman, Operations Director / Geoff Bridge, A/ED Operations  
/ Chris Brown, ADM ELMSD / Adriana Di Castri, A/Manager, Exec  
Operations / Debi Upton, A/DM SDPR

# Wildfire Fraudulent Claims

## Highlights:

- It was reported on Global that several individuals have had their addresses used to claim financial support intended for wildfire evacuees.

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- duby's ppl
- rxn v. due diligence

## **Attachment #1 - Condition 14 from the Marine Stewardship Council Certification.**

### **Action Plan**

**Year 1:** The province and DFO will form a technical working group (TWG) to review the key inputs, parameters and assumptions of the existing steelhead impact assessment model to improve the understanding of key fisheries, assumptions and parameters that influence projected Interior Fraser (IF) steelhead exposure or impacts in salmon fisheries. TWG may recommend refinements to model as required. This work will include development of fishery profiles that overlay fishing effort and IF steelhead run timing in the various fisheries to evaluate where steelhead impacts are most likely to occur. This could include a retrospective analysis of past years and a sensitivity analysis of key uncertainties and assumptions to provide insight into where most effective measure can be put in place to reduce impacts on steelhead stocks of concern. Incorporation of information from additional studies or analyses that would improve understanding of key model uncertainties will be considered.

The province and DFO will work towards agreement on conservation and management objectives for IF steelhead and other salmon stocks where salmon harvesting may have impacts on IF steelhead. A fishing plan evaluation framework for assessing impacts of alternative fisheries management approaches will be explored.

The potential set of fishery management actions will be consistent with the precautionary approach to management.

Management strategy evaluation via simulation will be used to assess the efficacy of different salmon harvesting approaches on IF steelhead stock recovery and rebuilding.

**Year 2:** The province and DFO will complete a technical and social and economic analysis of proposed management approaches using the agreed-to fishing plan evaluation framework. This evaluation would include consultation with affected parties through existing fisheries advisory and consultative processes. Based on the results of the analysis and feedback from consultations, a plan will be developed that identifies appropriate management objectives and measures to address IF steelhead conservation risk. The plan will include pre-agreed indicators to evaluate, post-season, the performance of annual management actions relative to plan objectives.

The technical working group will identify research and/or data collection initiatives that could assist in addressing key uncertainties in the emerging management framework.

**Year 3:** Report on implementation of the management measures developed in year 2 using defined performance indicators. Consider further refinements to the management measures and fishery timing/closures/methods as required to ensure that performance targets are achieved.

**Year 4:** Final report on implementation of the management plan and annual reporting on performance indicators.

Attachment #1: Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Condition 14 for Commercial Chum Salmon Fishery

Attachment #2: Historical estimated spawning abundance of Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead.

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	JF	Nov 14/17
DMO	RM	Nov 14/17
ADM	WT	Nov 11/17
Dir	JP	Nov 3/17
PRGM	MR	Oct 27/17

**Contact:**

*Tom Ethier*

*ADM, Resource Stewardship Division*

*Phone: 250-356-0972*

**Alternate Contact:**

*Jennifer Psyllakis*

*Director Fish and Wildlife, Victoria:*

*Phone: 250-87-5657*

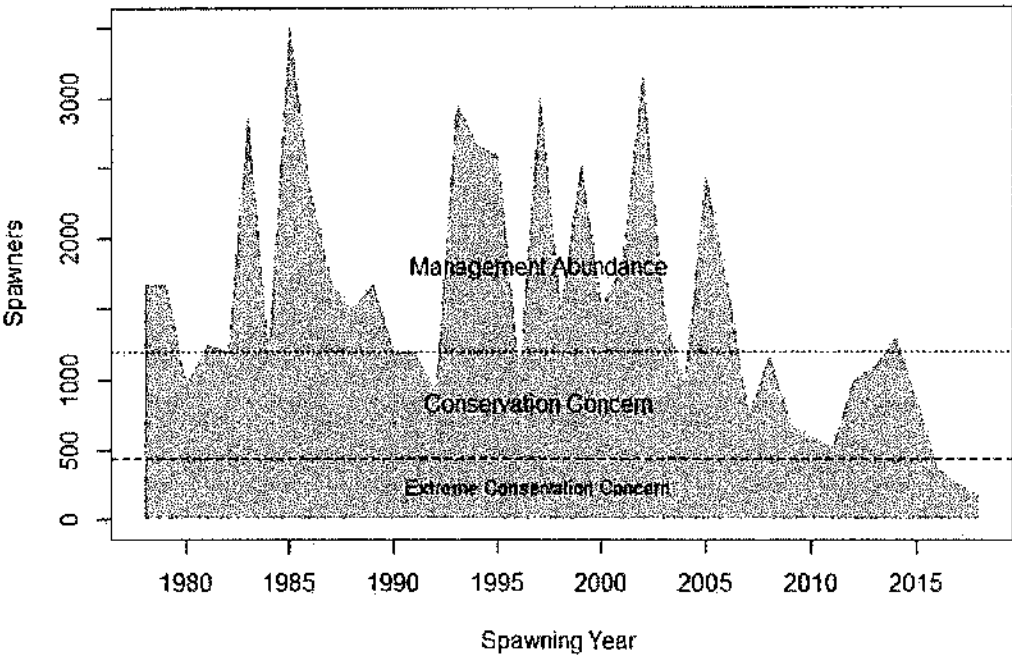
**Prepared by:**

*Name: Greg Andrusak*

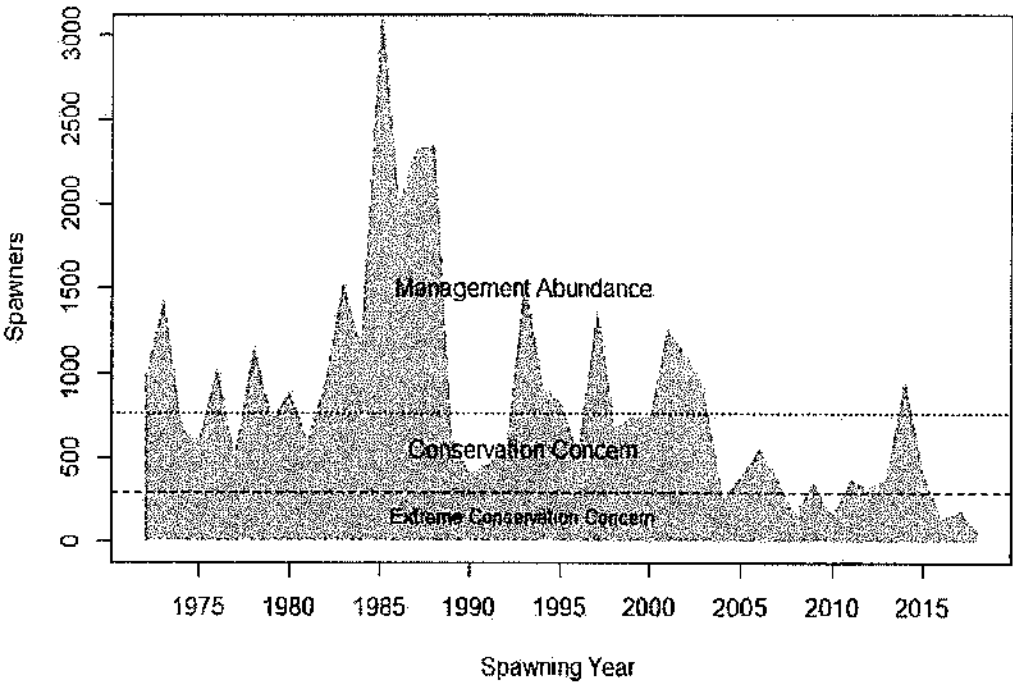
*Fish and Wildlife Branch, Victoria*

*Phone: 250-953-4763*

**Attachment #2 - Historical estimated spawning abundance of Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead.**



**Figure 1. The estimated spawning abundances of Thompson River steelhead in relation to conservation reference points. The last data point illustrates the expected spawner abundance for this season's return which will spawn in the spring of 2018.**



**Figure 2. The estimated spawning abundances of Chilcotin River steelhead in relation to conservation reference points. The last data point illustrates the expected spawner abundance for this season's return which will spawn in the spring of 2018.**



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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release  
2017FLNR0350-001809  
Oct. 25, 2017

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

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### **Call for proposals: funding available to manage urban deer**

VICTORIA – The B.C. government is providing up to \$100,000 to local governments and First Nations communities to help fund urban deer management projects under the 2017-18 Provincial Urban Deer Cost-share Program.

Communities and First Nations involved in urban deer activities or research into population control methods are invited to submit a funding application on or before Nov. 17, 2017.

A copy of the 2017-18 Urban Deer Cost-share Program Application Guide is available at:  
<http://ow.ly/SrHp30g849j>

Eligible proposals will be evaluated by members of the Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee and successful proponents will be advised of the results in December. The Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee includes representatives from the Province, local governments, the Union of B.C. Municipalities and the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The Provincial Urban Deer Cost-Share Program fund priority projects that:

- Address human-deer conflict in areas where traditional deer management techniques are not appropriate.
- Are consistent with objectives that have been developed through a community-based planning process.
- Have a resolution of support from the local government's council or board or Indian Band's/First Nation's chief and council.
- Are compliant with all applicable laws and by-laws and adequately manage all human safety, environmental and animal welfare risks.
- Are in accordance with a permit issued under the Wildlife Act (or any other statute).
- Are technically sound, feasible and commit to reporting.
- Are scientifically rigorous (if a research project).
- Provide matching funds (from the local government, First Nation or any partners).

#### **Quick Facts:**

- There are about 135,000 mule deer, 128,000 black-tail deer and more than 100,000 white-tail deer in B.C.
- The Province manages deer in B.C. and authorizes municipalities to undertake urban deer management actions.
- The Province supports municipalities by providing technical advice, regulatory authority, necessary permits, specialized equipment and other management tools.



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## FACTSHEET

September 2017

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

### Urban deer management in B.C.

- The province is committed to helping local communities throughout B.C. manage deer and other wild animals in urban environments.
- In some areas, urban deer have become a safety concern due to the growing number of conflicts between people and pets, increases in deer-related automobile collisions and the tendency of urban deer to attract predators such as cougars.
- Since every community has a different geography, deer population and capacity for dealing with urban wildlife, solutions can vary depending on specific conditions and local attitudes.
- Ministry staff help communities manage urban deer conflicts by taking part in planning committees, providing technical advice, developing hunting regulations, issuing permits to manage urban deer populations and loaning equipment to communities, when available and as required.
- Local governments experiencing urban deer issues are encouraged to develop detailed community management plans that include resident opinion surveys, deer population estimates, "no-feeding" bylaws, signage and educational initiatives outlining various conflict reduction strategies.
- Some communities have opted for limited culls as a way of reducing populations to a level where non-lethal management tools, such as fencing and the removal of attractants (ready sources of food) can be used more effectively.
  - As part of their deer management plans, communities must make full use of healthy deer carcasses resulting from these culls, for example by donating the meat to First Nations, local food banks or other charitable groups. Guidelines are available to ensure human health is protected.
  - Wildlife experts advise that capturing deer in modified collapsible Clover traps and euthanizing them with a bolt gun is the safest, most efficient and most humane method of deer reduction in urban areas.
  - Modified Clover traps, which resemble oversized hockey nets, are placed in secluded locations to reduce stress on deer. To further reduce stress, deer are not trapped during daylight.
  - Culls are conducted by trained contractors and meat must be processed by a qualified butcher. Organizations accepting wild game meat may distribute it to the public but may not sell it.

- Once a community has determined it wants to reduce its urban deer population, many would prefer there were effective, non-lethal strategy of doing so. Commonly referenced strategies include translocation and fertility control but both have inherent barriers to their success, which makes it impossible for provincial wildlife biologists to recommend them at this time.
  - **Translocation**
    - There are multiple concerns with translocation, including significant welfare issues with high deer injury and death associated with capture, transport and after release, unfamiliarity and competition with other deer in the release areas and the potential for disease transmission.
    - Deer are widely established in B.C., translocations are not expected to have any significant ecological benefits.
    - As translocated animals make widely dispersive movements, the relocation of urban deer to new areas risks relocating the problem to new areas.
    - Relocated deer are unfamiliar with their new habitat and are more prone to predation.
    - These concerns, particularly the humane aspects, result in poor social and ecological values of moving deer.
    - A mule deer translocation trial project is underway in BC, using updated methods to reduce risk to the deer and communities. When the results are analyzed, wildlife managers may consider this technique in areas considered suitable.
  - **Fertility control**
    - Fertility control does not reduce the population immediately. If immediate population reduction is desired, other techniques (such as culling) must be implemented as a component of the overall management action.
    - For any long term change in population numbers and growth, 70-90% of females must be captured, treated by fertility control and monitored.
    - Immunocontraceptives are not routinely available and their use is limited to research that is approved by Health Canada.
    - Females can be surgically sterilized, but this procedure is invasive, complicated and only possible under strict research protocols.

Contact: Media Relations  
 Ministry of Forests, Lands and  
 Natural Resource Operations  
 250 356-5261

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
INFORMATION NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural  
Resource Operations and Rural Development**

**ISSUE:** Opportunities for the granting of new tenures in the Okanagan Timber Supply Area (TSA)

**BACKGROUND:**


Several communities within the Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District have expressed an interest in the granting of new volume or area based tenures. Although the Chief Forester has yet to complete the current Timber Supply Review (TSR), based on historic cut levels (see Table 1, below) and the reduction of elevated Mountain Pine Beetle related harvesting, tenure opportunities appear very limited

**DISCUSSION**

**Table 1.0 History of Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) level in the Okanagan TSA**

Year	AAC (m3/yr)	Comment
1980	2,700,000	----
1987	2,804,000	----
1993	3,200,000	MPB Uplift
1994	2,615,000	Post MPB reduction
2001	2,655,000	Reduction maintained
2006	3,375,000	MPB Uplift
2012	3,100,000	Partial MPB reduction
2018	To be Determined	Likely further reduction

**Table 2.0 Current (2017) AAC Commitments – Okanagan TSA**

Tenure Category	AAC (m3/yr)	Percentage
Major Licences	2,100,952	69.6
First Nation Commitments	257,272	8.5
BCTS	604,087	20.0
Forest Service Reserve	49,338	1.6
Woodlot Expansion	8,000	0.3
Note: Tenures currently issued total to a higher AAC due to "carry forward" of FN volume during tenure negotiations. 		

**ATTACHMENT: UBCM 2017 BRIEFING NOTE**

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO	RM	17-11-20

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**BRIEFING NOTE FOR 2017 UBCM CONVENTION**

**I PREPARED FOR:**

**Minister Donaldson Meeting with District of Sicamous, City of Enderby and  
Splatshin First Nation**

**II ISSUE:**

Establishment of a New Community Forest Agreement – North Okanagan

**III BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

- The District of Sicamous has entered into a MOU with the City of Enderby and Splatshin First Nation for the mutual benefits relating to the establishment of a regional community forest.
- Council wishes to discuss business and social objectives in connection with the Community Forest Agreement (CFA).

s.22

**IV**

Mark T. Hopkins, RPF  
September 6, 2017

s.13

Forestry, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural  
Development

1. General Pivots
2. Wildfires Main Message
3. Rural Development Main Message
4. Ranchers and Wildfire
5. Okanagan Lake Flooding
6. Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt
7. FISH FARMS

8. Hunting
9. Contractors
10. Defect  
vessels
11. EA - constit

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12. Salvage logging
13. Recovery

s.13

14. Log exports

15. Moose  
hunt - caribou

16. Prussy

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## Forestry Recovery

### Background:

- The unprecedented wildfires this year have place strain on the already struggling forestry sector.
- Wildfires have already destroyed 53 million cubic metres of timber this year.
- The softwood sector had already been struggling for years due to neglect on the part of the BC liberals as well as pine beetle infestations in the Interior.

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DUPLICATE

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## Wildfires Main Message

**Issue:** Wildfires throughout Interior British Columbia have forced the evacuations of thousands and the destruction of hundreds of buildings.

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Page 110 to/à Page 114

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## Ranchers and Wildfires

**Issue:** As ranchers return to areas affected by the wildfires, they will be seeking assistance from the BC government

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## Okanagan Lake Flooding

**Issue:** The opposition has criticized the ministry for failing to do enough to prevent the flood situation and historic high lake levels on Okanagan Lake.

s.13



## Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt

**Issue:** The decision to end the trophy hunt of grizzly bears at the end of the Fall hunt has angered guide outfitters who rely on the hunt for their livelihoods.

## Fish Farms

### Highlights:

- There have been ongoing occupations of Fish Farms in the Broughton Archipelago and concurrent protests at several MLA constituency offices over the previous month.
- Protesters are calling for the provincial and/or federal governments to remove all fish farms from the BC coast.

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## Fish Farms

### Background:

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- Through direct and spinoff jobs, the sector employs 5,000 jobs according to the BC Salmon Farmers Association.
- Occupations of Marine Harvest fish farms at Swanson and Midsummer Islands in the Broughton Archipelago began in August after about 300,000 salmon escaped a fish farm net in the San Juan Islands.
- Hereditary Chief Willie Moon from Musgamagw Dzawda'enuxw and Hereditary Chief Ernest Alfred from Nagmis, Lawit'sis and Mamlilikala have been occupying the sites throughout and observing Marine Harvest Operations.
- David Suzuki has stayed overnight with the chiefs and has amplified their requests.
- On October 10, the Premier, as well as Ministers Popham, Fraser and Trevena visited Alert Bay to discuss and listen to feedback from First Nations about fish farms.
- On October 13, Marine Harvest began restocking operations at sites in the area of the occupations.
- On October 13, the Minister of Agriculture sent a letter to Marine Harvest requesting that they consider the potential negative impacts to their business if they restock farms with only eight months before they are up for renewal.
- 2016's Fraser River sockeye salmon run is reported to be the lowest, or among the lowest, ever.
- The original 2016 forecast of 2.3 million is much lower than the last 50 year average, of about 4 million. Returns thus far suggest only ½ of those forecast to return, are doing so. In contrast,
- To preserve stocks, the federal government has closed the Fraser River sockeye fishery to commercial and recreational fisheries. 40,000 sockeye have been allocated to First Nations for food, social and ceremonial purposes.

## Fish Farms

**Issue:** As of September 1, 2017 two fish farms are being occupied by First Nations. The protestors say they won't leave until the government revokes the permits.

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## Wildfire Recovery – Hunting

### Background:

- Wildfires burning in the interior since July have affected the habitats of many game animals throughout British Columbia.
- There have been a couple reports of moose killed by the fire, a few wild horses and one bear.
- Tsilhqot'in Chief Joe Alphonse called for a halt to the moose hunt this year.

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**Renneberg, Tim PREM:EX**

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**From:** Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 12:59 PM  
**To:** Renneberg, Tim PREM:EX; McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX  
**Cc:** Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Jones, Tristan FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** Wildfires & Hunting Closures  
**Attachments:** 230825-Wildlife management-2017 wildfire circumstances-EWN.doc; Notice to Hunters Wildfire Bans and Restrictions v02.docx

s.13

Hi! Further to the minister's request, the attached early warning note and "notice to hunters" provide good background information. Suggested messages:

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Cheers,

Vivian  
250 356-2475

s.13,s.16



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## Confidential Issues Note

### ADVICE TO MINISTER

<b>Ministry:</b> PSSG/Emergency Management BC <b>Date Updated:</b> Nov. 6, 2017 <b>Minister Responsible:</b> Minister Farnworth	<b><i>EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES &amp; PAYMENT DELAYS</i></b>
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#### ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- This has been an extraordinary fire season, and there have been more evacuees during this emergency than at any other time in our province's history.
- Many businesses registered with local authorities to become Emergency Social Services vendors, and private residents acted as billets to assist those in need. It is our priority to make sure that they are reimbursed for the goods and services they provided to displaced British Columbians.

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- Normally only one EMBC employee handles this processing, but because of the huge increase in need, there are now sixteen employees on our finance team that are processing these claims.
- We continue to make every effort to process claims as quickly as possible, and we are looking at all possible ways to increase the speed of processing even further.
- We have also set up an information line for claims related to Emergency Social Services. Staff are currently available to assist from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at 1-800-585-9559

#### FIRE SEASON REVIEW:

- Emergency Management BC estimates that **65,000** people were displaced by wildfire this year, compared to the **45,000** displaced in the 2003 fire season.
  - And thousands more (2500) were forced from their homes by flooding.
- This season has also been extraordinary in its length, intensity, and widespread impacts as compared to the 2003 season, which means that evacuees have needed care in many locations and for unprecedented amounts of time.
  - The 2003 fire season burned **260,000 hectares**, while this year's season has already burned more than four times that amount: **1.2 million hectares**.
  - The last provincial declaration of Emergency was in 2003, which lasted **43 days (6 weeks) from August 2 to September 14, 2003**. This year's Provincial Declaration of Emergency, **put in place on July 7, 2017, reached 70 days when it expired on September 15, 2017 (10 weeks)**.

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**BACKGROUND:**

During Question Period on Oct. 30 and 31, MLAs Donna Barnett (Cariboo-Chilcotin) and Todd Stone (Kamloops-South Thompson) raised the issue of the backlog of payments – both by the BC Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC – to contractors and individuals that provided services/support during the 2017 wildfire season. The backlog has been due to the volume of invoices given the record-breaking wildfire season.

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Page 130

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## Wildfire Contractors

### Highlights:

- MLA Donna Barnett raised a question in the house regarding payments to companies contracted during the wildfire season. The MLA says small businesses all over the region have been writing her to say they have yet to be paid by the government.
- She says one company alone is still owed over \$232,000.
- Minister Farnworth met with MLA Barnett on October 26. She raised concerns about companies not being paid. She was asked to provide names to the Ministry staff so that Ministry staff could connect with the companies and work to resolve the issue.
- To date she has not provided any company or individual names.

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Page 132 to/à Page 133

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**Background:**

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- The two busiest fire centres this year have been the Cariboo Fire Centre and the Kamloops Fire Centre. They have now processed all invoices received by Oct. 16, 2017, apart from a few where additional information is needed from those contractors to process them.
- Over 30 staff are working on these invoices to reduce the remaining backlog and get payments to contractors and local businesses as soon as possible.
- More than \$462.9 million has been paid out so far this season.
- Of the 31,260 invoices paid to date, 25,070 (or 80%) have been paid within 30 days and 6,190 over the 30 days



## ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL  
ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural  
Resource Operations and Rural Development  
Date: Sept. 12, 2017 – *updated Sept 18*  
Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

s.13

# Wildfire invoice backlogs

## ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- This is an exceptional and record-breaking fire season.
- As always, the Province relied on – and is grateful for – all the contractors and local businesses and the important job they have been doing to help British Columbians.
- It's estimated that about 800 contractors provided services during the wildfires.
- It's a priority for the BC Wildfire Service to make sure these people are paid for the great work they did.
- That's why the BC Wildfire Service has significantly increased the staff complement available to process invoices by deploying extra resources, having staff work overtime hours, and processing payments remotely. <sup>s.13</sup>
- *model* → There are over 50 staff working on these invoices to reduce the backlog and get these payments to contractors and local businesses as soon as possible.
- More than \$248 million has already been paid out for this season, and just over this past weekend, a further 1,000 invoices were processed.
- Of the 14,851 invoices paid, 12,220 have been paid within 30 days and 2,631 over the 30 days. <sup>s.13</sup>

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## KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

The Opposition is critical of government for a backlog of unpaid wildfire bills for contracted services – both by the BC Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC.

The backlog is due to the sheer volume of invoices given the record-breaking wildfire season.

Communications Contact:	Brett Lowther	250 356-6998
Program Area Contact:	Mary Myers	250 387-5583
File Location: programs\2017\wildfires and prevention		

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL  
ISSUES NOTE

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

Date: Sept. 12, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

# Wildfire invoice backlogs

s.13

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- As always, the Province relied on – and is grateful for – all the contractors and local businesses and the important job they have been doing to help British Columbians.
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- It's a priority for the BC Wildfire Service to make sure these people are paid for the great work they did.
- That's why the BC Wildfire Service has significantly increased the staff complement available to process invoices by deploying extra resources, having staff work overtime hours, and processing payments remotely.
- There are over 50 staff working on these invoices to reduce the backlog and get these payments to contractors and local businesses as soon as possible.
- More than \$200 million has already been paid out for this season, and just over this past weekend, more than 1,000 invoices were processed.
- Of the 12,974 invoices paid, 10,567 have been paid within 30 days and 2,407 over the 30 days.

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## KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

The Opposition is critical of government for a backlog of unpaid wildfire bills for contracted services – both by the BC Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC.

The backlog is due to the sheer volume of invoices given the record-breaking wildfire season.

Communications Contact:	Brett Lowther	250 356-6998
Program Area Contact:	Mary Myers	250 387-5583
File Location: programs\2017\wildfires and prevention		

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## **Renneberg, Tim PREM:EX**

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**From:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 12:55 PM  
**To:** Renneberg, Tim PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Brown, Tom G TRAN:EX  
**Subject:** MLA liaison request

**Importance:** High

s.13

### **Requests**

1. MLA Cariboo North, Oakes **50 requests via MLA Liaison**
2. MLA Fraser-Nicola, Tegar **60 requests via MLA Liaison**
3. MLA Cariboo-Chilcoton, Barnett **14 requests via MLA Liaison** (note she was on virtually every single call and was calling PREOCs direct which is a breach of protocol, interferes directly with operations and ability to execute)
4. MLA Prince George-Valemont, Bond **19 requests via MLA Liaison**
5. MLA group requests (from am call) **12**

### **Matt Gordon**

Corporate Executive Lead  
Joint Information Centre  
Emergency Management BC  
Government of British Columbia  
250.896.4923

**From:** Renneberg, Tim PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2017 5:37 PM  
**To:** Jones, Lisa FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** One other request

Can someone scroll through the MLA liaison reports to find out:

- A) How many times each MLA attended briefings
- B) How many times each MLA asked questions

**CONFIDENTIAL  
RESOLUTION ISSUES NOTE**

**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource  
Operations and Rural Development  
Date: Sept. 12, 2017  
Minister Responsible: Doug Donaldson**

**Derelict Vessels**

s.13,s.16

**KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:**

The authority to manage these issues rests on a complex legal framework involving three federal agencies - Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard and Environment Canada.

Although the federal government has regulatory authority over vessels, the Ministry of Forests, Lands

and Natural Resource Operations is the lead provincial agency in the management of derelict structures, illegal docks and unauthorized float homes.

The role of the provincial Ministry of Environment overlaps with that of Environment Canada for ocean-based issues, while the Province's environmental role is much clearer when dealing with issues in freshwater locations.

In some cases local authorities may be granted the ability to manage structures that are not recognized as vessels by the federal government.

A "Joint Working Group for the Removal of Derelict Vessels" with membership from Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Transport Canada, UBCM and Islands Trust has been working together to discuss issues and opportunities to move the file forward, and a central inventory of abandoned and derelict vessels has been completed. The ministry has developed a paper to clarify roles. It is available online at: [http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/land-water-use/crown-land/dealing\\_with\\_problem\\_vessels\\_and\\_structures.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/land-water-use/crown-land/dealing_with_problem_vessels_and_structures.pdf)

Information on the federal Abandoned Boats Program is available at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/abandoned-boats-program.html>

Communications Contact:	Vivian Thomas	Office: 250 356-2475
Program Area Contact:	Duncan Williams	Office: 250 387-1810
Date:	Sept 12, 2017	

## EA in Constituency Office

**Issue:** Opposition may ask about EAs working out of constituency offices, claiming it is partisan work.

s.13

Donaldson



## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural  
Resource Operations and Rural Development  
Date: Sept. 18, 2017  
Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

## Wildfire Salvage Logging

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### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

A Sept 15<sup>th</sup> article in the 100 Mile House Free Press claims that salvaging timber by BC Timber Sales may not start until next summer. For BC Timber Sales, the timeline refers to the time it will take to do field assessments, layout, stakeholder referral, consultation and to make sure other agency permissions are in place which is not anticipated until next summer.

BC Timber Sales is one agency with the ministry. Within the meantime, regional and district forestry staff are working closely with forest companies to expedite cutting permit approvals and defining the scope of salvage opportunities.

Opposition MLA Donna Barnett is also raising concerns about potential delays in harvesting salvageable timber following this summer's wildfires. Barnett is asking Minister Donaldson to expedite the process to salvage timber as the shelf life of the burned timber is not long.

Communications Contact:	Brett Lowther	250 356-6998
Program Area Contact:	Ken Vanderburgh	
File Location: programs\2017\wildfires and prevention		

## **Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX**

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**From:** Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 7:46 AM  
**To:** Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX; Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX; McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** Wildfire Recovery - supportive

### **Quesnel Mayor takes on local MLA over newspaper comments**

Quesnel Cariboo Observer

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

By Bob Simpson

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Page 146 to/à Page 147

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## Wildfire Emergency Lifted

### Background:

- The state of emergency was lifted at midnight on Friday, September 15.
- MLA Coralee Oakes was critical of this decision.
- The state of emergency was declared on July 7, 2017, and extended four times over the nine weeks that followed.
- During this wildfire season, approximately 65,000 people evacuated from their homes.
- Households and business owners in fire-stricken communities are dealing with significant losses.

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
017FLNR0291-001587  
Sept. 15, 2017

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

### Province to work with communities on wildfire recovery

VICTORIA – Even as firefighters continue to battle blazes throughout the province, the British Columbia government is already implementing a long-term plan to recover from this year's unprecedented wildfire activity and support affected British Columbians.

Now that the provincial state of emergency ends at midnight tonight (Pacific time), the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is assuming leadership from Emergency Management BC for government's long-term wildfire recovery efforts. The government's plan incorporates the following four key components:

1. **People and Communities:** examining a range of social services required, based on community need, such as long-term mental-health support;
2. **Economy:** identifying short-, medium- and long-term recovery supports for the small business, tourism and resource-based sectors;
3. **Environment:** providing co-ordinated support for land-based recovery operations, such as reforestation; and
4. **Infrastructure and Reconstruction:** identifying recovery supports for local governments and First Nations in their direct recovery of infrastructure losses, with a focus on longer-term mitigation and adaptation.

Regional economic officers based in communities that include Quesnel, Kamloops and Vernon are working closely with communities affected by wildfires in the Cariboo, Thompson and Kootenay regions to ensure people and communities have access to the services they need.

Throughout the recovery process, there will be ongoing engagement with local governments, First Nations and sector stakeholders.

Supports and assistance programs established to date include the following:

- The British Columbia government has provided \$100 million to the Canadian Red Cross. These funds are being used to assist people who have been evacuated from their homes. To date, \$21 million has been provided to 52,000 individuals. Emergency assistance grants of \$1,500 each are also being distributed to eligible small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in evacuated areas and areas impacted by highway closures.
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development staff are working closely with the forestry sector and are issuing salvage licences and expediting cutting permits to help people in the industry get back to work as quickly as possible.
- Forestry staff are assessing impacts of this year's fires on the timber supply and prioritizing areas for reforestation.



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### **Some campfire prohibitions rescinded:**

- Effective at noon on Sept. 7, 2017, campfires were once again allowed throughout the Northwest Fire Centre.
- Effective at noon on Sept. 7, 2017, campfires were once again allowed throughout the Prince George Fire Centre.
- Effective at noon on Aug. 25, the Coastal Fire Centre rescinded its campfire ban in certain areas of the Central Coast region only: the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine and the Central Coast Regional District (with the exception of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park).
- More information about current campfire bans and open burning prohibitions, including maps showing affected areas, is available in the "Information Bulletins" section of the BC Wildfire Service website at [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)

### **ORV restrictions on Crown land**

- Effective at noon Pacific time on Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, the operation of any off-road vehicle for recreational purposes on Crown land was prohibited throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre, Kamloops Fire Centre and Southeast Fire Centre.
- This step was taken to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public safety. The operation of any off-road vehicles in these regions during the current wildfire situation creates a potential wildfire risk.
- In addition, while Jeeps, trucks and other on-highway vehicles are permitted on designated roads, they are not allowed off-road.
- The prohibition of off-road vehicles and on-highway vehicles does not apply to private lands or national parks. It also does not apply to emergency responders or to agriculture or commercial/ industrial users who operate vehicles for farming, emergency response or business purposes.
- Anyone found in contravention of this off-road vehicle prohibition may be issued a violation ticket in the amount of \$767. If the contravention causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs.



The BC Wildfire Service is continually monitoring conditions and this prohibition may be expanded or rescinded as needed.

- To report an off-road violation, call the RAPP line at: 1 877 952-7277
- An FAQ about the ORV closures is available online at [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)

### **Out-of-province firefighting assistance:**

- More than 1,600 BC Wildfire Service firefighters and support staff were in place for the 2017 fire season.
- The B.C. government is also able to call on over 2,500 private contractor firefighting resources and a multitude of contingency resources.
- We are continuously bringing in additional assistance from the forest industry, other provinces and territories in Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces, local fire departments and other countries to ensure that we have the capacity to continue managing the wildfire situation throughout B.C.
- Out-of-province personnel in B.C. as of **Sept. 11, 2017** included:
  - international personnel:

- Australia 45
- Mexico 147
- personnel from other provinces and territories:
  - Alberta 17
  - New Brunswick 17
  - Newfoundland 5
  - NWT 1
  - Ontario 259
  - PEI 2
  - Quebec 55
  - Yukon 9
- The cost of bringing in firefighting personnel (firefighters, wildfire management professionals, support staff) and aircraft from other provinces or countries is covered by the B.C. government.
- Requests for international resources are co-ordinated through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC). Firefighting crews are trained to CIFFC standards.

#### **Nighttime aerial firefighting (airtankers and helicopters):**

- \* • The BC Wildfire Service works continually to ensure that the most appropriate equipment is available to protect our natural resources and communities from wildfire risks.
- \* • Night vision technology for firefighting operations has not been tested in Canada yet, but this is something that the BC Wildfire Service would be interested in exploring in future.
- \* • The BC Wildfire Service would need to work closely with Transport Canada on any such project, since it is the regulatory agency for aircraft in Canada.

#### **Using fire to fight fire (controlled burns)**

- One of the essential and effective tools that the BC Wildfire Service uses to help contain very large wildfires is controlled fire. Controlled burn techniques are sometimes referred to as planned ignitions, controlled burn-offs, controlled burn-outs or backfiring.
- When the decision is made to conduct such a burn operation, the wildfire is usually beyond the initial attack stage. Whether the BC Wildfire Service is "burning out", "burning off" or "backfiring", the goal is always the same: to remove majority of available fuel so that the wildfire has nothing left to burn.
- Burning off and burning out are carried out on wildfires to enhance the overall safety, efficiency and effectiveness of fire management efforts.
- The first priority with these operations is always safety. Controlled burns must provide for the safety of personnel, the public, equipment and all nearby values. Potential hazards must be identified, assessed and mitigated with the ignition plan.
- Burn-off operations are always supported with appropriate resources such as aircraft, heavy equipment and firefighters. This way, if a burn escapes, it can be dealt with right away.

*not taken  
lightly*

*Controlled  
support*

public safety  
responder safety

- Given the aggressive behaviour that we've seen on many wildfires in 2017, there is a potential for escaped fires, but that potential would also exist if we did not conduct burnoffs.

wildlife  
communities  
can

### Wildlife/Hunting

**-Given the destruction of the fires, is the province considering the call to stop the hunt this year?**

- The ministry is committed to working with First Nations on understanding the specific impacts to wildlife from this summer's wildfires and ensuring hunting in the Cariboo in managed sustainably.
- To protect moose populations in the Cariboo, existing measures in place since 2016 include a limited entry hunt for bull moose only. This is in addition to the reduction in LEH authorizations issued and the closure of the September moose season for the Chilcotin.

TNG  
wildlife  
communities

**Are there estimates on wildlife lost (moose or other species)? How is that estimate determined?**

- As part of post-wildfire response and recovery, the ministry is currently assessing impacts on wildlife habitat and other forest values (e.g. old growth management areas) within fire perimeters.
- With respect to specific impacts on wildlife, it is very difficult to get an accurate assessment of wildlife lost to wildfire. However, wildlife generally try to stay away from wildfire, so the impact is likely not significant.
- There are approximately 200 radio-collared cow moose in the Central Interior (approximately 40 in the Cariboo region). None have died due to wildfires.
- Animals will generally escape, and smaller burrowing animals go underground to depths where temperatures are normal even when the surface temperature is several hundred degrees.
- There are short- and long-term benefits, depending on fire severity, that wildfire can have on wildlife habitat, and the Province prescribes burns frequently to improve wildlife habitat.



**-Or, if there is no estimate, is there anecdotal evidence of animals destroyed?**

- There are only a handful of reports of wildlife that have become victims of the wildfires during this unprecedented wildfire season, including one black bear, some wild horses in the Chilcotin and a couple of moose in the Cariboo regions.
- Franzmann and Schwartz's 2007 textbook "Ecology and Management of the North American Moose 2nd edition" suggests that direct mortality of moose from wildfires is low: "The extent of incidental mortality of moose to natural or



prescribed fires is unknown, but generally is believed to be insignificant." It further adds, "The fact that some animals are killed by fire or forced to move invariably is of lesser importance than the long-term improvements in moose range that fire normally creates...."

**-How many moose hunting licences were issued this year? Is there a restriction or limit on the number of moose allowed to be killed this season?**

- A high degree of management actions are already in place for the Cariboo moose hunt, including a limited entry hunt for bull moose only and compulsory inspections for all moose harvest in the Chilcotin wildlife management units. This is in addition to the 2016 reduction in the number of limited entry hunt authorizations issued and the closure of the September moose season for much of the Chilcotin that has been in place since 2016.
- There is no licenced moose hunting in September in those portions of the Cariboo most affected by wildfires. As well, the September moose LEH season in the Cariboo region in most areas west of the Fraser River was closed in 2016.
- Notably, roughly 60% of the moose in the Cariboo region available for harvest have been set aside for First Nations to meet their food, social and ceremonial needs. Of the remaining 40%, 75% are allocated to resident hunters and 25% to guide outfitters.
- In 2017, there was a total of 2,423 moose LEH authorizations issued to resident hunters in the Cariboo Region; however, most of these areas were not significantly impacted by wildfire.
- The portion of the region most impacted by wildfire is the Chilcotin (west of the Fraser River). In the Chilcotin area, there were a total of 1,040 moose LEH authorizations issued to resident hunters.
- It is important to note that not all licenced hunters are successful and while harvest rates vary year-to-year, on average, only one-third of LEH authorizations are successful.
- There is compulsory inspection for all moose harvests in the Chilcotin (WMU 5-3 to 5-6 and 5-10 to 5-14). This data, in conjunction with our annual inventory work, allows the ministry to set LEH authorizations and guide quotas at levels to ensure a sustainable harvest of the region's moose populations.

how many killed

**-How much of the hunting territory is actually accessible given the number of area restrictions in place?**

- In the interest of public safety, area restrictions are in place around active wildfires, or in areas of extreme fire danger rating in the Cariboo, Kootenay Boundary and Thompson regions.

- These restrictions under the *Wildfire Act*, which apply to all members of the public, including hunters, go beyond what ministry wildlife biologists believe to be necessary for sustainable wildlife management.
- They include evacuation orders, backcountry access restrictions and off road vehicles closures. (<https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/latest-news/>, <http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp>, <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/>, <http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/planning-your-trip/>)
- If these restrictions are lifted before the end of the fall hunting season, wildlife biologists will reassess the situation to ensure the appropriate regulations are in place to protect wildlife.

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## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release  
2017FLNR0291-001587  
Sept. 15, 2017

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

### Province to work with communities on wildfire recovery

VICTORIA – Even as firefighters continue to battle blazes throughout the province, the British Columbia government is already implementing a long-term plan to recover from this year's unprecedented wildfire activity and support affected British Columbians.

Now that the provincial state of emergency ends at midnight tonight (Pacific time), the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is assuming leadership from Emergency Management BC for government's long-term wildfire recovery efforts. Government's plan incorporates the following four key components:

1. **People and Communities:** examining a range of social services required, based on community need, such as long-term mental-health support;
2. **Economy:** identifying short-, medium- and long-term recovery supports for the small business, tourism and resource-based sectors;
3. **Environment:** providing co-ordinated support for land-based recovery operations, such as reforestation; and
4. **Infrastructure and Reconstruction:** identifying recovery supports for local governments and First Nations in their direct recovery of infrastructure losses, with a focus on longer-term mitigation and adaptation.

Regional economic officers based in communities that include Quesnel, Kamloops and Invermere are working closely with communities affected by wildfires in the Cariboo, Thompson and Kootenay regions to ensure people and communities have access to the services they need.

Throughout the recovery process, there will be ongoing engagement with local governments, First Nations and sector stakeholders.

Supports and assistance programs established to date include the following:

- The British Columbia government has provided \$100 million to the Canadian Red Cross. These funds are being used to assist people who have been evacuated from their homes. To date, \$21 million has been provided to 52,000 individuals. Emergency assistance grants of \$1,500 each are also being distributed to eligible small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in evacuated areas and areas impacted by highway closures.
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development staff are working closely with the forestry sector and are issuing salvage licences and expediting cutting permits to help people in the industry get back to work as quickly as possible.
- Forestry staff are assessing impacts of this year's fires on the timber supply and prioritizing areas for reforestation.



- The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture is providing \$200,000 each to the Cariboo-Chilcotin Tourism Association, the Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Association and the Kootenay Rockies Tourism Association to help support tourism businesses in those regions.
- Together, the provincial and federal governments have committed \$20 million to agricultural producers. The AgriRecovery initiative will help B.C. ranchers recover from their losses, return to their land and their livelihoods, and continue to contribute to B.C.'s economy. This funding is in addition to the \$6 million that the Province is already spending to replace damaged fencing along highways and on Crown rangeland. An estimated 450 kilometres of fencing on Crown land has been damaged or destroyed by fire this year.
- Support for ranchers includes assistance with the relocation of livestock, emergency feed supplies, replacement of breeding stock, reseeding of rangeland and arranging for alternative grazing areas.
- Damaged infrastructure is being repaired. For example, BC Hydro has restored power to over 61,400 customers affected by wildfires and repaired 519 power poles, 118 cross arms, 378 spans of wire, 67 transformers and 59 transmission structures. BC Hydro also implemented a Wildfire Evacuee Assistance Program to provide bill credits and flexible payment plans for residential and commercial customers affected by evacuation orders and evacuation alerts.
- Public safety assessments (e.g., forest service roads, recreation sites and trails, danger trees, lost structures) are continuing.

A summary of wildfire recovery programs implemented to date is available online: [www.gov.bc.ca/wildfirerecovery](http://www.gov.bc.ca/wildfirerecovery)

The provincial government will continue to work closely with the federal government's ad-hoc cabinet committee on federal recovery efforts for 2017 B.C. wildfires.

With B.C.'s state of emergency set to expire at midnight tonight (Sept. 15, 2017), many communities throughout the province remain under evacuation orders or evacuation alerts. For those communities still facing potential wildfire threats, the Province is responding to those threats to ensure public safety.

#### **Quotes:**

##### **Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development –**

"As we move into recovery from this unprecedented wildfire season, our first priority is helping the people who live in the fire-impacted regions. We will be working with First Nations and local communities to ensure they have what they need from the provincial government to assist in recovering and rebuilding their local economies."

##### **Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Minister Responsible for Emergency Preparedness –**

"Our hearts go out to all the communities impacted by this year's unprecedented wildfire season. I want to reassure all British Columbians that the Province will be there, alongside communities every step of the way, supporting their recovery to successfully rebuild."

**Quick Facts:**

- The provincial state of emergency, the longest in B.C.'s history, was declared on July 7, 2017, and was extended four times.
- As of this morning, 153 wildfires are burning in B.C., with 11 evacuation orders affecting approximately 3,152 individuals, plus 23 evacuation alerts impacting approximately 5,762 people. During this wildfire season, approximately 65,000 people were evacuated from their homes.
- From April 1 to Sept. 15, 2017, 1,256 wildfires have burned 1.19 million hectares. More than \$518.7 million has been spent on direct wildfire management costs.

**Learn More:**

Keep up to date on the wildfire situation in B.C.: [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)

For more information on wildfire recovery, visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/wildfirerecovery](http://www.gov.bc.ca/wildfirerecovery)

**Contact:**

Media Relations  
Government Communications and Public  
Engagement  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources  
Operations and Rural Development  
250 356-5261

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Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

Forstly Innovation Investment  
FP Innovations

Independent Wood Processors  
Association

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

**Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural  
Resource Operations**

**Date: Sept. 14, 2017**

**Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson**

## Log Exports

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### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

On Sept. 13, 2017, the pulp and paper workers union and Ancient Forest Alliance held a rally at Long Ho mill in Errington protesting log exports. The union alleges that log exports were responsible for the mill's closure.

In 2016, about 7.0 million cubic metres of logs had permits to be exported (which may be higher than amount actually exported). The majority of log exports were from the Coast.

The Minister's mandate letter contains the following forestry-related commitments:

- Protect and create jobs by fighting for a fair deal for B.C. wood products in softwood lumber negotiations with the United States.
- Work with communities and industry to develop a fair, lasting strategy to create more jobs by processing more logs in B.C. and to renew our forests by expanding investments in reforestation.
- Expand our innovative wood products sector by addressing regulatory and capital barriers hampering the growth of engineered wood production and work with other ministers to ensure public projects prioritize the use of B.C. wood.

Communications Contact:	Vivian Thomas	250 356-2475
Program Area Contact:	Tim Bogle/John Cook	

programs\2017\Forests\Log Exports

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Page 167 to/à Page 168

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# ADVICE TO MINISTER

June 26, 2014  
3.5 yrs

## CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural  
Resource Operations and Rural Development  
Date: Oct. 17, 2017  
Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

## Moose hunt in the Cariboo

36  
40  
WMS

s.13

### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

The Tsilhqot'in National Government has been urging the provincial government to close the moose hunt in its traditional territories. They are worried about moose populations in light of the summer's wildfires. As well on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, the ?Esdilagh First Nation (and TNG member nation) banned the moose hunt in their traditional territories. Their "closure" overlaps with some of the areas that the Province has closed to hunting. [http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/PDFs/2017\\_10\\_16\\_Esdilagh\\_PressRelease.pdf](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/PDFs/2017_10_16_Esdilagh_PressRelease.pdf)

On Sept. 29, 2017, the Minister closed areas affected by the Plateau (Chilcotin) fires to hunters on motor vehicles and on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> announced the closure of the moose hunt in Cariboo MU 5-13, zones A and C from Oct. 15 to 31 and Nov. 1 to 15. On Oct. 3, the BC Wildlife Federation issued an open letter complaining about motor vehicle restrictions that were implemented under the Wildlife Act to prevent hunters from accessing areas affected by the Elephant Hill fire on ATVs and Plateau (Chilcotin) fire on any motor vehicle.

Communications Contact:	Vivian Thomas	250 356-2475
Program Area Contact:	Michael Burwash	
File Location: programs\2017\Wildlife\Moose Hunt - Cariboo		



## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

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

Date: Oct. 4, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

## Wildfire-related hunting restrictions

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### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

On Oct. 3, the BC Wildlife Federation issued an open letter complaining about motor vehicle restrictions that were implemented under the Wildlife Act to prevent hunters from accessing areas affected by the Elephant Hill fire on ATVs and Plateau (Chilcotin) fire on any motor vehicle.

Under the Wildlife Act, the Minister of FLNRO-RD made these regulation changes on Sept. 29, 2017. The closures are from Sept. 1 to Dec. 10, which coincides with fall hunting season. The BC Wildlife Federation thinks the motor vehicle restrictions should also apply to recreational users and First Nations as well. Under the Constitution, First Nations have an aboriginal right to hunt.

Communications Contact:	Vivian Thomas	250 356-2475
Program Area Contact:		
File Location: programs\2017\wildfires and prevention		

- Science



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Jackie Tegart, MLA  
Fraser-Nicola

October 2, 2017

Minister Doug Donaldson  
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
Hand Delivered

Dear Minister Donaldson:

I have been contacted by a number of constituents requesting that hunting season be cancelled this year in their areas that have been so greatly affected by wildfires this summer.

They are devastated to see hunters come into their regions to hunt wildlife that is sometimes injured from fires, or at the very least disoriented from the devastation to their habitat. The animals do not have the benefit of forest cover in many areas, while access for hunters has been increased through the existence of containment lines that were constructed during the fire.

I appreciate the two motor vehicle restrictions that are being implemented under the Wildlife Act, however do not feel that these restrictions go far enough to protect the wildlife that has been traumatized, and that has lost vital habitat within the Elephant Hill fire area. In any event, it is vitally important that these motor vehicle restrictions be monitored to ensure that they are effective in protecting big game in our areas.

NRO  
COs

The full extent of damage to our wildlife due to the fires is currently unknown. In order to improve wildlife management and habitat conservation, as set out in your mandate letter, a better, more acceptable approach within burned areas this season would be to cancel the big game hunt while developing a wildlife management plan, with input from all stakeholders, and based on biological issues.

I have heard from many people in my region who are very concerned. Please consider taking further steps to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat in our areas for both the short and long term.

Yours truly,

*Jackie Tegart*

MLA Jackie Tegart  
Fraser Nicola

cc MLA John Rustad  
MLA Donna Barnett

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## **Hunting Vehicle Closure Unfairly Targets Residents**

**October 3, 2017 – Surrey, B.C.** – The BCWF is hugely disappointed with a recent change to hunting regulations that restricts licensed resident hunting through vehicle closures in the Cariboo Region of the province.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development issued this hunting regulation change on September 29, 2017, in effect to December 10, 2017. The new regulations prohibit the use of all motor vehicles for the purpose of s.13 licensed hunting within the Chilcotin Plateau and Hanceville-Riske Creek fires in the Cariboo. The Province said this action was taken to protect big game wildlife in areas severely affected by wildfires this summer.

### **Effects of Roads on Wildlife**

First Nations and nearly all recreational and commercial users remain un-impacted by this restriction. If this regulation is for conservation everyone on the land base should be removed, and the roads should be decommissioned and reseeded. The long-lasting legacy of roads, weeds, and habitat loss continue under this announcement. s.13

The effects of roads and linear features on wildlife include: Vectors for invasive and noxious weeds, facilitating the movement of predators, habitat loss and degradation, habitat alienation, and increased sight ability and mortality through hunting. The overwhelming majority of the impacts on wildlife values come from the combination of roads and people.

### **Effects of Hunting on Cariboo Moose Populations**

Resident hunter hunting opportunities for moose in the Cariboo are currently restricted to male (bull) only through a tightly controlled limited entry lottery draw. The resident hunter harvest in the Cariboo has been cut from over 3,000 per year in the 1980s to less than 600 today. Bull cow ratios in all of the Cariboo fire areas are above provincial minimums, and well above conservation-related thresholds. In addition, not one collared cow moose was killed in the fire. There is no scientific rationale that shows hunting by residents will have a meaningful impact for moose populations or wildlife values in the area.

### **The BCWF Calls for Fair Regulation**

The BCWF is disappointed with the political decision to restrict motor vehicle use only for licensed hunters in the Cariboo. The new regulation neglects the long-lasting legacy effects of roads on wildlife values in British Columbia.

Harvey Andrusak, president of the 50,000 member federation said, "Closures targeted at hunting vehicle use only points out that this decision is a purely political measure unsupported by the science." Andrusak notes that political decisions have no place in fish and wildlife management. He said, "This decision undermines the dedicated staff who work in the Ministry and puts into question the very purpose of biologists who work in the government."

The government has stated that it believes fish and wildlife should be managed on the basis of science. Andrusak questions the sincerity of these commitments when recent decisions on grizzly bears and now Cariboo Region moose and mule deer, were not made on the basis of science.

The BCWF's position is that vehicle use should be prohibited for everyone if there is a genuine conservation risk to wildlife. The organization calls on the Minister to explain to the public the basis for the decision to close vehicle use solely for licensed hunters. The Minister also needs to state whether or not the restrictions are due to conservation concerns. In the absence of evidence to justify hunting vehicle-only closures, this is a politically motivated decision which puts resident hunters, wildlife and science at the bottom of the ladder.

- 30 -

**For further information contact:**

President Harvey Andrusak Email: [handrusak@shaw.ca](mailto:handrusak@shaw.ca) Phone: 250-825-9365 Cell: 250-826-4485

Director of strategic initiatives Alan Martin Email: [alan.martin1710@gmail.com](mailto:alan.martin1710@gmail.com)  
Phone: 250-480-9694

Director of resident priority program Jesse Zeman Email: [jessezeman@gmail.com](mailto:jessezeman@gmail.com)  
Phone: 250-878-3799

BCWF Communications  
Tel: (604) 882-9988 ext. 233  
[communications@bcwf.bc.ca](mailto:communications@bcwf.bc.ca)

#### Pressy Lake SPU Assessment – July 28, 2017

- The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) under EMBC deployed 25 SPU Trailers and 23 Engines in BC on July 28, most in the Cariboo Fire Center.
- OFC, at the request of BCWS, continued to assess threatened communities to ensure deployment to the highest priority: public safety- followed by the protection of homes, businesses and other structures.
- ✓ • BCWS has confirmed that an assessment of Pressy Lake by a Structure Protection Specialist of was completed on July 28, 2017.
- This assessment was due to the potential threat from a wildfire 3 km north of Pressy Lake (C41367), not the Elephant Hill fire.
- This fire was brought under control and structure protection units were deemed as not needed.
- This information was not included in the information releases to residents as it was not associated with the Elephant Hill Fire.

#### Pressy Lake – FOI releases

- While we can't speak to the individual information requests, we are proactively releasing approximately 500 pages of documents this week that will provide more information for these residents as they begin to rebuild.
- "In the meantime, the FOI requests are still in process and that information will be released as it becomes available under the requirements of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Our ministry will continue to proactively release information **to residents that is outside of the FOI process.**" ✓

## Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX

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**From:** Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 12:51 PM  
**To:** Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX  
**Cc:** McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT: Media Request: Pressy Lake FOI

**Importance:** High

See below, in case this also comes up in QP.

### Reporter

Nadia Stewart, Reporter  
Global TV | BC  
[nadia.stewart@globalnews.ca](mailto:nadia.stewart@globalnews.ca)  
604-603-7587

**Deadline** Monday, October 30, 2017 1:00 p.m.

### Request

On Friday, I received the documents I'd requested through Freedom of Information that pertain to Pressy Lake, a community that was affected by the wildfires this summer. In total, I received 501 pages.

<https://spc-flnr.gov.bc.ca/flnr/exec/FOI%20Requests/00%20In%20Approvals/Pressy%20Lake/Redline%20FNR-2017-72995%20Phase%201%20Pressy%20Lake.pdf>

I have a few questions I'm hoping someone from the ministry could please clarify:

1. A handwritten note titled "Pressy Lake Assessment" (dated August 7, 2017. Page 498 in the FOI request) appears to show a list of the resources that were believed to have been needed. Most of the equipment are sprinklers and pumps. In the preceding pages, a Structure Protection Summary lists the communities that needed protection and the steps taken to protect them. Why isn't Pressy Lake listed among the communities that had "Structures Actioned"?

Pressy Lake was not listed because at the time on August 7<sup>th</sup> the Structure Protection staff were actively engaged on communities that were in closer proximity to the Elephant Hill fire. Pressy Lake was not listed among the communities that had "structures actioned" because no structures were actioned on Pressy Lake at the time.

2. Were the sprinklers and pumps listed in the handwritten assessment for Pressy Lake ever set up in the community?

- No the sprinklers and pumps listed in the handwritten assessment for Pressy Lake were not set up in the community as the fire progressed rapidly towards Pressy Lake and this equipment could not safely be deployed. However, after the fire progressed through Pressy Lake crews actively patrolled and extinguished hot spots in and around the community of Pressy Lake.

3. On page 404 of the FOI request, a question was posed in the notebook of a ground-crew member: "Do we want to protect Pressy Lake?" What was the response to that question?

Handwritten question says: "Do we want to protect south side of Bonaparte Road from north Green Lake Rd to Pressy Lake"

There were multiple communities threatened at any given time during the Elephant Hill fire and as mentioned Pressy Lake was triaged by a structure protection specialist on August 8<sup>th</sup> with the intention that it would have structure protection equipment deployed on it if the fire progressed towards it. Unfortunately the fire progressed with extreme fire behaviour and smoke which made it unsafe to deploy personnel into the Pressy Lake community.



## 2017/18 Estimates Debate

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

*January Fire*

#### **Issue:** Pressy Lake, Elephant Hill Wildfire - Information Requests

#### **Key Facts Regarding Issue:**

*July 28*

- The Office of the Fire Commissioner Structure Protection Specialist completed an initial assessment of the structures in and around Pressy Lake on August 8<sup>th</sup>;
- The Office of the Fire Commissioner attempts to complete these assessments on all structures that may potentially be threatened by a wildfire;
- There was no deployment of structure protection equipment on Pressy Lake structures;
- The fire was estimated to be over 15 kilometers from Pressy Lake on August 11<sup>th</sup>;
- Strong winds resulted in the fire spotting and breaching the containment lines on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> on the North flank of the fire;
- BCWS could not safely deploy resources into Pressy Lake for structure protection on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>;
- It is estimated that on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> the fire progressed past Young Lake and into Pressy Lake, quickly advancing approximately 10-15 kilometers. The fire was wind driven resulting in spotting and extreme fire behavior; and
- Following the event on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, when it was deemed safe, BCWS and the Office of the Fire Commissioner conducted patrols in the area to extinguish hot spots that may have further threatened structures in the area.

#### **Freedom of Information process:**

- For those who have sought information via the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) process, analysts at the Information Access Operations have been working with applicants to ensure they get information when it's available.
- Those that have made applications under the FOIPPA process will continue to be served by staff at the Information Access Operations. In addition, staff at BCWS and the Information Access Operations will continue to find ways to expedite important information through the FOIPPA process and other channels.

## 2017/18 Estimates Debate

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

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**Date Prepared/Revised:** «Oct 6, 2017»

**Ministry Executive Sponsor:**

Name: «Madeline Maley»

Phone: «250 312-3032»

**Alternate Contact for Issue:**

Name: «Rob Schweitzer»

Phone: «250 554-5501»

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: September 25, 2017  
File: 280-30  
CLIFF: 231357

**PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**

**ISSUE:** Elephant Hill Wildfire - specifically the damage to Pressy Lake, as well as Solicitor Client Privilege, Litigation and Compensation.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Elephant Hill wildfire made many significant runs (5-15 km in a day) from July 7 until early September. One of those fire runs progressed to Pressy Lake destroying 33 residences and 24 outbuildings. The residents of Pressy Lake have been asking for information pertaining to structure protection and why BCWS has not shared information on what happened leading to the day the fire moved into Pressy Lake.

The loss in the community of Pressy Lake was devastating and on September 17 BCWS attended a re-entry meeting hosted by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. At that meeting many of the questions were focused on what happened and why more was not done. The Incident Commander committed to attempting to provide additional information. On September 20, BCWS Incident Management Team sent a statement to the residents of Pressy Lake (attachment 1).

After this information was sent, BCWS received numerous emails demanding more detailed information be provided. BCWS are unable to provide specifics at this time because the fire origin and cause is being determined and the RCMP are investigating the fire. However, we are working on collecting information in preparation of having the Pressy Lake event removed from investigation privilege, which will enable us to provide documents to the residents of Pressy Lake.

**DISCUSSION:**

Pressy Lake:

- 33 homes lost, 57 total structures lost including out buildings.
- It has been reported in letters written to the Minister/Premier that many did not have insurance.
- Fire progressed towards Pressy Lake with extreme aggression and fire behaviour.
- The damage at Pressy Lake is most likely the result of the wildfire itself and not fire control operations implemented by BCWS meaning that compensation may not be available.
- We have had a number of emails to the Kamloops Fire Centre claims email from Pressy Lake residents to date, but none have specifically requested a claim.

#### Compensation:

- There are provisions for paying compensation under the Wildfire Act, but the compensation is limited to damages and losses caused by fire control operations (in certain circumstances) on private property and not for damages and losses caused by the wildfire itself.
- Residents affected by wildfire losses are not covered by Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA). DFA is limited to uninsurable losses. Fire insurance for homes and businesses is reasonably and readily available across the province.

#### Freedom of Information:

- During the week of September 18, members of the Opposition raised examples of people not getting requested information from the provincial government
- Due to ongoing fire investigation, FOI applicants were advised there was potential for a large portion of the records to be withheld under s.15 (harmful to law enforcement or investigation)
- BCWS has discussed FOI requests with the applicants and offered the following options:
  - Continue with FOI request as submitted (potential to receive heavily redacted information);
  - Re-submit their requests once the investigation was concluded, which would allow for a more complete package of records to be disclosed (less information redacted);
  - Work with BCWS staff to narrow the scope of their request to records outside the purview of the investigation.

#### MINISTRY RESPONSE:

s.13

#### Attachment(s):

1. Email statement sent to Pressy Lake residents on behalf of the Incident Commander

**Contact:**

ADM: Madeline Maley  
Div: IROD  
Phone: 250-318-8441

**Alternate Contact:**

Name: Mary Myers  
Div/Region/Branch: IROD/BCWS  
Phone: 250-387-5538

**Prepared by:**

Name: Cliff Chapman  
Region/Branch: BCWS  
Phone: 250-554-5503

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO	RM	2017-09-26
ADM	MM	2017-09-25

**Reporter**

Neetu Garcha, Reporter

Global TV | BC

[neetu.garcha@globalnews.ca](mailto:neetu.garcha@globalnews.ca)

250-217-0970

**Deadline** Monday, October 30, 2017 2:00 PM

**Request**

We're set to air a story tonight on an effort by Horse Council BC and animal "rescuers" in Kamloops who took in evacuated residents' pets/livestock over the summer to encourage the province to establish an animal relief program in times of crisis... They would like to see funding for designated animal "evacuation centres" in each region in the province so there's a more coordinated approach to finding shelter, food, care for evacuated animals -- namely, farm animals. Would Minister Donaldson be available at the legislature for a quick interview today before 2pm about this?

**Recommendation**

This was an unprecedented wildfire season, and everyone worked together to help each other out. While there is dedicated programming in place for livestock animals, it would seem the same assistance isn't readily available for pets or hobby farm animals.

We've committed to a comprehensive review of the response to the 2017 wildfires and floods, and the idea that the BC Horse Council raises, is certainly something that could be looked at.

**Background:**

- Under Emergency Management BC, livestock evacuation and relocation assistance is available to commercial producers during an emergency, as it was during the wildfires this past summer.
- The program is Emergency Management BC Policy 2.01: *Provincial Support for Livestock Relocation during an Emergency*. The ministry of Agriculture provides technical support for this policy.
- This assistance program is not available for pets or hobby farm animals.
- Funding to relocate livestock from evacuation areas and for emergency feed supplies was available through Emergency Operations Centres, under Emergency Management BC.
- The BC Cattlemen's Association also worked with provincial government staff to assist commercial producers where possible.
- The BCSPCA, Horse Council BC and community volunteers actively assisted with pet and horse evacuation efforts during this year's wildfire season, and there was a steady demand for their services.
- During this summer's wildfires, individuals in some communities also arranged temporary facilities to accommodate people's pets near emergency reception centres.

- Information about safeguarding the welfare of pets in an emergency is available online at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/prepare-your-pets>

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural  
Resource Operations and Rural Development/  
Citizens' Services

Date: Sept. 29, 2017

Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson/Hon.  
Jinny Sims

## Wildfire-related FOI Requests

s.13

### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

During the week of Sept. 18, the Opposition raised examples of people not getting requested information from the provincial government that they allege is necessary for rebuilding their livelihoods after wildfires have destroyed their property. In both cases, the property owners did not have insurance.

Ministers Donaldson and Sims met with MLAs Tegart and Rustad on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the concerns and Minister Sims sent a letter to the MLAs saying information would be released. On Sept. 29, the BC Wildfire Service sent a follow-up notice to Pressey Lake residents providing more information about how structure protection units were deployed and advising that they had received permission from the RCMP to release more information. Residents were advised that information would be released in accordance with standards of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to protect personal information.

The federal government's disaster financial assistance program does not cover losses that could have been insured. If the property owners can prove that damage might have been caused by government's wildfire control efforts, as opposed to the wildfire, they may be eligible for compensation.

**Summary of FOI requests raised in Question Period:**

FNR-2017-73022:

Records regarding Structural protection units to be set-up at Pressy Lake for the Elephant Hill forest fire, including any records regarding direction to the BC Wildfire Service to set-up Structural Protection Units at Pressy Lake. (Date Range for Record Search: From 07/19/2017 To 09/07/2017)

FNR-2017-73000:

Copies of all fire investigation reports, incident response reports, hand written field notes from responding personnel, witness names and contact details and any/all other documents or information that pertains to structural protection and fire loss at and around Pressy Lake - North Bonaparte Road, Pressy Lake Road, Shore Crt, Rayfield Road, Thompson-Nicola, BC V0K 1E0. (Date Range for Record Search: From 07/19/2017 To 09/05/2017)

FNR-2017-72860: Current Structural Protection Triage Map for Nazko; Documented Records of Structural Protection Plan for [specified address]; Record of dates and times of visitations to [specified address] by Forestry staff, Fire fighters, Structural Protection staff, RCMP, or any other Government Representatives, either by road or by air. (Date Range for Record Search: From 07/16/2017 To 08/18/2017)

Applicant type: Individual

Legislated due date: Oct. 2, 2017

Summary: Fee estimate \$5,100 (last updated Aug. 29, 2017)

*refused to reduce*

FNR-2017-72942: Daily Incident Reports from Nazko West Quesnel Fire Centre. (Date Range for Record Search: From 07/28/2017 To 08/15/2017)

Applicant type: Individual

Legislated due date: Oct. 12, 2017

Summary: In call for records.

**Elephant Hill fire:**

The Elephant Hill wildfire started on July 7, 2017. It was human-caused and the cause of the wildfire is under investigation by the RCMP. It has consistently shown aggressive behaviour and is one of the largest wildfires on record. On Sept. 22, it was an estimated 192,725 hectares, but 95% contained. During the growth of the wildfire, many communities were evacuated. Residents of Pressy Lake were allowed to return home on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. There were a number of structures lost to wildfire in the Pressy Lake area.

On Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, in an e-mail to Pressy Lake residents, a fire information officer explained that because the wildfire was under active investigation that specific information could not be released and suggested that residents submit requests under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

On Sept 25 and 26, BCWS staff asked for records specific to Pressy Lake be released from the Elephant Hill wildfire investigation file and the RCMP agreed. BCWS expect to be able to provide records to those who asked by October 2.

Communications Contact:	Vivian Thomas	250 356-2475
Program Area Contact:	Madeline Maley	250 318-8441
File Location: programs\2017\wildfires and prevention		

*- triple delete*



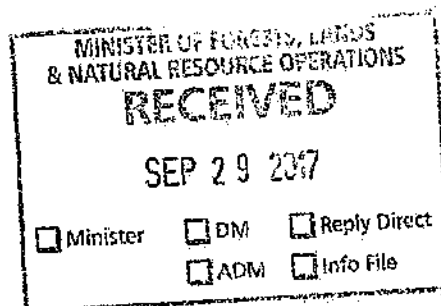


September 28, 2017

Ref: 107236

Ms. Jackie Tegart, MLA  
Fraser-Nicola  
Room 201, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Mr. John Rustad, MLA  
Nechako Lakes  
Room 201, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4



Dear MLA's Jackie Tegart and John Rustad:

I would like to thank you for meeting with me earlier this afternoon to discuss the important issue of information sharing with those affected by the Elephant Hill wildfire in Pressy Lake. I share your commitment that all those impacted by the wildfire in Pressy Lake receive the information they need to help them begin to recover from the disaster.

We recognize that those who have suffered devastating losses as the result of the wildfires in the Pressy Lake and Elephant Hill areas need support and staff from my ministry. To that end, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRO) has made it a priority to identify and expedite the release of information of interest to the residents of Pressy Lake. These efforts have included careful consideration of the privacy protections included within the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA). Government staff have also been working to maximize and expedite the release of information while preserving the integrity of routine and ongoing fire investigations.

We understand that those who have suffered devastating losses as the result of these wildfires may need access to information as soon as possible in order to rebuild. Staff at FLNRO had already begun the process of providing a preliminary release of information on the Pressy Lake wildfire to residents and property owners as early as Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. FLNRO will continue to provide important materials proactively in order to ensure residents have the information they need. All records released will meet the legal standards of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* so that personal privacy is never compromised. In all cases, government will seek to expedite and maximize the release of available information while streamlining our services to those in need.

Ministry of  
Citizens' Services

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 9068 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Phone: 250 387-9699  
Fax: 250 387-9722

Location:  
Room 236  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

[www.gov.bc.ca/citiz](http://www.gov.bc.ca/citiz)

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## Wildfire Emergency Lifted

### Background:

- The state of emergency was lifted at midnight on Friday, September 15.
- MLA Coralee Oakes was critical of this decision.
- The state of emergency was declared on July 7, 2017, and extended four times over the nine weeks that followed.
- During this wildfire season, approximately 65,000 people evacuated from their homes.
- Households and business owners in fire-stricken communities are dealing with significant losses.

Containment  
Weather

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Sept. 21, 2017

## ISSUE: Wildfire Recovery

### Key Messages:

The 2017 wildfire season was unprecedented. Over 65,000 people were displaced. We recognize the hardships placed on individuals, families and small businesses. We're thankful for all the work by firefighters, emergency responders and volunteers to keep people safe – not one life was lost.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is leading the provincial government's support for First Nations and communities in terms of wildfire recovery.

Ministry staff are engaging with First Nations, communities and stakeholders to ensure the provincial government is providing the necessary supports.

Provincial government is working closely with the federal government. The federal government has an ad hoc cabinet committee for the BC Wildfires and provides disaster financial assistance.

Wildfire recovery is focused in four areas:

#### **People and communities**

- \$100 million allocated to Canadian Red Cross – to date a total of \$21 million has been provided to 52,000 individuals
- To date, funding has been provided for recovery managers for the Ashcroft Indian Band, 100 Mile House, Williams Lake, Quesnel and the Cariboo Regional District
- A First Nation liaison position has been established
- Support for mental health outreach in 100 Mile House and Quesnel as well as connecting with local organizations that provide mental health supports
- Ministers Adrian Dix, Mike Farnworth and Parliamentary Secretary Jennifer Rice have all met with evacuees in reception centres
- Minister Scott Fraser met with T'kemlups Chief and Council

#### **Economy**

- Tourism –
  - \$1.1 million - \$200,000 each to the Cariboo Chilcotin, Thompson Okanagan and Kootenay Boundary Tourism Associations and Destination BC is has provided \$500,000 to promote tourism in the Interior
  - Minister Lisa Beare visited the Cariboo Chilcotin

- Agriculture –
  - With the federal government, provided \$20 million under the Agri-Recovery Initiative
  - Working with BC Cattlemen's Association to provide emergency feeds, identifying alternate grazing lands
  - Minister Lana Popham has visited affected areas
- Small business –
  - Through Canadian Red Cross, providing emergency assistance grants of \$1,500 each to small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in areas that were under evacuation order and impacted by highway closures.
- Forestry –
  - Timber harvested in the creation of fireguards has been or is being milled.
  - Cutting permits are being expedited and areas being prioritized for salvage harvesting and reforestation
  - Minister Donaldson has visited affected areas
- Environment
  - \$140 million over three years for reforestation, wildlife habitat restoration, wildfire risk reduction and promoting FireSmart
  - Rehabilitation of fireguards and areas damaged by fire suppression activities
  - Danger trees being assessed and will be removed in BC Parks and recreation sites and trails
  - Forests being assessed for damage to wildlife habitat
  - Terrain stability assessments almost complete

#### **Infrastructure and Reconstruction**

- To date, \$6 million to replace range fencing and other Crown range infrastructure
- Assessing dug-outs on ranchlands
- \$15 million committed over three years to upgrade priority wildfire bases.

*Macmillan*

Sept. 21, 2017

## **ISSUE: Wildfire Recovery**

### **Key Messages:**

The 2017 wildfire season was unprecedented. Over 65,000 people were displaced. We recognize the hardships placed on individuals, families and small businesses. We're thankful for all the work by firefighters, emergency responders and volunteers to keep people safe – not one life was lost.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is leading the provincial government's support for First Nations and communities in terms of wildfire recovery.

Ministry staff are engaging with First Nations, communities and stakeholders to ensure the provincial government is providing the necessary supports.

Provincial government is working closely with the federal government. The federal government has an ad hoc cabinet committee for the BC Wildfires and provides disaster financial assistance.

Wildfire recovery is focused in four areas:

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  - Through Canadian Red Cross, providing emergency assistance grants of \$1,500 each to small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in areas that were under evacuation order and impacted by highway closures.
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  - Cutting permits are being expedited and areas being prioritized for salvage harvesting and reforestation
  - Minister Donaldson has visited affected areas
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  - Danger trees being assessed and will be removed in BC Parks and recreation sites and trails
  - Forests being assessed for damage to wildlife habitat
  - Terrain stability assessments almost complete

### **Infrastructure and Reconstruction**

- To date, \$6 million to replace range fencing and other Crown range infrastructure
- Assessing dug-outs on ranchlands
- \$15 million committed over three years to upgrade priority wildfire bases.

Oct. 30, 2017

## **ISSUE: Wildfire Recovery**

### **Key Messages/Activities to Date:**

The 2017 wildfire season was unprecedented. Over 65,000 people were displaced. We recognize the hardships placed on individuals, families and small businesses. We're thankful for all the work by firefighters, emergency responders and volunteers to keep people safe – not one life was lost.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is leading the provincial government's support for First Nations and communities in terms of wildfire recovery.

Ministry staff are engaging with First Nations, communities and stakeholders to ensure the provincial government is providing the necessary supports.

The provincial government is working closely with the federal government. The federal government has an ad hoc cabinet committee for the BC Wildfires and provides disaster financial assistance.

Wildfire recovery is focused on four areas:

### **People and communities**

- A total of \$100 million has been allocated to the Canadian Red Cross. To date, \$21 million has been provided to 52,000 individuals.
- To date, funding has been provided for recovery managers for the Ashcroft Indian Band, 100 Mile House, Williams Lake, Quesnel and the Cariboo Regional District.
- The ministry's community wildfire recovery branch is supporting those efforts. The branch's six staff are based in the communities affected by the 2017 flooding and fires and are helping to manage the economic and social aspects of recovery. This includes helping individuals and businesses getting the assistance they need.
- Recovery staff are also collaborating with local agencies to align support programs. These agencies include Community Futures, Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association, the First Nations Health Authority, local economic development departments, regional mental health service providers.
- Through the Rural Dividend, \$758,000 was awarded to five projects as part of the "special circumstances" funding provision. Under the regular program stream, about \$1.7 million is going to communities affected by the 2017 wildfires.
- Support for mental health outreach in 100 Mile House and Quesnel is available, and for connecting with local organizations that provide mental health supports.

- A First Nation liaison position has been established.
- Community Wildfire Recovery Branch staff are also engaging directly with First Nations to learn more about how the 2017 wildfires impacted their communities. First Nations priorities will be included in recovery efforts and staff will assess how to maximize economic opportunities for First Nations in recovery projects.
- Staff are also participating in the 18 community outreach sessions planned by the Cariboo Regional District.
- The branch is also commissioning a detailed economic impact analysis.
- During the summer, Minister Adrian Dix, Minister Mike Farnworth and Parliamentary Secretary Jennifer Rice all met with evacuees in reception centres. Minister Scott Fraser met with the T'kemlups Chief and Council.

## Economy

- Tourism –
  - \$1.1 million - \$200,000 each to the Cariboo Chilcotin, Thompson Okanagan and Kootenay Boundary Tourism Associations and Destination BC has provided \$500,000 to promote tourism in the Interior
  - Minister Lisa Beare visited the Cariboo Chilcotin
- Agriculture –
  - With the federal government, provided \$20 million under the Agri-Recovery Initiative
  - Working with BC Cattlemen's Association to provide emergency feeds, identifying alternate grazing lands
  - Minister Lana Popham has visited affected areas
- Small business –
  - Through Canadian Red Cross, providing emergency assistance grants of \$1,500 each to small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in areas that were under evacuation order and impacted by highway closures. (As of Sept. 30, 2,375 applications had been received.)
- Forestry –
  - The Ministry's Cariboo Region has developed a draft Integrated Investment Plan (land-based funding), which has the following goals:
    - outline provincial, regional and district land-based investment priorities
    - identify specific land manager objectives for the Cariboo Region and each of the districts
    - clearly identify the areas of focus and the types of land-based projects/activities that will be considered for funding within the region and districts
    - provide an overview of key initiatives and their associated objectives, opportunities and parameters

- The ministry's Cariboo region is engaging with First Nations, communities and licensees on the draft plan on Oct. 30 and 31. Minister Donaldson has visited the affected areas.
- On Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, full-day meeting held with 15 First Nations and forest industry representatives in the Cariboo
- Timber harvested from fireguards and damaged timber from both private land and woodlots has been or is being milled.
- Cutting permits are being expedited and areas being prioritized for salvage harvesting and reforestation.
- Salvage Strategy principles and the Draft Mule Deer Winter Range (MDWR) exemption have been circulated to First Nation communities for review and input. Licensees have also been engaged.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is processing priority salvage cutting permits. Licensee salvage operations are starting in November (and have already started on the Princeton fire). To date, licensees are able to use their existing licences.
- Fair stumpage rates have been established to reflect the range of circumstances and degrees of damage (which will vary from stand to stand).

## **Environment**

- As part of Budget Update 2018, \$140 million is being allocated over three years for reforestation, wildlife habitat restoration, wildfire risk reduction and promoting FireSmart (includes Forest Enhancement Society funding)
- Rehabilitation of fireguards and areas damaged by fire suppression activities
- Danger trees being assessed and will be removed in BC Parks and recreation sites and trails
- Forests being assessed for damage to wildlife habitat
- To protect wildlife, the areas around the Plateau Fire and Elephant Hill fire are closed to hunters on ATVs and motor vehicles; two management units in the Cariboo have had the moose hunt season closed.
- Post-Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Assessment work is underway. The current status of the reconnaissance reports is as follows:
  - Cariboo Region: 5 complete, 10 in progress
  - Thompson-Okanagan: 5 complete, 1 in progress
  - Kootenay Boundary: 1 complete, 2 in progress
- Results from the reconnaissance reports may indicate the need to complete more detailed assessments.

## **Infrastructure and Reconstruction**

- To date, \$6.2 million has been committed to replace range fencing and other Crown range infrastructure. BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) is coordinating assessment replacement of highway fences and is 80% complete. Range staff are assessing 1,100 km of Crown range fences – reconstruction of 450 km of burnt fences has begun. FLNRORD signed an agreement with the BCCA on September 27 to assist in the reconstruction of fences lost on Crown range.
- Assessing dug-outs on ranchlands
- \$15 million committed over three years to upgrade priority wildfire bases.

## **Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX**

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**From:** Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 7:46 AM  
**To:** Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX; Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX; McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** Wildfire Recovery – supportive

### **Quesnel Mayor takes on local MLA over newspaper comments**

Quesnel Cariboo Observer

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

By Bob Simpson

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## Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX

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**From:** Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 9:38 AM  
**To:** Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** Print please 2

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**From:** Sheldon, Tim FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2017 8:17 PM  
**To:** Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX  
**Cc:** Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX

s.13

## Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX

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**From:** Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 9:38 AM  
**To:** Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** Print please

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## Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX

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**From:** Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 9:38 AM  
**To:** Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** print please 3

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## Wildfire Recovery Program – September 24, 2017

### Context and Provincial Approach

B.C.'s 2017 wildfire season, the worst in recorded history, will have a profound environmental and socio-economic impact now and into the future, especially in the Cariboo. A provincial state of emergency from July 7 to Sept. 15, 2017 was the longest in B.C.'s history. As of Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, direct wildfire costs were \$519 million with almost 1.2 million hectares affected. Furthermore, spring flooding in the Thompson-Okanagan was significant, with local authority claims for Disaster Financial Assistance, approaching ten times previous levels for peak events.

In order to enable an effective path to recovery, the Province has established a disaster recovery function. While this function is directed at 2017 provincial recovery needs for both wildfire and flooding, the intention of the function is also to establish an approach that can be utilized in the future in an all-hazards, province-wide capacity.

The guiding philosophy behind the recovery framework is to consider the social, environmental, economic and infrastructure aspects of communities and the Province as a whole. Furthermore, the Province understands the need for recovery efforts to be community and regionally-led, and is providing funding to communities impacted by evacuation orders, alerts and road closure to develop recovery plans. Disaster Financial Assistance is available where authorized by the province, and helps restore essential uninsurable losses for individuals and local government bodies. The province is also exploring other ways to help communities, small business, sectors and others impacted by the events of the year.

### 2017 Wildfire Recovery

As of mid-September, about 1.2 million hectares of land has been affected by the wildfires, with corresponding impacts to all communities, people and economic sectors within that area. Approximately 600,000 hectares of timber harvesting land base had been impacted in the Quesnel, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House and Kamloops timber supply areas, areas already facing declines in timber supply from the mountain pine beetle. Economic impacts on interior communities could be exacerbated by the softwood lumber dispute, by other global market trends and by the lingering public impression this fire season has created.

In recognition of the significant land-based impacts of the 2017 events, and the opportunity to leverage the existing regional economic operations team, the 2017 Wildfire Recovery lead has been transferred from Emergency Management BC (EMBC) to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD).

FLNRORD's role will include the following:

- Land-based recovery efforts such as salvage, reforestation and fish and wildlife rehabilitation
- Economic recovery such as small business support, regional tourism support for image management, agriculture sector support for lost income, and economic transition.
- Social recovery such as community based mental health support and targeted mental health support for vulnerable populations; funded school-based programs for traumatic incident support.
- Infrastructure recovery for crown rangeland fencing and forest service road bridge impacts as well as public infrastructure loss support where applicable

The regional delivery model will be delivered by FLNRORD local managers and staff on the ground in the wildfire zone. In each of the 4 affected Resource Districts, the work will be co-lead by managers from the Resource Districts and from Regional Economic Operations (REO), and coordinated by senior regional leadership. FLNRORD managers will utilize regionally focused agency advisory boards (e.g. Inter Agency Management Committees) to ensure broad, multi-agency coordination.

Region and District operations staff will be accountable for the delivery of the land-based recovery efforts that would normally be delivered by those offices, and will be the primary accountability for other environmental recovery efforts that may be delivered by other areas of government (e.g. water quality).

Regionally and locally-based social and economic outreach staff will deliver community transition and long term economic development services to communities. Additionally, regional staff will be responsible for establishing and maintaining networks for delivering social supports such as mental health as directed by the Ministry of Health, Interior Health Authority, First Nations Health authority or other agency as directed by the Province. Staff will work with other provincial agencies such as EMBC to ensure continuity during the transition into recovery and also to ensure future emergency responses are better focused on recovery from the start.

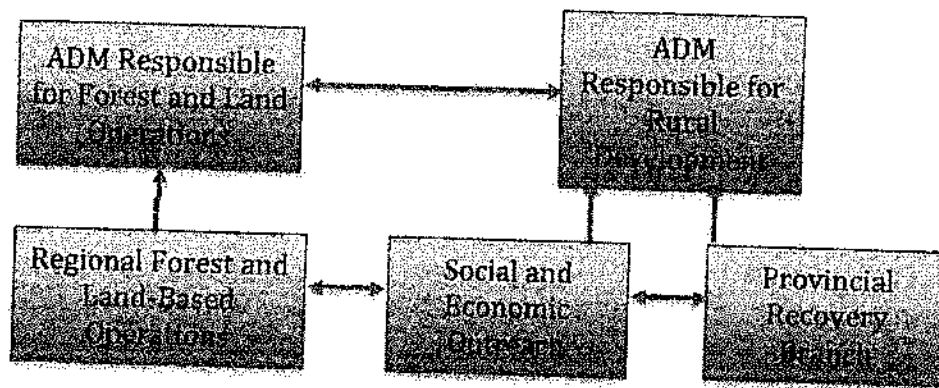
The Provincial Recovery Branch, now reporting through FLNRORD, will continue its leadership on the overall disaster recovery function, will ensure provincial agency coordination with respect to the Wildfire Recovery specifically and will continue to seek strategic and operational advice across all relevant government agencies. The Recovery Branch will continue to coordinate this multi-agency function through the 4 Working Groups that were established during the wildfire response.

The Recovery Branch will provide a structure for data and information aggregation for reporting and resource allocation, overall engagement coordination, policy and program development, and longer term recovery structures for future events.

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### First Nations, Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement with communities, including indigenous communities, stakeholders and individuals commenced during the response phase of this year's incidents. As response activities have leveled out or declined, communities have been able to focus more on recovery activities. To support the philosophy of community-led recovery, the Province has provided funding to communities under the Emergency Program Act to hire recovery managers within those communities. Not all communities will have same capacity to initiate and manage this process and the Province, first through EMBC and now FLNRORD, will continue to engage with communities to determine their unique needs for support.

Early in the recovery planning process, the Province will work to assist communities with appropriate scoping. Depending on the nature of the impacts, the recovery may focus on social, environmental, economic or infrastructure issues. Concurrently, FLNRORD local managers will work with communities to assess their interests in issues of Provincial jurisdiction or program gaps, and to identify more immediate solutions. Initial community engagement will also identify preferred engagement channels and methods, issues of local interest, and key stakeholders.

The impact of the wildfires has been extensive to First Nations traditional territories; the Province will ensure that First Nations communities are fully engaged regarding all aspects of the recovery program. This engagement will follow a number of key principles:

- Early, informative and transparent discussion of all potential plans and strategies
- Respect all existing government-to-government agreements
- Explore economic opportunities early, and
- Implement inclusive, proactive dialogue early, to set the stage for ongoing and collaborative discussions throughout the recovery process.



As the wildfire response continues to transition into comprehensive short- and long-term recovery, it will incorporate the four key perspectives which are embodied in the 4 provincial Work Groups:

- Remains provincially*
- **People and communities** – examining a range of social services required based on community need such as long-term mental health support;
  - **Economy** – identifying short-, medium- and long-term recovery supports for the small business, tourism and resource-based sectors;
  - **Environment** – providing coordinated support for land-based recovery operations, such as reforestation and wildlife rehabilitation; and
  - **Infrastructure and reconstruction** – identifying recovery supports for local governments and First Nations in their direct recovery of infrastructure losses with a focus on longer-term mitigation and adaptation.

A Recovery Toolkit has been developed to guide communities and agency staff in this process; it includes a Recovery Plan Template, and encourages local authorities and First Nations to prepare a Community Recovery Plan.

Following initial recovery-focused engagement, a more detailed engagement strategy will be established for longer-term recovery and economic development efforts. This engagement strategy will work in tandem with an overall communications strategy for the recovery program.

#### Current activities:

##### General

- Wildfire Recovery Programs website established:  
[www.gov.bc.ca/wildfirerecovery](http://www.gov.bc.ca/wildfirerecovery)
- In light of the fire season this year, the Province is organizing a comprehensive review of wildfire preparedness and response.
- Since First Nations were hit proportionately hard by floods and wildfire, a First Nations Coordination Unit was created to provide strategic advice and oversight.
- Funding has been approved for the hiring of Community Recovery Managers for the Cariboo Regional District, City of Quesnel, City of Williams Lake, District of 100 Mile House, Ashcroft Indian Band and Bonaparte Indian Band, and will be expanded to encompass all indigenous communities in the affected area.

##### People and Communities

- BC Wildfire Service working with private land owners to assess damage and potential restoration compensation due to wildfire control activities.

- The FLNRORD wildfire recovery team is preparing an overarching engagement strategy for communities, First Nations and sector stakeholders, lead by the Recovery Branch.
- Staged and targeted mental health support planning and implementation is underway. Two community outreach sessions are planned for Williams Lake and 100 Mile House (September 26 and 27). Discussions are underway for mental health outreach with First Nations. Partner agencies include Interior Health Authority, First Nations Health Authority, local school districts, and Aboriginal Friendship Centres.
- BC Hydro implemented a Wildfire Evacuee Assistance Program to provide bill credits and flexible payment plans for residential and commercial customers affected by evacuation orders and alerts.

#### Economy

- Government has provided \$100 million to the Red Cross to assist evacuees. As of Sept 15, \$21 million had been provided to 52,000 individuals. The Red Cross is also providing \$1,500 emergency assistance grants to eligible small businesses, and not-for-profit organizations impacted by evacuation orders and highway closures.
  - Transition from response to recovery will involve coordination of donated services of NGOs within communities to prevent duplication and avoid gaps in service.
- FLNRORD staff are identifying areas where value can be recovered from damaged timber and to prioritize areas for site rehabilitation.
- Once the analysis is complete, staff will consider what, if any, additional tenure opportunities are required to efficiently address salvage and in the interim they are issuing salvage licenses and expediting cutting permits to help people in the industry get back to work as quickly as possible.
- A timber salvage strategy will be completed by early fall.
- It is assumed that all of the land-based activities will create economic opportunities for First Nations communities.
- FLNRORD will provide relief to forest licensees for more than 120,000 ha that had been replanted but had not reached free-growing stage before they were damaged.
- Once the impact of the fires is determined through fire intensity mapping and timber supply modelling that has been initiated, AACs will be assessed to determine if and when they need to be re-determined and/or dead/live partitions within them changed.

- Government is providing the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association, the Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Association and the Kootenay Rockies Tourism Association with \$200,000 each to help support tourism businesses.
- Support for ranchers includes assistance with the relocation of livestock, emergency feed supplies, replacement of breeding stock, reseeding of rangeland and arranging for alternative grazing areas, as well as a significant focus on fencing infrastructure referenced below.

#### Environment

- Government has allocated \$140 million (includes Forest Enhancement Society funds) on reforestation, wildlife habitat restoration, wildfire risk reduction and increasing awareness of FireSmart programs.
- BC Wildfire Service fire centres are conducting an inventory of the activities conducted during the wildfire response, such as the building of fireguards, and work is starting immediately on the highest priority areas as the fire situation, logistics and resource availability allows. Estimated costs are difficult to predict because fires are still active and inventories incomplete.
- All high-priority rehabilitation assessments are expected to be completed this fall, and work fully underway this field season.
- Potential secondary wildfire impacts such as flooding due to soil instability and run off will continue to be monitored with local authorities being engaged to manage necessary mitigation measures.

#### Infrastructure and reconstruction

- Government committed \$6.2 million to support replacement of livestock fencing and Crown range infrastructure. BC Cattlemen's Association will co-ordinate assessment and reconstruction of highway fences, assessment of Crown range fencing is 50% complete, and work will continue through the fall. As of Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 450 km of 1,100 km have been assessed (450 km has burnt). Range staff estimate replacement costs at \$9 million.
- Public safety assessments (e.g. forest service roads, recreation sites and trails, danger trees, lost structures) are continuing.
- BC Hydro has restored power to more than 61,400 customers affected by wildfires, and repaired 519 power poles, 118 cross arms, 378 spans of wire, 67 transformers and 59 transmission structures.

# **BUSINESS VANCOUVER**

FORESTRY & FISHERIES (/SECTIONS/FORESTRY-FISHERIES/)

## **Horgan's tone on salmon farming 'unsettling': Marine Harvest**

Marine Harvest put on notice it could lose one of its tenures, due to  
First Nation opposition

By Nelson Bennett | Oct. 18, 2017, 3:17 p.m.

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Page 214 to/à Page 216

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# Land Tenure and Leases

## Highlights:

- Greg D'Avignon, president of the Business Council of BC, said that the Agriculture Minister's letter to Marine Harvest "calls into question the certainty of tenures, leases and use of Crown lands on everything from agriculture to recreational properties to the natural resource industries".

s.13

Page 218 to/à Page 219

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s.13

**McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX**

---

**From:** Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 9:43 AM  
**To:** Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX; McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** Heads up - Xeni Gwet'in Declare Ban on Moose Hunting in Tsilhqot'in Title Lands and Xeni Gwet'in Caretaker Areas  
**Attachments:** Hunting Restrictions- Press Release 2017 (4).pdf  
**Importance:** High

s.13

## **PRESS RELEASE**

October 16, 2017

**Xeni Gwet'in Declare Ban on Moose Hunting in Tsilhqot'in Title Lands and Xeni Gwet'in  
Caretaker Areas**

**Community concerned about health of wildlife population**

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Communications Contact:  
Program Area Contact:

Jonathan Penner  
Bill Hunter  
Jay Kirkland

250 952-0122  
250 371-3936  
250 356-8443

## Eagle Pass Cabin (between Sicamous and Revelstoke)

### Background:

The builders allege they received permission from FrontCounterBC. The cabin would need to be authorized under the Forest and Range Practices Act.

- The matter is under investigation by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.
- Under the Forest and Range Practices Act, there is a process whereby a delegated decision-maker can decide whether the structure is in contravention of the act and would have the authority to order the site left as is, levy a penalty, or order remediation of the site.
- Before any decision is made, the delegated decision-maker would give those involved in building the structure the opportunity to present their evidence and rationale.



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## Refurbished fire lookout may be torn down

### Effort underway to keep historic structure as is

LACHLAN LABERE / Wed Oct 4th, 2017 6:00am / [NEWS](#) [VIDEO](#)

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## ADVICE TO MINISTER

<b>CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE</b>  <b>Ministry:</b> PSSG/Emergency Management BC <b>Date:</b> Oct. 16, 2017 <b>Minister Responsible:</b> Mike Farnworth	<b>s.22</b>  <b>DFA</b>  <b>Application</b>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------

s.13,s.22

### BACKGROUND REGARDING THE ISSUE:

- Timeline:

- May 5, 2017: A debris flow initiated in the upper reach of Robinson Creek, located about 11 kilometers northeast of Sunnybrae, BC. The debris flow descended almost 1000 m in elevation and travelled over 2 km to the north shore of the Salmon Arm of Shuswap Lake. It blocked the Sunnybrae – Canoe Point Road (the public road) and impacted residences located at address numbers s.22, causing one fatality.
- May 11, 2017: The s.22 application was submitted for DFA.
- The Columbia Shuswap Regional District recommended obtaining a geotechnical report, which was supported by Emergency Management BC.
- September 27, 2017: The Geotechnical report was received by the s.22 and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, and forwarded to DFA.
- September 30, 2017: DFA's Field Manager confirmed receipt of the engineer's report and next steps.
- October 12, 2017: Engineer's final inspection of the s.22 home and property was completed.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural  
Resource Operations and Rural Development  
Date: Sept. 18, 2017  
Minister Responsible: Hon. Doug Donaldson

## Whistler Aggregates Ltd. – tenure renewal

s.13

### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

On Sept. 15, 2017, the Sea-to-Sky Natural Resource District Manager offered Whistler Aggregates Ltd. a 10-year renewal of their licence of occupation under the Land Act for continued operation of its asphalt plant and quarry near the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood in Whistler. The Resort Municipality of Whistler and some local residents are expected to oppose the decision.

While the company requested a renewal term of 30 years, the current licence of occupation was for 10 years. The company has been operating in its current location since 1997.

The district manager's reasons for decision shows that public comments/complaints were investigated prior to making his decision. As with all Land Act applications, the district manager also considered input received from the local First Nation, the municipality and the public; as well as environmental, health and safety impacts.

Communications Contact:	Vivian Thomas	250 356-2475
Program Area Contact:	Dave Southam	604-898-2141
File Location: programs\2017\Crown lands		





## REASONS FOR DECISION

September 15, 2017

**FILE NUMBER:** 12800-20/2401480

**APPLICANT:** Whistler Aggregates Ltd.

**AREA:** 14.93 ha +/-

**PURPOSE:** Licence of occupation for quarrying and asphalt plant purposes.

**DECISION:** OFFERED - Whistler Aggregates Ltd. is offered a licence of occupation for 10 years, subject to certain terms and conditions.

### REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has delegated to me, under section 97 of the *Land Act*, the authority to administer Crown land and make decisions regarding licences of occupation of Crown land under section 39 of the *Land Act*.

After considering all the information presented to me, and for the reasons below, I am renewing Whistler Aggregates Ltd.'s licence of occupation (2401480) for a term of 10 years to operate a quarry and asphalt plant near the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood in the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW).

I have thoroughly reviewed the information provided to me for consideration. This information includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Relevant strategic and operational policies that guide decision making on Crown land including the following allocation principles:
  - Crown land values are managed for the benefit of the public;
  - economic, environmental and social needs and opportunities are identified and supported;
  - the interests of First Nations communities are recognized and accommodated, when appropriate;
  - decisions are made in a timely, well-considered and transparent manner; and
  - public accountability is maintained during the allocation of Crown land.
- Documents, communications and information from Whistler Aggregates Ltd., the RMOW, government agencies, Ministry of Health, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, environmental consultants, local residents, local businesses and the general public.

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

Sea to Sky Natural Resource District

101-42000 Loggers Lane  
Squamish BC V8B 0H3

Tel: (604) 898-2100

Fax: (604) 898-2191

Toll Free: (800) 663-7867

- Information from the Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations shared through consultation.

Making a decision on Whistler Aggregates Ltd.'s request to renew its licence of occupation requires me to assess the applicable legal principles and to consider multiple competing interests. I recognize it is not possible in the circumstances to make a decision which will satisfy everyone. That said, the *Land Act* provides me with the discretion to allow a person to occupy Crown land if I consider it to be in the public interest, which is the primary factor driving my decision.

## Background

Whistler Aggregates Ltd. operates a quarry and asphalt plant south of the Cheakamus River near the Cheakamus Crossing residential neighbourhood within the RMOW. Whistler Aggregates Ltd. has been mining aggregates and producing asphalt in the area since 1989. Whistler Aggregates Ltd. has operated this particular quarry since 2005.

The construction of the new Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood was initiated as part of the athletes village for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games with the longer term goal of providing legacy housing. The neighbourhood is now home to approximately 800 people, a hostel and an athletes centre<sup>1</sup>. Residential development continues to expand in the area.

Some of the residents in the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood are generally opposed to the quarry and asphalt plant being located near their homes. Although the RMOW has worked cooperatively with Whistler Aggregates Ltd. in the past, in more recent times, that relationship has been strained and in particular since a 2012 BC Supreme Court case involving the two parties.

## Analysis of relevant information

I have taken what I believe to be the most practical approach to reviewing and considering the information in support of and in opposition to Whistler Aggregates Ltd.'s request to renew its tenure. For example, I am giving considerable weight to the scientific evidence I received from appropriate agencies such as the Ministry of Health, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, and the Ministry of Environment (MOE), which sets the emissions standards, and monitoring and maintenance requirements to maintain public health through the *Asphalt Plant Regulation*.

I have also considered the information I received from other sources including the public and local business, which has ranged from fully supporting the quarry and asphalt plant to comparing the operation to a Nazi concentration camp.

I have found some of the public comments I received to be ill-informed and one in particular to be highly disrespectful. While I understand that decisions of this nature give rise to strong emotional reactions, it is unfortunate to have experienced such disrespect. Accordingly, I focused my analysis on the content of public comments as opposed to the rhetoric and emotion with which some comments were made. Despite this, the majority of the other public comments received opposed the renewal of the quarry in a respectful and well thought out manner.

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<sup>1</sup> Cheakamus Crossing webpage [www.cheakamuscrossing.ca](http://www.cheakamuscrossing.ca)

The factors described in the bullet points that follow reflect what I see as the main public interest issues.

- The RMOW and members of the public expressed concern primarily over the proximity of the quarry and asphalt plant to a residential neighbourhood. Their particular concerns related to emissions having detrimental health concerns, noise, and dust from the operation together with the number of large trucks and the speed of industrial traffic in and around the neighbourhood.

I had the benefit of reviewing several years of air quality emissions data from Levelton Consultants Ltd. (Levelton), commissioned by the RMOW, and asphalt plant emission data from environmental consultant, A. Lanfranco and Associates Inc. (Lanfranco) hired by Whistler Aggregates Ltd. The Levelton test results were collected from instrumentation provided by the MOE atop the Athletes' Hub (high performance training centre) and measured general air quality conditions, while the data provided by Lanfranco were stack test results used to assess environmental compliance of the asphalt plant.

Air quality monitoring reports show no significant reduction in air quality on days when the asphalt plant was operating. In early 2017, the provincial Ministry of Health contacted Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, MOE and RMOW for an update on the air quality in Cheakamus Crossing. The Ministry of Health was informed that continuous real-time monitoring of fine particulate matter has been in place since 2010. The Ministry of Health was also informed by RMOW staff and consultant reports that, with the exception of regionally significant forest fire smoke, real-time monitoring at the air quality station in the neighbourhood identified that PM<sub>2.5</sub> (fine particulate matter) concentrations have been below the BC Ambient Air Quality Objectives (BCAAQO), which are set to ensure public and environmental health. PM<sub>10</sub> (PM<sub>2.5</sub> + coarse particulate matter) monitoring began in 2016 when the RMOW purchased its own sampling equipment and RMOW staff confirmed there have been no BCAAQO exceedances. Air quality reports are available at the following web address – <http://airquality.ca/clients/Whistler/index.php>. The Ministry of Health has encouraged the concerned public to contact the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority medical health officer should they still have health concerns.

The table below is a summary of the asphalt plant emissions testing results, as identified in the Lanfranco reports.

Parameter	Testing Results***				MOE Permit Limit and Threshold *	Correct Threshold **
	Jun 29, 2013	Jun 3, 2014	Sept 11, 2015 Nov 14, 2015	Jul 25, 2017		
Particulate (mg/Sm <sup>3</sup> @ 16% O <sub>2</sub> )	6.2	9.1	31.4	12.5	120	90
CO (mg/Sm <sup>3</sup> @ 16% O <sub>2</sub> )	314	217	216	81	400	200
Organics (THC) (mg/Sm <sup>3</sup> @ 16% O <sub>2</sub> )	11.8	9.4	38.6	15.5	120	60
Opacity (%)	< 5	< 10	< 10	< 5	20	20
Flowrate (Sm <sup>3</sup> /min)	577	591	552	503	N/A	N/A

\*Permit limit thresholds as stipulated by MOE's "Existing Hot Asphalt Plant Limits" as published in June 1997, and clarified by Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection in 2002.

\*\*As described below, Whistler Aggregates Ltd. relied on emissions standards that apply to older facilities and as such relied on inaccurate thresholds from 2013-2015.

\*\*\*If emissions are in compliance for 3 consecutive years, then testing is skipped the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the cycle. The consultant's reports identified that the test results were all in compliance therefore they were permitted to skip the 4<sup>th</sup> year of testing. Whistler Aggregates Ltd. was under the impression the operation met all applicable emissions standards from 2013-2015 and as such, did not conduct emissions testing in 2016.

Asphalt plant emission thresholds are set out in Schedule B of the *Asphalt Plant Regulation* under the *Environmental Management Act*. The applicable thresholds are based on multiple factors but – most relevant to the Whistler plant – thresholds fall into two categories based on whether the plant was constructed before or after June 27, 1997. A representative from Alpine Paving confirmed by email on June 6, 2017 that the current asphalt plant was manufactured in mid-2011. Representatives of the Sea to Sky Natural Resource District confirmed with the Compliance Section of the Environmental Protection Division of MOE that the more stringent thresholds in Schedule B of the *Regulation* apply. Therefore, the more stringent thresholds in Schedule B of the *Regulation* apply and are in the column titled 'Correct Threshold' in the table above.

Between 2013 and 2015, Whistler Aggregates Ltd.'s consultant used the incorrect thresholds to determine the asphalt plant's emission compliance. I note the thresholds used by the consultant are for asphalt plants constructed before June 27, 1997, are also described in Schedule B and labelled in the table above as 'MOE Permit Limit and Threshold'. For example, the threshold that applies to the asphalt plant for CO is 200 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, not 400 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. As a result of the consultant's error, CO emissions from the asphalt plant were not in compliance from 2013 to 2015 (314, 217 and 216 mg/m<sup>3</sup> respectively).

Sea to Sky Natural Resource District representatives discussed the CO exceedances with the MOE Compliance Section who were to follow up directly with Whistler Aggregates Ltd. to determine if the non-compliance has been addressed. The July 25, 2017 test results confirm the CO emissions from the asphalt plant now meet the applicable threshold. I am satisfied that Whistler Aggregates Ltd. has sufficiently addressed the CO compliance issue, that enforcement measures exist to deal with any future potential compliance issues, and the previous inadvertent non-compliance is not a basis to deny Whistler Aggregates Ltd.'s replacement application.

- Members of the public raised concerns about potential damage to buildings in close proximity to the quarry as a result of blasting that occurs on site. Based on information I received from RMOW staff, I am satisfied that seismic testing results conducted within the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood, indicate there is no measurable impact on the buildings as a result of the operational blasting at the quarry.

- The quarry was in operation before the development of the residential area and residents who purchased property in the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood had full prior knowledge of the quarry and asphalt plant. In particular, purchasers were required to sign a disclosure statement as part of the condition of sale of their property. The disclosure statement reads as follows:

“The Development is adjacent to an operational asphalt and gravel facility which may create associated noise, dust, odours and activity. The Municipality is currently discussing the possibility of relocating the asphalt plant operation with the owner of the asphalt plant and gravel facility”.

- Whistler Aggregates Ltd. has taken steps to accommodate the RMOW and the residents of Cheakamus Crossing in recent years to reduce the impact of its operations:
  - In 1997, Whistler Aggregates Ltd. moved the asphalt plant at the request of the RMOW to accommodate planned upgrades to the community sewage treatment plant. Although the final location of the sewage treatment plant was ultimately located in another area close by, the cost to move their operations incurred by Whistler Aggregates Ltd. was realized nevertheless.
  - In 2009, Whistler Aggregates Ltd. stopped using diesel generators to supply power for their operations. Whistler Aggregates Ltd. installed power lines to the quarry instead as a measure to reduce the noise and emissions generated from the diesel generators.
  - In 2012, Whistler Aggregates Ltd. incurred a significant expense to modernize the asphalt plant, in part to ensure the plant would meet all Metro Vancouver air emission standards and exceed Provincial air emission standards.
  - I understand the RMOW and Whistler Aggregates Ltd. reached an agreement in 2008/2009 to move the operation further away from the residential neighbourhood to provide a bit more of a visual buffer. Whistler Aggregates Ltd. incurred significant expenses to prepare the newly proposed site. However, following a municipal election in 2011, the new municipal council was opposed to Whistler Aggregates Ltd. location altogether given its proximity to the residential development. The RMOW commenced a court proceeding challenging Whistler Aggregates Ltd.’s ability to manufacture asphalt under the zoning bylaws. In 2012, the court concluded that Whistler Aggregates Ltd.’s asphalt plant was a permissible use under the local bylaws. I am not aware of any subsequent dialogue between the RMOW and Whistler Aggregates Ltd. attempting to seek any possible further resolution.
  - In 2011, Whistler Aggregates Ltd. paved approximately 750 metres of road, sharing the expense with another business, to help reduce the dust generated from traffic using the access road.
- Whistler Aggregates Ltd. continues to show a high level of cooperation and has agreed to remove a 4.4 hectare area from its existing licence of occupation to provide a larger buffer between the residential development and its operations.

- Whistler Aggregates Ltd. has expressed a willingness to re-engage with the RMOW to explore the possibility of relocating the quarry and asphalt plant away from the residential area. However, whether the parties reach an agreement or not is not known and Whistler Aggregates Ltd. is requesting a multi-year tenure term to provide for business continuity while other options are explored.
- The RMOW is in the process of community planning to address a growing population and a shortage of residential housing. The RMOW indicated to me that development adjacent to the Whistler Aggregates Ltd.'s tenured area is in the planning stage and the tenured area itself will be key to future housing.

I appreciate the growth that the RMOW is experiencing and will likely continue to experience in the future. I am aware the RMOW controls large areas of lands on which residential development can take place. For development that is planned and already underway in the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood, prospective residents will have knowledge of Whistler Aggregates Ltd.'s operations as all existing residents had. There is no information before me to suggest the quarry and asphalt plant are affecting the demand for housing in the neighbourhood. New residents to the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood will also benefit from the steps taken by Whistler Aggregates Ltd. in recent years to reduce the impact of its operation on its neighbours.

With respect to the RMOW's comment that the Whistler Aggregates Ltd. tenured property is key to future housing, I am satisfied there are alternative areas set aside for housing through the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games legacy and that there is no immediate need for Whistler Aggregates Ltd.'s land, and any assumption the land would be available now was speculative. If circumstances change during the 10 years of this tenure, I encourage the RMOW to raise this issue as a concern if Whistler Aggregates Ltd. applies to replace this licence.

- Members of the public raised a concern about the speed at which trucks travel along the access road. I am aware of both a 30 km/hr and 50 km/hr speed limit being posted along the access road. In my view, any incidence of speeding is not a basis to deny Whistler Aggregates Ltd.'s application and I am satisfied that a simple reminder of the speed limit would be enough to ensure all traffic travelling along the access road, whether industrial or not, would be enough to gain compliance. If not, normal enforcement measures can be employed as per regular practice by the RCMP.
- The RMOW expressed a concern that Whistler Aggregates Ltd. was operating outside of its tenured area. Upon further review, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) staff determined that no quarrying activities have occurred outside of the licenced boundary. FLNRORD staff determined that Whistler Aggregates Ltd. was requested by the RMOW in 2010 to relocate the asphalt plant a further 150 metres back into the tenure area and further behind a treed buffer area in order to appease concerns about it being too visible from the Cheakamus Crossing community. I understand that Whistler Aggregates Ltd. did the preparation work (outside of their licence area) to prepare for this move but ultimately, the RMOW decided not to pursue this option. Quarrying activities have not taken place at this site.

It appears, however, that there is an access road from the lower processing area to the upper pit that runs outside of the licence boundary. Proper authorization of this road segment will be a requirement of Whistler Aggregates Ltd. moving forward.

- The viability of the quarry as well as the need to fully utilize a quarry before it is retired was another issue raised. The quarry has produced an average of approximately 85,000 metric tonnes of material annually over a ten year period (2006-2016). Assuming this production rate is consistent moving forward, the life of the quarry is approximately another 47 years, given there is an estimated 4 million metric tonnes remaining. Whistler Aggregates Ltd. confirmed that almost all of the material originating from this quarry is used within the RMOW. Although there are many issues to consider in this decision, I believe it demonstrates diligent use of the natural resources to attempt to fully utilize the resource provided in this quarry before moving to the next quarry.

### **First Nations Consultation**

The First Nations in the area did not raise any significant cultural rights and title issues during consultation for this tenure renewal. The Lil'wat Nation did raise concern over the originally proposed 30 year term and suggested that a 5 year term may be more appropriate and in line with the Lil'wat Nation policies.

### **Financial standing**

Whistler Aggregates Ltd. is current on all payments and accounts for annual rent for the tenure and the royalties payable to the Crown for stone removal. The applicant has adhered to all requirements of the previous licence.

### **Determination**

Having considered all of the available information, I am satisfied that replacing Whistler Aggregates Ltd.'s licence of occupation (2401480) for 10 years to operate a quarry and asphalt plant is in the public interest. The operation meets the applicable air quality and emission standards with one exception which, in my view, has been satisfactorily dealt with. Whistler Aggregates Ltd. has taken steps on its own accord to reduce the impact of the quarry and asphalt plant on the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood, and continues to show a willingness to discuss additional steps. Whistler Aggregates Ltd. provides local employment opportunities and contributes to the local and provincial economies.

I acknowledge that RMOW's council and some members of the public are opposed to the quarry and asphalt plant. However, in my opinion, the parties opposed to the operation did not provide any objective evidence to change my conclusion that it is in the public interest to replace the licence.

### **Term of tenure**

Whistler Aggregates Ltd. originally requested a 30 year replacement of its licence. I believe that a 10 year term is appropriate in the circumstances.

### **Conditions of issuance**

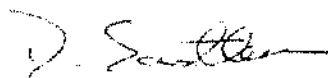
It appears to me the access road from the processing area and asphalt plant area to the main part of the quarry is outside of the current licence boundary. As a condition of approval, Whistler Aggregates Ltd. must submit an application to add this area to the licence of occupation.

The short access road originating from the Jane Lakes/Whistler Quarry road, which is one of the main roads in Cheakamus Crossing, to the quarry is currently untenured. Based on current ministry policy, this road requires land tenure. Portions of the road may be shared with Murrin Construction which operates a pit located to the west of Whistler Aggregates Ltd. This road was originally thought to be included in the plans for the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood development but ultimately this parcel was returned to the Crown. This issue is to be identified in the Notice of Final Review as something requiring an application within 120 days.

### **Opportunities for future discussion**

I am grateful to have received genuine and thoughtful comments and data when making my decision. I also recognize the steps taken by Whistler Aggregates Ltd. in recent years to reduce the impact of its operation on its Cheakamus Crossing neighbours and its willingness to continue to engage. I am aware of plans for the RMOW to undertake a major community planning study which will provide an opportunity to review longer term industrial and residential planning throughout the community, together with the community's ongoing and future needs for aggregates, landscape stone and asphalt. I am also aware that RMOW has expressed interest in working with the Province and Whistler Aggregates Ltd. to review alternate locations for the asphalt plant.

I encourage all stakeholders to continue exploring and discussing any other options or alternatives that may be for the benefit of all. As the ministry's representative, I will be ready, as always, to make a decision on any subsequent requests for a licence of occupation in the Sea to Sky Natural Resource District.



---

Dave Southam, RPF  
District Manager  
Sea to Sky Natural Resource District



## Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX

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**From:** Donaldson, Doug PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2017 11:55 AM  
**To:** Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Heads up - Whistler Aggregates  
**Attachments:** IN\_Whistler quarry\_Sept 18.doc; ATT00001.htm; 2401480 Reason for Decision (Sept 15 2017)-signed.pdf; ATT00002.htm

For printing

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX" <[Kenn.McLaren@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kenn.McLaren@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** September 18, 2017 at 8:56:20 PM PDT  
**To:** "Donaldson, Doug PREM:EX" <[Doug.Donaldson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Doug.Donaldson@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Heads up - Whistler Aggregates

---

**From:** Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2017 5:10 PM  
**To:** Renneberg, Tim PREM:EX; McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX  
**Cc:** Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX; Sutherland, Craig FLNR:EX; Jones, Lisa FLNR:EX; Robinson, Gordon FLNR:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Heads up - Whistler Aggregates

Hi! The Sea to Sky Natural Resource District Manager has offered a 10-year renewal of Whistler Aggregates Ltd.'s licence of occupation. s.13 I've attached an issues note and copy of the reasons for decision. The district manager is planning on advising the Resort Municipality of Whistler of his decision tomorrow morning. The decision is a statutory decision under the Land Act.

Cheers,

**Vivian Thomas**  
Communications Director  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development  
Tel: 250 356-2475 cell: 250 213-2972  
[Vivian.Thomas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Vivian.Thomas@gov.bc.ca)