

MMF-Rustad

Tuesday, October 16, 2018
3:46 PM

Subject	MMF-Rustad
From	Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
To	Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Cc	Zadavec, Don GCPE:EX; Wright, Don J. PREM:EX; Hockin, Amber PREM:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX
Sent	Saturday, August 11, 2018 9:49 PM

Group,
Quick update.

I've spoken to MMF about this several times over the course of the evening.^{s.13}
s.13

I've also spoken to Jordan and understand that Aileen is starting a response letter based on
s.13 :

I'm assuming that the opposition plans to hold a media event early tomorrow afternoon to point out what they see as the deficiencies in Wildfire and EMBC's efforts to date. It is likely the case that that any such media event will coincide with Wildfire/EMBC's discussion and recommendations with respect to potential federal assistance and possible SOE declaration. Following his discussion with Rustad, MMF will decide whether to make additional media calls or wait until after he's received recommendations from Wildfire/EMBC.
I'll circle back after I speak to MMF in the morning

Eric

Draft letter to Wilkinson

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

3:47 PM

Subject	Draft letter to Wilkinson
From	Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
To	Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Sheldon, Tim FLNR:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX; Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX
Cc	Hockin, Amber PREM:EX; Wright, Don J. PREM:EX
Sent	Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:08 AM

Group,

MMF has reviewed this and approved. I have also apprised MDD of the content. It will need some tweaking, but the intention is to send it to Wilkinson by noon id possible. It would also be made available to media. Please flag any substantial issues

Thanks

Eric

Andrew Wilkinson,
Leader of the
Official Opposition
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to your letter of August 11 with respect to the emerging wildfire situation in the province. Over the past 24 hours I've spoken directly with your colleagues Shirley Bond and John Rustad and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the key points of those discussions. My colleague Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has also spoken to your colleagues and the leaders of many of the communities currently facing wildfire threats. As you know, the BC Wildfire Service currently has 3,460 personnel and 217 aircraft deployed fighting 586 fires around the province. The Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC (EMBC) are working closely with local governments and the forest industry and are continually reassessing their resource requirements.

To that end, senior officials in EMBC have prepared a draft order declaring a provincial state of emergency and will recommend that government sign the order if and when they determine that it will bolster our efforts to protect communities and deal with emerging fire threats.

Similarly, senior staff in Wildfire and EMBC have been in close contact with their federal counterparts for the past several days, and my deputy minister spoke to her federal counterpart late last evening. Together they have identified which personnel and aircraft resources the Federal Government could supply if Wildfire and EMBC staff recommend that I make such a request.

It is worth noting that while the provincial fire situation is still unsettled, the fire threat in other parts of Canada has decreased and as a result BC received additional Mexican fire crews yesterday from Ontario.

Senior officials in EMBC and the Wildfire Service will be meeting again this afternoon to

assess the situation across the province and I expect they will make recommendations regarding any additional actions they believe government needs to take to protect our citizens and our communities.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely

Mike Farnworth

Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Cc

Hon. Doug Donaldson

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

Donna Barnett

MLA, Cariboo---Chilcotin

Shirley Bond

MLA, Prince George---Valemount

John Rustad

MLA, Nechako Lakes

Coralee Oakes,

MLA, Cariboo North

Dan Davies

MLA, Peace River



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

August 13th, 2018

Dear Ministers Farnworth & Donaldson,

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my deep disappointment in the events that have transpired over the past two days.

You will have seen that correspondence sent in good faith on behalf of our constituents to you was provided to the media by your offices. As we have noted previously, the majority of fire activity is in ridings held by our members. Our offices have been contacted by constituents expressing their concerns, asking us to convey these concerns and to get as much information for them as possible. We explicitly made the choice to conduct our conversations in a professional and non-partisan manner with a focus on public safety. You can imagine our surprise when your offices decided to engage the media in this process. Our constituents have the right to as much information as possible and it is our job to convey those concerns to you.

Our caucus has been trying to communicate with the government regarding this issue without partisan gain in mind. The release of these letters to the media by your offices was both unfortunate and unproductive in the goal of meeting the needs of our constituents who are facing another year of tragic wildfires.

My colleague, John Rustad will be in touch over the phone to discuss further



Best,

Andrew Wilkinson, Q.C.
Leader of the Official Opposition

BC Liberal Official Opposition
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
T: 250-356-6171

FW: 241449 FW: Urgent: Response Required

Tuesday, October 16, 2018
3:48 PM

Subject	FW: 241449 FW: Urgent: Response Required
From	Correspondence Serv. Sectn, FLNR:EX
To	
Sent	
Attachments	 Letter to Minister F...  ATT00001

From: Donaldson.MLA, Doug [<mailto:Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]

Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 10:32 AM

To: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX; Jones, Tristan FLNR:EX

Subject: FW: Urgent: Response Required

From: Wilkinson, Andrew

Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2018 12:57 PM

To: D.Donaldson@gov.bc.ca; Donaldson.MLA, Doug ; M.Farnworth@gov.bc.ca;
Farnworth.MLA, Mike ; Ken.Mclaren@gov.bc.ca; Nimmi.Takka@gov.bc.ca; Lawson, Liam
PSSG:EX

Subject: Urgent: Response Required

Please see the attached letter from BC Liberal MLAs.

-Andrew Wilkinson



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Honourable Mike Farnworth
Room 128
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC

Honourable Doug Donaldson
Room 248
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC

August 11, 2018

Ministers Donaldson and Farnworth,

We are writing to you with a matter of the utmost urgency. As you are aware, wildfires are threatening areas across northern British Columbia, all of these are in our constituencies.

As the elected representatives of these areas, we have heard first-hand concerns that there are a lack of resources and personnel available to effectively fight these fires. Additionally, we have heard concerns from public safety representatives that adequate resources to effectively manage a large-scale evacuation order are not in place.

On behalf of our constituents, we are requesting information on the government's plan to ensure the safety of our communities. We would like to know the government's strategy for acquisition and deployment of resources to help fight the fires on the front lines. There have been concerns that local fire prevention experts like Jeff Kelly of Safeguard in Fort St. John, are not being utilized and that precious time is being wasted as fires burn while equipment sits idle.

With regard to public safety, we are imploring you to seek federal assistance. As we know, the federal government and military are able to not only assist with front line firefighting, but also to provide essential emergency response services such as evacuation support.

Finally, we have nothing but the highest regard and deep gratitude for the wildfire crews that are working tirelessly to protect our province. The work is dangerous and these incredible men and women are risking their own personal safety to protect others. That is why it is absolutely imperative that the proper resources and support be in place.

BC Liberal Official Opposition
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
T: 250-356-6171



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Because time is of the essence, we are seeking an expeditious and detailed response from you by noon on Sunday August 12, 2018. Please contact John Rustad directly at 250-613-2697 with your response. Thank you for recognizing that the safety of our constituents is paramount.

Sincerely,

Donna Barnett
MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin

Shirley Bond
MLA, Prince George-Valemount

Coralee Oakes,
MLA, Cariboo North

Andrew Wilkinson,
Leader of the Official Opposition

John Rustad
MLA, Nechako Lakes

Dan Davies
MLA, Peace River North

BC Liberal Official Opposition
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
T: 250-356-6171

Bullard, Dan FLNR:EX

From: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 11:06 AM
To: McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX
Cc: Correspondence Serv. Sectn, FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: Letter to Minister Farnworth
Attachments: Letter to Minister Farnworth_Aug 12 2018.pdf

Importance: High

Hi Kenn! Another on this issue responding to Minister Farnworth's response and requesting more information by 5:00 pm today. Let me know if you would like me to gather some information; although may be very difficult as staff are focussing on the fires not responding to letters.

Teresa, please add this to 241449

Thank you—Di Bohja!

Sonia Donison
Manager
Correspondence Services
250 356-9638

From: Donaldson.MLA, Doug [<mailto:Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 10:58 AM
To: Jones, Tristan FLNR:EX; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: Letter to Minister Farnworth

From: Wilkinson, Andrew
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 5:11 PM
To: D.Donaldson@gov.bc.ca; Donaldson.MLA, Doug ; M.Farnworth@gov.bc.ca; Farnworth.MLA, Mike
Subject: Letter to Minister Farnworth

Please see the attached letter.

-Andrew Wilkinson

Bullard, Dan FLNR:EX

From: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 10:37 AM
To: McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX
Cc: Jones, Tristan FLNR:EX; Correspondence Serv. Sectn, FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: Urgent: Response Required
Attachments: Letter to Minister Farnworth_Minister Donaldson_Wildfires_Aug 2018.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Importance: High

Hi Kenn! I just received this and he wanted something by yesterday. Do you want to make a phone call?

Teresa, please track to MO for now

Thank you—Di Bohja!

Sonia Donison
Manager
Correspondence Services
250 356-9638

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-Andrew Wilkinson