

Bullard, Dan FLNR:EX

From: Correspondence Serv. Sectn, FLNR:EX
Sent: August 13, 2018 10:51 AM
Subject: FW: 241449 FW: Urgent: Response Required
Attachments: Letter to Minister Farnworth_Minister Donaldson_Wildfires_Aug 2018.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Importance: High

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

Andrew Wilkinson,
Leader of the Official Opposition

Shirley Bond
MLA, Prince George-Valemount

John Rustad
MLA, Nechako Lakes

Coralee Oakes,
MLA, Cariboo North

Dan Davies
MLA, Peace River North

From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
To: Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX
Cc: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: Letter from Opposition
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 5:32:58 PM
Attachments: image002.png
image007.png
image008.png
image009.png
image010.png
image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png

Sheila, just to confirm that both Tim Sheldan and Rick Manwaring have approved the responses for BCWS. Thanks.

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 5:25 PM
To: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Cc: Eckardt, Dana R FLNR:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX; Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Subject: Re: Letter from Opposition
Ok thanks. It looks good to me.

Sent from Tim Sheldan's iPhone

On Aug 14, 2018, at 4:52 PM, Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX <Emily.Tackaberry@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Tim –
This is the version that Rick has approved. We will send these minor edits back to GCPE HQ noting Rick's approval.
Thanks
Emily

Emily Tackaberry
Manager, Executive Issues
Deputy Minister's Office
(250) 213-8447
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: Eckardt, Dana R FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:42 PM
To: McDonald, Seanna FLNR:EX; Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: Letter from Opposition
Importance: High
FYI

From: Brown, Tom G EMBC:EX
Sent: August 14, 2018 4:41 PM
To: Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX
Cc: Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Eckardt, Dana R FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: Letter from Opposition
Importance: High

Hi Tim and Richard – I just want to be sure you received this draft letter through other channels.
The plan is to not send the letter until the issue of the prov dec is settled and the wording will be adjusted in the letter under question 1 to reflect a declaration. The letter will be sent once the news release is issued tomorrow morning as appropriate.....
Please let us know of any changes you might have to the letter.
Thanks very much
Tom

From: Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:23 PM
To: Brown, Tom G EMBC:EX
Subject: Re: Letter from Opposition
looking good.

In item 3, next-to-last paragraph, I recommend replacing "compromising" with "affecting".

From: Tom.Brown@gov.bc.ca
Sent: August 14, 2018 4:04 PM
To: Becky.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca
Subject: FW: Letter from Opposition

This is where we're at with the letter but understanding that the answer to #1 may change soon.....
Thanks Becky
Tom

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:00 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX; Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX; Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX
Cc: Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Tanaka, Sandra EMBC:EX; Brown, Tom G EMBC:EX; Duffy, Chris D EMBC:EX
Subject: RE: Letter from Opposition

Hello,
Please find the attached draft response. Please ensure this is reviewed by senior Ministry officials in EMBC and FLNR/BCWS, and provide your comments directly to Sheila Matthen, who has her pen on the letter for version control.

Sheila can be reached at 250-893-5218 and is also on this email chain.
 We are hoping for all comments by no later than 4:30 so this can be signed off by the Minister and provided to MLA Wilkinson by 5.
 Thank you all very much for your help today!
 Aileen Machell
 Issues Manager
 778.584.0257

From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 3:53 PM
To: Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX
Cc: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Tanaka, Sandra EMBC:EX; Brown, Tom G EMBC:EX; Duffy, Chris D EMBC:EX
Subject: RE: Letter from Opposition

Here are the responses from BCWS that have been provided to the minister's office as well

Question #2

The decision to implement a backcountry restriction is one that is not made lightly. Over the past weekend, portions of both the Regional District of East Kootenay and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District received precipitation, minimizing the risk of significant fire spread for the next several days in those areas. Risks are evaluated daily by the Southeast Fire Centre's experts, using a combination of weather forecasts; fire danger ratings; fuel moisture conditions; fire growth modelling; observed and forecast fire behaviour on local fires; and regional and provincial fire load.

Public safety is BC Wildfire's number one priority and is currently being managed, in part, using campfire prohibitions; area closures; and access restrictions around our existing fires that have been identified as having potential to impact the safety of backcountry users. So far this year, the Southeast Fire Center has not confirmed one wildfire caused by an off-road vehicle in the backcountry. The public is also a valuable asset when it comes to reporting new fires in the backcountry. Local seasonal tourism and businesses rely on access to the backcountry and risks to the public is constantly evaluated relative to economic risks and stakeholder concerns when determining acceptable levels of access to the backcountry.

Our first priority is keeping people safe and every British Columbian needs to do his or her part to ensure the safety of their community; however, if conditions are elevated to an unacceptable level, a backcountry restriction will be considered as required.

Question #5

- We're always interested in exploring new technologies to gain the edge in fighting fires.
- We issued an expression of interest in the spring for mass water delivery systems, and had 6 companies reply.
- We tested a large mass water delivery system on the Snowy Mountain, . It was very effective in establishing a wet line and protecting structures. However, at the same time, the equipment can take two to three days to fully set up.
- There are also environmental challenges that need to be considered in setting these systems up. The large volumes of water can cause slides when used on steep terrain – and drawdown of water from a lake or river can also impact fish and fish habitat.
- We are currently working to deploy a smaller mass water delivery system within the Babine Complex. We hope to use this smaller system as a tactic to achieve important fireline objectives, and will be evaluating the efficacy of this system during its use.
- The BCWS continues to seek opportunities to deploy mass water delivery systems into active fireline situations and will be evaluating these systems as each opportunity arises.
- We will also be looking to further tests on these new systems in the fall.

Resourcing – Additional Information Request:

BC Wildfire Service as at August 12, 2018	HQ	Coastal	Cariboo	Kamloops	Northwest	Southeast	Prince George	Totals
# of BCWS personnel deployed (we don't track fire centre and fire line separately)	43	108	176	232	246	191	201	1197
# of contracted firefighters and support staff	86	91	329	271	195	259	200	1431
# of heavy equipment		24	80	108	21	63	24	320
# of OOP and international firefighters	1	4	64	80	103	36	81	369
# of other provincial staff currently assisting*	261	17	31	39	53	25	31	457

* regular staff in HQ and fire centres shown in HQ

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
 BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
 Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
 Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555

From: Brown, Tom G EMBC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 10:40 AM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX; Duffy, Chris D EMBC:EX
Cc: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Tanaka, Sandra EMBC:EX
Subject: Letter from Opposition

Importance: High

Hi Mary and Chris – Chris I just saw your note to Aileen. I was just speaking with both Mary and Aileen and for the purposes of coordinating the response to the attached letter, I just wanted to get everyone together on one email. I have broken out the questions and assigned responsibility for drafting responses (please make any adjustments to these responsibilities).

Aileen Machell and her colleague Sheila Matthen have kindly offered to pull all materials together into one response so please send responses to Aileen and Sheila.

1. Immediately declare a Provincial State of Emergency.

EMBC to draft with input from FLNRORD (I have crafted and am working it through internal approval now)

2. Immediately order the closure of provincial backcountry in the Regional District of East Kootenays and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District.

BCWS/FLNRORD to draft response

3. Ensure that local MLAs are included in EMBC/provincial calls.

GCPE to provide wording – some wording has been provided to Aileen from Shawn and Jordan

4. Second GCPE staff to high risk/interface fire zones.

GCPE to provide wording – same as above

5. Instruct your staff to reassess their procurement strategy for fire services contractors that provide higher volume fire suppression units to protect structures and property.

EMBC (Office of the Fire Commissioner) with input from BCWS

Follow-up Questions: all BCWS

Could the government provide a breakdown for the following:

- a) Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- b) Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel actively deployed to fire lines as of August 12, 2018
- c) Number of contracted firefighters and support staff deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- d) Number of heavy equipment and aerial support deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- e) Number of out-of-province and international firefighters currently deployed in the province, or in transit to British Columbia?
- f) Number of FLNR or other provincial staff currently assisting the BC Wildfire Service on fire lines as of August 12, 2018?

I hope this helps

Best, Tom

From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
To: Pawlick, Aaron FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: Letter from Opposition
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:03:42 PM
Attachments: NEW Letter to Wilkinson re Wildfires Aug 14 -v4.docx
image001.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image007.png
image008.png

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:00 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX; Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX; Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX
Cc: Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Tanaka, Sandra EMBC:EX; Brown, Tom G EMBC:EX; Duffy, Chris D EMBC:EX
Subject: RE: Letter from Opposition

Hello,

Please find the attached draft response. Please ensure this is reviewed by senior Ministry officials in EMBC and FLNRO/BCWS, and provide your comments directly to Sheila Matthen, who has her pen on the letter for version control.

Sheila can be reached at 250-893-5218 and is also on this email chain.

We are hoping for all comments by no later than 4:30 so this can be signed off by the Minister and provided to MLA Wilkinson by 5.

Thank you all very much for your help today!

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 3:53 PM
To: Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX
Cc: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Tanaka, Sandra EMBC:EX; Brown, Tom G EMBC:EX; Duffy, Chris D EMBC:EX
Subject: RE: Letter from Opposition

Here are the responses from BCWS that have been provided to the minister's office as well

Question #2

The decision to implement a backcountry restriction is one that is not made lightly. Over the past weekend, portions of both the Regional District of East Kootenay and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District received precipitation, minimizing the risk of significant fire spread for the next several days in those areas. Risks are evaluated daily by the Southeast Fire Centre's experts, using a combination of weather forecasts; fire danger ratings; fuel moisture conditions; fire growth modelling; observed and forecast fire behaviour on local fires; and regional and provincial fire load.

Public safety is BC Wildfire's number one priority and is currently being managed, in part, using campfire prohibitions; area closures; and access restrictions around our existing fires that have been identified as having potential to impact the safety of backcountry users. So far this year, the Southeast Fire Center has not confirmed one wildfire caused by an off-road vehicle in the backcountry. The public is also a valuable asset when it comes to reporting new fires in the backcountry. Local seasonal tourism and businesses rely on access to the backcountry and risks to the public is constantly evaluated relative to economic risks and stakeholder concerns when determining acceptable levels of access to the backcountry.

Our first priority is keeping people safe and every British Columbian needs to do his or her part to ensure the safety of their community; however, if conditions are elevated to an unacceptable level, a backcountry restriction will be considered as required.

Question #5

- We're always interested in exploring new technologies to gain the edge in fighting fires.
- We issued an expression of interest in the spring for mass water delivery systems, and had 6 companies reply.
- We tested a large mass water delivery system on the Snowy Mountain, . It was very effective in establishing a wet line and protecting structures. However, at the same time, the equipment can take two to three days to fully set up.
- There are also environmental challenges that need to be considered in setting these systems up. The large volumes of water can cause slides when used on steep terrain – and drawdown of water from a lake or river can also impact fish and fish habitat.
- We are currently working to deploy a smaller mass water delivery system within the Babine Complex. We hope to use this smaller system as a tactic to achieve important fireline objectives, and will be evaluating the efficacy of this system during its use.
- The BCWS continues to seek opportunities to deploy mass water delivery systems into active fireline situations and will be evaluating these systems as each opportunity arises.
- We will also be looking to further tests on these new systems in the fall.

Resourcing – Additional Information Request:

							Prince		
BC Wildfire Service	HQ	Coastal	Cariboo	Kamloops	Northwest	Southeast	George	Totals	
as at August 12, 2018									

# of BCWS personnel deployed (we don't track fire centre and fire line separately)	43	108	176	232	246	191	201	1197
# of contracted firefighters and support staff	86	91	329	271	195	259	200	1431
# of heavy equipment		24	80	108	21	63	24	320
# of OOP and international firefighters	1	4	64	80	103	36	81	369
# of other provincial staff currently assisting*	261	17	31	39	53	25	31	457

* regular staff in HQ and fire centres shown in HQ

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Brown, Tom G EMBC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 10:40 AM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX; Duffy, Chris D EMBC:EX
Cc: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Tanaka, Sandra EMBC:EX
Subject: Letter from Opposition
Importance: High

Hi Mary and Chris – Chris I just saw your note to Aileen. I was just speaking with both Mary and Aileen and for the purposes of coordinating the response to the attached letter, I just wanted to get everyone together on one email. I have broken out the questions and assigned responsibility for drafting responses (please make any adjustments to these responsibilities).
Aileen Machell and her colleague Sheila Matthen have kindly offered to pull all materials together into one response so please send responses to Aileen and Sheila.

1. Immediately declare a Provincial State of Emergency.
EMBC to draft with input from FLNRORD (I have crafted and am working it through internal approval now)
2. Immediately order the closure of provincial backcountry in the Regional District of East Kootenays and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District.
BCWS/FLNRORD to draft response
3. Ensure that local MLAs are included in EMBC/provincial calls.
GCPE to provide wording – some wording has been provided to Aileen from Shawn and Jordan
4. Second GCPE staff to high risk/interface fire zones.
GCPE to provide wording – same as above
5. Instruct your staff to reassess their procurement strategy for fire services contractors that provide higher volume fire suppression units to protect structures and property.
EMBC (Office of the Fire Commissioner) with input from BCWS

Follow-up Questions: all BCWS

Could the government provide a breakdown for the following:

- a) Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- b) Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel actively deployed to fire lines as of August 12, 2018
- c) Number of contracted firefighters and support staff deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- d) Number of heavy equipment and aerial support deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- e) Number of out-of-province and international firefighters currently deployed in the province, or in transit to British Columbia?
- f) Number of FLNRORD or other provincial staff currently assisting the BC Wildfire Service on fire lines as of August 12, 2018?

I hope this helps

Best, Tom

From: [Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Donison, Sonia FLNR:EX](#); [Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Letter from Opposition
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 1:41:00 PM

From: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 12:02 PM
To: Brown, Tom G EMBC:EX; Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX; Duffy, Chris D EMBC:EX
Cc: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Tanaka, Sandra EMBC:EX
Subject: RE: Letter from Opposition

Here are some notes for the two GCPE points:

1. Ensure that local MLAs are included in EMBC/provincial calls.
 - EMBC coordination calls are for staff and agencies directly involved in the wildfire efforts. MLAs can direct constituents to BCWS / EmergencyInfoBC / Drive BC and their local authority websites, for the most up to date information on wildfires

The PECC has created an end of day report for all MLAs. This report includes information about:

- BC Wildfire Service personnel currently deployed
- Contracted firefighters and support staff deployed
- Aircraft currently deployed
- Properties on evacuation alert and order
- Emergency Social Services reception centres open in each region
- BC Parks affected by wildfire activity

To continue to provide as much information as possible we will also (starting today) send the daily BC Wildfire situation report and the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre situation report, which relays information about the wildfire situation from every region in the province.

Should MLAs require any additional information, the MLA desk at EMBC is available and has been staffed since Tuesday, August 7— a direct line to the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre — where elected officials can obtain real-time information about the situation in their communities.

2. Send GCPE staff to high risk/interface fire zones.
 - The provincial government stands ready to assist local authorities and FN communities with requests for assistance through their PREOCs and the regular request processes
 - EMBC Regions are in regular, daily contact with local governments and First Nations in their regions

- EMBC Regions host daily coordination calls with all affected communities and key ministry and agency experts to ensure coordinated and integrated service

So far, only the community of Dease Lake has requested communications support. GCPE sent up one Public Information Officer (PIO) shortly after the request was made. The PIO has been in Dease Lake since August 9.

The PIO has aided the community with:

- creating key messages, as well as providing speaking points for the Tahltan Chief for public meetings.
- working with the local communications contact (volunteer), showing her some basic ways to plan communications for audiences, etc.
- advising the Band and the EOC on messaging to the community throughout different phases of the response.
- advising the band and the regional district on approaches to further media relations

From: Brown, Tom G EMBC:EX

Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 10:40

To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX; Duffy, Chris D EMBC:EX

Cc: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Tanaka, Sandra EMBC:EX

Subject: Letter from Opposition

Importance: High

Hi Mary and Chris – Chris I just saw your note to Aileen. I was just speaking with both Mary and Aileen and for the purposes of coordinating the response to the attached letter, I just wanted to get everyone together on one email. I have broken out the questions and assigned responsibility for drafting responses (please make any adjustments to these responsibilities).

Aileen Machell and her colleague Sheila Matthen have kindly offered to pull all materials together into one response so please send responses to Aileen and Sheila.

1. Immediately declare a Provincial State of Emergency.

EMBC to draft with input from FLNRORD (I have crafted and am working it through internal approval now)

2. Immediately order the closure of provincial backcountry in the Regional District of East Kootenays and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District.

BCWS/FLNRORD to draft response

3. Ensure that local MLAs are included in EMBC/provincial calls.

GCPE to provide wording – some wording has been provided to Aileen from Shawn and Jordan

4. Second GCPE staff to high risk/interface fire zones.

GCPE to provide wording – same as above

5. Instruct your staff to reassess their procurement strategy for fire services contractors that provide higher volume fire suppression units to protect structures and property.

EMBC (Office of the Fire Commissioner) with input from BCWS

Follow-up Questions: all BCWS

Could the government provide a breakdown for the following:

a) Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?

b) Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel actively deployed to fire lines as of August 12, 2018

c) Number of contracted firefighters and support staff deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?

d) Number of heavy equipment and aerial support deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?

e) Number of out-of-province and international firefighters currently deployed in the province, or in transit to British Columbia?

f) Number of FLNRO or other provincial staff currently assisting the BC Wildfire Service on fire lines as of August 12, 2018?

I hope this helps

Best, Tom

From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
To: Loski, Carol FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: MO request - MLA Wilkinson letter
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 3:45:21 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:55 PM
To: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Cc: Moore, Paula FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: MO request - MLA Wilkinson letter

Sorry

On #5,

- We're always interested in exploring new technologies to gain the edge in fighting fires.
- We issued an expression of interest in the spring for mass water delivery systems, and had 6 companies reply.
- We tested a large mass water delivery system on the Snowy Mountain, . It was very effective in establishing a wet line and protecting structures. However, at the same time, the equipment can take two to three days to fully set up.
- There are also environmental challenges that need to be considered in setting these systems up. The large volumes of water can cause slides when used on steep terrain – and drawdown of water from a lake or river can also impact fish and fish habitat.
- We are currently working to deploy a smaller mass water delivery system within the Babine Complex. We hope to use this smaller system as a tactic to achieve important fireline objectives, and will be evaluating the efficacy of this system during its use.
- The BCWS continues to seek opportunities to deploy mass water delivery systems into active fireline situations and will be evaluating these systems as each opportunity arises.
- We will also be looking to further tests on these new systems in the fall.

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX

Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:54 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Cc: Moore, Paula FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: MO request - MLA Wilkinson letter
No attachment here

From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:54 PM
To: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Cc: Moore, Paula FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: MO request - MLA Wilkinson letter
Here is #5. Still waiting on #2

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural
Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:53 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Cc: Moore, Paula FLNR:EX
Subject: MO request - MLA Wilkinson letter
Importance: High

Hi Mary –

MO is also wanting info now on #2 and #5 from the letter – do your folks have anything ready?

2. Immediately order the closure of provincial backcountry in the Regional District of East Kootenays and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District. Backcountry activity in the two regions stated above have the potential to spark new wildfires. With zero precipitation in recent weeks and none in the forecast, each additional human-caused fire has the potential to stretch our already limited resources further. The Government of Alberta has closed backcountry activities along the Rockies to mitigate fire activity, I request that the Government of BC do the same.

5. Instruct your staff to reassess their procurement strategy for fire services contractors that provide higher volume fire suppression units to protect structures and property. There are BC based companies that have significant resources and expertise to effectively fight these complex and large interface fires and more importantly, with the ability to save structures through the use of mass fire suppression systems. These companies have expressed their interest to support the Province's activities and to-date, have been declined.

Thanks

Emily



Emily Tackaberry
Manager, Executive Issues
Deputy Minister's Office
(250) 213-8447
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
To: Loski, Carol FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: MO request - MLA Wilkinson letter
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 3:45:10 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural
Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 3:31 PM
To: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Cc: Moore, Paula FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: MO request - MLA Wilkinson letter

Here is the response on #2

The decision to implement a backcountry restriction is one that is not made lightly. Over the past weekend, portions of both the Regional District of East Kootenay and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District received precipitation, minimizing the risk of significant fire spread for the next several days in those areas. Risks are evaluated daily by the Southeast Fire Centre's experts, using a combination of weather forecasts; fire danger ratings; fuel moisture conditions; fire growth modelling; observed and forecast fire behaviour on local fires; and regional and provincial fire load. Public safety is BC Wildfire's number one priority and is currently being managed, in part, using campfire prohibitions; area closures; and access restrictions around our existing fires that have been identified as having potential to impact the safety of backcountry users. So far this year, the Southeast Fire Center has not confirmed one wildfire caused by an off-road vehicle in the backcountry. The public is also a valuable asset when it comes to reporting new fires in the backcountry. Local seasonal tourism and businesses rely on access to the backcountry and risks to the public is constantly evaluated relative to economic risks and stakeholder concerns when determining acceptable levels of access to the backcountry.

Our first priority is keeping people safe and every British Columbian needs to do his or her part to ensure the safety of their community; however, if conditions are elevated to an unacceptable level, a backcountry restriction will be considered as required.

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural
Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:55 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Cc: Moore, Paula FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: MO request - MLA Wilkinson letter
Thank you! ETA on 2?

From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:55 PM
To: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Cc: Moore, Paula FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: MO request - MLA Wilkinson letter

Sorry

On #5,

- We're always interested in exploring new technologies to gain the edge in fighting fires.
- We issued an expression of interest in the spring for mass water delivery systems, and had 6 companies reply.
- We tested a large mass water delivery system on the Snowy Mountain, . It was very effective in establishing a wet line and protecting structures. However, at the same time, the equipment can take two to three days to fully set up.
- There are also environmental challenges that need to be considered in setting these systems up. The large volumes of water can cause slides when used on steep terrain – and drawdown of water from a lake or river can also impact fish and fish habitat.
- We are currently working to deploy a smaller mass water delivery system within the Babine Complex. We hope to use this smaller system as a tactic to achieve important fireline objectives, and will be evaluating the efficacy of this system during its use.
- The BCWS continues to seek opportunities to deploy mass water delivery systems into active fireline situations and will be evaluating these systems as each opportunity arises.
- We will also be looking to further tests on these new systems in the fall.

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance

BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353

Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:54 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Cc: Moore, Paula FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: MO request - MLA Wilkinson letter
No attachment here

From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:54 PM
To: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Cc: Moore, Paula FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: MO request - MLA Wilkinson letter

Here is #5. Still waiting on #2

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural
Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:53 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Cc: Moore, Paula FLNR:EX
Subject: MO request - MLA Wilkinson letter
Importance: High

Hi Mary –

MO is also wanting info now on #2 and #5 from the letter – do your folks have anything ready?

2. Immediately order the closure of provincial backcountry in the Regional District of East Kootenays and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District. Backcountry activity in the two regions stated above have the potential to spark new wildfires. With zero precipitation in recent weeks and none in the forecast, each additional human-caused fire has the potential to stretch our already limited resources further. The Government of Alberta has closed backcountry activities along the Rockies to mitigate fire activity, I request that the Government of BC do the same.

5. Instruct your staff to reassess their procurement strategy for fire services contractors that provide higher volume fire suppression units to protect structures and property. There are BC based companies that have significant resources and expertise to effectively fight these complex and large interface fires and more importantly, with the ability to save structures through the use of mass fire suppression systems. These companies have expressed their interest to support the Province's activities and to-date, have been declined.

Thanks

Emily



Emily Tackaberry
Manager, Executive Issues
Deputy Minister's Office
(250) 213-8447
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: [Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX](#)
Cc: [Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: FW: NEW Letter to Wilkinson re Wildfires Aug 14 -v4
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:21:09 PM
Attachments: [NEW Letter to Wilkinson re Wildfires Aug 14 -v4.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Rick, a response to MLA Wilkinson letter for approval. This letter is going out today . BCWS contributed to Qs 2,5 and detailed resources.

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance

BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353

Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:19 PM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Cc: Loski, Carol FLNR:EX
Subject: NEW Letter to Wilkinson re Wildfires Aug 14 -v4
A couple of suggestions for consideration

From: [Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Loski, Carol FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: NEW Letter to Wilkinson re Wildfires Aug 14 -v4
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:18:39 PM
Attachments: [NEW Letter to Wilkinson re Wildfires Aug 14 -v4.docx](#)

A couple of suggestions for consideration

Page 16 to/à Page 23

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

From: [Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX](#); [Weir, Shauna FLNR:EX](#); [Beadman, Krista FLNR:EX](#)
Cc: [Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: Re: NEW Letter to Wilkinson re Wildfires Aug 14 -v4
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:46:31 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Good to go.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 14, 2018, at 4:21 PM, Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX <Mary.Myers@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Rick, a response to MLA Wilkinson letter for approval. This letter is going out today .
BCWS contributed to Qs 2,5 and detailed resources.

<!--[if !vml]-->
><!--[endif]-->

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353

Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:19 PM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Cc: Loski, Carol FLNR:EX
Subject: NEW Letter to Wilkinson re Wildfires Aug 14 -v4
A couple of suggestions for consideration

From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
To: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Cc: Loski, Carol FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: Rush info request for MO
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 3:42:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
image011.png
image012.png
image013.png
image014.png

Emily, are you coordinating the response from FLNR end or do I need to send all my pieces to GCPE?

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 3:39 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Cc: Loski, Carol FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: Rush info request for MO
Great thank you, just caught that the row was bumped!

From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 3:39 PM
To: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Cc: Loski, Carol FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: Rush info request for MO
Sorry, here it is fixed

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 3:36 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Cc: Loski, Carol FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: Rush info request for MO
Thanks! That's the info we have for heavy Equipment (ie, provincial only, not tracked by fire centre?)

From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 3:35 PM
To: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Cc: Loski, Carol FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: Rush info request for MO
Sorry, I shouldn't have hit send so fast. We have provincial numbers for aerial support
Helicopters – 183 and Air Tankers – 34.

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 3:34 PM
To: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Cc: Loski, Carol FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: Rush info request for MO
Here is the data we have

BC Wildfire Service	HQ	Coastal	Cariboo	Kamloops	Northwest	Southeast	Prince George	Totals
as at August 12, 2018								
# of BCWS personnel deployed (we don't track fire centre and fire line separately)	43	108	176	232	246	191	201	1197
# of contracted firefighters and support staff	86	91	329	271	195	259	200	1431
# of heavy equipment		24	80	108	21	63	24	320

# of OOP and international firefighters	1	4	64	80	103	36	81	369
# of other provincial staff currently assisting*	261	17	31	39	53	25	31	457
		24	80	108	21	63	24	320

* regular staff in HQ and fire centres shown in HQ

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 1:55 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Cc: Maley, Madeline L FLNR:EX; McDonald, Seanna FLNR:EX; Beadman, Krista FLNR:EX; Weir, Shauna FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: Rush info request for MO

My apologies Mary, we're coming late to the party on this one.

Brett over in GCPE just shared the attached and I see you're already working on this!

Still, let us know if there's any way we can help.

Emily

From: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 1:35 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Cc: Maley, Madeline L FLNR:EX; McDonald, Seanna FLNR:EX; Beadman, Krista FLNR:EX; Weir, Shauna FLNR:EX
Subject: Rush info request for MO
Importance: High

Hi Mary –

The MO is asking for the following info as soon as possible please.

Please confirm receipt and let me know if there's anything we can do to assist in gathering this info.

Breakdown for the following:

- Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel actively deployed to fire lines as of August 12, 2018
- Number of contracted firefighters and support staff deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- Number of heavy equipment and aerial support deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- Number of out-of-province and international firefighters currently deployed in the province, or in transit to British Columbia?
- Number of FLNRO or other provincial staff currently assisting the BC Wildfire Service on fire lines as of August 12, 2018?

Note, this will be used in the response to the attached letter from MLA Wilkinson to Minister Farnworth.

Thanks very much,

Emily



Emily Tackaberry
Manager, Executive Issues
Deputy Minister's Office
(250) 213-8447
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: [Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX](#)
Cc: [Moore, Paula FLNR:EX](#); [McDonald, Seanna FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Rush info request for MO
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:26:19 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

We are expecting this information shortly. Will send when I receive it.

Mary Myers

Director, Corporate Governance
BC Wildfire Service | Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural
Development
Phone: 250 387-5538 | Cell: 250 507-9353
Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555



From: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:16 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Cc: Moore, Paula FLNR:EX; McDonald, Seanna FLNR:EX
Subject: Rush info request for MO

And to make things more confusing, the MO still wants this info as soon as possible.

Breakdown for the following:

- a) Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- b) Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel actively deployed to fire lines as of August 12, 2018
- c) Number of contracted firefighters and support staff deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- d) Number of heavy equipment and aerial support deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- e) Number of out-of-province and international firefighters currently deployed in the province, or in transit to British Columbia?
- f) Number of FLNRO or other provincial staff currently assisting the BC Wildfire Service on fire lines as of August 12, 2018?

Emily

From: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 1:55 PM
To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX
Cc: Maley, Madeline L FLNR:EX; McDonald, Seanna FLNR:EX; Beadman, Krista FLNR:EX; Weir, Shauna FLNR:EX
Subject: RE: Rush info request for MO

My apologies Mary, we're coming late to the party on this one.

Brett over in GCPE just shared the attached and I see you're already working on this!

Still, let us know if there's any way we can help.

Emily

From: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX

Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 1:35 PM

To: Myers, Mary E FLNR:EX

Cc: Maley, Madeline L FLNR:EX; McDonald, Seanna FLNR:EX; Beadman, Krista FLNR:EX; Weir, Shauna FLNR:EX

Subject: Rush info request for MO

Importance: High

Hi Mary –

The MO is asking for the following info as soon as possible please.

Please confirm receipt and let me know if there's anything we can do to assist in gathering this info.

Breakdown for the following:

- a) Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- b) Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel actively deployed to fire lines as of August 12, 2018
- c) Number of contracted firefighters and support staff deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- d) Number of heavy equipment and aerial support deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
- e) Number of out-of-province and international firefighters currently deployed in the province, or in transit to British Columbia?
- f) Number of FLNRO or other provincial staff currently assisting the BC Wildfire Service on fire lines as of August 12, 2018?

Note, this will be used in the response to the attached letter from MLA Wilkinson to Minister Farnworth.

Thanks very much,

Emily



Emily Tackaberry

Manager, Executive Issues

Deputy Minister's Office

(250) 213-8447

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

From: [Donison, Sonia FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Oomen, Michael FLNR:EX](#); [Dahlie, Radha FLNR:EX](#); [Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Correspondence Serv. Sectn, FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: FW: RUSH - Wilkinson
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 1:18:46 PM
Attachments: [Letter to Minister Farnworth Aug 12 2018.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Hi! I need wording on 2, 4 and 5 immediately, can someone please assist

Thank you—Di Bohja!

Sonia Donison

Manager

Correspondence Services

250 356-9638

From: [Donison, Sonia FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Oomen, Michael FLNR:EX](#); [Dahlie, Radha FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: RE: RUSH - Wilkinson
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 1:57:25 PM

Hi Mike and Radha! We have wording, Mary is involved etc. I don't need anything from you at this point

Thank you—Di Bohja!

Sonia Donison
Manager
Correspondence Services
250 356-9638

From: Donison, Sonia FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 1:19 PM
To: Oomen, Michael FLNR:EX; Dahlie, Radha FLNR:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX
Cc: Correspondence Serv. Sectn, FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: RUSH - Wilkinson
Importance: High

Hi! I need wording on 2, 4 and 5 immediately, can someone please assist

Thank you—Di Bohja!

Sonia Donison
Manager
Correspondence Services
250 356-9638

From: [Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX](#)
To: [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#); [Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required
Date: August 11, 2018 7:01:35 PM

Got it and have engaged Chris.

From: Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca
Sent: August 11, 2018 6:37 PM
To: Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca; Becky.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required

Note the deadline they set for tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wilkinson, Andrew" s.17
Date: August 11, 2018 at 3:57:21 PM EDT
To: s.17 "Donaldson.MLA,
Doug LASS:EX" <Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, s.17, "Farnworth.MLA, Mike
LASS:EX" <Mike.Farnworth.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, "Ken.Mclaren@gov.bc.ca"
<Ken.Mclaren@gov.bc.ca>, "Nimmi.Takka@gov.bc.ca"
<Nimmi.Takka@gov.bc.ca>, "Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX"
<Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Urgent: Response Required

Please see the attached letter from BC Liberal MLAs.

-Andrew Wilkinson

From: [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
To: [Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX](#)
Cc: [Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Urgent: Response Required
Date: August 11, 2018 7:11:55 PM

Looped in comms directors from both ministries, they and Aileen from issues are going to draft a written response we could release publicly, but also use for one of the ministers or someone else to call Rustad with

L

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 11, 2018, at 10:01 PM, Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX <Becky.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Got it and have engaged Chris.

From: Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca
Sent: August 11, 2018 6:37 PM
To: Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca; Becky.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required

Note the deadline they set for tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wilkinson, Andrew" s.17
Date: August 11, 2018 at 3:57:21 PM EDT
To: s.17
"Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX"
<Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, s.17
s.17, "Farnworth.MLA, Mike LASS:EX"
<Mike.Farnworth.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, "Ken.Mclaren@gov.bc.ca"
<Ken.Mclaren@gov.bc.ca>, "Nimmi.Takka@gov.bc.ca"
<Nimmi.Takka@gov.bc.ca>, "Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX"
<Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Urgent: Response Required

Please see the attached letter from BC Liberal MLAs.

-Andrew Wilkinson

From: [Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX](#)
To: **S.17**
Cc: [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#); [Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX](#); [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#); [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#); [Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX](#); [Sanford, Donna L GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Final draft for Ministers approval
Date: August 12, 2018 11:40:25 AM

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 developing wildfire situation in the province. Over the past 24 hours I have spoken directly with your colleagues Shirley Bond and John Rustad and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the key points raised in those discussions. My colleague Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has also spoken to some of your colleagues and to the leaders of many of the communities currently facing wildfire threats.

I would like to emphasize there are 3,460 dedicated and trusted wildfire personnel working long hours every day to provide the best response possible to the 586 wildfires currently burning around the province. This work is dangerous and complex, and we are following the advice of these experts to ensure they have the resources and support they require.

To that end, last week I asked senior officials in EMBC to prepare a draft order declaring a provincial state of emergency. My staff will recommend that I sign the order if and when they determine that it will aid 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 very unsettled, the fire threat in other parts of Canada has decreased and as a result BC received additional 100 Mexican firefighters yesterday from Ontario.

In addition, EMBC is working to ensure communities have the supports they need to assist people through this emergency. We are coordinating with local governments through the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre in Victoria and Provincial Regional Coordination Centres in Terrace, Prince George, Nelson and Kamloops. Emergency Social Services Reception Centres are currently activated in ten communities. The province is working with the RCMP and major population centres in central B.C. such as Kamloops, Kelowna and Prince George to ensure they stand prepared to coordinate mass evacuations should the need arise. We're grateful to these communities for their support, and for opening their homes and neighbourhoods to fellow British Columbians in need.

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

From: [Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX](#)
To: **S.17**
Cc: [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#); [Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX](#); [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#); [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#); [Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX](#); [Sanford, Donna L GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Final draft for Ministers approval
Date: August 12, 2018 11:40:25 AM

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 developing wildfire situation in the province. Over the past 24 hours I have spoken directly with your colleagues Shirley Bond and John Rustad and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the key points raised in those discussions. My colleague Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has also spoken to some of your colleagues and to the leaders of many of the communities currently facing wildfire threats.

I would like to emphasize there are 3,460 dedicated and trusted wildfire personnel working long hours every day to provide the best response possible to the 586 wildfires currently burning around the province. This work is dangerous and complex, and we are following the advice of these experts to ensure they have the resources and support they require.

To that end, last week I asked senior officials in EMBC to prepare a draft order declaring a provincial state of emergency. My staff will recommend that I sign the order if and when they determine that it will aid 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 very unsettled, the fire threat in other parts of Canada has decreased and as a result BC received additional 100 Mexican firefighters yesterday from Ontario.

In addition, EMBC is working to ensure communities have the supports they need to assist people through this emergency. We are coordinating with local governments through the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre in Victoria and Provincial Regional Coordination Centres in Terrace, Prince George, Nelson and Kamloops. Emergency Social Services Reception Centres are currently activated in ten communities. The province is working with the RCMP and major population centres in central B.C. such as Kamloops, Kelowna and Prince George to ensure they stand prepared to coordinate mass evacuations should the need arise. We're grateful to these communities for their support, and for opening their homes and neighbourhoods to fellow British Columbians in need.

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 12th, 2018

Dear Minister Farnworth,

I would like to thank you for your letter of reply dated Aug 12th, 2016.

Upon review of the letter, the Official Opposition have follow-up questions and urgent requests for the Government of British Columbia to consider.

I appreciate that you and your staff are very busy during this busy fire season. As such, I have itemized items below for ease of response.

Urgent Requests:

On behalf of the MLAs and their impacted constituents the Official Opposition is requesting the Province of BC to act on the following:

1. Immediately declare a Provincial State of Emergency. With hot and dry weather expected to continue and a significant number of new fires started in the past week, more support is needed now. Federal resources will be able to supplement first responder activities in the event of mass evacuations; provide heavy machinery assistance to assist with highway closures due to mudslides (hindering potential evacuations on Highways 97, 99 and 1) and provide approximately 100 further firefighters.
2. Immediately order the closure of provincial backcountry in the Regional District of East Kootenays and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District. Backcountry activity in the two regions stated above have the potential to spark new wildfires. With zero precipitation in recent weeks and none in the forecast, each additional human-caused fire has the potential to stretch our already limited resources further. The Government of Alberta has closed backcountry activities along the Rockies to mitigate fire activity, I request that the Government of BC do the same.
3. Ensure that local MLAs are included in EMBC/provincial calls. MLAs from the Official Opposition are fielding dozens of calls and requests for information from their constituents. It is their job to help their constituents and provide factual, up-to-date information to alleviate anxiety. At this time, most MLAs from the Official Opposition have not been included in calls with provincial representatives.
4. Second GCPE staff to high risk/interface fire zones. Local governments are strapped for resources in many circumstances. The Government of British Columbia has, on hand, dozens of public relations specialists that could complement communications activities in emergency situations if they were embedded with local governments during high profile fire events.

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

of BRITISH COLUMBIA

5. Instruct your staff to reassess their procurement strategy for fire services contractors that provide higher volume fire suppression units to protect structures and property. There are BC based companies that have significant resources and expertise to effectively fight these complex and large interface fires and more importantly, with the ability to save structures through the use of mass fire suppression systems. These companies have expressed their interest to support the Province's activities and to-date, have been declined.

Follow-up Questions:

6. Could the government provide a breakdown for the following:
- a) Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
 - b) Number of BC Wilde Service personnel actively deployed to fire lines as of August 12, 2018
 - c) Number of contracted firefighters and support staff deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
 - d) Number of heavy equipment and aerial support deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
 - e) Number of out-of-province and international firefighters currently deployed in the province, or in transit to British Columbia?
 - f) Number of FLNRO or other provincial staff currently assisting the BC Wildfire Service on fire lines as of August 12, 2018?

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the work that you and your colleagues have done throughout this challenging fire season. The Official Opposition is acting in a constructive and proactive manner to support your efforts – so our constituents, dedicated firefighters, first responders and local governments can get through the remainder of the season as safely as possible.

In the urgent interest of public safety I look forward to a response by 5pm on August 13th.

Yours truly,

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Donna Barnett
MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin

John Rustad
MLA, Nechako Lakes

Dan Davies
MLA, Peace River North

Greg Kylo
MLA, Shuswap

Doug Clovechok
MLA, Columbia River Revelstoke

Tom Shypitka
MLA, Kootenay East

Shirley Bond
MLA, Prince George-Valemount

Coralee Oakes
MLA, Cariboo North

Jordan Sturdy
MLA, West Vancouver Sea-to-Sky

Jackie Tegart
MLA, Fraser-Nicola

Mike Morris
MLA, Prince George- Mackenzie

From: [Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX](#)
To: [Donaldson, Doug](#)
Cc: [Farnworth, Mike](#); [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#); [Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX](#); [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#); [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#); [Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX](#); [Sanford, Donna L GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Final draft for Ministers approval
Date: August 12, 2018 11:53:53 AM

Thanks, Minister, I'll change

From: Donaldson, Doug ^{s.17}
Sent: August-12-18 11:49 AM
To: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Cc: Farnworth, Mike; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX; Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Sanford, Donna L GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Final draft for Ministers approval

Only change is the sentence I'm referenced in "...has spoken to you and some of your colleagues...". So just adding the 'to you' so it is clear I spoke to the critic since I was addressed in the letter as well as Mike.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 11:40 AM, Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

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 developing wildfire situation in the province. Over the past 24 hours I have spoken directly with your colleagues Shirley Bond and John Rustad and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the key points raised in those discussions. My colleague Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has also spoken to some of your colleagues and to the leaders of many of the communities currently facing wildfire threats.

I would like to emphasize there are 3,460 dedicated and trusted wildfire personnel working long hours every day to provide the best response possible to the 586 wildfires currently burning around the province. This work is dangerous

and complex, and we are following the advice of these experts to ensure they have the resources and support they require.

To that end, last week I asked senior officials in EMBC to prepare a draft order declaring a provincial state of emergency. My staff will recommend that I sign the order if and when they determine that it will aid 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 very unsettled, the fire threat in other parts of Canada has decreased and as a result BC received additional 100 Mexican firefighters yesterday from Ontario.

In addition, EMBC is working to ensure communities have the supports they need to assist people through this emergency. We are coordinating with local governments through the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre in Victoria and Provincial Regional Coordination Centres in Terrace, Prince George, Nelson and Kamloops. Emergency Social Services Reception Centres are currently activated in ten communities. The province is working with the RCMP and major population centres in central B.C. such as Kamloops, Kelowna and Prince George to ensure they stand prepared to coordinate mass evacuations should the need arise. We're grateful to these communities for their support, and for opening their homes and neighbourhoods to fellow British Columbians in need.

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

From: [Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Urgent: Response Required
Date: August 12, 2018 8:17:04 AM

No letter attached

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 8:14 AM, Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX" <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 11, 2018 at 7:11:51 PM PDT
To: "Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX" <Becky.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX" <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Urgent: Response Required

Looped in comms directors from both ministries, they and Aileen from issues are going to draft a written response we could release publicly, but also use for one of the ministers or someone else to call Rustad with
L

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 11, 2018, at 10:01 PM, Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX <Becky.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Got it and have engaged Chris.

From: Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca
Sent: August 11, 2018 6:37 PM
To: Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca; Becky.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required

Note the deadline they set for tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wilkinson, Andrew"

s.17

Date: August 11. 2018 at 3:57:21 PM EDT

To: s.17

s.17

"Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX"

<Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>,

s.17

"Farnworth.MLA, Mike LASS:EX"

<Mike.Farnworth.MLA@leg.bc.ca>,

"Ken.Mclaren@gov.bc.ca"

<Ken.Mclaren@gov.bc.ca>,

"Nimmi.Takka@gov.bc.ca"

<Nimmi.Takka@gov.bc.ca>, "Lawson,

Liam PSSG:EX"

<Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Urgent: Response Required

Please see the attached letter from BC
Liberal MLAs.

-Andrew Wilkinson

Bullard, Dan FLNR:EX

From: Correspondence Serv. Sectn, FLNR:EX
Sent: August 13, 2018 10:51 AM
Subject: FW: 241449 FW: Urgent: Response Required
Attachments: Letter to Minister Farnworth_Minister Donaldson_Wildfires_Aug 2018.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Importance: High

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: s.17 ; Donaldson.MLA, Doug <Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; s.17
Farnworth.MLA, Mike <Mike.Farnworth.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Ken.Mclaren@gov.bc.ca; Nimmi.Takka@gov.bc.ca; Lawson,
Liam PSSG:EX <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
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

Andrew Wilkinson,
Leader of the Official Opposition

Shirley Bond
MLA, Prince George-Valemount

John Rustad
MLA, Nechako Lakes

Coralee Oakes,
MLA, Cariboo North

Dan Davies
MLA, Peace River North



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

of BRITISH COLUMBIA

August 12th, 2018

Dear Minister Farnworth,

I would like to thank you for your letter of reply dated Aug 12th, 2016.

Upon review of the letter, the Official Opposition have follow-up questions and urgent requests for the Government of British Columbia to consider.

I appreciate that you and your staff are very busy during this busy fire season. As such, I have itemized items below for ease of response.

Urgent Requests:

On behalf of the MLAs and their impacted constituents the Official Opposition is requesting the Province of BC to act on the following:

1. Immediately declare a Provincial State of Emergency. With hot and dry weather expected to continue and a significant number of new fires started in the past week, more support is needed now. Federal resources will be able to supplement first responder activities in the event of mass evacuations; provide heavy machinery assistance to assist with highway closures due to mudslides (hindering potential evacuations on Highways 97, 99 and 1) and provide approximately 100 further firefighters.
2. Immediately order the closure of provincial backcountry in the Regional District of East Kootenays and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District. Backcountry activity in the two regions stated above have the potential to spark new wildfires. With zero precipitation in recent weeks and none in the forecast, each additional human-caused fire has the potential to stretch our already limited resources further. The Government of Alberta has closed backcountry activities along the Rockies to mitigate fire activity, I request that the Government of BC do the same.
3. Ensure that local MLAs are included in EMBC/provincial calls. MLAs from the Official Opposition are fielding dozens of calls and requests for information from their constituents. It is their job to help their constituents and provide factual, up-to-date information to alleviate anxiety. At this time, most MLAs from the Official Opposition have not been included in calls with provincial representatives.
4. Second GCPE staff to high risk/interface fire zones. Local governments are strapped for resources in many circumstances. The Government of British Columbia has, on hand, dozens of public relations specialists that could complement communications activities in emergency situations if they were embedded with local governments during high profile fire events.

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

of BRITISH COLUMBIA

5. Instruct your staff to reassess their procurement strategy for fire services contractors that provide higher volume fire suppression units to protect structures and property. There are BC based companies that have significant resources and expertise to effectively fight these complex and large interface fires and more importantly, with the ability to save structures through the use of mass fire suppression systems. These companies have expressed their interest to support the Province's activities and to-date, have been declined.

Follow-up Questions:

6. Could the government provide a breakdown for the following:
- a) Number of BC Wildfire Service personnel deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
 - b) Number of BC Wilde Service personnel actively deployed to fire lines as of August 12, 2018
 - c) Number of contracted firefighters and support staff deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
 - d) Number of heavy equipment and aerial support deployed in each fire centre as of August 12, 2018?
 - e) Number of out-of-province and international firefighters currently deployed in the province, or in transit to British Columbia?
 - f) Number of FLNRO or other provincial staff currently assisting the BC Wildfire Service on fire lines as of August 12, 2018?

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the work that you and your colleagues have done throughout this challenging fire season. The Official Opposition is acting in a constructive and proactive manner to support your efforts – so our constituents, dedicated firefighters, first responders and local governments can get through the remainder of the season as safely as possible.

In the urgent interest of public safety I look forward to a response by 5pm on August 13th.

Yours truly,

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Donna Barnett
MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin

John Rustad
MLA, Nechako Lakes

Dan Davies
MLA, Peace River North

Greg Kylo
MLA, Shuswap

Doug Clovechok
MLA, Columbia River Revelstoke

Tom Shypitka
MLA, Kootenay East

Shirley Bond
MLA, Prince George-Valemount

Coralee Oakes
MLA, Cariboo North

Jordan Sturdy
MLA, West Vancouver Sea-to-Sky

Jackie Tegart
MLA, Fraser-Nicola

Mike Morris
MLA, Prince George- Mackenzie