

## IN on Abbott Chapman Report and State of Emergency Fact Sheet

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From: Haslam, David GCPE:EX <David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>, O'Donoghue, Eamon G FLNR:EX <Eamon.ODonoghue@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Monroe, Danielle FLNR:EX <Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca>, Brown, Edena FLNR:EX <Edena.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Andrews, Scott FLNR:EX <Scott.Andrews@gov.bc.ca>, Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 8, 2021 11:28:19 AM PDT  
Attachments: IN response to Abbott Chapman report July 6 2021 1235.docx, Factsheet - Provincial Emergencies1.docx

All – MKC requested messaging on province wide state of emergency for the meeting with MLA Morris. Attached is an EMBC factsheet on provincial emergencies that concludes with messaging on calls for a province wide state of emergency. I asked EMBC coms for the number of fires in 2017 and 18 that were active when the state of emergency was declared. s.13

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Rick - you asked about the status of Abbott Chapman report recommendations this am. In the background section of the attached IN we produced yesterday there is an update on the outstanding recommendations. Following the transcript is a response we sent to a reporter yesterday – approved by the PO.

CBYG (CBC Prince George)  
CBC Daybreak North  
2021-07-08 06:45

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**Reporter**

Shannon Waters, Reporter

BC Today

[s.waters@britishcolumbiatoday.ca](mailto:s.waters@britishcolumbiatoday.ca)

236-882-7149

**Deadline** ASAP

**Request**

From reporter: Just left you a voicemail. I'm looking for an update on the province's actions on the Abbott-Chapman report. Found a release about a progress update from 2019 - saying "almost all" recs had been responded to - but the links on the page go to EMBC's website where there doesn't seem to be the promised summary?

So, two questions for you:

- Is the progress report from 2019 available somewhere?
- Have the recommendations outstanding in 2019 been addressed yet?

**Recommendation**

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## ADVICE TO MINISTER

<p><b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> <b>GCPE-FLNR ISSUE NOTE</b></p> <p>Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Date: July 6, 2021 Minister Responsible: Hon. Katrine Conroy</p>	<p><b>Government response to Abbott-Chapman report (review of 2017 wildfire and flood seasons)</b></p>
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### ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

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## ADVICE TO MINISTER

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### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

The 2017 wildfire season was unprecedented in British Columbia's recorded history, and the spring freshet that preceded it resulted in hardships for many residents. More than 1.2 million hectares were burned and about 65,000 people were displaced as a result of 1,353 wildfires in 2017, while about 2,500 people were forced from their homes by freshet flooding.

On Dec. 4, 2017, the B.C. government announced an independent review of the 2017 wildfire and spring freshet seasons. Co-chaired by George Abbott and Chief Maureen Chapman, the review team held a series of open houses and met with First Nations, local governments and other groups of British Columbians affected by wildfires and flooding that year.

On April 30, 2018, Abbott and Chapman delivered their final report, Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia (PDF, 16.2MB).

On Oct. 31, 2018, the B.C. government released its Action Plan to address the 108 recommendations contained in the report. The current status of the government's response to the recommendations is as follows:

- 60 are complete
- 23 have seen substantial improvement
- 16 are underway

Of the remaining nine recommendations, three require further analysis and discussion, while alternative approaches are being used to address issues related to the other six recommendations. **(See table below.)**

Public updates on the progress made on the report's recommendations were released in April 2019 and October 2019.

The Action Plan communicates the B.C. government's ongoing commitment to working with partners — particularly First Nations — as it responds to the report's recommendations.

Ongoing priorities include:

- better integrating response and recovery activities across government
- building stronger partnerships with Indigenous and local communities
- improving public information and outreach to Indigenous and local communities
- investing money and staff resources in the BC Wildfire Service's response capabilities

A federal report (*From the Ashes: Reimagining Fire Safety and Emergency Management in Indigenous Communities*) was also released following the 2017 wildfire season. There is significant overlap between the Abbott-Chapman recommendations and the recommendations contained in the *From the Ashes* report.

### Nine remaining recommendations from the Abbott-Chapman report

Three recommendations are still being analyzed or discussed:

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

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## ADVICE TO MINISTER

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Communications Contact:	Thomas Winterhoff, Sr. PAO, GCPE FLNRORD	778 679-5541
Program Area Contacts:	Carol Loski, Strategic Advisor, BC Wildfire Service	778 679-2805
	Cameron Lewis, Executive Lead, Emergency Management Review, EMBC/FLNRORD	250 213-6882
File Created:	July 6, 2021	
File Updated:		

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## FACTSHEET

July 7, 2021

Emergency Management BC

### Provincial States of Emergency for Wildfires

The declaration of a state of emergency gives authority to agencies such as the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (BC Wildfire Service), Emergency Management BC, the Office of the Fire Commissioner and the RCMP (under the *Emergency Program Act*) to take every action necessary to fight wildfires and protect residents and their communities.

Declarations of provincial states of emergency may be issued under the *Emergency Program Act* by the minister responsible (Minister Farnworth), or the lieutenant governor in council.

#### What does a provincial declaration do?

- A provincial declaration of a state of emergency allows the Province to implement any provincial emergency measures and allows access to all assets that may be necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency.
- This is a temporary measure authorized by the *Emergency Program Act*.

#### What do emergency powers do?

- Emergency powers allow the Province to:
  - acquire or use any land or personal property considered necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster
  - authorize or require any person to render assistance of a type that the person is qualified to provide or that otherwise is or may be required to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster
  - control or prohibit travel to or from any area of British Columbia
  - provide for the restoration of essential facilities and the distribution of essential supplies and provide, maintain and coordinate emergency medical, welfare and other essential services in any part of British Columbia
  - cause the evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock, animals and personal property from any area of British Columbia that is or may be affected by an emergency or a disaster and make arrangements for the adequate care and protection of those persons, livestock, animals and personal property
  - authorize the entry into any building or on any land, without warrant, by any person in the course of implementing an emergency plan or program or if otherwise considered by the minister to be necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster

- cause the demolition or removal of any trees, structures or crops if the demolition or removal is considered by the minister to be necessary or appropriate in order to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster
- construct works considered by the minister to be necessary or appropriate to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster
- procure, fix prices for or ration food, clothing, fuel, equipment, medical supplies or other essential supplies and the use of any property, services, resources or equipment within any part of British Columbia for the duration of the state of emergency.

#### **Why would the government declare a state of emergency?**

- The government may declare a state of emergency to ensure the availability of necessary resources as it responds to wildfires.
- A state of emergency may help the Province access equipment or resources to better protect critical infrastructure such as transmission lines, roads, highways, bridges and telecommunications. The loss of these resources could severely hamper the province's economy.
- A provincial state of emergency helps ensure that the government can continue to have access to essential supplies, and can provide, maintain and co-ordinate emergency medical, welfare and other essential services throughout British Columbia.
- A provincial state of emergency may be extended or rescinded as needed.

#### **When has a provincial state of emergency been declared in recent years?**

- The most recent provincial state of emergency in British Columbia was declared in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. That provincial state of emergency ended on July 1, 2021, as the Province entered Step 3 of the Restart Plan.
- A provincial state of emergency was declared on Aug. 15, 2018 to ensure a co-ordinated response to that year's wildfire situation and to ensure public safety. It ended on Sept. 12, 2018.
- A provincial state of emergency was declared during the 2017 wildfire season, starting July 7. It lasted for 10 weeks.
- Prior to that, provincial states of emergency were declared during the 2003 wildfire season and in response to the snowstorm of 1996.

#### **Current Messaging for 2021 Wildfire Season:**

#### **Why isn't the government declaring a State of Emergency for the wildfires and heatwave?**

- The Province is currently deploying all necessary and requested resources to respond to the disaster in Lytton and wildfires across B.C.

- The federal government and the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre have been engaged, and are providing firefighting personnel, aircraft support, and other assets.
- A provincial declaration of a state of emergency has not been necessary to provide assistance to people, to access funding, or to coordinate or obtain additional resources – including federal assets.
- Declaring a Provincial State of Emergency is not a political decision, but rather one I will make on the advice of Emergency Management BC and BC Wildfire officials.
- A provincial State of Emergency will be enacted if, and when, it's required. In the meantime, we continue to support and listen to the concerns of local governments and actively monitor the situation.

## **RE: Wildfires & LGs - open offer to call further communities if needed this week**

From: Spilker, Robyn MUNI:EX <Robyn.Spilker@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>, Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca>, Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>, Monroe, Danielle FLNR:EX <Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca>, Andrews, Scott FLNR:EX <Scott.Andrews@gov.bc.ca>, Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Banh, Lindsay MUNI:EX <Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca>, Richardson, Roari MUNI:EX <Roari.Richardson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 14, 2021 2:56:36 PM PDT  
Hi all,

Minister is working through outreach on the list of Mayors and Chairs in the email below once more in the next 48hrs. She has been asked to add Mayor Blackwell to her list, though we understand FLNRD staff are doing outreach too and will aim to coordinate with Tim.

Aside from Mayor Blackwell, we are hearing some new concerns from local governments that the province has not implemented a state of emergency. Cariboo RD Chair Margo Wagner has followed up with Minister today voicing strong concerns. Minister tried to assuage her but without much success.

Andrew/Melanie - would an ADM/DM in EMBC be able to call Margo to hear the concerns and explain why a SoE is not needed?

Cariboo RD  
Chair Margo Wagner  
Cell: 250-706-0639

Thanks for all your help,  
Robyn

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**From:** Spilker, Robyn MUNI:EX  
**Sent:** July 12, 2021 10:55 AM  
**To:** Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>; Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca>; Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>; Monroe, Danielle FLNR:EX <Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca>; Andrews, Scott FLNR:EX <Scott.Andrews@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Banh, Lindsay MUNI:EX <Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca>; Richardson, Roari MUNI:EX <Roari.Richardson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Wildfires & LGs - open offer to call further communities if needed this week

Hi Amber, Andrew, Will, Danielle and Scott,

As we start another week, I just wanted to let you know Minister Osborne remains available to call any communities impacted by wildfire evacuations or receiving evacuees. Below is a list of communities she has already reached out to in the last days and weeks, to check-in and invite them to contact her directly. We are watching the Sun Peaks and District of Clearwater areas, but appreciate any other flags or recommendations.

Chairs:  
Thompson Nicola Regional District  
Cariboo Regional District  
Squamish Lillooet Regional District  
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Mayors:

Lytton  
Lillooet  
Kamloops  
Merritt  
Prince George  
Quesnel  
Williams Lake  
100 Mile House  
Burns Lake  
Vanderhoof (by default as Mayor is RDBN chair)

Thanks all,  
Robyn

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**From:** Spilker, Robyn MUNI:EX  
**Sent:** July 5, 2021 11:07 AM  
**To:** Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <[Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca)>; Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <[Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Monroe, Danielle FLNR:EX <[Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca)>; Andrews, Scott FLNR:EX <[Scott.Andrews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Scott.Andrews@gov.bc.ca)>; Banh, Lindsay MUNI:EX <[Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: List of communities taking in evacuees

Thank you!

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**From:** Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <[Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 5, 2021 10:45 AM  
**To:** Spilker, Robyn MUNI:EX <[Robyn.Spilker@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Robyn.Spilker@gov.bc.ca)>; Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <[Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Monroe, Danielle FLNR:EX <[Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca)>; Andrews, Scott FLNR:EX <[Scott.Andrews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Scott.Andrews@gov.bc.ca)>; Banh, Lindsay MUNI:EX <[Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: List of communities taking in evacuees

**Reception Centre have been established** in 100 Mile House, Prince George, Quesnel, William Lake, Kamloops, Chilliwack, Squamish, Lillooet Whistler, Seabird Island First Nation, and Sts'ailes (STAA-HAIL-ES) First Nation  
**Evacuees are being housed** in Kamloops, Chilliwack, Squamish, 100 Mile, Whistler as well as being hosted by numerous First Nation communities in the central interior, the Seabird Island First Nation and Sts'ailes (STAA-HAIL-ES) First Nation on the coast.

AD

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**From:** Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX  
**Sent:** July 5, 2021 10:31 AM  
**To:** Spilker, Robyn MUNI:EX <[Robyn.Spilker@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Robyn.Spilker@gov.bc.ca)>; Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <[Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca)>  
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**Subject:** RE: List of communities taking in evacuees

Hey Robyn,

Off the top of my head we've got Chilliwack and Seabird Island band (Culturally specific) as well. Sit tight for a sec and I'll get you a full list

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**From:** Spilker, Robyn MUNI:EX <[Robyn.Spilker@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Robyn.Spilker@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** July 5, 2021 10:26 AM

**To:** Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <[Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca)>; Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <[Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Monroe, Danielle FLNR:EX <[Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Danielle.Monroe@gov.bc.ca)>; Andrews, Scott FLNR:EX <[Scott.Andrews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Scott.Andrews@gov.bc.ca)>; Banh, Lindsay MUNI:EX <[Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lindsay.Banh@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** List of communities taking in evacuees

Hi Andrew and Melanie,

The Premier has just asked Minister Osborne to ensure she is staying in touch with all communities that may be talking in evacuees, particularly in the Cariboo.

She's been in touch with Cariboo RD, TNRD, Merritt, Kamloops, Lillooet and Lytton so far. Do you have a sense of what additional communities have evacuee centres so we can add them to the list?

Thanks,  
Robyn

**Robyn Spilker** *she/her*  
Senior Ministerial Advisor  
Hon. Josie Osborne  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
778-677-9020