

From: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Article
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 10:31:21 AM

<https://ckpgtoday.ca/article/536266/northwest-fire-centre-serious-trouble>

"A lot of these fires are in my riding. And it's very concerning. There are many homes, communities are at risk. And we're not seeing the kind of resources that we'd like to see to fight the fires," says John Rustad, MLA for Nechako Lakes.

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: [Sanford, Donna L GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: Final draft for Ministers approval
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:43:25 AM

s.22

For assistance,
please contact Caitlin.Copage@gov.bc.ca or 778-677-6651. Thank you.

From: [Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX](#); [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#); [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#); [Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX](#); [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#); [Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX](#); [Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX](#); [Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX](#); [Zadavec, Don GCPE:EX](#); [Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Hockin, Amber PREM:EX](#); [Wright, Don J. PREM:EX](#)
Subject: Draft letter to Wilkinson
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:08:41 AM

Group,

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

Thanks

Eric

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

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to your letter of August 11 with respect to the emerging wildfire situation in the province. Over the past 24 hours I've spoken directly with your colleagues Shirley Bond and John Rustad and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the key points of those discussions. My colleague Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has also spoken to your colleagues and the leaders of many of the communities currently facing wildfire threats.

As you know, the BC Wildfire Service currently has 3,460 personnel and 217 aircraft deployed fighting 586 fires around the province. The Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC (EMBC) are working closely with local governments and the forest industry and are continually reassessing their resource requirements.

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

Similarly, senior staff in Wildfire and EMBC have been in close contact with their federal

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

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

Senior officials in EMBC and the Wildfire Service will be meeting again this afternoon to assess the situation across the province and I expect they will make recommendations regarding any additional actions they believe government needs to take to protect our citizens and our communities.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Cc

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

Donna Barnett
MLA, Cariboo---Chilcotin

Shirley Bond
MLA, Prince George---Valemount

John Rustad
MLA, Nechako Lakes

Coralee Oakes,
MLA, Cariboo North

Dan Davies
MLA, Peace River

From: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#); [Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: First draft
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 10:25:02 AM
Attachments: [Letter to Wilkinson re Wildfires.docx](#)

Here's my first draft based on info provided by Jordan and Vivian.
It's a bit long but we can cut out what is not needed. Once you take a look and see if this is in the right direction, I'll run it past Ministry officials again for accuracy.

Thanks.

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Sanford, Donna L GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Final draft for Ministers approval
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:43:23 AM
Importance: High

Hi Donna,

Please see the draft letter below. We are waiting for final sign-off from the Ministers but expect the final will be quite close to the version below. I will send you the final once it's approved, but wanted to ensure you had this in good time.

Thanks,

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:40 AM
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

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.

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Thank you for your letter.

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Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

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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: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Final version
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 12:35:18 PM

FYI.

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 12:11 PM
To: Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Cc: Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hockin, Amber PREM:EX; Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX
Subject: Final version

Group, attached is the final version of the letter, Liam Lawson will proofread and then email to Wilkinson

Eric

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

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to your letter of August 11 with respect to the 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 of those discussions. My colleague Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has spoken to you and your colleagues and the leaders of many of the communities currently facing wildfire threats.

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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: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: Request for federal assistance
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 8:41:44 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX" <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 12, 2018 at 5:09:00 PM PDT
To: "Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX" <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Request for federal assistance

Fyi
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX" <Shawn.1.Robins@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 12, 2018 at 8:03:00 PM EDT
To: "Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX" <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>, "Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX" <Don.Zadravec@gov.bc.ca>, "Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX" <Evan.Lloyd@gov.bc.ca>, "Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX" <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>, "Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX" <Vivian.Thomas@gov.bc.ca>, "Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX" <Becky.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca>, "Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX" <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Request for federal assistance

s.13

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
To: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 9:03:07 PM
Attachments: [Wilkinson Response Letter.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX" <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 12, 2018 at 3:28:05 PM EDT
To: "'Wilkinson, Andrew"^{s.17}
Cc: "Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX" <Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, "Farnworth.MLA, Mike LASS:EX" <Mike.Farnworth.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Response Required

Hi MLA Wilkinson,

Minister Farnworth has spoken with MLA Rustad but in addition asked that we provide you with the attached written response.

Best,
Liam

From: Wilkinson, Andrew ^{s.17}
Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2018 12:57 PM
To: ^{s.17} Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX; ^{s.17} Farnworth.MLA, Mike LASS:EX; Ken.Mclaren@gov.bc.ca; Nimmi.Takka@gov.bc.ca; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: Urgent: Response Required

Please see the attached letter from BC Liberal MLAs.

-Andrew Wilkinson

From: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX](#); [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required
Date: Saturday, August 11, 2018 5:37:25 PM
Attachments: [Letter to Minister Farnworth Minister Donaldson Wildfires Aug 2018.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX" <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 11, 2018 at 4:19:48 PM PDT
To: "Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX" <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required

Fyi

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
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

CBC Daybreak North (and South)

Aug 10, 7:07 a.m. 1-250-861-3272 or 1-250-861-3781

Request to respond to Regional District of Bulkley Nechako's concerns about not enough resources on the Babine Complex fires

Quick Stats as of Aug 9:

- 465 fires currently burning, including 30 fires of note
- 1,563 fires since April 1
- \$174 million spent
- 164,662 hectares burnt
- 12 evacuation orders and 24 evacuation alerts

Total Personnel	Contractors	Out of Province	Aircraft
3,002	1,256	167	200

Weather outlook

A robust cold front will arrive Friday and into Saturday. Significant cooling, gusty winds and a chance of showers are on tap Saturday and Sunday for all of BC. With this rapid transition, however, comes the risk of more thunderstorms and dry lightning.

Why didn't you have firefighters on these fires sooner to prevent the spread?

s.13

Why don't you hire more local contractors?

s.13

What is the status of out of province resources?

- We currently have 167 firefighters and support staff from out of province.

When will more be coming?

s.13

When will you call in the military?

s.13

Why don't use municipal firefighters like you did last year?

s.13

Why don't you call or when will you call a provincial state of emergency?

s.13

What should homeowners be doing?

s.13



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

Page 020 to/à Page 025

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

From: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Groves, Joanna LASS:EX](#)
Subject: Messages
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 12:32:28 PM
Attachments: [2018.08.12 - MN - Wildfire Letter.docx](#)

I've pulled the letter points into a message document. Give me a call if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: [Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX](#); [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#); [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
Cc: [Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX](#); [Wright, Don J. PREM:EX](#); [Hockin, Amber PREM:EX](#); [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#); [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#); [Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX](#); [Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX](#); [Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: MMF-Rustad
Date: Saturday, August 11, 2018 9:49:43 PM

Group,

Quick update.

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

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

I'm assuming that the opposition plans to hold a media event early tomorrow afternoon to point out what they see as the deficiencies in Wildfire and EMBC's efforts to date. It is likely the case that any such media event will coincide with Wildfire/EMBC's discussion and recommendations with respect to potential federal assistance and possible SOE declaration.

Following his discussion with Rustad, MMF will decide whether to make additional media calls or wait until after he's received recommendations from Wildfire/EMBC.

I'll circle back after I speak to MMF in the morning

Eric

From: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Article
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 11:10:58 AM

Thanks!

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 11:10 AM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Article

From: McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 11:06 AM
To: Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Article

Hmm its from Friday. I don't see why not as a follow up. I can do that.

From: Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 11:04 AM
To: McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Article

Hey Sheena, Aileen flagged this article in CKPG with some critical comments from Rustad. Do you think it's worth providing the letter to them as well? (if we haven't already)

Matt

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 10:31 AM
To: Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Article

<https://ckpgtoday.ca/article/536266/northwest-fire-centre-serious-trouble>

"A lot of these fires are in my riding. And it's very concerning. There are many homes, communities are at risk. And we're not seeing the kind of resources that we'd like to see to fight the fires," says John Rustad, MLA for Nechako Lakes.

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: [Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#); [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#); [Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX](#); [Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX](#); [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Draft letter to Wilkinson
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:33:51 AM

Fine from FLNR as well.

From: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:32 AM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Draft letter to Wilkinson

No issues from EMBC's perspective with or without edits.

Thanks,

Jordan Turner

Communications Manager | EMBC
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: [\(250\) 952-5062](#) **Cell:** [\(250\) 896-1928](#)

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:21
To: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Draft letter to Wilkinson

Suggested additions (in blue) below. I think it's important we mention the communities we are working with to provide supports – this will be top of mind for anyone on evacuation order or alert.

Thanks.

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:09 AM
To: Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX; Zdravec, Don GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX
Cc: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX; Wright, Don J. PREM:EX
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Group,

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

Thanks

Eric

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Dear Andrew,

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

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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
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MLA, Nechako Lakes

Coralee Oakes,
MLA, Cariboo North

Dan Davies
MLA, Peace River

From: [Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Draft letter to Wilkinson
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:25:18 AM

Aileen, that's a good hybrid. Thanks for that.

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: August-12-18 11:21 AM
To: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Draft letter to Wilkinson

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Issues Manager
778.584.0257

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To: Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX; Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX
Cc: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX; Wright, Don J. PREM:EX
Subject: Draft letter to Wilkinson

Group,

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

Thanks

Eric

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

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to your letter of August 11 with respect to the emerging wildfire situation in the province. Over the past 24 hours I've spoken directly with your colleagues Shirley Bond and John Rustad and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the key points of those discussions. My colleague Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has also spoken to your colleagues and the leaders of many of the communities currently facing wildfire threats.

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

As you know, the BC Wildfire Service currently has 3,460 personnel and 217 aircraft deployed fighting 586 fires around the province. The Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC (EMBC) are working closely with local governments and the forest industry and are continually reassessing their resource requirements.

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

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

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

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 GCPE: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: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:53:54 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
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
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:50:04 AM

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.

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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 GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Hockin, Amber PREM:EX](#); [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Greens and Caucus
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 10:08:55 AM

Thanks appreciated.....its being update from last night. Jordan will send you the latest around 11

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 9:49 AM
To: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Cc: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX
Subject: Re: Greens and Caucus

Yes, will do.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2018, at 9:38 AM, Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Aileen,

I know you were connecting with Caucus and Casa on the letter and the potential SOE, but can you do the same with respect to the fed assistance request today?

Release will go out at 1:00

Thanks

Eric Kristianson
ADM Strategic Issues
GCPE
778-584-1248

From: [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#); [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Materials for MMF interview
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 9:38:13 AM

Messaging for PS Rice in Dease Lake (Friday):

- Wildfires threatening this area are of top priority to our government.
- In Telegraph Creek, hundreds of people have been forced from their homes. We recognize how difficult and stressful this situation is, we're doing everything we can to support the health and emotional wellbeing of the evacuees.
- Community members are being assisted at reception centres here in Dease Lake and the community of Iskut. As well, some residents have made their way to other northern communities including Smithers, Terrace, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.
- We're grateful to these communities for their support, for opening their homes and neighbourhoods, to fellow British Columbians in need.
- We're anticipating the continued threat of wildfires impacting communities in this region, and I'd like to remind everyone to remain vigilant in the days and weeks ahead.
- We're still in the response phase of this emergency. And, we're in discussions with Indigenous Services Canada and the Talhantan Nation to ensure the we are responding to best respond to the needs of evacuees from Telegraph Creek.

EMBC Support

- It's important to remember that EMBC's primary role is to support communities. It is communities that determine their needs and call on EMBC for aid.
- EMBC is working to ensure local governments are able to assist communities through this emergency.
- Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre in Victoria has been activated. As well,
 - The Northwest Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centre (PREOC) is supporting from Terrace.
 - And, there is additional provincial support here in the community of Dease Lake. We are committed to doing our part to support local governments in keeping all community members informed.

Moving Toward Recovery

- While it is early days and we are still engaged in a major wildfire fighting operation, it is never too early to start to look to what we will need to recover.
- The losses in Telegraph Creek have been significant and we still don't have the full picture of what the impacts will be for community members.
- The local communities have demonstrated tremendous resilience and support for each other. Pulling together will be key to all our future recovery efforts.
- All ministries that have a role to play in the recovery efforts, (i.e. transportation, health, forests, etc.) and each ministry will take part in working with the local community moving forward.

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 09:37
To: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: RE: Materials for MMF interview

Thank you! Do you have the speech PS Rice used? I think there may be helpful language in it.

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 9:17 AM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: RE: Materials for MMF interview

I'm currently expanding on these notes with more detail. Will send any changes in red.

Thanks,
JT

From: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 09:15
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: RE: Materials for MMF interview

- All six regional fire centres in the province continue to experience heightened fire activity, and high fire danger rating with large pockets of extreme is present across the province.
- Provincial temperatures are expected to drop to more seasonal levels this weekend and into next week, as opposed to the exceptionally hot temperatures we have been seeing. The southern-third of BC is expected to see precipitation over the next 48 hours, although a chance of increased lightning activity is also present.
- The drop in temperature has been a welcome relief in the northwest, where the community of Telegraph Creek has seen significant losses.
- Provincial evacuation and Emergency Social Services support specialists and indigenous community supports are in Dease Lake to support evacuees and local governments.
- We are continuing to coordinate with Indigenous Services Canada, the First Nations Leadership Council and provincial ministries and agencies to support Indigenous communities impacted.
- As the weather has cooperated somewhat, we are now redeploying some resources to challenging fires in central B.C.
- In the days and weeks ahead, our area of greatest concern is the central part of the province with the potential for new fires from lightning and continued impacts to communities from growth on existing fires.
- To manage this concern, we are:

- Working with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) to supplement our wildfire crews. Fire activity in other parts of the country has improved and as a result, we now have access to more resources. Out-of-province firefighting resources are already on the ground from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.
- In continuous conversation with the Government of Canada, and have Public Safety Canada liaison staff on hand in Victoria should additional resources be required.
- Coordinating with local governments through the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre in Victoria and Provincial Regional Coordination Centres in Terrace, Prince George, Nelson and Kamloops.

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 09:14

To: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX

Subject: Materials for MMF interview

Hi!

Eric said MMF had materials for an interview yesterday. Can you please send them to me?

Thanks!

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX](#); [Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX](#); [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#); [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
Cc: [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#); [Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: RE: MMF-Rustad
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 10:59:10 AM
Attachments: [Letter to Wilkinson re Wildfires.docx](#)

Aileen's draft attached. Eric can you review and add anything stemming from Minister's conversation with Rustad?

From: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2018 9:50 PM
To: Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Cc: Zdravec, Don GCPE:EX; Wright, Don J. PREM:EX; Hockin, Amber PREM:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX
Subject: MMF-Rustad

Group,

Quick update.

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

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

I'm assuming that the opposition plans to hold a media event early tomorrow afternoon to point out what they see as the deficiencies in Wildfire and EMBC's efforts to date. It is likely the case that that any such media event will coincide with Wildfire/EMBC's discussion and recommendations with respect to potential federal assistance and possible SOE declaration.

Following his discussion with Rustad, MMF will decide whether to make additional media calls or wait until after he's received recommendations from Wildfire/EMBC.

I'll circle back after I speak to MMF in the morning

Eric

From: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Request for federal assistance
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 8:37:42 PM

Is the letter done? Has it gone out?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 5:09 PM, Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Fyi
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX" <Shawn.1.Robins@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 12, 2018 at 8:03:00 PM EDT
To: "Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX" <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>, "Zadavec, Don GCPE:EX" <Don.Zadavec@gov.bc.ca>, "Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX" <Evan.Lloyd@gov.bc.ca>, "Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX" <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>, "Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX" <Vivian.Thomas@gov.bc.ca>, "Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX" <Becky.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca>, "Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX" <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Request for federal assistance

The wildfire steering group are recommending that the Province not announce a state of emergency at this time but supports requesting federal assistance ASAP. The initial letter of request is being modified slightly and the revised letter will be provided to MMF for signature and transmission to federal minister Goodale. The News Release will be amended and circulated for final approval. The federal government has requested a coordinated announcement so we are recommending sending the letter as soon as possible and waiting until tomorrow morning to issue News Release. This will enable us to coordinate with Feds and will allow for the possibility of any federal amendments.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Response to Liberal MLA letter re: wildfires
Date: Saturday, August 11, 2018 7:58:17 PM

Thank you kindly.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 11, 2018, at 7:55 PM, Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>

> Hi Shawn,

> Yes I will draft response tomorrow morning. Thank you.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Aug 11, 2018, at 7:46 PM, Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX <Shawn.1.Robins@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>>

>>

>> Hi Aileen. Just wondering if you are holding the pen on the response. Thanks.

>> Sent from my iPhone

From: [Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#); [Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX](#); [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Response to Liberal MLAs
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 10:48:31 AM

FYI, I just let Eric know about the additional Mexicans. Asking about the status of the other requests (since there can be a difference between what we ask for and what we get).

Vivian
250 213-2972

On Aug 12, 2018, at 10:44 AM, Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks Vivian. Is it possible to receive the number of wildfire crews still expected to come from Ontario and Mexico and anticipated dates? We heard there were more on the way. Thanks!

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 10:07 AM
To: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Cc: Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: RE: Response to Liberal MLAs

Sorry, with regard to out of province resources, I thought it was in the QA I sent you. Here's the latest:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->As of **Aug. 11, 2018**, the following 430 out-of-province personnel are working on wildfires in British Columbia:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->Alberta: 37 personnel
<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->New Brunswick: 26 personnel
<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->Northwest Territories: 21 personnel
<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->Quebec: 43 personnel
<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->Saskatchewan: 31 personnel
<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->Parks Canada: 13 personnel
<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->Australia: 30 personnel
<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->Mexico: 164 personnel
<!--[if !supportLists]-->■ <!--[endif]-->New Zealand: 65 personnel
<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->In addition, four Canadair CL-415

water-skimming aircraft from Quebec have joined the over 210 aircraft currently supporting ground crews and are currently stationed in Prince George.

From: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 10:03 AM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
Cc: Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: RE: Response to Liberal MLAs

Hi Aileen,

Updates to my notes are in red:

- All six regional fire centres in the province continue to experience heightened fire activity, and high fire danger rating with large pockets of extreme is present across the province.
- Provincial temperatures have dropped to more seasonal levels this weekend, as opposed to the exceptionally hot temperatures we have been seeing. The southern-third of BC has experienced precipitation over the weekend, although a chance of increased lightning activity is also present.
- The drop in temperature has been a welcome relief in the northwest, where the community of Telegraph Creek has seen significant losses.
- Provincial evacuation and Emergency Social Services support specialists and indigenous community supports are in Dease Lake to support evacuees and local governments.
- We are continuing to coordinate with Indigenous Services Canada, the First Nations Leadership Council and provincial ministries and agencies to support Indigenous communities impacted.
- As the weather has cooperated somewhat, we are now redeploying some resources to challenging fires in central B.C.
- In the days and weeks ahead, our area of greatest concern is the central part of the province with the potential for new fires from lightning and continued impacts to communities from growth on existing fires.
- To manage this concern, we are:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Working with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) to supplement our wildfire crews. Fire activity in other parts of the country has improved and as a result, we now have access to more resources. Out-of-province firefighting resources are already on the ground from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->In continuous conversation with the Government of Canada, Public Safety Canada and Department of National Defence liaison staff on hand in Victoria have access to additional resources as required. Emergency Management BC and

the BC Wildfire Service have drafted a request for assistance, details of which have been shared with the Federal Government. The Federal Government has communicated that they stand ready to support British Columbia, including air evacuation resources, when or if the professionals at the BC Wildfire Service and EMBC require this support.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->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.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->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. Luckily, we have not experienced the widespread human impacts that were seen in the 2017 wildfire season so far this year.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->EMBC's Advanced Planning Unit and Emergency Social Services Specialists are organizing medical and mass care group lodging supplies through BC Housing, the Red Cross and local authorities.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Through the Community Emergency Preparedness grants, announced last September at UBCM and funded by the province, many local governments purchased Emergency Social Service supplies such as cots, blankets and personal care items.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->EMBC works with agencies such as the Salvation Army and other non-government organizations to coordinate meals for evacuees.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->In coordination with the Federal Government, EMBC is able to formally request access to the national emergency stockpile system. At this point in time there are no outstanding requests for Emergency Social Services staff and all reception centres are able to handle current needs.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Should MLAs require any information, we have activation the MLA desk at EMBC — a direct line to the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre — where elected officials can obtain real-time information about the situation in their communities.

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 10:01
To: Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Cc: Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: RE: Response to Liberal MLAs
Importance: High

Is it possible to get current information about the number of wildfire crews and resources which have arrived from out of province? Number of people, from where... and when they arrived?

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 9:26 AM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Cc: Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: RE: Response to Liberal MLAs

Hi! Here's the KM/QA I did to support Minister Donaldson's CBC interview on Thursday morning to respond to Bulkley-Nechako's criticisms about resources. And just digging up the details around Safeguard and will get back to you shortly.

Cheers,

Vivian
250 213-2972

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 9:12 AM
To: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Cc: Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: RE: Response to Liberal MLAs

Hi Jordan,
Do you have a copy of that letter? Or messaging on the MLA desk?

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2018 8:07 PM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Cc: Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: Re: Response to Liberal MLAs

I'm working tomorrow at EMBC and can help sort out any details you need.

Last summer a letter was written about the MLA desk and their unprecedented access to real time information, etc. I think Matt Hannah may have written it. That would be a good source to draw from as well.

On Aug 11, 2018, at 7:54 PM, Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
<Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

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Jordan Turner

Communications Manager | EMBC

Government Communications and Public Engagement

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To: [Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX](#); [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX](#); [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Response to Liberal MLAs
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 10:47:19 AM

Also – the number of provincial crews total in the province. In the KM note it says 3002 total. Is this still correct?

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 10:44 AM
To: Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Cc: Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: RE: Response to Liberal MLAs

Thanks Vivian. Is it possible to receive the number of wildfire crews still expected to come from Ontario and Mexico and anticipated dates? We heard there were more on the way. Thanks!

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 10:07 AM
To: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Cc: Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: RE: Response to Liberal MLAs

Sorry, with regard to out of province resources, I thought it was in the QA I sent you. Here's the latest:

- As of **Aug. 11, 2018**, the following 430 out-of-province personnel are working on wildfires in British Columbia:
 - Alberta: 37 personnel
 - New Brunswick: 26 personnel
 - Northwest Territories: 21 personnel
 - Quebec: 43 personnel
 - Saskatchewan: 31 personnel
 - Parks Canada: 13 personnel
 - Australia: 30 personnel
 - Mexico: 164 personnel
 - New Zealand: 65 personnel
- In addition, four Canadair CL-415 water-skimming aircraft from Quebec have joined

the over 210 aircraft currently supporting ground crews and are currently stationed in Prince George.

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Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 10:03 AM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
Cc: Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: RE: Response to Liberal MLAs

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Subject: RE: Response to Liberal MLAs
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 10:13:42 AM

A couple of addition edits in blue. For context, there were 132 new fire starts in the last 24 hours alone— mainly from lightning and apparently new lightning fires in the southeast are growing rapidly – some are up to 400 hectares before crews can get there.

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Hi Aileen I have shared the letter from Liberal MLAs with Vivian from FLNROD and Jordan Turner my Communications Manager with EMBC. Let me know what I can do to assist with preparing a response. Do you have any thoughts around a response strategy.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Some style edits
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:02:52 AM

Thanks. I made some style edits on yours before I sent

Matt Hannah
778.584.1249

On Aug 12, 2018, at 11:02 AM, Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Some of these could be incorporated into the final version.

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

<Letter to Wilkinson re Wildfires - SM Edits.docx>

From: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Urgent: Response Required
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 7:42:34 AM

Sorry, I mean I thought a letter requesting assistance from federal government was going to be sent. With news release to follow today.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2018, at 6:42 AM, Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Who do you want to send it to?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2018, at 9:40 AM, Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
<Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Is it possible to get the letter sent to the federal government?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 9:03 PM, Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
<Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX"
<Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 12, 2018 at 3:28:05 PM EDT
To: "'Wilkinson. Andrew'"
s.17
Cc: "Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX"
<Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>,
"Farnworth.MLA, Mike LASS:EX"
<Mike.Farnworth.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Response Required

Hi MLA Wilkinson,

Minister Farnworth has spoken with MLA

Rustad but in addition asked that we provide you with the attached written response.

Best,
Liam

From: Wilkinson, Andrew
Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2018 12:57 PM
To: s.17; Donaldson.MLA,
Doug LASS:EX; s.17
Farnworth.MLA, Mike LASS:EX;
Ken.Mclaren@gov.bc.ca;
Nimmi.Takka@gov.bc.ca; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: Urgent: Response Required

Please see the attached letter from BC
Liberal MLAs.

-Andrew Wilkinson

<Wilkinson Response Letter.docx>

From: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Urgent: Response Required
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 6:40:07 AM

Is it possible to get the letter sent to the federal government?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 9:03 PM, Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX" <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 12, 2018 at 3:28:05 PM EDT
To: "'Wilkinson, Andrew'"^{s.17}
Cc: "Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX"
<Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>, "Farnworth.MLA, Mike
LASS:EX" <Mike.Farnworth.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Urgent: Response Required

Hi MLA Wilkinson,

Minister Farnworth has spoken with MLA Rustad but in addition asked that we provide you with the attached written response.

Best,
Liam

From: Wilkinson, Andrew^{s.17}
Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2018 12:57 PM
To:^{s.17} Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX;
^{s.17} Farnworth.MLA, Mike LASS:EX;
Ken.Mclaren@gov.bc.ca; Nimmi.Takka@gov.bc.ca; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Subject: Urgent: Response Required

Please see the attached letter from BC Liberal MLAs.

-Andrew Wilkinson

<Wilkinson Response Letter.docx>

From: [Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#); [Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX](#); [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
Subject: Response to Liberal MLA letter re: wildfires
Date: Saturday, August 11, 2018 7:46:43 PM

Hi Aileen. Just wondering if you are holding the pen on the response. Thanks.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX](#); [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#); [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
Subject: Response to Liberal MLAs
Date: Saturday, August 11, 2018 7:16:57 PM

Hi Aileen I have shared the letter from Liberal MLAs with Vivian from FLNROD and Jordan Turner my Communications Manager with EMBC. Let me know what I can do to assist with preparing a response. Do you have any thoughts around a response strategy.
Sent from my iPhone

Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 7:12 AM
To: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: MMF-Rustad

I will reach out to Roseanne too.

Amber Hockin
Deputy Chief of Staff
7785840867
Amber.hockin@gov.bc.ca
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 11:08 AM, Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

You bet. Evan LLOYD is in the loop, Evan Brown is not.

Eric Kristianson
ADM Strategic Issues Division
GCPE

On Aug 12, 2018, at 7:06 AM, Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

She isn't but Joanna Groves is filling in. I should probably give caitlin who is filling in for Donna a heads up this morning and I can also advise Evan of the Liberal letter and that we are preparing a response. Let's keep in touch. Thanks
Eric.

Amber Hockin
Deputy Chief of Staff
7785840867
Amber.hockin@gov.bc.ca
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 11:03 AM, Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
<Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Agreed...the green/caucus outreach is part of our plan to deal with the fed request/SOE. Obviously those are still to be determined by wildfire^{s.13}

I'll let you know where we land after MMF makes his call.

BTW do you know if Rosanne is around

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX

Sent: August-12-18 6:33:36 AM

To: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX

Subject: Re: MMF-Rustad

Thanks Eric. We will need to keep our MLAs briefed as well as the Green caucus. I'm in New Brunswick but available to take or make calls as needed. My cell is 17785840867. Amber

Amber Hockin

Deputy Chief of Staff

7785840867

Amber.hockin@gov.bc.ca

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 1:49 AM, Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
<Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Group,

Quick update.

I've spoken to MMF about this several times over the course of the evening. He is not pleased with Rustad's approach in the letter and will call him directly, likely early tomorrow morning. He has spoken to Bond and Barnett in the past 4 hours and it appears that they are taking the same approach they did last fire season.

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

I'm assuming that the opposition plans to hold a media event early tomorrow afternoon to point out what they see as the deficiencies in Wildfire and EMBC's efforts to date. It is likely the case that that any such media event will coincide with Wildfire/EMBC's discussion and recommendations with respect to potential federal assistance and possible SOE declaration.

Following his discussion with Rustad, MMF will decide whether to make additional media calls or

wait until after he's received recommendations from Wildfire/EMBC.

I'll circle back after I speak to MMF in the morning

Eric

Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX

From: Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:34 AM
To: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Draft letter to Wilkinson

Fine from FLNR as well.

From: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:32 AM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Draft letter to Wilkinson

No issues from EMBC's perspective with or without edits.

Thanks,

Jordan Turner

Communications Manager | EMBC
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: (250) 952-5062 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:21
To: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Draft letter to Wilkinson

Suggested additions (in blue) below. I think it's important we mention the communities we are working with to provide supports – this will be top of mind for anyone on evacuation order or alert.

Thanks.

Aileen Machell
Issues Manager
778.584.0257

From: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:09 AM
To: Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX; Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX
Cc: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX; Wright, Don J. PREM:EX
Subject: Draft letter to Wilkinson

Group,

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

Thanks

Eric

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

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to your letter of August 11 with respect to the emerging wildfire situation in the province. Over the past 24 hours I've spoken directly with your colleagues Shirley Bond and John Rustad and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the key points of those discussions. My colleague Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has also spoken to your colleagues and the leaders of many of the communities currently facing wildfire threats.

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

As you know, the BC Wildfire Service currently has 3,460 personnel and 217 aircraft deployed fighting 586 fires around the province. The Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC (EMBC) are working closely with local governments and the forest industry and are continually reassessing their resource requirements.

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

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

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

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

Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX

From: Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX
Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2018 8:45 PM
To: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Zdravec, Don GCPE:EX
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required
Attachments: Letter to Minister Farnworth_Minister Donaldson_Wildfires_Aug 2018.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Wilkinson's letter landed.
Embc is preparing a response according to this
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX" <Matt.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 11, 2018 at 6:30:20 PM PDT
To: "Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX" <Evan.Lloyd@gov.bc.ca>, "Hockin, Amber PREM:EX" <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>, "Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX" <Jen.Holmwood@gov.bc.ca>, "Wright, Don J. PREM:EX" <Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required

FYI. EMBC is preparing a response.

Matt Hannah
778.584.1249

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX" <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 11, 2018 at 5:37:24 PM PDT
To: "Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX" <Sheila.Matthen@gov.bc.ca>, "Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX" <Matt.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX" <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 11, 2018 at 4:19:48 PM PDT
To: "Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX" <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required

Fyi

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

Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX

From: Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 12:15 PM
To: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Final version

Hey,
Do you have this in a .doc file?
L

From: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 12:11 PM
To: Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Cc: Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hockin, Amber PREM:EX; Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX
Subject: Final version

Group, attached is the final version of the letter, Liam Lawson will proofread and then email to Wilkinson

Eric

Andrew Wilkinson,

Leader of the

Official Opposition

Parliament Buildings

Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to your letter of August 11 with respect to the 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 of those discussions. My colleague Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has spoken to you and your colleagues and 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 required.

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 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.

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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

Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX

From: Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 12:12 PM
To: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Final version

Thanks Eric

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 12:10 PM, Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Group, attached is the final version of the letter, Liam Lawson will proofread and then email to Wilkinson

Eric

Andrew Wilkinson,

Leader of the

Official Opposition

Parliament Buildings

Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

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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

Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX

From: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 1:47 PM
To: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX; McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX
Cc: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Sheldon, Tim FLNR:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Final version

Yes, it is not being sent broadly but rather sent to a couple of interior media outlets

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX
Sent: August-12-18 1:44 PM
To: Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Cc: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Sheldon, Tim FLNR:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Final version

Thanks. Can we confirm if our response letter is going to be released publicly please!

Amber Hockin
Deputy Chief of Staff
7785840867
Amber.hockin@gov.bc.ca
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 4:28 PM, Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Letter has been emailed to Wilkinson
L

From: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 12:11 PM
To: Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Cc: Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Hockin, Amber PREM:EX; Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Sheldon, Tim FLNR:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX
Subject: Final version

Group, attached is the final version of the letter, Liam Lawson will proofread and then email to Wilkinson

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

Dear Andrew,
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Shirley Bond and John Rustad and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the key points of those discussions. My colleague Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has spoken to you and your colleagues and the leaders of many of the communities currently facing wildfire threats.

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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

Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX

From: Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 10:59 AM
To: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Cc: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: MMF-Rustad
Attachments: Letter to Wilkinson re Wildfires.docx

Aileen's draft attached. Eric can you review and add anything stemming from Minister's conversation with Rustad?

From: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX
Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2018 9:50 PM
To: Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Cc: Zdravec, Don GCPE:EX; Wright, Don J. PREM:EX; Hockin, Amber PREM:EX; Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX; Sheldon, Tim FLNR:EX
Subject: MMF-Rustad

Group,

Quick update.

I've spoken to MMF about this several times over the course of the evening. He is not pleased with Rustad's approach in the letter and will call him directly, likely early tomorrow morning. He has spoken to Bond and Barnett in the past 4 hours and it appears that they are taking the same approach they did last fire season.

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

I'm assuming that the opposition plans to hold a media event early tomorrow afternoon to point out what they see as the deficiencies in Wildfire and EMBC's efforts to date. It is likely the case that that any such media event will coincide with Wildfire/EMBC's discussion and recommendations with respect to potential federal assistance and possible SOE declaration.

Following his discussion with Rustad, MMF will decide whether to make additional media calls or wait until after he's received recommendations from Wildfire/EMBC.

I'll circle back after I speak to MMF in the morning

Eric

Page 094 to/à Page 095

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

From: [Wright, Don J. PREM:EX](#)
To: [Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX](#); [Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX](#); [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#); [Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX](#); [Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX](#); [Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX](#); [Denlinger, Becky EMBC:EX](#); [Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX](#); [Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX](#); [Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX](#); [Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Hockin, Amber PREM:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Draft letter to Wilkinson
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:16:55 AM

Thanks Eric.

From: Eric Kristianson <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 at 11:08 AM
To: Evan Lloyd <Evan.Lloyd@gov.bc.ca>, "Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX" <Matt.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>, "Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX" <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>, "Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX" <Vivian.Thomas@gov.bc.ca>, "Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX" <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>, Becky Denlinger <Becky.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca>, Tim Sheldan <Tim.Sheldan@gov.bc.ca>, "Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX" <Richard.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>, "Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX" <Don.Zadravec@gov.bc.ca>, "Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX" <Shawn.1.Robins@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Amber Hockin <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>, "Wright, Don J. PREM:EX" <Don.J.Wright@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Draft letter to Wilkinson

Group,

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

Thanks

Eric

Andrew Wilkinson,

Leader of the

Official Opposition

Parliament Buildings

Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Andrew,

I am writing in response to your letter of August 11 with respect to the emerging wildfire situation in the province. Over the past 24 hours I've spoken directly with your colleagues Shirley Bond and John Rustad and would like to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the key points of those discussions. My colleague Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has also spoken to your colleagues and the leaders of many of the communities currently facing wildfire threats.

As you know, the BC Wildfire Service currently has 3,460 personnel and 217 aircraft deployed fighting 586 fires around the province. The Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC (EMBC) are working closely with local governments and the forest industry and are continually reassessing their resource requirements.

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

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

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

Senior officials in EMBC and the Wildfire Service will be meeting again this afternoon to assess the situation across the province and I expect they will make recommendations regarding any additional actions they believe government needs to take to protect our citizens and our communities.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely

Mike Farnworth

Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Cc

Hon. Doug Donaldson

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

Donna Barnett

MLA, Cariboo---Chilcotin

Shirley Bond

MLA, Prince George---Valemount

John Rustad

MLA, Nechako Lakes

Coralee Oakes,

MLA, Cariboo North

Dan Davies

MLA, Peace River

From: [Hockin, Amber PREM:EX](#)
To: [Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX](#)
Cc: [Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX](#); [Holmwood, Jen PREM:EX](#); [Wright, Don J. PREM:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Urgent: Response Required
Date: Saturday, August 11, 2018 6:33:10 PM

Thanks Matt.

Amber Hockin
Deputy Chief of Staff
7785840867
Amber.hockin@gov.bc.ca
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 11, 2018, at 10:30 PM, Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Hannah@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

FYI. EMBC is preparing a response.

Matt Hannah
778.584.1249

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX" <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 11, 2018 at 5:37:24 PM PDT
To: "Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX" <Sheila.Matthen@gov.bc.ca>, "Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX" <Matt.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX" <Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 11, 2018 at 4:19:48 PM PDT
To: "Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX" <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required

Fyi

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

<Letter to Minister Farnworth_Minister Donaldson_Wildfires_Aug 2018.pdf>

From: [Hockin, Amber](#) PREM:EX
To: [Lloyd, Evan](#) GCPE:EX
Cc: [Hannah, Matt](#) GCPE:EX; [Holmwood, Jen](#) PREM:EX; [Wright, Don J.](#) PREM:EX
Subject: Re: Urgent: Response Required
Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 11:26:24 AM

Thanks Evan. Just reviewed the letter as well. Great work by all on the response. Donna Sanford and Joanna Groves will need final version copies to ensure that MLAs and the green caucus are kept in the loop. They're plugged in with Matt's team to do this. Thanks again.
Amber

Amber Hockin
Deputy Chief of Staff
7785840867
Amber.hockin@gov.bc.ca
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 2:21 PM, Lloyd, Evan GCPE:EX <Evan.Lloyd@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thanks Amber. As things stand at this moment we are preparing a short response to the Liberal letter, from MMF, along the lines of :^{s.13}
s.13

Evan

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2018, at 9:22 AM, Hockin, Amber PREM:EX
<Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Folks. I've looped in Joanna Groves who will coordinate with our MLAs- making sure that we have speaking points for all and have reached out to Caitlin to ensure that we keep the Green caucus in the loop as well. Thanks. Amber

Amber Hockin
Deputy Chief of Staff
7785840867
Amber.hockin@gov.bc.ca
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 11, 2018, at 10:30 PM, Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX
<Matt.Hannah@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

FYI. EMBC is preparing a response.

Matt Hannah
778.584.1249

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<Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 11, 2018 at 5:37:24 PM PDT
To: "Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX"
<Sheila.Matthen@gov.bc.ca>, "Hannah,
Matt GCPE:EX"
<Matt.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
**Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response
Required**

Sent from my iPhone

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<Liam.Lawson@gov.bc.ca>
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To: "Machell, Aileen
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<Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
**Subject: Fwd: Urgent:
Response Required**

Fyi

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

<Letter to Minister Farnworth_Minister
Donaldson_Wildfires_Aug 2018.pdf>