

SG-Solicitor General

Referral Slip for ID:520888

2017/07/18

Log Type: Email	Action: Filing
Batch:	Subaction:

Type: Local Government

Written: 2017/04/07

Brad Sperling

Received: 2017/04/12

Entered By: rwestgat

Peace River Regional District

Box 810, 1891 Alaska Ave

Interim:

Dawson Creek, BC, Canada V1G4H8

Closed: 2017/04/12

File No.:

Address To: SG

Issue:

Copy To:

X-Ref:

Drafter:

MLA: Lekstrom, Blair (BC Liberal)

Electoral Dist: Peace River South

Subject

CC'D ON letter regarding a request that Emergency Management BC (EMBC) undertake efforts to develop a Provincial register for industrial work camps

Referral SG-Solicitor General -> SG-Solicitor General			
From: SG-Solicitor General	Sent: 2017/04/12	Status: Completed	Ref Action: Filing
To: SG-Solicitor General	Received: 2017/04/12	Reason:	Subaction:
Assign To:	Completed: 2017/04/12	Due:	File No.:

Referral SG-Solicitor General -> SG-Solicitor General -> PSPB-Correspondence			
From: SG-Solicitor General	Sent: 2017/04/12	Status: Completed	Ref Action: Filing
To: PSPB-Correspondence	Received:	Reason:	Subaction:
Assign To:	Completed: 2017/04/12	Due:	File No.:
Referral Comments			
2017/04/12 PSPB-Correspondence Filed and closed. No action for PSB.			



April 25, 2017

Brad Sperling, Chair
Peace River Regional District
PO Box 810
1981 Alaska Drive
Dawson Creek BC V1G 4H8

Reference: 266175

Dear Chair Sperling:

Re: Provincial Register for Industrial Work Camps

I am writing in response to your letter of April 7, 2017, addressed to the Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness, requesting that Emergency Management BC develop a provincial register for industrial work camps. As a provincial election has been called, I am responding on behalf of the minister.

I recognize the importance of this matter to the Regional District, particularly with respect to emergency evacuation planning. Due to the provincial election, the minister is not in a position to respond to your concerns at this time. Once the election period is complete, we will ensure the matters you have raised are shared with the minister.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Rebecca F. Denlinger
Deputy Minister
Emergency Management

.../2

Ministry of Transportation
and Infrastructure

Office of the
Deputy Minister
Emergency Management

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9850 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9T5
Telephone: 250 356-0840
Fax: 250 387-6431

Location:
4B 940 Blanshard Street
Victoria BC V8W 3E6
www.gov.bc.ca/tran

- 2 -

Copy to: Office of the Minister
 Ministry of State for Emergency Preparedness

 Office of the Minister
 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

 Office of the Minister
 Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

 Stephen Brown, Deputy Minister
 Ministry of Health

 Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

April 7, 2017

The Honourable Naomi Yamamoto
Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness
PO Box 9071
STN PROV GOV
Victoria, BC V2W 9E2

Dear Minister Yamamoto,

The Board of the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) is writing to request that Emergency Management BC (EMBC) undertake efforts to develop a Provincial register for industrial work camps.

The PRRD has been waiting for Cabinet to approve amended Industrial Camp Regulations (BC Guidelines for Work Camp Operations) that were under consideration by the Provincial Government. Passage of this important legislation would have required health authorities to be notified of industrial camp locations and for these camps to file environmental health plans. The information is vital to the Regional District as there does not currently exist a single agency that tracks the location of work camps and the legislation's passage would have provided this required information.

We were recently informed that the draft regulations did NOT pass at Cabinet and a voluntary document entitled Health and Medical Services Plan Best Management Guide remains in place. The only time this voluntary document is required is when it is included as a condition in an Environmental Assessment (EA) Certificate (making it a legally binding document). As not all projects trigger an EA, the voluntary guidelines fall short of providing any useful information to regional districts on the location and size of industrial work camps.

The lack of information on the location and size of work camps makes it difficult for the Regional District to develop evacuation plans that are used during emergencies such as those that occurred in 2016 due to fires and flooding. As the PRRD is responsible for emergency response planning in our region, it is critical that we have access to up-to-date information on the location and size of work camps and look to your Ministry for support.

Thank you for any assistance that you can provide.



Brad Sperling, Chair
Peace River Regional District

Attachment: June 3, 2016 letter to Premier Christy Clark

Cc:

The Honourable Terry Lake – Minister of Health hlth.minister@gov.bc.ca

Deputy Minister Stephen Brown – Ministry of Health hlth.dmooffice@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Mike Morris, - Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General PSSG.
PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Minister Todd Stone – Minister of Transportation & Inf. Todd.stone.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer Perry.kendall@gov.bc.ca

Mike Bernier, MLA – Peace River South mike.bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca

NCLGA – admin@nclga.ca

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PLEASE REPLY TO:

☒ Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8 Tel: (250) 784-3200 or (800) 670-7773 Fax: (250) 784-3201 Email: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca
☐ 9505 100 St, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4N4 Tel: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1125 Email: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

June 3, 2016

The Honourable Christy Clark
 Premier of British Columbia
 Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt.,
 Victoria, BC V8W 9E1
 via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Clark:

We are writing to request that the completion and release of the final version of the BC Guidelines for Work Camp Operations be considered as imperative.

As you are aware, currently there is no single entity that tracks the existence and location of work camp operations. Various agencies such as the Oil and Gas Commission, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, BC Assessment, and Peace River Regional District, all have knowledge of certain work camp operations, but no single group has access to a consolidated list of who is operating and where. The lack of this vital information by a single agency was emphasized during the recent extensive rural wildfires in the Regional District. Evacuation Orders and Alerts were issued without full knowledge of whether or not all work camp operations were properly notified and accounted for. Fortunately, there were no reports of work camp operations not being notified, but the significant risk remains.

Provincial approval and adoption of the BC Guidelines for Work Camp Operations document will result in a work camp with five or more beds having to register with the health authority. The information they provide through the Environmental Health Plan as part of the registration process will provide valuable information on the location of work camps how many beds (possible evacuees) are involved.

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PLEASE REPLY TO:

☒ Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8 Tel: (250) 784-3200 or (800) 670-7773 Fax: (250) 784-3201 Email: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca
☐ 9505 100 St, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4N4 Tel: (250) 785-8094 Fax: (250) 785-2076 Email: prrd.fs@prrd.bc.ca

August 11, 2016

Premier Christy Clark
June 3, 2016

Page 2

Although the primary intent of the Work Camp Operations Guidelines document is to establish minimum conditions essential to good health, the benefit of sharing the Environment Health Plan information will allow the Regional District to develop better plans during emergencies and aid in day to day planning by knowing who is operating in the Electoral Areas.

Yours truly,



Brad Sperling
Acting Chair

cc: The Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Health hlth.minister@gov.bc.ca
Deputy Minister Stephen Brown, Ministry of Health hlth.dmooffice@gov.bc.ca
The Honourable Mike Morris, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer Perry.Kendall@gov.bc.ca
Mike Bernier, MLA – Peace River South mike.bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Pat Pimm, MLA – Peace River North pat.pimm.MLA@leg.bc.ca
NCLGA admin@nclga.ca

August 11, 2016



JUL 26 2016



Mr. Brad Sperling
Acting Chair
Peace River Regional District
Box 810 - 1981 Alaska Ave
Dawson Creek BC V1G 4H8

Dear Mr. Sperling,

Thank you for your letter of June 3, 2016, requesting the completion and release of a final version of the BC Guidelines for Work Camp Operations (the Guidelines). The letter was forwarded to me by the Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, for a detailed response.

The Guidelines you refer to were a consultative draft that was structured to support an amended Industrial Camp Regulation that was under consideration by government. The Guidelines will not be formally released until a new regulation comes into force because the requirements need legislative support in order for them to apply. Consequently, the Industrial Camp Regulation remains in effect and applies to work camps in your area for the foreseeable future.

While there are no provisions for notifying the health authority in terms of the camp location and environmental health plan under the existing regulations, I would encourage you to work with the Northern Health Authority as there are, in some cases, provisions to obtain approvals for water and sewage applications for work camps. Allan Tornig is the Regional Director at the Northern Health Authority (email: allan.tornig@northernhealth.ca; phone: 250 565-2623). You may wish to contact him to explore any options for tracking work camps through existing procedures or permitting processes. Another option would be to engage industry through their corresponding associations to see if a voluntary best practices approach for information sharing with the regional district to ensure camp and worker safety would be feasible.

Thank you once again for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Terry Lake
Minister

pc: Deputy Minister Steve Brown, Ministry of Health
Honourable Mike Morris, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer
Mr. Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South
Mr. Pat Pimm, MLA, Peace River North
NCLGA
Mr. Allan Tornig, Regional Director, Regional Director for Health Protection

Ministry of
Health

Office of the
Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria V8W 9E2
August 11, 2016

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria