

SG-Solicitor General

Referral Slip for ID:546627

2018/08/22

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|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Log Type: Email | Action: SG RUSH | Due: 2018/08/27 |
| Batch: | Subaction: | |

Type: MLA-Opposition
 Andrew Wilkinson, Leader of the Official Opposition
 Vancouver-Quilchena
 BC Liberal Official Opposition, Parliament Buildings
 Victoria, BC, Canada V8V1X4
Phone: (250) 356-6171

Written: 2018/08/11 **Resp Type:** Email
Received: 2018/08/13 **Entered By:** S.15
Due: 2018/08/27
Signed: 2018/08/12 **Sign By:** SG
Approved: **Approved By:**
Closed: 2018/08/13 **File No.:**

Secondary Authors

Type: MLA-Opposition
 Donna Barnett, MLA
 Cariboo-Chilcotin
 BC Liberal Official Opposition, Parliament Buildings
 Victoria, BC, Canada V8V1X4
Phone: (250) 356-6171

Type: MLA-Opposition
 Shirley Bond, MLA
 Prince George-Valemount
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 Victoria, BC, Canada V8V1X4
Phone: (250) 356-6171

Type: MLA-Opposition
 Dan Davies, MLA
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Phone: (250) 356-6171

Type: MLA-Opposition
 Coralee Oaks, MLA
 Cariboo North
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 Victoria, BC, Canada V8V1X4
Phone: (250) 356-6171

Type: MLA-Opposition
 John Rustad, MLA
 Nechako Lakes
 BC Liberal Official Opposition, Parliament Buildings
 Victoria, BC, Canada V8V1X4
Phone: (250) 613-2697

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Address To: SG | Copy To: |
| Branch Rsp: | Issue: EMBC- General |
| X-Ref: | Drafter: |
| MLA: | Electoral Dist: Victoria-Beacon Hill |

Subject

"On behalf of our constituents, we are requesting information on the government's plan to ensure the safety of our communities."

Log Notes

2018/08/13 Sent to SG-DSG for RUSH SG Draft Reply.
 2018/08/13 RUSH SG Draft Reply.

Attachments

| | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|------------|
| <i>Title:</i> | response | <i>Version:</i> | 1 | <i>Type:</i> | |
| <i>File:</i> | response.msg | | | | |
| <i>Approved:</i> | | <i>Approved By:</i> | | <i>Last Update:</i> | 2018/08/13 |
| <i>Title:</i> | Incoming | <i>Version:</i> | 1 | <i>Type:</i> | |
| <i>File:</i> | 546627.msg | | | | |
| <i>Approved:</i> | | <i>Approved By:</i> | | <i>Last Update:</i> | 2018/08/13 |

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| Referral SG-Solicitor General -> SG-Solicitor General | | | | | |
| <i>From:</i> | SG-Solicitor General | <i>Sent:</i> | 2018/08/13 | <i>Status:</i> | Completed |
| <i>To:</i> | SG-Solicitor General | <i>Received:</i> | 2018/08/13 | <i>Reason:</i> | |
| <i>Assign To:</i> | | <i>Completed:</i> | 2018/08/13 | <i>Due:</i> | 2018/08/27 |
| | | | | <i>Ref Action:</i> | SG RUSH |
| | | | | <i>Subaction:</i> | |
| | | | | <i>File No.:</i> | |

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| Referral SG-Solicitor General -> SG-Solicitor General -> Correspondence tracking | | | | | |
| <i>From:</i> | SG-Solicitor General | <i>Sent:</i> | 2018/08/13 | <i>Status:</i> | Completed |
| <i>To:</i> | Correspondence tracking | <i>Received:</i> | | <i>Reason:</i> | |
| <i>Assign To:</i> | | <i>Completed:</i> | 2018/08/13 | <i>Due:</i> | 2018/08/27 |
| | | | | <i>Ref Action:</i> | SG RUSH |
| | | | | <i>Subaction:</i> | |
| | | | | <i>File No.:</i> | |

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| Referral SG-Solicitor General -> SG-Solicitor General -> EMBC-DM | | | | | |
| <i>From:</i> | SG-Solicitor General | <i>Sent:</i> | 2018/08/13 | <i>Status:</i> | Completed |
| <i>To:</i> | EMBC-DM | <i>Received:</i> | | <i>Reason:</i> | |
| <i>Assign To:</i> | | <i>Completed:</i> | 2018/08/13 | <i>Due:</i> | 2018/08/27 |
| | | | | <i>Ref Action:</i> | SG RUSH |
| | | | | <i>Subaction:</i> | |
| | | | | <i>File No.:</i> | |



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Honourable Mike Farnworth
Room 128
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC

Honourable Doug Donaldson
Room 248
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC

August 11, 2018

Ministers Donaldson and Farnworth,

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

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

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

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

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

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

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

Sincerely,

Donna Barnett
MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin

Andrew Wilkinson,
Leader of the Official Opposition

Shirley Bond
MLA, Prince George-Valemount

John Rustad
MLA, Nechako Lakes

Coralee Oakes,
MLA, Cariboo North

Dan Davies
MLA, Peace River North

From: [Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX](#)
To: [Hunt, Charlotte PSSG:EX](#); [Hong, Jonathan PSSG:EX](#)
Cc: [Takkar, Nimmi PSSG:EX](#)
Subject: Fwd: Urgent: Response Required
Date: Saturday, August 11, 2018 5:41:47 PM
Attachments: [Letter to Minister Farnworth Minister Donaldson Wildfires Aug 2018.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Hey,

Can you file this under our correspondence and put it as a rush mo response
L

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

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

Please see the attached letter from BC Liberal MLAs.

-Andrew Wilkinson

From: [Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Brown, Tom G EMBC:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Final version
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 10:49:40 AM

Response

From: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 1:45 PM
To: Lawson, Liam PSSG:EX
Cc: Kristianson, Eric GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Lloyd, Evan GCPE: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: Re: Final version

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

Amber Hockin

Deputy Chief of Staff

s.17

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; 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.

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