

From: Minister, EP TRAN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 3:28 PM
To: s.22
Cc: 'Premier@gov.bc.ca'
Subject: 251535 - Search and Rescue Training

s.22

251535 - Search and Rescue Training

s.22

Premier Christy Clark shared with me your e-mail regarding the whale watching boat tragedy that occurred near Tofino. My thoughts are with the families and friends of the victims, as well as with the people whose courageous actions led to the rescue of twenty-one passengers and crew members.

As you note, these local residents responded swiftly to the incident with their boats and performed heroic acts in the aftermath of the disaster. Marine search and rescue is a federal responsibility, however, so the provision of training or equipment to these residents would be the responsibility of the Canadian Coast Guard.

That being said, the Province takes the well-being of citizens who have been involved in these types of incidents very seriously. As you suggest, the Ministry of Health has arranged for disaster-psychosocial support volunteers to assist the rescuers and other local community members to cope with the tragedy.

With respect to improving cellular service in the Tofino region, you may be aware that the Province has a goal to make high-speed internet service available to 100 per cent of British Columbians by 2021. Although the Province relies on the private sector to deliver cellular service, the provincial government has been working with the private sector to help facilitate investment in expanding cellular access throughout B.C. For example, the 'Connecting British Columbia Agreement' has resulted in Telus installing over 1,300 kilometres of new highway cellular coverage, including along Highway 4.

Additionally, through the Province's support for projects like 'Pathways to Technology' we are helping to connect or enhance internet connectivity to 203 of B.C.'s First Nations communities. In the Tofino and surrounding region, the Province has partnered with Telus, BC Hydro and the All Nations Trust Company on construction of a new fibre network connection currently underway along Highway 4. When complete, this project will help provide high-speed internet and its accompanying communications benefits to communities all along the highway and on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Naomi Yamamoto
Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness

Copy to: Premier Christy Clark

From: s.22

Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 1:47 PM

To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Subject: Ahousaht

Dear Premier Clark

I am writing to encourage the emergency services ministry to quickly implement the changes, as outlined by Premier Clark in her remarks after the whale watching boat tragedy, for the Ahousaht community.

Premier Christy Clark said the emergency services ministry will offer more search and rescue training for those called out to help in marine rescues. She said she will also encourage Telus to speed up delivery of fibre optic cellular service to the west coast.

I was surprised to read that there is no reliable cellular phone service in Ahousaht, even though the residents have long been promised it.

If the Ahousaht community, using their own boats, had not been there to respond to the signal flare for help the loss of life may have been far worse. As I understand it, 30 people from the Ahousaht's volunteer search and rescue group were out in seven boats. They picked up and carried many people to shore and then they plotted the currents and moved further offshore looking for floating survivors.

By the time the federal search and rescue group arrived on the scene, the boats of Ahousaht had scooped up the 21 survivors.

This community of people were ready to help, know the water and shoreline and are the best ones to respond to a disaster. They just need the resources to perform these heroic acts.

I would also like to ask the Ministry to include programs for traumatic incidence stress. Many of the Ahousaht people interviewed on TV news reports seemed to be suffering from the effects of traumatic incidence stress and if, in the future, they are going to be provided resources to respond to emergencies then it only follows that some people will carry the after effects of mental stress.

Thank you for your consideration of my email letter.

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Page 03 of 36 to/à Page 07 of 36

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Page 08 of 36 to/à Page 10 of 36

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Page 11 of 36

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Page 12 of 36 to/à Page 27 of 36

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BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

DATE: January 12, 2016

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

ISSUE: An Emergency Response Protocol (the Protocol), developed by the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR), Legal Services Branch (LSB), the named First Nation parties and the Cariboo Regional District was intended to affirm continuity of normal emergency management response activities related to the Tsilhqot'in Declared Title Area (TDTA) as set out in *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia* 2014 Supreme Court of Canada decision 44. s.13

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

s.13

BACKGROUND:

The Protocol was intended to affirm the continuity of normal emergency management response activities related to the Tsilhqot'in Declared Title Area (TDTA), as set out in *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia* 2014 Supreme Court of Canada decision 44 and supports part of the greater Provincial reconciliation efforts. EMBC was made aware of the Protocol in May 2015 after it had been drafted, reviewed and signed off by the First Nations officials and the head of the Cariboo Regional District.

Since May 2015, EMBC staff has been in ongoing discussions with LSB and the MARR Chief Negotiator in attempts to clarify the overall intentions and potential impact of the Protocol and the requirement to have the provincial government sign off.

While the Protocol is intended to affirm the commitment of the Province with respect to emergency response on the TDTA and to maintain the status quo for that activity, EMBC has clarified any risks or expectations that the current provisions suggested. Specifically, emergency notification and contact management procedures were perceived as potentially problematic. These issues have been discussed and appropriately mitigated by all the parties involved in the Protocol.

DISCUSSION:

EMBC's general view of the Protocol is that the enhanced emergency management relationship between the jurisdictional local authority, Cariboo Regional District and both the Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government and the Tsilhqot'in National Government is of benefit.

EMBC already has, through the *Emergency Program Act*, the mandate and requirement to support the local authority, Cariboo Regional District, in times of emergency or disaster regardless of titles held on the lands within the jurisdiction; this is re-iterated under section 2 of the Protocol.

EMBC has collaborated with MARR on the work being done by the Province in relation to First Nation reconciliations to obtain definitive intent and clarify the content of the Protocol.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- None



OPTIONS:

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RECOMMENDATION:

s.13

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED

Todd G. Stone
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Date

Attachments: Emergency Response Protocol (PDF copy)

PREPARED BY:

David Tomaz, Emergency Planning Officer
EMBC – Plans & Mitigation section
(250) 952-4557

REVIEWED BY:

Pat Quealey, Assistant Deputy Minister
Emergency Management BC

Ian Lightbody, Executive Officer
Emergency Management BC

Biggs, Jackie TRAN:EX

From: Quealey, Pat TRAN:EX
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 16:45
To: Biggs, Jackie TRAN:EX
Subject: FW: First Nations and EMBC

Relevant to the Ahousaht request.

From: Lightbody, Ian TRAN:EX
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 16:59
To: TRAN EM ALL EM STAFF
Subject: First Nations and EMBC

All,

Please find below some approved messaging to be used with respect to First Nations and EMBC's relationship with them:

- The emergency preparedness capacity for First Nations in Canada rests with the federal government through Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.
- However, this is clearly an area that the Premier has already said our government wants to see improved - we are committed to achieving that.
- EMBC already works directly with First Nations, as well as consults and includes them in planning opportunities. EMBC also offers preparedness, response and recovery support to First Nations in B.C., and provide training, equipment and response support through ground Search and Rescue and through BCSARA for SAR operations in B.C.
- Next June, Exercise Coastal Response, British Columbia's first-ever provincially led, full-scale earthquake response exercise that will test elements of the new B.C. Earthquake Immediate Response Plan (IRP), will be held. It will involve several First Nations, including the Ahousaht through the Nuuchah-Nulth Tribal Council, as part of the steering committee to provide guidance to support exercise planning and set the direction of the exercise design. This collaboration will assist with improving preparedness for all partners involved.

Ian

Ian Lightbody
Executive Officer
Emergency Management British Columbia
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
(w) 250-952-5040

Biggs, Jackie TRAN:EX

From: Quealey, Pat TRAN:EX
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 16:50
To: Biggs, Jackie TRAN:EX
Subject: FW: Minister Yamamoto Briefing Wednesday, December 16, 2015 from 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Attachments: Agenda MNY Briefing Dec 16 2015.pdf; 2. 252284 BN for Decision CRD Regional Partnership.pdf; 3. 252292 - BN for MNY Decision - Public Education Initiatives.pdf; 3. 252292 - BN Attachment - Communicating in a Disaster.pdf; 3. 252292 - BN Attachment Tsunami_Preparedness.pdf; 3. 252292 BN Attachment - PreparedBC_Condo_Apartment.pdf; 4. 252492 BN for MTS Information - Fire Services Act.pdf

Tsunami preparedness BN relevant to Ahousaht request.

From: Woodcock, Danielle TRAN:EX
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 13:00
To: Holme, Matt TRAN:EX; Sauder, Kit TRAN:EX; Quealey, Pat TRAN:EX; McCaffrey, Julianne GCPE:EX; Stewart, Janet GCPE:EX
Cc: Denlinger, Becky TRAN:EX; Brown, Tom G TRAN:EX
Subject: Minister Yamamoto Briefing Wednesday, December 16, 2015 from 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Good Afternoon,

Attached is the agenda and meeting materials for the briefing, scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2015 from 10:00 am – 11:30 am.

Thank you.

Danielle Woodcock, Senior Executive Assistant
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Deputy Ministers Office – Emergency Management
Suite 4B – 940 Blanshard Street
Victoria BC V8W 3C8 Phone: 250-356-0840
Email: Danielle.Woodcock@gov.bc.ca



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

DATE: December 1, 2015
PREPARED FOR: Honourable Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness
ISSUE: Ministerial Engagement in Upcoming Public Education Initiatives

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

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BACKGROUND:

Recommendations highlighted in the B.C. Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report identified that in order to inspire a behavioural and cultural change among the public, messaging must be consistent, integrated, and coordinated across multiple stakeholders using several methods and media to strengthen outreach and buy-in. The report also identified that the Province must provide strong leadership to deliver long-term public preparedness education along with stakeholder engagement. These guidelines, as well as 'best practices' highlighted in the Public Education Needs Assessment, informed the creation of the PreparedBC brand and Emergency Management BC's (EMBC) current model of creating resources and campaigns using a collaborative approach guided by strong stakeholder engagement.

Three initiatives have been identified as key opportunities for engagement, supporting emergency preparedness and aligning with best practices around inspiring behavioural change.

The three initiatives are: (see attached appendices for detailed work plans and timelines):

- PreparedBC: Guide for Apartments, Condos and Townhomes. Resource launch date: late January 2016.
- Communicating During Disasters. Launch date: February 2016.

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DISCUSSION:

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

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OPTIONS:

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RECOMMENDATION:

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Page 35 of 36 to/à Page 36 of 36

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