



Cariboo Regional District
File No.1855-20-18-05

JUN 18 2018

Referred To ... CAO/Chair/
... CM

Reference: 239286

June 15, 2018

VIA EMAIL: mschilling@cariboord.bc.ca

Chair Margo Wagner
Cariboo Regional District
Suite D, 180 N Third Avenue
Williams Lake, British Columbia
V2G 2A4

Kathleen Rottluff, Registrar
100 Mile Nordics Ski Society
k.rottluff@gmail.com

Dear Chair Wagner and Kathleen Rottluff:

Thank you for your email of May 16, 2018, and the submission of your request for Special Circumstances consideration for the Ski Trail Lighting project at the 100 Mile Nordics Ski Facility and 99 Mile Trails. I am encouraged to see that the Cariboo Regional District is pursuing projects to support recovery efforts in the region in partnership with local organizations like 100 Mile Nordics Ski Society.

The Special Circumstances allowance under the Rural Dividend Program is a means by which government can support wildfire impacted communities in undertaking economic development projects supporting recovery. As a region that was impacted by the 2017 wildfires, the Cariboo Regional District is eligible for Special Circumstances consideration.

I have forwarded your request to the Rural Dividend Program, and have requested that they follow up with you further to discuss your project and the next steps in the assessment process.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your request with me. If you have any questions regarding the Special Circumstances funding process, please contact Sarah Fraser, Executive Director of Rural Development, by phone at 778 698-7253 or by email at Sarah.Fraser@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Doug Donaldson
Minister

Chair Wagner and Kathleen Rottluff

pc: Sarah Fraser, Executive Director, Rural Development, Regional Economic
Operations Branch



OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

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File: 400-20

May 16, 2018

The Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development
PO Box 9049, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Donaldson:

Re: Rural Dividend Special Circumstances – Time Sensitive Request

As an official project partner, the Cariboo Regional District supports the 100 Mile Nordic Ski Society in their request for funding of \$388,375 under the Rural Dividend Special Circumstances program. The installation of a new lighting system at the 99 Mile Ski Trails will be an important asset to our region.

The Cariboo Region has experienced many different impacts from the 2017 wildfires. Many local businesses lost significant revenues, and tourism in particular was impacted as many businesses lost their full season. Wildfire recovery reports throughout our region identify the need for additional resources and funding to promote tourism. Growth within the winter tourism sector in particular is of great importance to the region and will make local businesses such as hotels/ motels/ resorts as well as restaurants more resilient and less vulnerable to business interruption as it happened during the summer of 2017.

New events hosted by the 100 Mile Nordic Ski Society have the potential to bring in participants as well as awareness to the region. Increased regional marketing is one of the recommendations identified through the recovery efforts.

Major priorities of recovery plans include the retention and growth of existing businesses, as well as strategies to mitigate the psychosocial impacts on residents who experienced the trauma of a natural disaster. We feel there is a real need to invest in our local recreation facilities, to both support businesses and to promote physical activity and mental health of our local residents. Positive investment is very time sensitive as anniversary reactions are a very well known occurrence following natural disasters and can cause emotional lows within the community.

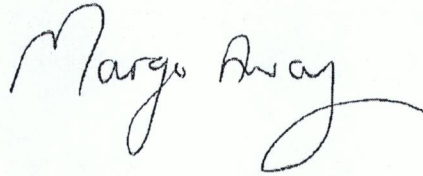
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building communities together

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Trails – for both summer and winter activities – are known to offer cultural, recreational, sport, health and wellness public benefits, and are used across the region by multiple user groups, both visitors as well as residents.

With funding being secured in a timely manner this project can be completed in time for the skiing season this winter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margo Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Margo Wagner
Chair

c: MLA Coralee Oakes, Cariboo North
MLA Donna Barnett, Cariboo-Chilcotin

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