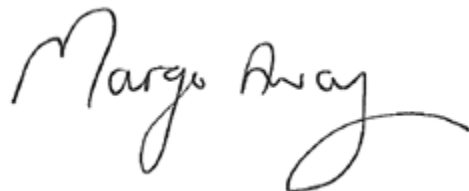


Chair report up to and including September 19/18

- On Thursday August 30/18 I met with MP Cathy McLeod at her request. We discussed issues including the challenges with the lack of cell & broadband connectivity in rural areas, First Nations negotiations, and NAFTA. MP McLeod is the Conservative critic for Indigenous relations.
- MLA Andrew Wilkinson, Leader of the BC Liberal party & MLA Barnett were in Williams Lake for a BBQ on September 6/18, and I, along with Directors Anderson & Forseth attended, as well as Mayor Cobb and some of his Council. MLA Wilkinson gave an informative talk regarding proportional representation and the upcoming referendum on this subject.
- At UBCM we had almost a full Board attendance, which in an election year, was good to see. We had secured all of the meetings we had asked for and below is a brief synopsis of our discussions:
- The 3 Regional District Chairs & CAO's (FFGRD, TNRD & CRD – referred to as the Tri RD) met with FLNROD Minister Farnworth & Parliamentary secretary Jennifer Rice to discuss this year's fire event. We were assured by the Minister that his Govt. is 2/3 through either enacting or working on the recommendations from the Abbott Chapman report, and we can expect a government report by the end of October. We stressed the need to change the Emergency Social Services to Emergency Support Services, to help eliminate the perceived issue that many had with receiving Social Services, but desperately needed the support.
- The Tri RD group met with Environment Minister Heyman to discuss the need for Recycle BC to include the ICI cardboard and plastics in its program. This was met with good discussion.
- Following this meeting I sat in on a meeting between the City of Williams lake, and Health Minister Dix, regarding the CMH project. Minister Dix's comments were heartening and we feel this project is well on its way down the bureaucratic path to shovel in the ground. At this meeting, there were also officials from the BCAS, and provided me with an ideal opportunity to have a side bar conversation over the change in replenishing First Responder supplies and the lack thereof.

- The Tri RD's final meeting was with Minister Ginny Sims regarding the connectivity issue and the lack thereof in rural BC. Whilst the conversation was engaging, we constantly go back to the Capital cost of building towers in the CRD with its topographic challenges. There is a \$750 Million program from the Federal Govt. expected in the New Year, and CAO MacLean will be working with his staff, other funding partners and the Provincial Govt. to ensure that we are ready to apply for some of this Federal funding.
- CAO MacLean secured a meeting with Mike Lorimer, Executive Director – Southern Interior (MOTI) whilst we at UBCM concerning the West Fraser and Garner road, and the Webster Bridge. We were heartened to hear of the increased dollars allocated to the upkeep of the bypass road, and the long term thoughts on moving the location of the road completely, rather than putting good money after bad on a yearly basis due to the washouts.
- On Tuesday September 18, I along with Vice Chair Massier attended the COFI community dinner in Prince George. Prior to the reception we had the chance to have a roundtable discussion with COFI, Licensee and wood product manufacturers. The NAFTA talks and the Caribou issue were amongst items discussed.
- At the invite of the Anahim Round table (ART) group, MLA Barnett, CAO MacLean, EMBC and I met with ART and members of the Ulkatcho First Nation met to discuss issues arising from fires within their area. Unfortunately, despite being invited, BCWFS was not in attendance. One of the positive results is the interest by the Ulkatcho FN to have an MOU with the CRD to assist in decision making around alerts and orders, and the communication trail. Another meeting has been tentatively scheduled for January.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Margo Wagner
Chair