

Chair report up to & including February 5/19

This report is designed to give Directors information on my activities as Chair over the past few weeks.

- Friday January 18, I attended the first meeting of the New Year, of the Leaders moving forward group for Williams lake. Representation at this meeting changes, as schedules sometimes prevent people from attending. It is however, refreshing to see that more industry appears to be attending than previously.
- On January 21, I was invited by Tolko to attend a conference call with Conservation Biologist Dr. Steve Wilson. He is currently under contract with Tolko, to assist in the caribou issue that is affecting a lot of BC. The meeting was attended by Mayor Walt Cobb, Chief Percy Guichon and 2 staff members from Alexis creek, 2 representatives from the Xeni Gwet'in First Nations, as well as Tolko representatives. Dr. Wilson's specialty is ungulates and as such he feels that with 95% of the habitat for Caribou already protected, the addition of an additional 5% with the Species at Risk proposed legislation, will not make any difference, and many of the caribou herds will continue to decline mainly due to predators. We talked about possible solutions that would work for both First Nations, industry and local Govt., and have decided to try to present a Cariboo made solution to the Province rather than have something imposed upon us. This proposal will include working with the CRD, Tolko and First Nations. At the BC Natural Resource forum, however, Ministers Donaldson and Heyman did meet with the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Chair Brad Sperling, his Vice Dan Rose, and Blair Lekstrom representing Dawson Creek. As a result, the Province has committed to engaging with the PRRD as that area will be the first to be impacted by the proposed habitat protected area.
- Prior to the start of the Natural Resource Forum in Prince George, I attended the Northern Medical Programs Trust (NMPT) semi annual meeting as the CRD representative for this program, to which the CRD subscribes. As a result of the local Government elections last fall, there were some new faces around the table. As Chair, Mayor Lyn Hall signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with UNBC that will allow students attending health related programs in the north, to access some funding to

assist with schooling and other related costs. The NMPT along with UNBC offers the travelling medical roadshow that we had in the Cariboo a couple of years ago. This program continues to be extremely successful, and has branched out in to the Yukon in 2018. One of the issues raised by Board members during the meeting was to encourage more Indigenous support for potential UNBC attendees, even down in to high schools. A roundtable discussion followed regarding enhancing student engagement and experiences during rural clinical placements, as it is always the hope, that students trained in the North, will continue to live and practice in the North after graduation.

- The Natural Resource Forum continues to grow, and is now one of the biggest conferences held in the north. There were several interesting panel discussions with both Ministers and energy experts. Some of the topics included Innovation & Technology, Unlocking the potential within Indigenous communities, Mining – Excellence in innovation, Charting Forestry's future and the future of Energy – Canada's opportunities.
- Friday January 25 saw the first meeting of the Emergency Preparedness committee. It was mainly an opportunity for the new members to be apprised of the work that was done last year, and for Ms. Masun to update us on her work with the various post fire reports and plans going forward. Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday February 15/19
- January 29/19 was the Cariboo Chilcotin Lillooet Regional Advisory committee meeting for NDIT. Once again there were several new faces around the table as this region represents elected officials from Lillooet to Wells and out to Anahim lake. An orientation session was given to the Committee, that will be helpful to the new members, as this committee is a steep learning curve to understand the different accounts within the Trust and how they all interlink.
- Many of you attended the LGLA Forum last week in Prince George, and from the discussion I have had with many of the newly elected, you found the topics helpful as you negotiate the steep learning curve of local Government.

Respectfully submitted,