

Chair report up to & including February 26, 2019

This report is intended to inform the Board as openly as possible the recent activities of the Chair. If there are any questions or issues that you feel warrant further discussion, please don't hesitate to contact me either privately or bring them up at the Board for discussion.

- February 7th a meeting was held in the CRD Board room with attendees including the Northern EA Directors, staff, MOTI and IR representatives, FLNROD staff, and a representative from MLA Oakes office. The purpose of the meeting was to have a discussion surrounding egress routes, FSR roads with year round residents living adjacent to them, and road deactivation to name a few of the items. The meeting was productive from all sides, with MOTI and FLNROD agreeing to further conversation around some of the key topics.
- The Caribou issue continues to be front and centre in several key areas, and I was asked to have an in depth conference call with Nugold mines surrounding the Blackwater mine issue regarding Caribou habitat. Nugold had been granted a meeting in Vancouver with Ministry of Environment during their visit to BC from February 19-21. Once again local governments were absent from the conversation, but Nugold did commit to stressing the importance of including all levels of Govt. in the discussions. Staff have received a request from the BC Govt. for a delegation to present to the Board at an upcoming Board meeting, but no timeline has been given.
- On February 19th I travelled to Prince George to attend the first NDIT Board meeting with the new Board the following day. There are several changes to the Board as a result of last Octobers civic election, and the recent elections from 2 of the RAC's for their 2 representatives on the Board. We currently have Tom Hoffman as

acting Chair, as Mayor Gerry Thiessen, who was Chair of the Board, was unsuccessful in his bid to get re-elected from the RAC as a Director. The Board is made up of 5 Govt. appointees, that were not changed when the NDP was elected to Govt, and 8 elected officials – 2 from each RAC. The terms are staggered, and each term is for two years for elected officials and three years for the Govt. appointees. The AGM will be held in April, at which point all executive positions are open. I currently hold the position of Director at Large.

- At the meeting we received a presentation from the Business Ambassador program that was formed after the wildfires of 2017. NDIT was an integral part of the initial funding for this program, which enabled additional funding to be obtained from CCBAC, and Western Economic Diversification. An additional \$1.5 million from Red Cross and WED has extended the project to December 31/19. It was great to hear how successful these programs had been across the entire Cariboo Chilcotin, helping businesses with support, and access to resources, many of which were found tucked away in remote areas running as successful homebased businesses, but totally 'out of the loop' on how to access help after the fires.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo Wagner