

Chair report up to and including July 17/19

As always this report is designed to keep the Board apprised of my activities as Chair since the last Board meeting, and questions pertaining to issues within are welcomed.

- Firstly I would like to thank my Alternate Sheila Hart for attending the meeting in my absence, and also Vice Chair Massier for chairing the June 27/19 Board meeting. I had a great vacation with our family, and it was nice to be off the grid for almost a week.
- I have been catching up with the transition activities that have been going on throughout the region, since the shutdown and shift curtailment of mills. Director MacDonald has been attending these in my absence. Vice Chair Massier has been representing me at similar meetings being held in Quesnel.
- On Wednesday July 10, I attended a stakeholder meeting called by Christine Gallagher, President of the S. Cariboo Chamber of Commerce. Attending were Chamber directors, Mayor Campsall and his Council, MP Cathy McLeod, MLA Donna Barnett, as well as representatives from the local media. Discussions were varied around the table on how to encourage economic development into the area; one of the areas lacking was in fibre optic connectivity within the whole town of 100 Mile house. Subsequently letters of encouragement and support were sent to Telus, encouraging that corporation to look at an expansion of service. Amanda Usher, manager of Andres Electronics in 100 Mile house, indicated that Telus does have a program specifically designed for such events, and letters of support are needed from all levels. Formatted letters of support will also be required from those residents right in the District boundaries, and will be available at Andres. I have also had discussions with CEO Joel McKay from NDIT, on how the Trust can offer further assistance, and still stay within the mandate the Trust is required to operate under. Further discussions will continue during the next NDIT Board meeting on July 24/19.
- A further meeting has been set for Wednesday August 7/19 in 100 Mile House, with a decision to invite TNRD director Sally Watson, Mayor Susan Swan (Clinton) and Mayor Santo Talarico (Cache Creek), as they too are impacted by the closures.

- Thursday July 11/19 saw the S. Cariboo Info Fair held at the Forest Grove community hall. It was an overwhelming success with more than 70 residents enjoying hamburgers, hotdogs and homemade pie provided by the Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary from Forest Grove. There were 28 stakeholders attending, and as usual the busiest table was MOTI & Dawson Road Maintenance. This type of meeting has enjoyed continual success due to the lack of presentations, even though I appreciate it is after hours for the stakeholder groups, the one to one engagement they encounter, is beneficial on both sides. Thanks to Emily Epp for organizing the event, and to CFO Kevin Erickson for also attending.
- On July 15/19, the Flood & Fire review committee through the Province and UBCM, held another conference call. As we are getting closer to UBCM, there will be a session on the newly proposed Emergency Program Act Modernization which the committee has been working on in conjunction with Heather Brazier from the Provincial Govt. This session is sure to be well attended, and will have a broader outreach to all of the RD's and Municipalities, as this has a large mitigation part included within it.
- As you know, our EOC has been active due to flooding out in the Chilcotin from the excessive rain. Now that Disaster Financial Assistance has been approved, this will aid ranchers that have lost watering infrastructure, hay already baled etc., help where it is most needed. I will be attending the first Community meeting at Big Creek Community hall this coming Saturday, along with Director Mernett & CAO MacLean, as well as the other involved Government stakeholders. I would like to thank all of the staff and other stakeholders that have been involved in the EOC over the past few weeks.
- Next week I am in Bella Coola with NDIT, as part of their Board on the Road, but will have full internet and cell access.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo A. Wagner.