

CHAIR REPORT UP TO & INCLUDING SEPTEMBER 8/20

The past couple of months have been relatively quiet as people take some time off, and the COVID-19 issue continues to be ongoing, but here are a few highlights from the summer.

- On July 29/20 I had a welcome 3 hour meeting with MP Cathy MacLeod, as she was vacationing at one of the Canim Lake resorts, and invited me over for coffee. We discussed several items from the Federal Govts. action on COVID-19, FSR road deactivation and the problems arising from that, MOTI issues including road and bridge issues throughout the CRD during freshet and finally connectivity and the lack thereof. As with MP Doherty, and with the permission of CEO McKay of NDIT, I shared an email detailing the frustration that NDIT is experiencing with getting funds out the door for the Connecting BC project that the Province has already approved. The time delay is with the Federal Govt., so now both of our MP's are aware of the issue and MP Doherty has already passed along his concerns to the Ministry responsible.
- I have been part of several discussions with all partners as well as FLNRORD staff, over the creation of a new Community Forest in the Quesnel area. On completion the proposed agreement could have financial benefits to the CRD, City of Quesnel and several First Nation Govts. in the surrounding area. This is still in the early stages, and the Board will be briefed more by Josh Pressey, at the upcoming Board meeting.
- My work with the Flood & Wildfire review committee continues, especially now the new EPA Act will not be before Parliament this fall due to COVID-19. For the CRD, this has been beneficial, as it has given the Committee more time to focus on the issues we experienced along with other RD's during the spring freshet this year. CAO MacLean has been involved in many of the conference calls, as has other staff from member RD's and Municipalities, as the conversation has morphed into more operational issues.

- On a different note, NDIT is announcing its new suite of programs on September 17/20, which will enable new applications to be funded, that may not have had a niche in the previous guidelines. The Trust has held a couple of virtual calls with stakeholders around the Province, that have been favourably received. The new Trust 2020, also boasts a new logo and catch phrases. This is the first time since the inception of the Trust over 15 years ago, that a large overhaul of its programs has been attempted. To view the new suite of programs **after September 17**, click on their website –<https://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/>
- Finally, I hope all of you had time to vacation and take a breather during the summer. It was great that we have not had any significant fires during the summer months to deal with, especially for our staff that run the EOC. They have had an extensive length of EOC activation due to the freshet issues this spring, so I was glad that we were not continuing into a major fire season within the Cariboo.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo Wagner.