



October 29, 2020

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Margo Wagner, Chair
and Council Members
Regional District of Cariboo
Email: mwagner@cariboord.ca

Dear Margo Wagner and Council Members:

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for meeting with me at this year's virtual Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention process to discuss some of the agricultural issues and pressures Cariboo is experiencing. As a provincial election has been called, and we are currently in an interregnum period, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Ministry.

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, we have had to develop new approaches and adaptations to many aspects of our everyday life. I thank your delegation for its flexibility with provincial appointments this year and I am pleased that our governments still had the chance to connect.

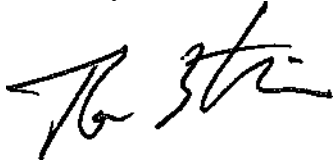
During our meeting, we discussed the availability and reliability of Provincial expertise in regard to emergency response. We discussed the traditional emergency model and the need to obtain local Provincial experts. We also discussed a refresh of the *Emergency Program Act* and a desire for clarity and guidance on approved expenditures and policy, as you expressed that you felt there were currently no firm guidelines which created consistency in application for covering emergency situations.

Now that we are in the election period, issues regarding future funding programs and other policy decisions must be deferred until after the election is complete and the incoming government is in place. All topics brought up in your meeting will be shared with the incoming Minister.

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Again, thank you for participating in this year's convention and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Ethier". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first letter of each name being significantly larger and more prominent.

Tom Ethier
Deputy Minister