



November 5, 2020

Margo Wagner, Chair  
Cariboo Regional District  
Email: [mwagner@cariboord.ca](mailto:mwagner@cariboord.ca)

Dear Chair Margo Wagner and Board:

I am writing to follow-up on the telephone meeting that your delegation had at this year's virtual UBCM Convention with the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Parliamentary Secretary Jennifer Rice, and me. It was a very good opportunity for us to hear first-hand the matters of importance to you and your community that relate to the emergency management portfolio.

I appreciate your keen interest in emergency management given the responsibilities that local governments have under the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA), as well as your commitment for the safety and security of the people of the Cariboo Regional District. The global pandemic has been a significant challenge to us all, and I want to recognize the leadership you have demonstrated to your residents and community during this stressful time.

Our discussion this year was focused on Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) activation and funding as well as provincial jurisdiction and expertise. I understand the concerns about the consistency of approvable expenses and the need for expertise, whether that be provided by the province or a third party.

New draft financial guidelines were recently distributed to local authorities to assist communities in determining those expenses incurred at the local level that are eligible for reimbursement by the Province. We welcome your feedback on these guidelines. In the meeting, it was communicated that Emergency Management BC will continue to work with partner ministries to ensure that communities such as yours have the information and resources that are needed.

As mentioned during the meeting, we continue the important work to modernize emergency management legislation to ensure that it embraces all four pillars of emergency management and reflects the lessons learned from recent emergency events including the current pandemic. It is the hope of the Province that modernized emergency management legislation will better address many of your issues, as it is being crafted with the consideration of front-line experience and direct input from across the province. Thank you for the feedback you submitted during the engagement process. Contributions of input such as yours are essential to this process.

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Now that we are in the interregnum 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 elected official for this portfolio.

Thank you, again, to your delegation for the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Halls". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Halls  
Deputy Minister  
Emergency Management BC

pc: John MacLean, CAO, Cariboo Regional District

Reference: 576937