



December 9, 2020

Reference # 110112

Honourable Rob Fleming

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

VIA Email only: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

Dear: Minister Fleming

Re: West Fraser Road Realignment

In April of 2018 high water levels from the spring freshet caused Narcosli Creek to erode five sections of the West Fraser Road, on the west side of the Fraser River, approximately 17 kilometers south of Quesnel. The damage was severe, and the road had to be closed with damage spread over a three-kilometer section and a detour route has been set up.

This detour route is in place via Garner Road and Webster Lake Road, which is a two-lane gravel road that adds 17 kilometers in distance. Traveling on the detour route depending on weather conditions has added at least one hour of traveling time for the residents. There is a total of 96 housing residents with a population of 236 with 53 of those being children. There are up to 150 vehicles per day that use the West Fraser Road, which accesses First Nation communities, ranches, logging activities, farming lands and local residences.

The school bus picks the first children up at 6:20am, they are on the bus for four hours a day, five days a week. Some parents have relocated their children into Quesnel with other families so that they are not on the bus four hours a day five days a week. The loss in family time has been significantly reduced, this time will never be regained.

The spring freshet of 2020 seen the Narcosli Bridge washing out at the approach to the bridge and the detour route had to be closed two times in the month of May. Residents could not get out to go to work, how are they supposed to pay their bills and help restart the economy?

The wear and tear and extra fuel on their vehicles is costing residents large amounts of money, not to mention the stress on their families. For example, one family has logged \$13,000 in damages to one of their vehicles, this is in tire repairs, tire replacements, windshield cracks, windshield replacements and undercarriage repairs. Another example is many of the ranchers have not been able to get their livestock to market because the detour route this fall has been snow covered and so icy that even with chains on their trucks and liners they have not been able to make it out. The ranchers have a small-time frame to get their livestock to market. This is their yearly income and livelihood.

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In the Ministry mandate letter, it says you are making decisions to meet people's needs, to make people's lives better, safer and more affordable for families. How can not being able to get to work, \$13,000 in vehicle repairs and not being able to get your livestock to market be meeting people's needs, making their lives better, safer and more affordable for the residents of the West Fraser Road?

I would like to share with you the correspondence that has taken place since the severe damage to the West Fraser Road took place. I have attached all the letters that are listed below so you are up to date.

On May 7, 2018, I requested a meeting with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure while the House was sitting.

May 8, 2018, I requested a face to face meeting with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

August 30, 2018 local Ministry staff met with myself, School District 28 and the Executive of the Buckridge Community Association.

September 20, 2018 Ministry staff met with the residents of the Buckridge Community in Buckridge. Where they committed to the residents that they would make the detour route as safe as possible.

On November 22, 2018, I presented Notice of Question to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. There were six questions on the Notice.

January 15, 2019, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding West Fraser Road Wash out. It includes concerns from residents and no response to the Notice of Question that I submitted on November 22, 2018.

March 1, 2019, Reference: 283635 response from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to the November 22, 2018 Notice of Questions. Where the Minister states that the ministry intends on having a detailed design in place and the project out to tender by late 2019. The letter also committed that the Ministry was seeking Federal Disaster Financial Assistance to fund this project. The Minister also committed to ensuring safety on the detour route.

May 13, 2019, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project Preferred Option.

May 31, 2019, Reference: 285867 from the Minister in response to the May 13, 2019 letter I wrote to the Minister. Where the Minister states that the business case was submitted on May 16, 2019 to the federal governments Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements.

July 24, 2019, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding an Update for the West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project.

August 7, 2019, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project Request for Proposal. Asking when the Request for Proposal will be released?

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September 5, 2019, Reference: 287707. The Minister had the Assistant Deputy Minister, of Highway Services reply to the July 24 and August 7 letters that I wrote to the Minister.

December 4, 2019, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and Minister of Education regarding Update for the West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project.

January 28, 2020, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and Minister of Education regarding Update for the West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project and no response to my letter Dated December 4, 2019.

February 18, 2020, Reference: 290829. Response from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. In this letter the Minister has stated that reopening the West Fraser Road has been a ministry priority since the disaster occurred, that funding of \$103 million has been budgeted for the project and once the detailed design is finalized, the ministry will hold an information session to share the design and project timelines.

July 3, 2020, During Estimates I asked when the residents will have an update on the West Fraser Road? The Minister said they will have a virtual public engagement session in the fall and the project will be going out to tender. In the Ministries service plan, it states that they will communicate and engage efficiently and effectively with Ministry stakeholders. The residents have not had a meeting with the Ministry since September of 2018.

September 9, 2020, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding the West Fraser Road Recovery Project.

When will the West Fraser Road Realignment be going out to tender? What is the new timeline for the completion of this project? What steps is the Ministry taking to communicate with those impacted and ensure public safety of the detour route?

I await your response.

Yours truly,

Coralee Oakes,
MLA Cariboo North

CC:
Premier John Horgan
Minister Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth
MP Todd Doherty
Cariboo Regional District Director Jim Glassford
BC Cattlemen's Association Kevin Boon

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NOTICE OF QUESTION

I give notice that on November 22, 2018 I shall ask the Hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure the following questions, given that:

During estimates of March 6, 2018 I raised with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure concerns following the 2017 wildfire season and in particular I raised West Fraser Road. The Minister made the following comments:

“Side roads, as I’ve been mentioning to her colleagues in the opposition, are a priority. It’s extraordinarily difficult for her in a constituency which went straight from fire season to winter. We weren’t able to get in there and fix up the side roads and put the emphasis on the side roads that was needed. We have got riprap there to help to protect the roads against the freshet. As soon as possible, we’ll be out assessing where we can work.

We’re working closely with FLNRO — excuse the acronym, Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development — on the roads. Obviously, when there is a fire, this impacts the soil. It impacts the stability, and it changes the land. There is a potential for more erosion. We want to be able to go in there and make real repairs rather than go in and patch it up and have problems in the future.

We’re working closely with our colleagues in other ministries to ensure those repairs, but we are very conscious of the impact that the fires have had, and we’ll be working to try to mitigate them into the spring.”

Based on the Minister’s response, I asked the Minister of Forest Lands and Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Rural Development on March 13, 2018 about concerns around road infrastructure and here is what the Minister said:

“Post-wildfire risk assessment has been done throughout the area that the member represents, as well as throughout the Cariboo. All of those risk assessments are complete, including road and drainage assessments. Priority areas have been identified around the freshet risk — in other words, the risk of erosion impacts from the spring melt. Those risks are able to be addressed under the current budget the ministry has.

However, we do share the concerns that if there are unforeseen circumstances — due to weather issues, for instance — we will ensure that we make submissions to Treasury Board to address those.”

Concerns brought forward in March 2018 became a reality in my riding and the April 2018 spring freshet resulted in the compromise and flooding of significant infrastructure, particularly in areas connected to the Plateau Fire Complex. The West Fraser Road was compromised with a landslide that has resulted in the erosion of 5 sections of road spread over 3 km. Residents have been travelling on a life altering detour.

1. What is the specific timeline to re-establish regular service of West Fraser Road?
2. In community meetings held in July and September 2018 the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure project team identified that they would be coming back to the community seeking feedback from users of West Fraser Road by mid fall and that this would be incorporated into a conceptual design. What date will the Ministry return to the community with conceptual designs and cost estimates?
3. Has a submission been made to the Treasury Board to fund the re-establishment of regular service on the West Fraser Road? If so, for how much?
4. The Webster/Garner road detour was never designed to withstand the current traffic volume. Questions raised by constituents around culverts, 6 cattle guards, single lane bridge on Webster Lake Road, sharp S corner remain of significant concern. Further, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure outlined steps that they would take to improve safety on this detour. Residents have now experienced their first significant snow fall along this detour and residents do not feel that expectations were met. Following the first snow fall on November 15, 2018 the plow truck and several vehicles went into the ditch. The School District has raised concerns about the safety of the school bus on this detour. What steps will be taken to ensure safety of this detour route until West Fraser Road is re-established?
5. Does the Ministry have a plan for spring freshet 2019 to ensure road infrastructure is not compromised, considering we have now experienced two years of considerable wildfires?
6. Has the Ministry completed a geotechnical, hydrological and environmental assessment of Soda Creek Road following the wildfires? Is the Ministry confident that this road will not be compromised by spring freshet, as it is the emergency alternate route for this and many other communities?

November 20th, 2018

MLA's Signature

Date of Signature

Coralee Oakes (Cariboo North)

MLA's Name and Constituency



COPY

January 15, 2019

Honourable Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
VICTORIA, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Trevena

Re: West Fraser Road Wash Out

I have been raising concerns about the West Fraser Rd. washout here in Cariboo North since April 2018. I have requested a meeting with you to discuss the damage to this road.

These are just some of the concerns of the residents:

- Children on a school bus for up to 5 hours a day. Very difficult on the children, tired and grumpy and no extracurricular activities, as they get home too late.
- Safety: People going in the ditch and getting flat tires at night in the dark. And there is little to No cell service. Meeting logging trucks on a forest service road.
- Emergencies: ambulance, fire department and police. Some have had to wait close to 2 hours for an ambulance when their child needed them. There was a fire late this fall, the residents put it out because if they had to wait for the fire department to get there, homes would have been lost.
- Added expense and time for each person having to travel on a daily basis. Fuel costs have doubled.
- Concerns over fire insurance and property values going down.
- Vehicle damages from large, deep holes, washboard, along with roads unable to be graded in summer due to the risk of sparks starting a wildfire. Winter months are a concern as the road is narrow and not much room for snow removal.
- Narrow road with a school bus and logging trucks traveling and not being able to get through the hair pin turns if they arrive at the same time, someone has to back up.
- Damages to the school bus and the wait time for students for another bus to come and pick them up.

I submitted a Notice of Question in November of 2018 and I still have had no response back from you. Again I am requesting answers for the residents of Buckridge, ?Esdilagh First Nation and West Fraser Road residents.

1. What is the present timeline for the re-establishment of West Fraser Road, following the landslide in April of 2018, as a result of wildfires in 2017 and the spring melt?
2. At a meeting September 20, 2018, the Ministry advised residents that they would return to the community with conceptual designs and cost estimates by mid-Autumn to seek feedback. When is this meeting set to occur?

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3. Has the Ministry made a submission to the Treasury Board to fund the re-establishment of the West Fraser Road? If so, for how much?
4. How does the Ministry intend to ensure road safety on the detour route via Garner Road and Webster Lake Road? What specific measures will the Ministry implement to accommodate increased traffic volume and adverse winter road conditions?
5. How does the Ministry intend to maintain road infrastructure during next year's freshet?
6. Has the Ministry completed a geotechnical, hydrological and environmental assessment of Soda Creek Road following the wildfires?

The constituents of rural BC deserve better and Rural British Columbia deserves the same resources and considerations as the lower mainland.

I await your response.

Regards,

Coralee Oakes

MLA Cariboo North

C.C. Minister Farnworth
C.C. MP Todd Doherty
C.C. Buckridge Community Association
C.C. ?Esdilagh First Nation

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COPY

MAR 01 2019

Reference: 283635

Coralee Oakes
MLA, Cariboo North
410 Kinchant Street, Suite 401
Quesnel BC V2J 7J5

Dear ~~MLA Oakes~~, *Coralee*

Re: West Fraser Road

Thank you for your letter regarding the closure of a three-kilometre section of West Fraser Road, the resulting detour route, and impacts to the ?Esdilagh First Nation, the Buckridge community, and West Fraser Road residents.

Before last spring's major flood triggered three new, active slides and closed the road, this section of West Fraser Road had experienced significant slide movements with two historic, deep-seated slides that required remediation. Altogether, the five slides have an estimated volume of more than 28 million cubic metres of soil—enough to fill nearly 11,000 Olympic sized swimming pools.

I appreciate your advocacy for local communities affected by the slide and closure of the road and am aware of the serious inconvenience this represents for area residents. Restoring regular service for those who rely upon this vital link is an ongoing ministry priority.

Specific to your questions:

1. The ministry intends to have a detailed design in place and a project out to tender by late 2019. Towards that goal, our work on the West Fraser Road Recovery Project to date has been continual and considerable. Immediately following the road closure, staff began work to ensure the project could proceed safely and without unnecessary delays. This included initiating aerial and topographic surveys, as well as geotechnical, hydrological, environmental and archaeological assessments in a very challenging work zone under complex conditions. We are currently evaluating information from recently completed assessments, developing conceptual designs for 10 different options and preparing cost estimates. Initial results indicate that project costs could be in the range of \$100 million or more.

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2. During our September 2018 meeting, the project team committed to meeting with the community again once they were prepared to incorporate public input into a preferred design. Additional geotechnical investigations are being undertaken to prove out the feasibility of potential options. Once the field work and corresponding engineering analysis is complete, we anticipate being able to hold an open house in April.
3. Regarding funding submissions, the ministry is seeking a federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement to fund this large project.
4. We are committed to ensuring safety on the detour route, and over \$1 million was invested last year to improve the condition of Garner and Webster Lake Roads, which are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Our maintenance contractor, Emcon Services Inc., has undertaken works including re-gravelling and stabilizing the road base, increasing grading frequency, brushing roadside vegetation, ditching, and installing more culverts and warning signs, in addition to increasing their level of winter maintenance.

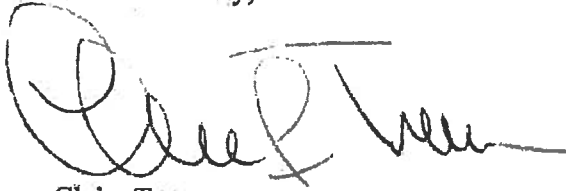
Ministry staff have been closely monitoring Emcon's performance and, along with our Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement officers and the RCMP, have set up regular patrols of the detour. In addition, the ministry has lowered the speed limits on Webster Lake and Garner roads to 60 km/h and 70 km/h respectively.

5. The ministry recognizes the importance of putting safeguards in place to maintain road infrastructure during this year's freshet. Emcon proactively ditched and installed new culverts last fall at key locations along Garner and Webster Lake Roads. Rip rap rock was also added in two locations along West Fraser Road where the banks had eroded, including at the Narcosli Creek Bridge crossing Webster Lake Road. Local staff continue to look for opportunities to address erosion in this way and have a stockpile of rip rap rock ready for future use. Emcon is also ramping up their patrols.
6. With regards to your question about Soda Creek Road, following the wildfires of 2017, a geotechnical investigation was undertaken of the fire-impacted sites. A number of post-fire recommendations were made at that time, and these have since been actioned by Interior Roads Maintenance, including the installation of warning signs, ditch maintenance, culvert cleaning, significant danger tree removal and increased patrols during significant rainfall events. Local staff will continue to monitor these areas to ensure that they remain safe and passable.

I have asked Todd Hubner, our District Manager for the Cariboo, to reach out to your office to arrange a meeting. If you wish to contact him directly in the meantime, Mr. Hubner can be reached at 250 398-4519 or at Todd.Hubner@gov.bc.ca and would be pleased to assist you.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Trevena', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Claire Trevena
Minister

Copy to: Todd Hubner, District Manager
Cariboo District



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

COPY

13 May 2019

Coralee Oakes, MLA
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Hon. Claire Trevena, MLA
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

RE: West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project Preferred Option

Dear Minister Trevena,

With the open house on the West Fraser Road Flood Recovery complete, the Buckridge, ?Esdilagh First Nation and West Fraser Road residents, are left with unanswered questions.

They are feeling the impacts of not knowing if funding will be obtained, if or when the road will be completed, many of them have to deal with the extra financial burdens of extensive vehicle damage, extra fuel costs, they are worried about their children and how much longer they are going to have a 5 hour bus ride each day, all of the residents are very concerned about emergency vehicles being able to attend an emergency and about their safety as wildfire season has started.

1. The open house showed the residents the preferred route. Can you provide an update on the details of the business case regarding the West Fraser Road flood recovery project?
2. How much will the Province of BC be applying for in funding from the Government of Canada for this project?
3. When will the business case be forwarded to the federal government's Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA)?
4. What is the timeline for completion of the West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project's referred option number 4 L101A8?

The residents of Buckridge, ?Esdilagh First Nation and West Fraser Road need clarity to these questions and I will await your response to them.

Best Regards,

Coralee Oakes
MLA Cariboo North

C.C. MP Todd Doherty
C.C. Buckridge Community Association
C.C. ?Esdilagh First Nation

BC Liberal Official Opposition
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4



MAY 31 2019

Coralee Oakes
MLA, Cariboo North
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Reference: 285867

Dear MLA Oakes,

Re: West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project

Thank you for your letter requesting additional information following the ministry's recent West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project Open House.

I know how important this matter is for Buckridge, ?Esdilagh First Nation and West Fraser Road residents, and I appreciate this opportunity to respond to the questions raised in your letter.

- 1. The open house showed the residents the preferred route. Can you provide an update on the details of the business case regarding the West Fraser Road flood recovery project?**

The Disaster Funding Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) business case for this project presents the 10 alignments that were displayed at the recent open house, along with estimated costs. It also looks at constructability and overall rationale for each of the 10 alignments.

- 2. How much will the Province of B.C. be applying for in funding from the Government of Canada for this project?**

The federal DFAA application process does not approve specific amounts of funding. Rather, business case applications are submitted to confirm eligibility in the program.

- 3. When will the business case be forwarded to the federal government's Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA)?**

The business case was submitted on May 16, 2019.

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4. What is the timeline for completion of the West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project's preferred option number 4 L101A8?

The ministry will complete a detailed design for preferred alignment L101A8 by late this fall, subject to our project team achieving the necessary funding and approvals, as well as any archaeological assessments and accommodation agreements that may need to be reached. Current estimates indicate this alignment will take approximately two years to construct.

Should you or your constituents have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the ministry's local District Manager, Todd Hubner. He can be reached directly by phone at 250 398-4519 or by email at Todd.Hubner@gov.bc.ca and would be pleased to assist you.

I hope you find this information helpful. Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Trevena
Minister

Copy to: Todd Hubner, District Manager
Cariboo District



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Coralee Oakes MLA
Cariboo North

July 24, 2019

COPY

Honourable Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
VICTORIA, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Trevena,

Re: Update for the West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project

In regards to the preferred **Project Number 4 L101A8**, in your letter dated May 31, 2019, it was stated that the business case was submitted on May 16, 2019 to the Federal Government's Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. What is the current status of the project? Has this business case been deemed eligible and has it qualified for the program?

It would be nice to have an update to share with my constituents who are affected by this lengthy, ongoing process.

I look forward to your response.

Best Regards,

Coralee Oakes

MLA Cariboo North

C.C. MP Todd Doherty
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C.C. ?Esdilagh First Nation



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August 7, 2019

COPY

Honourable Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
VICTORIA, BC V8V 1X4

VIA E-Mail: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Trevena,

Re: West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project Request for Proposal

I am writing in regards to the Request for Proposal on the West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project. It is my understanding that the application went in to the DFAA for funding eligibility, and it has not been granted at this time. When will the Request for Proposal be released?

I am sure you are aware that Highway 97 had a complete closure due to a death on Friday August 2, 2019 for over ten hours. MoTI did not list the West Fraser Road as a detour, but unfortunately there were hundreds of vehicles that went that way, in one hour and fifteen minutes that it took one of my constituents to travel home she counted 142 vehicles, they consisted of small cars, trucks hauling livestock trailers, trucks with campers hauling boats, some ran out of fuel, many received flat tires, and many were lost as google maps does not show the washout and the detour.

I have asked the same question many times now, "what will happen if Highway 97 has to be closed?" I will ask it again. What will happen if Highway 97 has to be closed?

I was flooded with phone calls and e-mails in regards to Highway 97 being closed. They were all in regards to safety issues due to road conditions on the detour route, constituents sent in videos of the traffic and how rough the road is. When will the Ministry release the Request for Proposal? So the West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project can be bid on.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Coralee Oakes MLA
Cariboo North

This is not only for the residents but the safety of all British Columbians, for if and when Highway 97 is closed again.

I look forward to your response.

Best Regards,

Coralee Oakes

Coralee Oakes

MLA

Cariboo North

C.C. MP Todd Doherty
C.C. Cariboo Regional District
C.C. ?Esdilagh First Nation
C.C. School District 28
C.C. Buckridge Community Association
C.C. MLA Jordan Sturdy

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COPY

September 5, 2019

Coralee Oakes
MLA, Cariboo North
Parliament Buildings
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Reference: 287707

Dear MLA Oakes:

Re: West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project

The Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, shared with me your letter regarding the West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project. I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide this update for you to share with your constituents.

As you know, the ministry has submitted a business case to the federal government requesting eligibility for Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements funding for the preferred alignment that was presented at the spring 2019 open house, option four, L101A8. Since making this submission, the ministry has had positive discussions with our federal counterparts.

As the review of the business case proceeds, field work has been continuing. The project team completed their initial geotechnical investigation of the preferred alignment to determine ground conditions and soil stability. Further investigation has been required to slightly shift the alignment to the east, away from some unfavourable soft soil conditions. Due to the complexity of the terrain, further drilling may be required during the design phases.

Preliminary design of the preferred alignment should be completed by the end of this summer, and then work will start on the final detailed design. Property acquisition plans will also be developed at that time.

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Ministry of Transportation
and Infrastructure

Office of the
Assistant Deputy Minister
Highways Services

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The detailed design will refine the scope of the project and prepare it for tendering, once funding approvals have been confirmed. While design work continues, the ministry will be completing archaeological and environmental impact assessments, as well as a hydrotechnical assessment of the preferred alignment. The ministry will apply for all necessary permits once these assessments are completed.

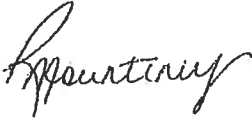
Regarding the recent closure of Highway 97, I agree it is unfortunate that travellers may have taken West Fraser Road as a detour with varying results. However, West Fraser Road, Garner Road and Webster Lake Road are all public roads that the travelling public are welcome to use at their discretion. The ministry has many signs on West Fraser Road between Quesnel and Garner Road to ensure the travelling public is aware of the road closure at Narcosli Creek and the officially posted detour route via Garner Road and Webster Lake Road. This is also posted on Drive BC as a long-term closure.

During any incident that results in a short-term highway closure, the ministry will only advertise a detour route if it can be safely traversed by all travellers, from bicycles to oversized commercial vehicles. As such, the ministry does not identify the almost 100 km West Fraser Road as a detour and will not advertise it as such in the event of an unforeseen future closure of Highway 97.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, do not hesitate to contact the ministry's local District Manager, Todd Hubner. He can be reached directly by phone at 250 398-4519 or by email at Todd.Hubner@gov.bc.ca and would be pleased to speak with you.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Renée Mounteney, MBA
Assistant Deputy Minister, Highway Services

Copy to: Honourable Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
MLA, North Island

Todd Hubner, District Manager
Cariboo District



December 4, 2019

Honourable Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
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Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
Parliament Buildings
VICTORIA, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Trevena and Minister Fleming,

Re: Update for the West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project

We are now entering into a second winter season with freezing temperatures and with the arrival of snow. Residents are again facing compromised road conditions, and worry about traveling on winter roads that are tough to drive on in good weather, let alone unpredictable winter conditions.

School District No. 28 has had extensive maintenance and fuel costs that they were not expecting and budgeted for. How are they supposed to plan their budget needs with no updated information? They have safety concerns for their bus driver and the school children traveling on slippery road conditions, sharing the narrow road with logging trucks and of course breakdowns in snowy, freezing temperatures.

Todd Hubner shared that on November 7, 2019 that the Draft Treasury Board submission was being reviewed by executive members. Has this application been sent to the Treasury Board yet?

My constituents have not had an update. School Board No. 28 has not yet had an update.

Minister Trevena and Minister Fleming, when can we expect an update on the West Fraser Road Recovery Project?

I await your response.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Coralee Oakes MLA
Cariboo North

Best Regards,

Coralee Oakes

Coralee Oakes
MLA Cariboo North

Cc: MP Todd Doherty
Buckridge Community Association
?Esdilagh First Nation
School District No. 28 Board Chairperson David Chapman

Cariboo North Constituency Office

#401 - 410 Kinchant Street
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Mailed Jan 31 20
E-mailed to CC
Coralee Oakes MLA
Cariboo North

January 28, 2020

Honourable Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
VICTORIA, BC V8V 1X4

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
Parliament Buildings
VICTORIA, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Trevena and Minister Fleming,

Re: Update for the West Fraser Road Flood Recovery Project

I wrote to you on December 4, 2019 with regards to the West Fraser Road Recovery Project. We are now well into the second winter season. Residents have experienced -40° C weather, heavy snow accumulation and extreme icy road conditions, along with having to share the road with logging truck traffic. This road is a remote secondary road, not a major road where first responders can respond in minutes.

School District No. 28 has had extensive maintenance and fuel costs that they were not expecting and budgeted for. How are they supposed to plan their budget needs with no updated information? They have safety concerns for their bus driver and the school children traveling on slippery road conditions, sharing the narrow road with logging trucks and of course breakdowns in snowy, freezing temperatures.

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Cariboo North

Best Regards,

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MLA Cariboo North

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COPY

FEB 18 2020

Coralee Oakes
MLA, Cariboo North
410 Kinchant Street, Suite 401
Quesnel BC V2J 7J5

Reference: 290829

Dear MLA Oakes,

Re: West Fraser Road

Thank you for your letters regarding the West Fraser Road Recovery Project. I am sorry it has taken me so long to reply.

I understand the hardship the closure of this road has placed on area residents and travellers, and I know people are eager for relief.

By now, you will have likely heard that funding to rebuild West Fraser Road is in place. Reopening the road has been a ministry priority since the disaster occurred, but the extent of the damage and the complex geotechnical conditions in the area have made finding a reliable long-term solution challenging. After nearly two years of ongoing work, we are in the final stages of completing the detailed design for the new road and expect to start construction later this year.

The new road will bypass active slide areas and provide a safe and dependable route for years to come. Due to the geotechnical conditions, up to \$103 million has been budgeted for the project, which includes the construction of five kilometres of road on a new alignment, a new bridge at Narcosli Creek and rock stabilization work along the route.

Once the detailed design is finalized, the ministry will hold an information session to share the design and project timelines. To learn more, you can read our news release at:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020TRAN0031-000226>.

As work on the project continues, local ministry staff and our maintenance contractor will continue to ensure the detour route remains safe and reliable for all road users. The ministry has invested close to \$2 million to improve and maintain the detour route since the disaster.

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Should you have any questions about the West Fraser Road Project, please do not hesitate to contact local District Manager Todd Hubner. He can be reached at 250 398-4519 or at Todd.Hubner@gov.bc.ca and would be pleased to assist you.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

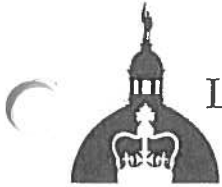
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Trevena', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Claire Trevena
Minister

Copy to: Honourable Rob Fleming
 Minister of Education
 MLA, Victoria-Swan Lake

Todd Hubner, District Manager
Cariboo District



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

COPY

Coralee Oakes, MLA
Cariboo North

September 9, 2020

Honourable Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
VIA Email Only

Dear Minister Trevena,

RE: West Fraser Road Recovery Project

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I am following up to get a detailed update/timeline on the West Fraser Road Recovery Project.

On March 1, 2019 in letter reference 283635, in your response to questions I had raised on behalf of constituents, you identified that restoring regular service for those who rely upon this vital link as an ongoing Ministry priority. Further, you indicated that the Ministry intends to have a detailed design in place and the project out to tender by late 2019. What day will this project go out to tender? What is the new timeline for completion of this project?

In this letter you also recognized the importance of putting safeguards in place to maintain road infrastructure during freshet. Could you kindly advise what steps were taken for 2020 Freshet to maintain road infrastructure?

Finally, conditions of the detour roads, Garner Road and Webster Lake Road are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Residents have regularly contacted the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and my office in regards to unsatisfactory maintenance on these roads. With winter around the corner, the concern of residents is increasing. What steps are the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure going to take to improve upon the maintenance of the detour road?

Regards,

Coralee Oakes
MLA Cariboo North

Cc: MP Todd Doherty
Cariboo Regional District Representative Jim Glassford