

Chair report up to & including September 30/21

This report is designed to give Directors a brief overview of some of my activities over the past few weeks.

- On September 13, I took part in a zoom call to discuss fiber supply in BC. This discussion was called by Mayor Lyn Hall of Prince George, and included Susan Yurkowich from COFI, many licensees, and several northern elected officials. It was a similar discussion that we have had before regarding the lack of fiber supply, and the amount that is being left in the bush after the logging has been completed. From 2001 – 2020 there have been 100,000 jobs lost in the forest industry due to the pine beetle infestation, AAC reduction and the loss of available fiber. A decision was made to engage with Ministers at all levels of Government to allow access to fiber at a reasonable cost, and for it to be a dependable source. I'm sure other conversations on this subject will follow, and I will keep the Board apprised.
- The CRD had 5 meetings prior to the start of UBCM, either with Ministers or staff. The lack of notice for these meetings proved frustrating for all elected officials in BC, but overall, I think the meetings went well. Two of particular note for me, was the meeting with Minister Bruce Ralston regarding the 3 phase power project to the Barkerville Gold mine, and Minister Rob Fleming from

MOTI. Minister Ralston seemed to understand the frustration we felt regarding the installation of a 3 phase power line that is not on the road allowance along side BC Hydro lines, and the fact that that 3 phase power would not be continued after BGM has completed their mining operation due to it not being the required standard for residences and further commercial entities. Minister Ralston did commit to having a conversation with BC Hydro off line.

Minister Fleming was very emphatic that the Province is ready to invest in roads in the Interior and to adapt to the shifting weather patterns that are affecting our infrastructure. He also feels quite optimistic about the working relationship they are developing with the Federal Transportation Ministry, and encouraged us to invite our MP's for the area, to contact him, and to work collaboratively on major projects. He assured me that the Province has a high priority to be proactive on the upgrading of undersized culverts for the 'new normal' we seem to be experiencing. The total cost for repairs in the CRD area as a result of the 2020 freshet was \$24M. He also expressed his appreciation for the working relationship that has grown with his local staff and the CRD following our ability to allow MOTI to use our Boardroom as a work centre through the 2021 freshet. He was also very aware of the road slippage issues within the northern part of the CRD, and the potential that we have for a continuation and

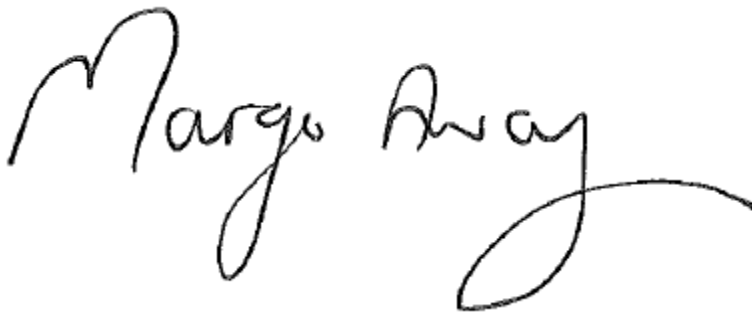
expansion of those slippages we are currently experiencing.

- On September 22, I took part in a conference call with Minister Dix, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Cathy Ulrich (CEO Northern Health) and many other Govt. staff and healthcare professionals, along with many northern Mayors and Chairs regarding the COVID-19 outbreak in the North. I have to say having a Minister willing to stay on a call for 1hr & 45minutes to answer all questions posed to him, was refreshing.
- I have been busy with NDIT, orientating Doug Donaldson to the Board as the new Govt. appointee, and attending a couple of the other RAC's other than the Cariboo Chilcotin Lillooet RAC, which represents our area.
- Finally, the first statutory holiday (September 30) recognizing Truth & Reconciliation was totally amazing! Hopefully next year we will be able to participate in person again. The national coverage and participation by all Canadians from coast to coast to coast was incredible, especially when you think it all started here, in Williams lake, with Phyllis Webstad. What she has achieved in a relative short amount of time when it comes to things of a

political nature, is awe inspiring, and should make all of us proud to be from the Cariboo.

As always if you have any questions arising from this report, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margo A. Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'M' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Margo A. Wagner