

Chair report up to & including February 20/22

This report is designed to give you an overview of some of my activities as Chair over the past few weeks.

- During the last Board meeting (Feb 4) there was a northern BC conference call going on with Minister Osbourne, and Ms. Masun kindly sat in on it and provided me with some notes. Discussion items were the flood response in the lower mainland, 17,000 people were evacuated and sadly there was a loss of 5 lives, millions of dollars in damage to property, loss of animals and other farm equipment, along with damage to land. There was also a brief update regarding Covid-19 protocols applicable for that time, and lastly the work that has started on an MOU for financial resilience within local Govts – housing and community safety making the top of the priority list. Minister Osbourne also thanked all local Govt, elected officials for their time and dedication over the past 4 years, and wished those that had decided to run again, good luck.
- February 15 – Vice Chair Massier and I, along with other affected elected officials, had a Teams meeting with the Artemis Gold team (previously Blackwater Gold). This project continues to move along well, and major permit applications have been completed and submitted to the various Govt. agencies regarding the Mines and Environmental Act and permits associated with

Environmental Assessments. When this site is fully operational, the workforce will be around 300, with a high degree of promotion in the Indigenous business and worker segments. During construction, the workforce will increase to 500 people. Val Erickson, who has been the most frequent contact for local Govt. consultation, is retiring at the end of March, and we thank her for the tenacity to which she has provided local Govts. frequent updates regarding the project, and congratulations on her retirement.

- On February 17/22, I met with Barbara Perrey, who has been hired by the District of 100 Mile to capture community experiences, in relation to the mill closures and curtailments. Ms. Perrey is conducting interviews with stakeholders and those affected as to what their families need when facing challenges with layoffs, including finding new employment either locally or in a remote location. The information gathered will be used to inform a Community Resource Guide, and will be available online as well as in hard copy.
- Friday February 18/22 saw the return of the 'Leaders Moving Forward' sessions initiated by the City of Williams lake. Dr. Fedor was able to participate, and the bulk of his conversation revolved around recruitment and retention of medical professionals. He was able to share that CMH has applied to Interior Health to be a Hospitalist site, which means that Drs. Would be able to work full time – in

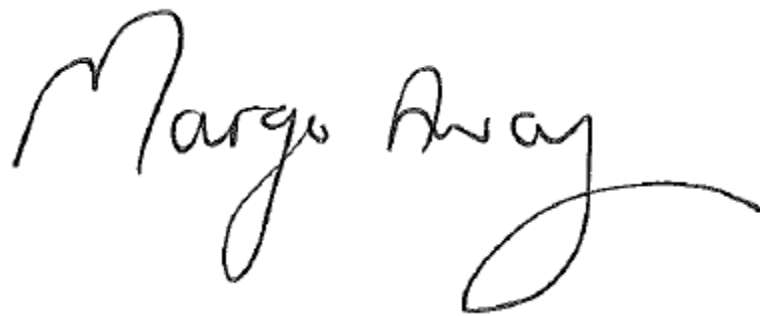
hospital only – which many Drs. are interested in embracing, and it would relieve the issue many Emergency Depts. face, with GP's working in an office practice that do not want to do any Emergency Dept. work. There is also a new Dr. in Williams lake that is accepting ob/gyn cases, as right now, CMH is down 1 midwife and 3 maternity Drs.

- When it was my turn to speak, I talked about the housing struggles we are currently experiencing, and Chris VanderMark – SD27 Superintendant – shared that they are having the same problems in 100 Mile and Anahim lake. He suggested that CAO MacLean and Ms. Veenkamp from the City of Williams lake, contact him, to see if there is any feasibility of the 2 organizations working together, regarding the 100 Mile area.
- On Saturday February 19/22, I travelled to Bouchie Lake to join Director Bachmeier and Communications Manager Tracey McBride, at the grand opening of the new outdoor rink improvements. The CRD contributed \$35,000 from the sub-regional recreation capital plan, and NDIT contributed \$30,000 from the Community Spaces envelope. Despite the occasional rain shower, it was quite well attended, and it certainly is a beautiful rink. Completion of the project will occur in the spring and summer with some concrete work. The arena will also double as a basketball court and a pickleball court.
- The Flood and Wildfire review continues to meet and work towards the new Emergency Program Act. There remain

some sticking points, mainly around a definition of community, and the First Nation engagement in the whole process and if the new Act will work sufficiently for them during an Emergency.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report, please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margo Bray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.