

Chair report up to & including November 9/22

As a new 4 year term begins for the elected officials within the Cariboo Regional District, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the newly elected, along with a thank you to all of you for letting your name stand for public office. There will be peaks and valleys during the 4 years, but with respect and adherence to our code of conduct, I am sure that we will achieve many of the items that we chose to run on during the campaign period. Whilst we may not always agree, realizing that we are a large and diverse Regional District, with many different facets, by working cohesively together, we can achieve what many of us have aspired towards.

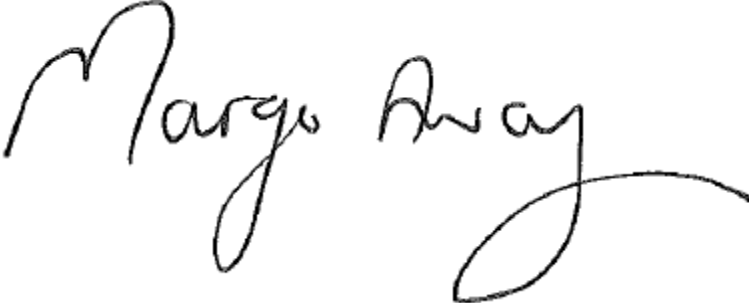
- On October 18th, I attended the Provincial Boundary committee meeting in Kamloops, to present the concerns of the CRD regarding the proposed electoral boundary changes to try and make the ridings more comparative in population. Whilst this premise may work in the lower mainland, it has serious implications in ridings north of Hope. The Mayors of Clearwater and Barriere were also in attendance, and basically spoke on the same item, that to include their communities along with Little Fort and Louis Creek, into the proposed Cariboo/N. Thompson riding, not only added considerable mileage to the current Cariboo Chilcotin riding, but also realizing that the geographic and economic differences between the Cariboo and N. Thompson do not necessarily work together. MLA Doerkson had suggested that his current riding could be enlarged to include Bella Coola, Fruitvale and Hagensborg, as well as the communities of Horsefly and Likely, and I did present these alternatives. MLA Oakes is also not in agreement with the current proposal for her riding that would now include all areas from College Heights in Prince George that is still within the City limits to where her current southern boundary is now.
- Tuesday November 1st, saw the inaugural Council meetings for the City of Quesnel and Williams Lake. Unfortunately, I was only able to attend one, as they were both at the same time, and as I had already committed to the City of Williams Lake, I attended with CCRHD Vice Chair Richmond and Director Forseth. Council Chambers were full to standing room only, and there was definitely an air of pomp and ceremony, with First Nation representatives from the First Nations of Williams Lake, Esk'etemc and Xenigwet'in. Mayor and Council were led in by a drummer from Mayor Rathor's heritage, followed by Mr. Jackson playing the bagpipes. The attending First Nations sang and drummed for those that had gathered. The Northern Directors represented the CRD during the inauguration of the Quesnel City Council.
- On Tuesday November 8th, I attended a flag raising ceremony of the Tsq'eskenemc (Canim lake FN) at the Offices of the District of 100 Mile House. The ceremony was attended by new and previously elected officials of 100 Mile House, and Kukpi7 Helen Henderson and her Council along with elders and knowledge keepers. This important step towards reconciliation within the S. Cariboo, but also across the whole CRD, is

fundamentally critical to the continued success, both economically and socially of everyone who calls the Cariboo Chilcotin home. Following this I attended the inaugural meeting of the 100 Mile Mayor and Council, congratulations to all of them, and to our continued collaboration within the S. Cariboo.

- The Flood and Wildfire review committee that I am a member of, continues to hold meetings and hopefully is working towards a deeper understanding of the impact some of the proposed changes to the Emergency Program Act will have on Regional Districts. I continue to be hopeful, that more information will be released by the Province and UBCM shortly, as it is difficult to keep this Board and other Regional District Chairs apprised, without breaking confidentiality. Outgoing CAO MacLean will also continue to be a member as his experience in major Emergency Operation Centres is invaluable, along with the 'how to' of facilitating monies to flow from Emergency Management BC, during emergencies such as fire, flooding and land slippages.

As always, if there are any questions arising from this report, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margo Away". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".