

Chair report up to & including April 12/23

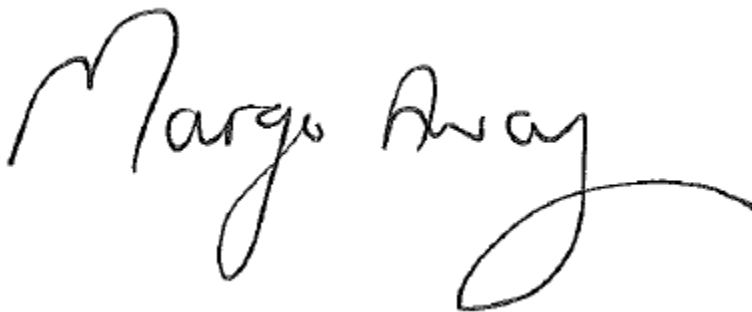
I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter and were able to spend some time with family and friends.

- March 26 & 27 had Interim CAO Carruthers, Deputy CAO Johnston and I travel to the Chairs & CAO conference in Victoria. The discussion topics were interesting and included information on the BC Accessibility Act (the CRD is already working on this), Housing shortages from all aspects, an update from EMBC with no info on the new Emergency Program Act plus a legislative reform Initiative. This last item drew some concern from rural Regional Districts as it was clearly driven by the smaller urban Regional Districts within the Province, and unfortunately one size does not fit all. ADM Tara Faganello, from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs also presented on some similar thoughts, and I was able to have a brief discussion with her after her presentation that the rural RD's have had no input in to the proposed changes. I have committed to getting some more formal concerns to her after my meeting with Chairs and CAO's of BNRD, FFGRD and ourselves, slated for June. Items from those discussions will be sent out to other rural RD's for their information, and I am anticipating that there will be some joint Ministers meetings requested at UBCM this coming September.

- I was unable to achieve an appointment with Minister Rankin as he was already committed to meetings with the TNG and other Treaty meetings. However, I understand that we do now have access to the archaeological information that the province has, that will aid us in planning and consultation with our Indigenous partners. I will continue to work on encouraging the BC Government to update their policies and guidelines to be in step with UNDRIP and DRIPA, as we all move forward towards full reconciliation with our Indigenous partners.
- I did receive a call from staff at BC Trails and Recreation sites regarding lake access, but unfortunately, I was unable to take the call, and have been unable to reach the staff person due to Easter break, but I will update the Board as soon as we connect.
- I had an informative evening with MLA's Oakes and Doerkson, discussing many pressing issues within the Cariboo as a whole, including the Emergency Program Act, Indigenous engagement, and resource management. We have committed to continuing the conversation with follow up meetings. Overall our time in Victoria was well spent, networking with the other RD Chairs and CAO's, and realizing, as usual, that we all have similar concerns.
- I have been invited to attend the opening ceremonies of the NStQ gathering in May, taking place in 100 Mile House. I will also have the opportunity to provide a welcome to them from the CRD Board. I am looking forward to

reconnecting with many of the Chiefs I have gotten to know, as well as meeting the new Chiefs, and start to build those all-important relationships with all our Indigenous partners.

As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margo Bray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Margo" is written with a large, looped 'M' and a trailing flourish. The last name "Bray" is written with a large, looped 'B' and a trailing flourish.