

Chair Report up to & including June 21/23

This report is designed to give an overview of some of my activities over the past few weeks. I have had several calls from residents across the CRD regarding concern over wildfire concerns and road conditions. However, with the recent rainfall and cooler temperatures over the area, the former concern has been allayed for the short term. Road maintenance continues to be an advocacy issue with our stakeholders.

- On June 15th I was invited to 'Get to Know You' dinner with the Thompson Rivers University Chair and Board. It was a great to hear plans to expand programs to the Williams Lake campus including a nurse practitioner program, and assist potential students in getting ready to be guaranteed acceptance into the program of their choice, by assisting them in achieving the necessary grades in courses. The new early childhood programs that TRU Williams Lake are offering should also assist in some of the shortages in these areas that have been prevalent for years.
- On June 16th I had the opportunity to meet Premier Eby as he made an unscheduled stop on Lhtako Dene territory for a quick meet and greet, with Chief Lebrun and his council along with representatives from FLNROD, JEDI Ministry, West Fraser, BC Winter Games and SD 28 to name a few. It was a pleasure to view the new arbor currently under construction and to see the almost completed longhouse.

With a new health unit planned and several new houses already built, it was great to see what has been achieved in the neighborhood in a relatively short period.

- WLFN hosted their annual Father's Day Powwow event, and it was a pleasure to be invited by Chief Sellars to attend the event on Saturday, and a great honor to be included in the grand entry along with Premier Eby, MLA Doerkson, Mayor Rathor and Councillors Moses and Flaspohler from the City of Williams Lake. As dignitaries we were honored in the center of the arbor with a dance and prayer song from all of the Chiefs in attendance, to cleanse our mind and bodies from the accumulated stress that builds from the work that we do on a daily basis. I would also like to thank the other CRD Directors that attended on the other days of the 3-day event.
- June 19th saw CAO Daly and I travel to Prince George ahead of our meetings with the Chair and CAO of Fraser Fort George, and Bulkley Nechako Regional Districts in the regional offices of FFGRD. I was able to introduce CAO Daly to Joel McKay, CEO for NDIT, and it sounds like they had a productive chat. The agenda for our meeting on June 20th included the following items;
 - Veterinary Shortage – Progress Update – UNBC is working with other veterinary schools to see about having part of the program taught in the north – and the remainder of the syllabus at one of the other

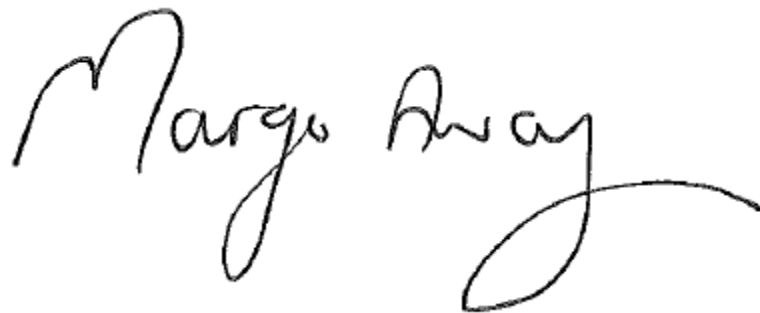
schools. It is a few years away from becoming a reality but would be an important addition to the UNBC campus.

- Emergency Management
 - Emergency Program Act Changes – the usual discussion, and a commitment was made by the 3 RD's to have a joint meeting with Minister Ma expressing our continued concerns, CAO MacLean may also have some other RD's in his area that would be interested in the meeting should we be able to secure one.
 - RDFFG 9-1-1 / Fire Dispatch Service Update
- Nanaimo Regional District – Legislative Reform Proposal – discussion around the desire for the Cowichan Valley RD to implement business licenses, and the misunderstanding that this would be welcome by all of the other RD's. Further conversation will ensue on this topic before UBCM, and when UBCM reaches out for topics of discussion at the EA forum part of the program, this item will certainly be one of the,.
- Reconciliation
 - Indigenous Relations and DRIPPA
 - Consultation Experiences – seems we are all having similar experiences and this will be an ongoing conversation as we work towards reconciliation with all of our First Nations partners.
- Resource Benefits Alliance
 - Update on how its going – the northeast resource benefits alliance for the gas line to the coast, is still a work in progress with no definitive time for a completion date, but the Provincial Govt. seems to be a willing partner so far.
- UBCM Minister Meetings
 - Interest in coordinating joint meetings with Ministers – the 3 CAO's will co-ordinate with each other to achieve joint meetings with Ministers Rankin, Ma and Kang.
All in all it was a productive meeting, with a commitment to make it a yearly event to be held in the spring. My thanks to FFGRD for hosting us for supper the night before and a great lunch and meeting space on Tuesday.

- I continue to be concerned with some of the verbal abuse a few of our Directors are having to take via phone calls from some of their residents. Verbal abuse from anyone is unacceptable and seems to have gotten more prevalent since Covid. If you are getting these calls, I would suggest you contact me confidentially.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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