

## Chair report up to and including September 24, 2023

Just a quick report on the UBCM we all attended last week.

Overall, it was a successful AGM for the CRD, we succeeded in getting the bulk of our meeting requests with Ministers & staff and in most cases I feel the NDP government were engaged and interested in our concerns and comments.

- Monday September 18, the Chairs and CAO of Bulkley Nechako and Fraser Forst George and myself met with Minister Ralston (FLNROD), to discuss the archaeological issues that we have all been experiencing over the past year. Several of his staff were also present along with Minister Cullen, who will connect with MLA Doerkson over the particular issue in the Central Cariboo.
- Tuesday along with the other 2 RD's mentioned we met with Minister Kang to discuss the concern we had over proposed changes to Regional Districts' abilities. For example, to be able to do business licensing. For large rural and rural remote RD's this would not be a source of income but would cost us money. The concept was suggested by the smaller urban RD's on the island, and has been tried by some of the RD's in the Okanagan and Shuswap areas with limited success. Minister Kang heard us loud and clear along with her staff, that full engagement with all RD Chairs is vital as not all RD's are created equal.
- On Tuesday Director Anderson & Pare and I met with Premier Eby and a lot of Indigenous relations staff to

discuss the ongoing issue in the Tsilhqot'in traditional between non-Indigenous land owners and the Tsilhqot'in National Govt. It was apparent to me that Premier Eby was not aware of the ongoing and seemed surprised by our concerns, but encouraged his staff and the Indigenous relations staff present to keep him consulted as we try to work through the issues.

- That same day the 3 RD's mentioned met with the Deputy Minister of Indigenous Affairs regarding the time lag the Province appears to be taking in implementing DRIPPA and UNDRIP into its policies and legislation. He was aware of the issues and promised that the Province is hoping to get the policies and legislation to line up in a timely manner.
- On Wednesday the 3 RD's met for 40 minutes with Minister Ma and her staff to discuss issues related to staffing EOC's during long term activations – this year the CRD EOC has been open and dealing with fires longer than in 2017, although not to the same degree, but needing the same staff level. BNRD has struggled immensely with staffing what has been a horrific season for them with a multitude of fires starting from dry lightning events. We also discussed the new Emergency Management Legislation that will be introduced in the Legislature October 3, 2023, and how, when developing the regulations to support the Act, there needs to be an understanding of the cost and workload on RD's. We also

had a good discussion around the ongoing fire season as a whole.

- I also attended several staff level meetings during the week, which were also productive.

I hope everyone enjoyed their time at UBCM, and have now caught up on some sleep! It is a very hectic week with long and intense days, but it is an integral part of being an elected official and the networking that the conference offers are invaluable. I fully plan to be back in the Board room for the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo Wagner