

Chair Report up to & including November 7, 2023

With the recent passing in the Legislature of the new Emergency & Disaster Management Act, much of my time in the past few weeks has been communicating with other RD Chairs, and hearing the concerns that we all share on the impact this will have on RD's both financially and in the manpower needed to achieve the communication strategies and working relationships we are being asked to achieve, and the amount of staff required to maintain these once they have been achieved. With many RD's having been affected over the past few years with horrific fire seasons, the amount of time in EOC staffing, recovery, eventually leading to resiliency, we must ask how this is achievable with only a promise of funding (no dollar amounts mentioned) from the Province with regard to implementing the new Act through its regulations. As we move towards the responses that the Province is requesting to assist in drafting the regulations, I am seeing a common thread of concerns from rural RD's across the Province, that have large areas with a small population base in comparison with the larger RD's on Vancouver Island and the lower mainland.

On November 2, I attended a Teams meeting with staff from the Ministry of Housing regarding the recent announcement on small scale, multi-unit housing and updated zoning rules to help build more much needed homes faster. It was unfortunate that this invitation was sent to the Chairs and Mayors and did not

include planning staff. However, that being said, there was an interesting dialogue by the participants on the ramifications of this new housing initiative, especially to RD's. I have asked for the slide deck to be shared with all RD's and Municipalities but have not yet received it.

MP Frank Caputo was in Forest Grove for an evening meeting with residents on October 28th, unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to a prior commitment, but did have the chance to express some of my concerns to residents that were attending, regarding disaster financial assistance (DFA), housing and some of the federal green incentives that do not appear to be a good 'fit' for northern rural communities.

With Remembrance Day coming up, I hope everyone takes the time to attend events in their closest community. With what is occurring in the world right now, I think November 11th should be a day that we all pause to reflect on what our veterans have given and what many may be asked to give in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo A. Wagner.