

December 20, 2023

Premier David Eby

Via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Bowinn Ma

Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Via email: EMCR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Eby and Minister Ma:

RE: Feedback on EDMA Regulations for Local Authorities and Disaster Financial Assistance

Please accept this letter as notification that at the December 14, 2023, Regular Board Meeting the Regional District of Central Kootenay Board of Directors adopted the following resolution:

That the Regional District of Central Kootenay Board send a letter to the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and the Premier of British Columbia, requesting more time to provide feedback to the Province on its new regulations for post-emergency financial assistance (often referred to as “disaster financial assistance” or “DFA”) and Regulations for Local Authorities related to the Emergency and Disaster Management Act, and that the letter also request that the Province provide supplemental funding to address the capacity and resourcing required to complete this work, and that the letter be copied to all 27 Regional Districts.

In principle, the RDCK supports the EDMA, accompanying regulations, and proposed changes to DFA as bold steps in a positive direction to address the changing hazard landscape in BC. While these are important changes, they are complex and reach across all areas of our district and operations. Consequently, the Board emphasises that meeting the Province’s expectations, as currently set out without additional time and resources, is not only impossible due to the substantial task, but also given the already full workload of our Board and Staff.

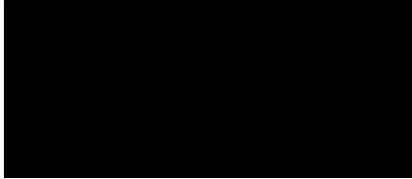
Given our geographic size, population density, taxation base, staff capacity, and the logistics needed for meaningful collaboration with multiple neighbouring municipalities, regional districts, and Indigenous Governing Bodies, the RDCK Board of Directors respectfully requests: 1) more time to review the new regulations for DFA and Regulations for Local Authorities related to the EDMA, and that 2) the Province provide supplemental funding to address the capacity and resourcing required to thoughtfully and comprehensively complete this work.

As indicated, we support the update of Provincial Legislation to better reflect how we are managing not only the increasing scale, frequency and cost of emergencies, but also the ability to do all we can to mitigate and

prepare for their inevitable impact. With 20 distinct jurisdictions within the RDCK, many of which who do not have comprehensive fire, water or other basic services, ensuring that we are meeting the needs of all we are responsible for requires time and capacity.

Therefore, we are hopeful for a positive response from the Province to our request. “Unreasonable haste is the direct road to error.” – Molière

Sincerely,



Aimee Watson
Board Chair, Regional District of Central Kootenay

cc: All Regional Districts in BC