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November 30, 2023

Cariboo Regional District
Board of Directors
Suite D, 180 North Third Avenue
Williams Lake, BC
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Dear CRD Board:

ADAC has passed a motion requesting that the Board move to invest CRD Staff time to investigate Livestock Exclusion Fencing as a Local Service Area Function.

There is a saying: "Good fences make good neighbours", the opposite is also true. Poor fences make for challenging relationships and unhappy communities; therefore, fencing may be seen as a valuable part of "building communities together", the slogan of the CRD.

Throughout the Cariboo, people have moved to rural areas to enjoy a rural lifestyle with more space and fewer restrictions on their activities. Sub-divisions with parcel sizes ranging from 2 to 20 acres have become common around Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House.

Increasingly in recent years, conflicts have arisen between sub-division residents and cattle grazing on Crown range. Similar conflict may be seen where industrially zoned properties are adjacent to grazing tenured Crown lands. The conflict often arises from a lack of fences or the disrepair of fences.

The Cariboo has had an influx of people from the other urban regions attracted to invest in rural fringe acreage in the Cariboo. There is no requirement for real estate agents to advise a purchaser of the realities of living in a Livestock District, the details of the Livestock Act, Trespass Act, or Range Act that inform the requirements and responsibilities of living adjacent to property actively used for agriculture.

The above-described conflicts and challenges are not new. One can easily find references to such matters in numerous publications from reliable sources:

- [2012 UBCM Resolution - Fencing Agriculture Interface](#)

- [Strengthening Farming - Livestock at Large](#)
- [Mary McGregor Beef in BC article 1995](#)

Livestock grazing on Crown land provides economic benefits not just to the cattle owner, but to society as well. Livestock production contributes to the economy and food security. It creates employment and supports resource management. Grazing can aid in fire suppression by reducing fine fuels.

Well-planned sub-divisions also provide benefits to society, including places for people to live and raise families; workers for industry and institutions; and property taxation for local and provincial governments.

The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) provides regional and local services, from libraries and solid waste to fire departments and streetlights.

The CRD ADAC (Agriculture Development Advisory Committee) presents a proposal to improve the livability, attraction & retention of residents of the CRD. Residents that would benefit from such service include:

- Those who live in rural subdivisions, adjacent to titles actively used for agriculture,
- Agriculture producers/Range tenure holders,
- Recreationalists via access to lands beyond,
- Local contractors via employment opportunities.

The proposal is that the CRD act as a mechanism to bring relevant parties (Cattlemen's & livestock groups, Woodlot Associations, local residents, recreation groups, Min of Transportation and Infrastructure, Min of Agriculture and Food, Min of Forests Range Management Branch, etc.) together to develop and maintain livestock exclusion fences equitably and consistently around the perimeter of rural subdivisions in a livestock district. This proposal may be approached as a pilot project in an identified area.

ADAC looks forward to working in a collaborative role with the CRD in exploring the potential to develop the above-described project.

Regards,



Cariboo Agricultural Development Advisory Committee

Christa Pooley
Chair, ADAC