



**Date:** 24/01/2024

**To:** Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

**And To:** Murray Daly, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Gerald Pinchbeck, Manager of Communications

**Date of Meeting:** Cariboo Regional District Board\_Feb09\_2024

**File:** 0400-60/2024/NCLGA

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## Short Summary:

NCLGA Resolution on Emergency and Disaster Management Act

## Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

## Memorandum:

At the January 12, 2024 Board Meeting, the Board directed staff to prepare a resolution for consideration at the upcoming North Central Local Government Association's Annual General Meeting calling for specific regulations for regional districts under the new [Emergency and Disaster Management Act](#). This supplements previous feedback submitted by the Cariboo Regional District to the Province at both the elected and staff level. For background, please refer to the attached letter from Chair Wagner addressed to the Honourable George Heyman, Acting Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. The letter summarizes many of the issues for rural and remote regional districts like the CRD which are created by the new Act.

Considering this, the following resolution is recommended:

*WHEREAS the Emergency and Disaster Management Act seeks to set out a comprehensive framework for the management of wildfires, floods, and other disasters in a manner consistent with the SENDAI Framework;*

*AND WHEREAS the statutory responsibilities, geographic disparity, and legal powers of regional districts are not recognized by the Emergencies and Disaster Management Act;*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and Union of BC Municipalities call on the Province of BC to develop regulations under the Emergencies and Disaster Management Act in collaboration with representatives of rural and remote regional districts, to ensure that emergency powers and responsibilities impacting regional districts are designed in consideration of the unique challenges faced by rural and remote communities during all phases of emergency management.*

### **Attachments:**

1. December 2023 letter from Chair Wagner to the Hon. George Heyman re: Emergency and Disaster Management Act

### **Financial Implications:**

None.

### **Policy Implications:**

None.

### **Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

- Infrastructure and Asset Management:** To establish a systematic, predictable approach to managing the regional district's assets and infrastructure that builds on current asset management data and condition assessments.
- Enhanced Communications and Engagement:** To build trust and credibility of the regional district by enhancing our communications and engagement with citizens, stakeholders, and volunteers.
- Effective and Responsive Land Use Planning and Development:** To ensure our land use planning and development is responsive to future growth and housing needs, anticipates risks and hazards associated with climate change and provides efficient and consistent processes for landowners and developers.
- Relationships with First Nations:** To foster a healthy and inclusive region by building and strengthening our relationships with First Nations and embracing the principles of reconciliation.

The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* sets out the fundamental authority for the CRD to prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover from natural disasters in our region, including floods, wildfires, and landslides. Ensuring that statutory and regulatory mechanisms to do so are adequate and reflective of the CRD's ability to do so is critical for continued operational effectiveness in these areas.

### **CAO Comments:**

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### **Options:**

1. Endorse the recommendation.
2. Endorse an alternative resolution.
3. Defer.

### **Recommendation:**

That the Board resolves to endorse the following resolution and directs staff to submit it for consideration at the 2024 North Central Local Government Association's annual general meeting:

WHEREAS the Emergency and Disaster Management Act seeks to set out a comprehensive framework for the management of wildfires, floods, and other disasters in a manner consistent with the SENDAI Framework;

AND WHEREAS the statutory responsibilities, geographic disparity, and legal powers of regional districts are not recognized by the Emergencies and Disaster Management Act;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and Union of BC Municipalities call on the Province of BC to develop regulations under the Emergencies and Disaster Management Act in collaboration with representatives of each regional district, to ensure that emergency powers and responsibilities impacting regional district are designed in consideration of their powers, jurisdiction, and areas of responsibility.