

## Chair report up to & including February 6/24

I attended the BC Natural Resource Forum in Prince George along with Vice Chair Neufeld, and Directors Bachmeier and Anderson. As always, it was well attended with several opportunities for networking with mainly northern Elected Officials. I had many conversations regarding the impending regulations for the new Emergency & Disaster Management Act (EDMA). The proposed regulations have huge implications for RD's both financially and staff wise and have unreasonable timeline expectations. Whilst in Prince George, Vice Chair Neufeld and I had a lengthy meeting with Minister Murray Rankin (MIRR), and the concern regarding the EDMA timeline and expectations in relation to First Nations and RD's was raised. We also had a good chat about some concerns within the Xeni Gwet'in title area regarding access to ranches and refuse service.

I was also able to have informal chats with Minister Osbourne regarding the number of mines the CRD has within its borders, and Parliamentary Russell regarding EDMA, connectivity and housing issues within RD's. The sessions that I attended were very well presented and interesting with great representation from FN's that are partnering or owning Natural resource extraction companies in the North.

Following that forum, many of you attended the EA/LGLA forum in Vancouver. Prior to that, CAO Daly and I flew to Victoria for meetings with Minister Fleming (MOTI) regarding our

continuing concern over the Hodgson Road slide, Minister Kang (Municipal Affairs) also attended virtually. There were also many Cariboo MOTI employees there, by coincidence, and I think there is now understanding for more updates and public info meetings on this slide area. MOTI is planning on drilling more bore holes leading to possible de-watering, all of which residents need to be aware of. Minister Fleming also recommended that the Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness be kept informed, as MOTI only deals with infrastructure issues, not concerns over property devaluation due to a slide. We have committed to doing that with the next public engagement session. I also raised continuing concerns over the 2 houses on Maple Drive, and the need to bring this issue to a close – unfortunately I got very little traction with the Minister on this subject.

Once again the regulations surrounding the new EDMA were front and centre during the EA portion of the forum, with several speakers requesting an RD based working group to work with the Ministry to develop the regulations. In conversations with UBCM staff at the event, they also echoed the need for this. The LGLA forum was informative and once again offered a great networking opportunity with other elected officials from across the Province. The proposed changes to the Land Act, whilst not an agenda item, was raised during the open mic session, and during networking times with other officials. I have registered for a zoom meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup>, and here is the link that will provide more information on this topic -

<https://www.ubcm.ca/about-ubcm/latest-news/engagement-session-local-governments-proposed-land-act-amendments>

The concern here is the speed with which this proposal is moving, with very little public engagement, and an election occurring in 2024 which limits the amount of time the Legislature will be debating bills such as this.

I am realizing by the huge increase in phone calls I am getting, that more members of the general public are getting more engaged, especially with issues around EDMA and now the proposed Land Act changes – hopefully this may lead to more interest in all levels of Government than there has been over the past few years.

Respectfully submitted,

