

Chair report up to & including May 21, 2024

On April 30th Director Pare and I sat in on a BC Hydro webinar regarding Non Integrated Hydro rates. This plan will affect 14 areas and 8000 customers and will level the playing field when it comes to BC Hydro billing rates by offering fixed bill options, reduced usage rates for time of day options, & peak rate charges. In the CRD area, the areas are in the Chilcotin, and these rate options will also be offered to all BC Hydro customers eventually.

Ministers Kang and Ma have held 2 sessions for Mayors & Chairs, providing updates for river forecast, snowpack and the current drought situation. Also updates on the wildfires currently impacting the northeastern part of the Province. When the Burgess Lake fire was burning within the CRD, Minister Ma reached out immediately, and continues to be readily available to elected officials experiencing emergencies in their area.

On May 7th, I took part in a TNG led initiative called Nenqayni CXh'ih Deni Wedli – Let's Live Indigenous. This was a great session, and many of the CRD staff took the opportunity to be there. I am sure it will be offered again, and I strongly recommend Directors grab the opportunity – funding for the course could be accessed through Director Initiative funds.

NCLGA in Smithers was a great event – the weather was better than expected, the networking was great, the sessions were informative, and the meals were amazing.

CAO Daly and I touched base with our counterparts at the TNRD and the RDFFG and are planning a zoom conference to submit some joint meeting requests with Ministers at UBCM. CAO Daly and I are slowly working towards engaging First Nations, adjacent RD's and mining companies regarding some kind of resource benefit alliance. I took a day-long seminar at the BC Natural Resource Forum, that was First Nation based and learnt a lot about how to approach this. The timeline has been long, as I have realized that there are no 'second chances' with this engagement, so it is imperative that we understand exactly what we expect, what we are asking for and the reactions that we might encounter. I continue to have the support from Minister Osbourne on this, and she agrees that it is better to work at a snail's pace rather than rush in and fail.

As our CAO and Managers work through the current strike action by other staff, I want to thank them for their dedication to the CRD, and I also want to thank Directors for their realization that some of their requests or questions may take much longer to be addressed.

Explaining the delays to residents can be challenging, especially regarding building permits and inspections, but I have every confidence that the elected officials will handle these questions appropriately and with decorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo Aray