

## Chair report up to & including March 18/2025

As the tariff war continues to change almost daily, the subject was front and centre with a Mayors & Chairs zoom call held March 11/25 with Premier Eby and Minister Ravi Kahlon. Minister Kahlon has been given the portfolio of working and dealing with the tariffs imposed by not only the US but now China, in retaliation for a tariff on Chinese manufactured EV's. It is becoming clear, that these tariffs are having derogatory results both in Canada as well as the US, as stock markets are suffering and the word 'recession' seems to be vocalized more, by both sides of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel. As for local governments, the issue of possibly losing a mill, job layoffs, the increasing cost of living, lend to a general feeling of almost hopelessness. As local governments we are a very small cog in a big wheel. However, we are elected to represent and support our residents, and I think we can do that by taking part in these calls the government is holding, being vocal with our MLA's even if they are not the governing party and continuing to support our residents, looking at how we can help cut some of the costs of us doing business.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Jerrilyn Kirk (EA representative with UBCM) held a zoom call with Minister Brittny Anderson (Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities) as well as Parliamentary Secretary Steve Morissette. Both of these representatives have a strong background in local government, including Regional Districts and Municipalities. This is a huge bonus for us as local government representatives and the questions certainly resonated the respect that elected officials feel having a Minister that understands the challenges, whether it is with the Local Government Act or small water system challenges. Hopefully we will see some progressive changes, especially as both these subjects will be discussed at UBCM, and I think the latter may make the FCM agenda.

On Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>, I attended the 'coffee with Council' session in 100 Mile House along with Directors de Vries and Forseth. Although this is obviously aimed at encouraging District residents to ask questions and for Council to engage, there are usually several questions that pertain to Regional District rules, whether it is planning within the RD or noxious weeds, so I appreciate the invite from Mayor Pinkney to attend.

It is also a great opportunity for us to meet residents, plus continue to promote the great working relationship between the 2 local governments in the S. Cariboo. The only issues that were brought to my attention was the need for bus service to Forest Grove and Lone Butte, plus the continued development of ATV and snowmobile trails within the S. Cariboo.

I have also had quite a few calls from lower mainland residents enquiring about the secondary suite rules and short term rental requirements. With the continued housing crunch, I am anticipating this may be a frequent conversation especially with homeowners where property in the CRD is a secondary residence.

Respectfully submitted

Margo A. Wagner