



COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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From the Desk of Director Paul Demenok, Electoral Area C, CSR D

May 3, 2018

VIA EMAIL: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
PO Box 9049 Stn Prov Govt
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Donaldson:

As the Electoral Area C Director for the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, this letter is to alert you to an impending and preventable tragedy, and to request your Ministry's immediate assistance.

Newsome Creek in Sorrento is creating a number of potentially serious issues for local residents along Caen Road. Private residences on the west side of Caen Road are at a high risk of having their foundations undermined as high levels of rapidly flowing water are quickly eroding the walls of the gully behind their homes. On several properties, the recent changes to the gully walls have been dramatic, and in some cases the gully being undermined is now only 10 feet away from the foundation of one home. Private properties have already been damaged and the residents are very concerned.

Below these homes, Dieppe Road has been washed away and a number of residents on that road can no longer access their homes by car. The heavy flow of sediment has also created very high levels of turbidity, which in turn has necessitated a boil water advisory.

The CSR D has approached your Ministry on several occasions and was informed that as this watercourse is not passing through highly forested Crown Land, it is not the responsibility of FLNRO. We feel it is irresponsible and totally inappropriate to get into a jurisdictional battle as people are potentially losing their homes. There is a real risk that these homes will tumble into Newsome Creek within the next few weeks. We think it is unacceptable to stand by and simply let this disaster happen.

Through financial support from EMBC, the CSR D has had a geotechnical field review and risk summary report done, which is attached for your information. A previous report conducted in 2017 by the CSR D at the recommendation of your Ministry was also completed and is attached.

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ELECTORAL AREAS

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C SOUTH SHUSWAP
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM

MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN
REVELSTOKE

SALMON ARM
SICAMOUS

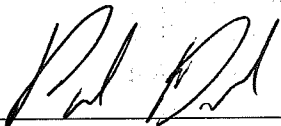
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Newsome Creek, Sorrento, BC

I am asking that FLNRO step up and help us to save the homes of these residents. We need an immediate plan of action developed by engineers to manage the current water flow, to repair the damage done, and to mitigate future risks over time. Please respond at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Paul Demenok,
Director, Electoral Area C, CSRD
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cc Rhona Martin, Chair, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Tim Sheldon, Deputy Minister, MFLNRO
Greg Kylo, MLA Shuswap
Kevin Turner, Westrek Geotechnical Services Ltd.

Encl.