

From: PSSG WEBFEEDBACK PSSG:EX <PSSGWebFeedback@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: April 24, 2019 10:14 AM
To: Director Martin <RMartin@csrd.bc.ca>
Cc: Director Demenok <PDemenok@csrd.bc.ca>; Kyлло.MLA, Greg LASS:EX <Greg.Kyllo.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: 553941

Ms. Rhona Martin
Chair, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Email: rmartin@csrd.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Martin:

Thank you for your letter of March 28, 2019, where you outlined the pressing urgency to mitigate the erosion along Newsome Creek and requested a meeting to discuss the situation and options at my earliest convenience.

As has been communicated by email, unfortunately my schedule cannot accommodate a meeting in the near future, and you did not feel that a dialogue with my office and senior Emergency Management BC (EMBC) officials would suffice. In the interest of expediency, I have chosen to provide the provincial perspective by replying directly to your letter.

The situation in Newsome Creek is unfortunate, but one that is faced by a number of jurisdictions. The Province has been consistent in articulating the following:

- Provincial legislation assigns responsibility for flood hazard management to local authorities; this includes addressing erosion along streams;
- There is a responsibility of individuals to protect their properties, and;
- Local governments are responsible for applying to a number of possible funding streams that may be available to help mitigate the hazard.

EMBC has remained engaged on this issue. In addition to the cost-sharing study that you mention in your letter, EMBC has provided funding for regular monitoring of the erosion to ensure that affected residents are adequately warned as necessary and public safety is maintained.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) has advised EMBC that hydrological assessments have been completed and that MOTI plans to upgrade six culvert crossings along Newsome Creek. The areas identified involve crossings at the Trans-Canada Highway, Dieppe Road, Dilworth Road, London Lane, Taylor Road, and Fredrickson Road. Work is scheduled to begin this fall and should be completed prior to spring 2020, subject to any environmental approvals required for working in the stream.

While I understand that the timelines and amount of funding available through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund may not be an ideal fit to address all the erosion along Newsome

Creek, this program could provide funding to complete some necessary, prioritized mitigation works.

It is noted that the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) did not submit applications to other programs that offered higher funding envelopes such as the National Disaster Mitigation Program, which could have provided up to \$3 million. Flood mitigation in the province remains tied to these programs, and it is important the CSRD seize on these funding opportunities when presented. EMBC may assist with the application process and advises local government when new funding streams and deadlines are announced. Information on potential funding programs can be found at the following link:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-management-bc/bc-disaster-mitigation/flood-mitigation-funding-programs>.

I appreciate your concerns and will continue to monitor developments.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc: Greg Kylo, MLA
Paul Demenok, CSRD Electoral Area C Director
Lori Halls, Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC