

October 25th, 2024

Reference: 642007

Kevin Flynn
Board Chair
Regional District of Columbia Shuswap
Email: kflynn@csrd.bc.ca

Dear Kevin Flynn:

I am writing to follow-up on our meeting at this year's Union of BC Municipalities Convention on September 18, 2024. Thank you for taking the opportunity to meet with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR); it was good to hear first-hand the matters of importance to you and your community relating to recovery support for wildfire-impacted residents.

We are pleased that EMCR was able to provide financial support to the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) through the Disaster Recovery Expenditure Authorization Form (DREAF) process. The DREAF process was introduced in November 2023 following the unprecedented 2023 wildfire season, with the recognition that communities required immediate funding to support disaster recovery efforts. Through this process, the CSRD has successfully accessed funding through multiple DREAFs for recovery-related staff (i.e.: Community Recovery Managers and Development Services Personnel) as well as funding issued recently for the Slope Manager early warning program that will issue notifications for small landslide events.

As with any new approaches, we understand that there are opportunities to improve this process and strengthen efficiencies. Both the DREAF process and the Slope Manager program are new approaches that EMCR has undertaken in an effort to remain service-oriented and innovative in our disaster recovery supports. The Ministry would welcome your feedback on both of these initiatives as we consider refinements for continued and future applications. Jeff Grass, Executive Director of the Wildfire Recovery Operations Branch, will connect with you directly to ensure that we capture your feedback.

On a related note, EMCR is also encouraged by the recovery progress to date within the CSRD and will be monitoring the properties soon to be under construction following the new Riparian Directive issued by the Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship. Again, your reflections regarding this directive will be invaluable to shaping future policy work in this area.

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The Ministry is committed to working with your staff and community in the years to come. Thank you for your continued advocacy for residents impacted by the Bush Creek wildfire as we work together to support your community through the disaster recovery process.

Again, thank you to you and your delegation for taking the time to meet.

Sincerely,



Tara Richards
Deputy Minister

CC: Jeff Grass, Executive Director, Wildfire Recovery Operations Branch

Regional District of Columbia Shuswap
John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer
Jennifer Sham, Corporate Officer
Jay Simpson, Electoral Area F Director
Natalya Melnychuk, Electoral Area G Director