



February 22, 2017

Rhona Martin, Chair
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
555 Harbourfront Drive NE
PO Box 978
Salmon Arm BC V1E 4P1

Dear Chair Martin:

Re: McIntyre Creek

Thank you for your letter of July 11, 2016, addressed to the Honourable Todd G. Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, requesting the ministry undertake additional debris flow mitigation works at McIntyre Creek. Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this reply.

I appreciate you bringing your concerns to the ministry's attention. As you know, the ministry committed to, and has completed, the engineered design for additional work at the culvert inlet on Sunnybrae Canoe Point Road to better meet the pre-event condition and to exceed the pre-event capacity of the catchment area. Additional catchment work has also been completed to mitigate the need for an upstream debris flow barrier, which would be cost prohibitive to construct and maintain.

The above-noted works capture the two recommendations by Westrek for work above Canoe Point Road, and the ministry is satisfied that the work we have completed upstream of our infrastructure will protect the travelling public and taxpayer investment in local provincial roads. In addition, it will provide increased protection to residents downstream of this area. In their June 7, 2016 Memorandum, Westrek states that the basin is "...probably much larger than it was before the 2014 event."

I recognize that you would like the ministry to complete additional work downstream of our infrastructure to protect CSRD residents from potential risks related to debris flow events. However, it is important to note that the further works recommended by the Westrek report would not enhance the safety of traveling public. As such, the decision to carry out further works rests with the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD), as would any decision to deem lands within the CSRD a Hazardous Lands Development Permit Area.

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If CSRD did wish to undertake additional modelling and construction of works to protect properties and residents from future debris flow events, there are several federal programs (e.g. National Disaster Mitigation Program, Green Infrastructure Fund and New Build Canada Fund) that could assist in providing cost-share funding opportunities. Information on these funding opportunities is available from Emergency Management BC.

The ministry will be pleased to provide any information in our files, and to facilitate access to the site should the CSRD wish to undertake further mitigation works. Ministry staff would be pleased to meet with the CSRD Board of Directors and staff to discuss this matter further.

To that end, I understand that Steve Sirett, Associate District Transportation Manager, has contacted you to arrange a meeting between yourself and our technical staff. Should you have further questions or concerns in the meantime, please feel free to contact Mr. Sirett at 250 712-3666 or at Steve.Sirett@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Kevin Richter
Assistant Deputy Minister
Highways Department

Copy to: Honourable Todd G. Stone
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
MLA, Kamloops-South Thompson

Steve Sirett, Associate District Transportation Manager
Okanagan Shuswap District

Jack Bennetto, District Transportation Manager
Okanagan Shuswap District