



COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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March 9, 2018

File No.: 0410 20 45

Transmitted via email to: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Victoria, BC

Dear Minister Trevena:

Re: Snow Removal Services in Electoral Areas C and D, Columbia Shuswap Regional District and Request for Review of Contract Obligations and Specifications – Winter Road Maintenance

At its February 15, 2018 regular meeting the Board of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District discussed snow removal services in the Electoral areas. It was noted by Directors of Electoral Areas C and D that there are increased issues with snow removal in rural areas, particularly during this past 2017/2018 winter snow season.

We understand that protecting public funds is important, however, it should not be at the cost of public safety. We are particularly concerned with emergency response vehicles, both fire and ambulance, having the ability to access streets and roadways in the event of an emergency. Another major concern is school bus routes, as many instances of unsafe conditions have been noted for both riders and pedestrians.

We urge the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to review their contractor obligations, and agreement specifications for snow and ice control. In order to protect public safety, it is suggested that a review of minimum equipment standards and staffing requirements should be undertaken.

These communities have experienced many instances of unsafe winter conditions. This is a tremendous concern that we wish to have responded to and rectified for next year and future winter seasons.

It is our hope that the Minister's office will favourably consider this request and contemplate a review of current contractor standards and agreement specifications of snow and ice control in the rural areas.

Yours Truly,

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

Per:

Rhona Martin
Chair

cc: Kevin Richter, Assistant Deputy Minister, MoTI
Mike Lorimer, Regional Director, MoTI
Jack Bennetto, District Manager, Okanagan-Shuswap, MoTI
Paul Demenok, Electoral Area C Director, CSRD
Rene Talbot, Electoral Area D Director, CSRD