



APR 20 2010

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

Reference: 275177  
Your File: 0410 20 45

Dear Chair Martin,

**Re: Winter Maintenance Services**

Thank you for your letter regarding winter maintenance in the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, particularly in Electoral Areas C and D.

The ministry takes its commitment to safety very seriously, and we recognize the importance of year-round access to emergency services. To ensure our maintenance contractors attend to the most-needed roads first, the ministry bases its maintenance service levels on the classification of the road. A road's classification is determined by the volume of traffic and use. Generally, numbered routes with higher traffic volumes are a higher classification, followed by school bus routes and then side roads.

The Interior has experienced exceptionally heavy snowfall this winter. While our maintenance contractors strive to plow side roads within 48 hours after a snowfall over five centimetres and school bus routes after any measurable accumulation, there may be times during periods of prolonged snowfall where they must keep equipment for longer on numbered routes.

This spring, the ministry is tendering new maintenance contracts for the service areas in your Regional District that will require even higher standards and faster, more effective service. Some of the winter maintenance-related changes include increased anti-icing requirements, increased patrol frequencies, and tighter timeframes to return highways to bare pavement when temperatures permit.

As part of evaluating each contractor's proposal, the ministry will review the contractor's capacity to meet the higher maintenance standards, its fleet and employees, locations of yards and its winter maintenance services plan.

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If you would like to know more or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the ministry's Director of Rehabilitation and Maintenance, Rodrigo Disegni. Mr. Disegni can be reached at 250 953-3074 or at [Rodrigo.Disegni@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rodrigo.Disegni@gov.bc.ca) and would be pleased to assist you.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Trevena  
Minister

Copy to: Kevin Richter, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Highways Operations

Mike Lorimer, Regional Director  
Southern Interior Region

Rodrigo Disegni, Director  
Rehabilitation and Maintenance Branch

Jack Bennetto, District Manager  
Okanagan Shuswap District

Ron Sharp, District Manager  
Rocky Mountain District