



NEWSOME CREEK Watershed Action Group

Steve Sirett,

December 6, 2018

District Manager
30-1258 St. Paul St
Kelowna, BC V2Y 2E1

Dear Mr. Sirett,

This letter is sent to ask for information and to apprise you of a potential disaster for some people in Sorrento. BC who could lose their homes by way of their houses falling fifty feet or more into the Newsome Creek gully right at their back yards. The spring freshets of the past two years or more have eroded the banks of the creek rendering the houses poised to fall into the ravine.

The group noted above is comprised of the threatened home owners from the immediate potential calamity as well as other residents upstream with creek issues of their own. In addition, there are a number of neighbours who have joined the group out of concern for their neighbour's plight and who live near the creek and, so, are very familiar the creek and the problem it has created.

Our road maintenance contactor is JPW Road & Bridge Inc. They have provided what attention they could. However, they have not been given the authorization or resources, financial or otherwise, to tackle the job necessary which is to clear the creek of deadfalls, debris, buttress the banks with large rocks, and replace culverts which are much too small to accommodate the onslaught of the spring freshets which have become torrents since the Notch Hill fire of 2009. For the record, even the Trans Canada Highway is in jeopardy. The problem is critical and needs immediate attention before the freshet of 2019. It is truly a dire situation. Please go to our Newsome Creek website in the above name to see the abundance of information about this matter.

We are not complaining about the work of JPW. We believe that what they have been forced to do is a band-aid effort which does not address the real problem because they do not have the support needed. They require authorization and funding to do the job right.

We understand that over the past few years, with special focus on 2017 and 2018, there has been a lot of extra work done by them to fix Newsome Creek over-flows, road wash-outs, as well as general maintenance to control the build-up of debris at the mouth of culverts, and the installation of additional culverts. We need to know how much this effort has cost over the past five years?

As you can appreciate we are expecting to have to justify our insistence that the government meet their responsibility to deal with the Newsome Creek situation. We are wanting to have accurate information so that we can speak intelligently to the government to illustrate them that instead of the band-aid approach currently being used, it would be more cost effective to tackle the matter effectively and get on with doing the job properly in order to save money, buildings, homes, and lives that could conceivably be lost should the fall into the creek happen while the house occupants sleep at night.

We request that the cost information be provided as soon as possible. Action with the creek has to happen right after Christmas as the spring freshet is fast approaching.

We thank you for your attention and for your early reply. We remain

Yours respectfully

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Cc: Greg Kylo, MLA, Shuswap