



# COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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**From the Desk of Paul Demenok, Electoral Area C Director**

December 20, 2018

Sent via email: [min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard  
Justice Building Suite 09  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

This letter is to ask for your immediate support in regards to an impending disaster affecting homes, businesses and potentially, lives, in the area surrounding Newsome Creek in Sorrento, British Columbia. The last two freshets have created enormous damage as a gentle stream was converted into a raging torrent. The water flow overwhelmed culverts and closed Dieppe road. It also has created severe erosion of the stream banks undercutting the sand and gravel layers under homes and businesses along Caen Road in Sorrento. You can learn more about this issue by going to [www.newsomecreek.ca](http://www.newsomecreek.ca).

The residents have formed an action group and are looking to mitigate the damage already caused, and to help prevent significant further damage from occurring with the 2019 freshet. Along with several engineering reports, a dangerous trees survey has also been completed. The Sorrento Centre is looking to do its share by removing the dangerous trees that line its property. The Executive Director, Michael Shapcott, met with a local DFO officer onsite, and was told that if he proceeded to remove any trees, he would be subject to prosecution.

We need your immediate help for these residents trying to save their homes and properties. We believe there is a very real risk that several homes and businesses may tumble into Newsome Creek this spring if works are not initiated soon. The residents who have lived in homes adjoining Newsome Creek for decades insist that it is not a fish habitat. With the current accumulation of debris and deadfall, it would be impossible for any fish to swim any distance upstream, so it could be argued that any needed mitigative efforts would actually help to restore the fish habitat.

## ELECTORAL AREAS

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA  
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C SOUTH SHUSWAP  
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA  
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM

## MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN  
REVELSTOKE

SALMON ARM  
SICAMOUS

The residents would like to be sensitive to the environmental impacts of any mitigative works they must do to save their homes, and to do so, they will need supportive guidance from your Ministry. They will need permissions from DFO and good advice, and they need it very soon.

Can you please help us? Your early response would be most appreciated.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Demenok', written in a cursive style.

Paul Demenok  
Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
Area C Director  
250-517-0810  
cc: Mel Arnold, MP