



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

February 6, 2019

Bev and Norm Martin
PO Box 311
Sorrento, BC V0E 2W0

Dear Bev and Norm Martin:

I would like to thank you as well as the other members of the Newsome Creek Watershed Action Group for your December 3, 2018 emails, addressed to Premier John Horgan, and me, regarding flooding and erosion concerns in Newsome Creek in Sorrento, BC.

I appreciate your concern for the businesses and properties located along the Newsome Creek ravine. I am aware that Emergency Management BC (EMBC) has funded several studies to get a better understanding of the potential impacts and identify possible mitigative works. Additionally, on January 22, 2019, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development as well as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure participated in a community meeting where they listened to concerns and discussed mitigative actions that were scheduled to take place.

As outlined in provincial legislation (*Flood Hazard Statutes Amendment Act, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act - No.2, Local Government Act, Land Title Act, and Emergency Program Act*), flood hazard management is the responsibility of local authorities. This means that local authorities have a legislated duty to manage floodplains effectively, including passing floodplain development bylaws; applying to remove sediment from creeks; and designing and constructing flood mitigation works to safeguard people, homes, businesses, and infrastructure from flooding and erosion. There is also a responsibility of individual landowners to take measures to protect their properties from flooding and erosion.

If a local government has limited financial resources to build flood mitigation, there are several applicable funding programs available as described below:

- The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies, and it is administered through Union of BC Municipalities. Please visit the CEPF website for more information on future funding intakes:
www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-emergency-preparedness-fund.html

.../2



Bev and Norm Martin

Page 2

- The Federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) — 10-year, \$2 billion national program designed to help communities better withstand current and future risks of natural hazards. DMAF will support large-scale infrastructure projects with a minimum cost of \$20 million. For more information, please visit this website:
<https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/dmaf-faac/index-eng.html>
- The Rural and Northern Communities Program is a component of the wider Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, which supports infrastructure projects in communities across the province if they have populations 25,000 or less. For more information, please visit the website:
www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/funding-engagement-permits/grants-funding/investing-in-canada/rnc-program-guide.pdf
- The First Nations Adapt Program provides funding to First Nation communities located below the 60th parallel to assess and respond to climate change impacts on community infrastructure and emergency management. For more information, please visit this website:
<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1481305681144/1481305709311>
- A list of applicable funding programs can also be found on EMBC's website:
www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-management-bc/bc-disaster-mitigation/flood-mitigation-funding-programs.

EMBC recommends that the Columbia Shuswap Regional District consider applying to these programs to help fund flood mitigation infrastructure so that your community will be more resilient to future flood events. For more information about flood mitigation funding programs please contact Jesal Shah, Director, Disaster Mitigation Branch, by telephone at: 250 952-5063 or by email at: Jesal.Shah@gov.bc.ca.

Furthermore, private landowners impacted by flooding may be eligible for Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA). For more information about DFA, please call 1-888-257-4777 or email the general inbox at dfa@gov.bc.ca.

I appreciate being made aware of your concerns.

Sincerely,



Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc: The Honourable John Horgan
Parliamentary Secretary Jennifer Rice