



# COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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March 24, 2020

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VIA EMAIL: [PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Mike Farnworth, MLA  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
PO Box 9010 Stn Prov Govt  
VICTORIA BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Farnworth:

**RE: Newsome Creek Erosion, Sorrento BC**

On behalf of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your emailed response of January 14, 2020 addressing the request for a study and support in attaining funding for mitigative works. Your email offered to share the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) studies of road crossings, hydraulic capacity, and risk assessments to MOTI infrastructure in the Newsome Creek Watershed. The CSRD requests these reports be supplied to the CSRD in order to provide a better understanding of the situation and to inform future mitigative efforts.

The situation at Newsome Creek is worsening. The CSRD has activated an EOC for erosion occurring in the watershed. Trees continue to be uprooted as the creek bank continues to destabilize. The CSRD retained a qualified professional to review the current situation and it was determined that erosion is occurring as a result of freeze/thaw action along the banks. The CSRD is concerned with escalation of stream bank erosion with high snow packs and an impending freshet.

Staff has consulted with engineers at Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL) to determine the viability of a mitigation project that can be implemented at Newsome Creek with funding from a grant offered through the CEPF program. As the grant has a maximum value of \$750,000 and the estimated project costs range from five to six million dollars, the qualified professionals have indicated that phasing the project is not a viable option.

The CSRD has consulted with the MoTI about its plans to upgrade the culverts at Dieppe Road and the Trans-Canada Highway. The MoTI will have to provide bank stabilization around its road infrastructure as part of the culvert replacement project. The distance between the Dieppe Road crossing and the Trans-Canada Highway crossing is approximately 500 metres. If the MoTI project protects the bank for 50 to 100 metres on either side of its crossing, there will be 300-400 metres of bank that remains unprotected.

Therefore, the CSRD is requesting that Emergency Management BC support a request to the MoTI to undertake the armouring of the banks of Newsome Creek for the entire length between the Trans-Canada Highway and Dieppe Road, as part of the culvert replacement project. The MoTI is well positioned to complete this work because of its current understanding of the situation, its similar experience with this type of work and expertise around the roadways, and the economies of scale with only having to mobilize and demobilize for one project.

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## 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

If necessary, the CSRD is willing to partner with MoTI on this project and apply for the \$750,000 CEPF grant for a portion of the project.

We appreciate your continued support in finding a solution for the affected property owners and residents living along Newsome Creek and we look forward to receiving your response.

Yours truly,

**COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT**

Per:



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Kevin Flynn  
Chair

cc via email: Hon. Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Greg Kylo, MLA Shuswap  
Paul Demenok, Director, Electoral Area C