

Please Note; this is a copy of the letter, not the original.

Dear Rhona Martin:

Thank you for your letter of November 4, 2019, regarding erosion concerns along Newsome Creek that are directly threatening to undermine four homes.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development (FLNRORD) and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) have been consulted regarding their intended actions in the Newsome Creek watershed and to provide their expertise on the value of further studies of the watershed as recommended by Kerr Wood Leidal Engineering.

The Water Stewardship Division of FLNRORD does not feel that further upstream studies will add further value in identifying options or solutions to the ongoing erosion along Newsome Creek. The factors that have led to erosion and the options to address the issue have been documented in existing reports. MOTI has also indicated that any work related to their road crossings, hydraulic capacity, and risk assessment to MOTI infrastructure was completed when identifying the upgrades that are planned or underway for the Dieppe Road and the Trans-Canada highway crossings. MOTI has indicated that their studies can be made available if not already held by the CSRD.

Our understanding is that MOTI is still progressing their planned upgrades but the construction timeline for the Trans-Canada crossing work is not expected until at least summer 2020. FLNRORD has also advised that residents have asked to meet with a provincial representative to provide information regarding the process to apply to undertake works in or near a stream as prescribed by Section 11 of the *Water Sustainability Act*.

We recognize that funding remains a significant obstacle in reaching a long term solution. Emergency Management BC (EMBC) believes that the CSRD would be eligible to apply to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping, and Mitigation Planning stream, with a January 24, 2020, intake deadline, provided that there is a clear connection to the flooding risk is made. This connection is important, as the program is focused on flood hazard and is not intended solely to address erosion. If a sufficient case can be made that the watershed study would also address flooding risk, or that erosion could result in debris flows that would cause downstream inundation, then this may be considered eligible.

EMBC has also consulted FLNRORD and MOTI regarding the possibility of applying to the federal government under the Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund (DMAF). The Province is unable to present a compelling case for federal funding under the current guidelines, as the work identified, and the values at risk, do not justify a minimum \$20M project. We recognize that there is a gap between small project funding available through CEPF and the larger projects as governed by the DMAF application stream. We will continue to work with the federal government to attempt to address this gap and will look to capitalize on any opportunities that may arise to provide funding for this work.

I appreciate being made aware of your concerns.

Sincerely, Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General