



November 9th, 2023

Reference: 640221

Kevin Flynn
Board Chair
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Email: JFreund@csrd.bc.ca

Dear Kevin Flynn:

Thank you for your correspondence received on September 19th, 2023, addressed to the Honourable David Eby, Premier, concerning your request for a third party review of the 2023 wildfire response. I am responding on behalf of Premier Eby.

This year British Columbians faced another catastrophic wildfire season that impacted over 2 million hectares of land, resulted in the loss of over 400 structures and the evacuation of the tens of thousands of people from their homes and communities. This unprecedented wildfire season followed the devastating wildfire seasons of 2017, 2018 and 2021 and the Atmospheric River flooding of 2021. Driven by climate change, British Columbians can expect to face these types of emergencies more frequently.

The Premier's Emergency Task Force on Emergencies has been formed to provide advice to government on opportunities to strengthen Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Recovery in advance of and for implementation in 2024. The Task Force will consist of representatives from the Premier's Office, the Ministry of Forests (BC Wildfire Service), Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, Indigenous and local authority leadership and external experts.

The Task Force will be reaching out directly to communities that were impacted by the 2023 wildfires to understand their experience and collect any input to support improvement with a focus on increasing local volunteer recruitment, further collaboration with communities and First Nations, incorporation of municipal firefighters, technology, and address the need for more accessible support for evacuees.

Your letter has been provided to BC Wildfire Service. Thank you again for taking the time to write.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madeline Maley".

Madeline L. Maley
Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Operations
Ministry of Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

CC: The Honourable David Eby, Premier
The Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests
Ian Meier, Assistant Deputy Manager, BC Wildfire Service
Ward Stamer, Mayor, District of Barriere