



Village of Lytton

Regular Council Meeting

Agenda - Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at
7:00PM Parish Hall 140-7th Street, Lytton, BC

1. CALL TO ORDER

THAT Shannon Story be appointed as Acting Corporate Officer.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

a. Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting held on October 11, 2023.

THAT Council adopt the Regular Council Meeting Agenda for October 11, 2023, as presented/amended.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 27, 2023.

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 27, 2023, be adopted as presented/amended.

b. Minutes of the Public Hearing held on September 27, 2023.

THAT the minutes of the Public Hearing held on September 27, 2023, be adopted as presented/amended.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE AGENDA

The public are invited to comment on matters pertaining to the agenda, for up to two (2) minutes for a maximum of ten (10) minutes total. Speakers must state their name, address and agenda item number they are speaking for each comment.

6. STAFF REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

a. Chief Administrative Officer

1) 2023 Tax Sale

THAT Council receive the 2023 Tax Sale Report for information.

2) Utility Charges-15% discount

THAT Council discontinue the 15% discount applied to utility billings for existing residents starting with the third quarter billing (July to September 2023).

b. Recovery Manager

1) Water Grant Reprofile

THAT Council approve a reprofile of the UBCM Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) to complete Rehabilitation of the Village of Lytton's drinking and potable water distribution system in the amount of \$5,000,000.

2) Recovery/Rebuild Report

THAT Council receive the recovery/rebuild report dated October 11, 2023, for information.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Outgoing Correspondence Relevant to Council

b. Incoming Correspondence for Information

- 1) Correspondence dated October 2, 2023, from Jay Chalk, Ombudsperson, Province of British Columbia re: Ombudsperson Report: Fairness in a Changing Climate: Ensuring disaster supports are accessible, equitable and adaptable.**

THAT the correspondence dated October 2, 2023, from Jay Chalk, Ombudsperson, Province of British Columbia be received for information.

8. VERBAL REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor O'Connor

Councillor Thoss

Councillor McCann

Councillor Michell

Councillor Lightfoot

9. OTHER BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTION

10. CLOSED MEETING

THAT Council close the meeting to the public to discuss matters related to Community Charter section:

90(2)(b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government and a third party.

90(1)(d) the security of the property of the municipality.

11. RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION

THAT *the Closed Council Meeting held on October 11, 2023, be adjourned and that Council return to the Open session of Council.*

12. ADJOURNMENT

1) Adjournment of the Meeting

THAT *the Regular Council Meeting held on October 11, 2023 be adjourned at XX:XX p.m.*



MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting

7:00 PM - Wednesday, September 27, 2023
Parish Hall 140-7th Street, Lytton, BC and Zoom

The Regular Council Meeting of the Village of Lytton was called to order on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 7:27 p.m., on Parish Hall 140-7th Street, Lytton, BC and Zoom, with the following members present:

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Denise O'Connor
Councillor Melissa Michell
Councillor Jessoa Lightfoot
Councillor Nonie McCann
Councillor Jennifer Thoss

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer Diane Mombourquette
Corporate Officer Alba Banman
Recovery Manager Mike Blaschuck
Planner Cory Gain
Administrative Assistant Kathy Walters

REGRETS:

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. Introduction of Late Items
2. Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting held on September 27, 2023.

23-195 *Moved by Councillor Lightfoot, seconded by Councillor McCann*
Resolution: *THAT Council adopt the September 27, 2023*
Agenda for the Regular Council meeting as presented.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 13, 2023
[Regular Council Meeting - 13 Sep 2023 - Minutes - Pdf](#)

23-196 *Moved by Councillor Lightfoot, seconded by Councillor Thoss*
Resolution: *THAT the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting*
held on September 13, 2023 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Business Arising from the Minutes

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE AGENDA

The public are invited to comment on matters pertaining to the agenda, for up to two (2) minutes for a maximum of ten (10) minutes. Speakers must state their name, address and agenda item number when they are speaking for each comment.

Mr. Ernie Wagner talked about buying a lot, the excavation procedure, and having to pay for an archaeological evaluation out of pocket. Mr. Wagner urged Council to make a funding request to the province and the federal government to cover the archeological assessments.

6. STAFF REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Chief Administrative Officer

- a) Council appointment for the Senior Project Advisory Committee (SPAC)

[2023-09-27 RTC - Council appointment of SPAC member](#)

23-197

Moved by Councillor Thoss, seconded by Councillor Lightfoot
Resolution: THAT Council appoint Councillor McCann to sit on the Senior Project Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

2. Recovery Manager

- a) Recovery Update Report, Recovery Manager Mike Blaschuk.

[2023-09-27 RTC Recovery Rebuild Update](#)

23-198

Moved by Councillor Lightfoot, seconded by Councillor Thoss
Resolution: THAT Council receive the recovery/rebuild report dated September 27, 2023 for information.

CARRIED

3. BYLAWS

- a) Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 734, 2023 - Housing Definitions /Regulations

[2023-09-27 Zoning Amendment Bylaw 734, 2023](#)

23-199

Moved by Councillor Lightfoot, seconded by Councillor McCann
Resolution: THAT Council give third reading to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 734, 2023.

CARRIED

- b) Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 735, 2023- Lot Line Setback

[2023-09-27 Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 735, 2023](#)

23-200

Moved by Councillor McCann, seconded by Councillor Michell
Resolution: THAT Council give third reading to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 735, 2023.

CARRIED

7. CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Outgoing Correspondence Relevant to Council**

2. **Incoming Correspondence for Information**

- a) Correspondence from Youth Parliament of British Columbia
[2023-09-27 Correspondence from Youth Parliament of British Columbia](#)

23-201 *Moved by Councillor Lightfoot, seconded by Councillor McCann*
Resolution: *THAT the correspondence items 7.2.1 on the September 27, 2023 Regular Council Agenda be received for information.*

CARRIED

8. **VERBAL REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Mayor O'Connor

Mayor O'Connor reported on the following:

- Sept 14 -attended via Zoom the Community meeting, the main top of discussion was archeology
- Sept 15 -attended in person the Engagement Session on municipal infrastructure
- Sept 18 -Sept 22 attended the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention in Vancouver
- at the UBCM Convention she met with the Honorable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and advocated for the building of a permanent Health Centre and for funding to set up a temporary pharmacy in the Village.
- at UBCM Convention she met with the Honorable Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, and requested funding for a Tourism Strategy and include our neighboring partners
- Prepared a report on the UBCM Convention to be published in the Village newsletter
- Sept 22 - met with UBC students travelling through the area on a field trip and stopped to tour the town. Held a question-and-answer session about what happened in Lytton, the challenges and the plans for moving forward.
- Coffee with the Mayor last Monday had a great turn out. Everyone is welcome and coffee on Thanksgiving Monday is happening, see you there.
- Attended the New Temporary Primary Care Facility ribbon cutting and provided greetings from The Village of Lytton.

Councillor Thoss

Councillor Thoss reported on the following:

- Sept 13-15 was interviewed by New York Times, photographer will be around town
- Sept 18-Sept 22 attended the UBCM Convention and found it worthwhile. The Minister of Municipal Affairs sat with Council at a dinner and conversations were held with MLA Roly Russell.

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Councillor McCann

Councillor McCann reported on the following:

- Sept 19-Sept 22 attended the UBCM Convention
- Attended Primary Care Facility Ribbon cutting

- Attended Tax sale

Councillor Michell

Councillor Michell reported on the following:

- Sept 18-Sept 22 attended the UBCM Convention
- Archeology is still the main topic for members of the public

Councillor Lightfoot

Councillor Lightfoot reported on the following:

- Sept 18-Sept 22 attended the UBCM
- Sept 14 Attended Community Meeting

9. OTHER BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTION

10. ADJOURNMENT

1. Adjournment of the Meeting

23-202 *Moved by Councillor McCann, seconded by Councillor Thoss
Resolution: THAT the September 27, 2023 Regular Council
Meeting be adjourned at 8:13p.m.*

CARRIED

Mayor Denise O'Connor

Corporate Officer Alba Banman



MINUTES

Public Hearing

7:00 PM - Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Parish Hall 140-7th Street Lytton, BC and Zoom

The Public Hearing of the Village of Lytton was called to order on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 7:00 PM, on Parish Hall 140-7th Street Lytton, BC and Zoom, with the following members present:

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Denise O'Connor
Councillor Melissa Michell
Councillor Jessoa Lightfoot
Councillor Jennifer Thoss
Councillor Nonie McCann

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer Diane Mombourquette
Admin Assistant Kathy Walters
Recovery Manager Mike Blaschuck
Corporate Office Alba Banman
Planner Cory Gains

REGRETS:

1. CALL TO ORDER

7:03 pm

Cllr Thoss and Cllr. Michell attended via zoom.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3. SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 734, 2023

2. Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 735, 2023

4. THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

1. **ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT NO. 734, 2023** is proposed to update housing definitions and regulations. Definitions of dwelling unit, single-detached, duplex, and multi-unit dwellings are updated to reflect common language and clarify the difference between types of dwellings, especially types of manufactured homes (mobile and modular) and secondary suites. The term "temporary" is moved from definitions to regulations and those regulations are updated. References to each of the terms wherever they are used in the bylaw form part of the proposed amendment.

5. STAFF REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Planner, Cory Gain for Chief Administrative Officer Diane Mombourquette

6. SUBMISSIONS FROM PUBLIC

There will be three calls for speakers by the Chair. Speakers will be limited to five (5) minutes per call, to a maximum of three (3) calls to speak or fifteen (15) minutes. After all speakers have had an opportunity to speak, a person may speak a second time.

After all speakers have had an opportunity to speak a second time, a person may speak for a third time.

There were no submissions from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

8. THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING-ITEM 2

1. ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT NO. 735, 2023 is proposed to:

- Replace the definitions of parcel, parcel lines, parcel area and parcel coverage with the terms lot, lot lines, lot area and lot coverage;
- Replace the definitions of building lines with the definition of setbacks and yard; and
- Define lot types;
- Add definitions of awning, balcony, canopy, deck and building envelope to aid in calculating setbacks and lot coverage;
- Add Figures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 to illustrate and help explain each of lot lines, yards, lot types and the calculation of lot coverage; and
- Add a definition of Floodplain setback as distinct from lot line setbacks.

9. STAFF REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Planner Cory Gain, for Chief Administrative Officer Diane Mombourquette

10. SUBMISSIONS FROM PUBLIC

There will be three calls for speakers by the Chair. Speakers will be limited to five (5) minutes per call, to a maximum of three (3) calls to speak or fifteen (15) minutes. After all speakers have had an opportunity to speak, a person may speak a second time.

After all speakers have had an opportunity to speak a second time, a person may speak for a third time.

There were no submissions from the public.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

12. MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING

1.

23-002S Moved by Councillor McCann, seconded by Councillor Lightfoot CARRIED

Resolution: THAT all written and oral submissions regarding proposed bylaws No. 734 and No. 735, including the Public Hearing held on September 27, 2023 be received and that the hearing be closed at 7:26 p.m.

Council members are not permitted to receive further submissions once the public hearing is closed.



REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: October 11, 2023
TO: Mayor & Council
FROM: Diane Mombourquette, Chief Financial Officer
SUBJECT: 2023 Tax Sale

Request for: **Direction** **Decision** **Information**

Recommendation:

That Council receive the 2023 Tax Sale Report for information.

Background:

The Village of Lytton is required under the *Local Government Act* (LGA) to hold a tax sale annually for all properties with delinquent taxes – that is taxes from three years ago, or 2021. The tax sale was held on the last Monday of September, September 25th, as required by the LGA.

Discussion:

At the time the tax sale commenced, there were five properties with delinquent taxes. Mike Blaschuk, Recovery Manager, was delegated the responsibility of Collector by the Chief Financial Officer for the purpose of conducting the tax sale. When the tax sale began at 10am there were five bidders signed in.

Mike Blaschuk went through each of the five properties, starting at the upset price as the opening bid. The upset price is the total of all taxes and utilities outstanding, penalties, interest calculated to the day of the sale, a 5% administration fee and a land title registration fee. All five properties sold in the tax sale. The bidders met the requirement to deliver the purchase price to the Village staff by noon on September 25th.

A Notice will be registered on title for each property stating that it was sold at tax sale. The owner of the property has one year to redeem the property, during which time the taxes continue to be assessed and billed to the original owner. The owner is able to redeem the property by paying the upset price, any additional taxes that were paid by the purchaser, any costs that the purchaser incurs to maintain the property and the interest on any amount paid by the purchaser in excess of the upset price. This is a brief description of the components of the redemption price, the specifics are outlined in the LGA, Division 7, Section 660.

The five properties sold at the tax sale are:

- 175 Old Trans Canada Highway
- 336 Main Street
- 168 Loring Way

- 557 Station Rd
- 848 Station Rd

The owners will receive notice of the tax sale within three months, as required under the LGA.

Short Term Recovery Plan (if applicable):

N/A

Financial Impact:

Total taxes, utilities, penalties, interest and admin fees collected are \$27,453.

Communication to the Public:

No communication to the public is planned.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mombourquette
Chief Financial Officer

Attachments:

NA



REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: October 11, 2023
TO: Mayor & Council
FROM: Diane Mombourquette, Chief Financial Officer
SUBJECT: Utility Charges – 15% discount

Request for: Direction Decision Information

Recommendation:

That Council discontinue the 15% discount applied to utility billings for existing residents starting with the third quarter billing (July to September 2023).

Background:

In 2022, Council made a decision to reduce the annual billings by 15% for water and sewer charges for residents still living in the Village and receiving these services. The discount was continued in 2023 for the first two quarter billings.

Discussion:

In 2022, the amount charged to residents for municipal sewer and water services was reduced by 15% to reflect the boil water advisory that was in place and other challenges with the system that resulted from the 2021 fire.

Repairs have been made to the system and operational procedures have been adjusted to allow for the removal of the boil water advisory and the full functioning of the system. Staff is recommending that at this time, Council consider discontinuing the discount and resuming full rates. For a single-family dwelling, those rates are \$399 per year (\$99.75 quarterly) for water and \$414 per year (\$103.50 quarterly) for sewer.

Short Term Recovery Plan (if applicable):

NA

Financial Impact:

Fees collected will increase by 15% for water and sewer resulting in an additional revenue of approximately \$600 per quarterly on residential billings.

Communication to the Public:

A notice will be included with the 3rd quarter billing that rates have returned to the full amount.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Mombourquette
Chief Financial Officer

Attachments:

NA



REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: October 11, 2023
TO: Mayor & Council
FROM: CAO & Recovery Manager
SUBJECT: Water Grant Reprofile

Request for: Direction X Decision Information

Recommendation:

THAT Council approve a reprofile of the UBCM Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) to complete Rehabilitation of the Village of Lytton's drinking and potable water distribution system in the amount of \$5,000,000.

Background:

The Village of Lytton is required to meet certain operating standards each year as a condition of the water permit issued by the Interior Health Authority (IHA). There is a requirement to bring the water treatment facilities to current provincial standards to allow for water quality monitoring. Previous systems, pre-fire, were out-of-date and did not have a level of redundancy for provincial compliance. For context, below are some aspects of the Village's water systems:

In August 2022, Council approved the submission of a proposal to the Canada Community – Building Fund Gas Tax Strategic Priorities (SPF) to complete Rehabilitation of the Village of Lytton's (Lytton) drinking and potable water distribution system in the amount of \$5,000,000. The grant was approved.

The original grant submission included the following areas:

- Approximately 1 kilometre of water distribution pipe with between the 365 and 265 water reservoirs towards the Village's core in order to enhance our capacity to provide potable water to our community's residents and increasing our overall fire flow to 120L/second.
- A renovation to our 265-water reservoir in order to increase its drinking water capacity and its ability to provide potable water to our residents in the event of a fire as its current fire flow does not meet the minimum 2-hour capacity.
- Renovation of damaged and inoperable valves within our drinking water distribution system - approximately 10% of the Village's valves require this upgrade.
- The installation of a new drinking water distribution pipe under Lytton Creek in order to increase our capacity to provide potable water to our residents- Watermain upgrades.

Discussion:

Since the original proposal submission, the scope of requirements has evolved. The Province requires an updated project description and budget that reprofiles this new scope to enter into a contribution agreement for the grant monies. Some of these repairs have already been completed, to keep the Village in compliance with our IHA permit.

The current scope of water works is recommended as:

| History / Issue | Suggested Action | Status |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| Cut and Cap completed possible savings of 100 m3 still trying to determine savings. Completed by Extreme Excavating | Further investigation | Completed |
| Full communications upgrade of system required due to fire in 2021 | Contract awarded to Exceed Engineering | Completed, work underway |
| Pipe held together by ratchet strap at treatment plant | Pipe requires repairs / replacement. | Completed |
| Leak at 2nd Street and Fraser was reported as capped. Curb stops on West Lane are not shutting off as intended. | Recommend replacement of 1 ½ galvanized line down West Lane with new services and a new fire Hydrant in the area. | Completed |
| During the November flood event of 2021 the primary catchment in the creek was washed away. The broken concrete wall has been patched with sandbags. | <p>Before next spring's run off, install either a Gabian Basket wall or a metal screen of some sort that will make cleaning away organic debris easier.</p> <p>A more permanent solution for the concrete wall should be implemented until such time as a new concrete dam can be constructed.</p> | |
| There is a sink hole at the corner of 6 th Street and Main St. and some unknown valves in this location near this location. | <p>Engage a structural engineer to assess the stability of the concrete wall at 575 Main Street (IHA location) and to thoroughly scope the project.</p> <p>Possible solutions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not doing any digging on Alonzo Way in this location to maintain the structural integrity of the wall. - relocate the water main and services at this location to Station Road. There is a water line on Station Road, however it is not on any map. | |
| Cloud Burst leak detection report showed the water system in this | Recommend digging up and removing unused valves and inspecting main | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| area (Main / 6 th / Station Rd.) is potentially compromised and the system was unable to be pressurized properly. | line for leaks. Install a new 4" main line down Station Road south and install a new 6" line and services on Station Road north. Repair hydrant at school grounds and extend water main up 7 th to Station Road. | |
| Main St leak currently plugged in with dirt and unable to shut off. Water leak somewhere in this area down alley to parish hall. | Replace curb stop to be able to isolate this area – coordinate with other work to reduce mobilization costs for this minor repair. | |
| Major leak on 1 st Street and Main Street to Public Works yard. | Recommend replacing water main between Main St. and Fraser St., teeing off at River Road and servicing lots from River Road rather than Main St. Storm sewers and sewer lines could be exposed in this area to access need for repair or upgrade. Conduit could also be installed for future services. Fire hydrant should also be installed at the end of River Road water line. | |
| Hydrant at back end of high school needs to be relocated to top parking area and line extended. | This will allow better access for fire department as well as may address low chlorine readings in the school. Undertake property and slope stability review, confirm piping approach | |
| Unknown mapping in the area near Station St. | It is possible there is a new main in the road already. Recommend exploring and mapping to determine if new water main is in the area. Further investigation and upgrades needed in this area. Old valves and hole in the roadway should be removed. Sewer line access needed new lid and straightened out to avoid water run-off. Services to the houses in this area needs repairs/ damaged. Relocate services to new main and remove AC | |
| Commissioning of Well #3 | Work with LFN to complete commissioning of Well #3 and bring it back online as part of Village water system. Substantial damage sustained during the fire has been repaired. | |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Village requires increased flow as per WSP report | Investigate possible solutions as per UBCM grant requirements | |
|---|---|--|

As part of the Village’s water needs (drinking and fire safety) and to be in compliance with IHA requirements, staff recommend proceeding with the grant budget reprofile.

Short Term Recovery Plan (if applicable):

Replacing and repairing parts of the water system to ensure compliance with the IHA permit, availability for residents and firefighting requirements is key to the rebuilding of the Village.

Financial Impact:

Funding will be allocated, upon approval, from the approved Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) grant of \$5 million for Water System Upgrades for 100% of costs.

Communication to the Public:

Council decisions are communicated to the public through the YouTube channel and posting minutes on the Village website.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Blaschuk, Don Wong
Recovery Managers

On behalf of:
Diane Mombourquette
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

NA



REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: October 11 2023
TO: Mayor & Council
FROM: Recovery Manager / Acting CAO
SUBJECT: RECOVERY/ REBUILD REPORT

Request for: Direction Decision X Information



Update:

The Village of Lytton is shifting from Recovery to Rebuild.



Recovery works are near completion.

Environmental: Mostly completed – no update

Archaeology: Workplan being implemented and backfill underway for Zones 4 & 5. Workplan submitted to KHC for Zone 6 – scheduled for review on October 10th. AEW report for Village is completed. Management Decision Letters (MDL) for Zone 1-6 completed. Zones 7 under development.



Current Planning from June – October 2023

As part of the Short-term Recovery/ ReBuild plan, we have been working towards three outcomes:

| OUTCOME | ACTIVITIES |
|---|--|
| Community Building Working with Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full transparency to residents and partners • Contractors looking at “Topping Off” event for residents in October • Locally engaged workers for site clearing and grubbing |
| Site Preparation To allow resident and businesses to begin rebuilding this summer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backfill on Zone 1 – 3 completed • Backfill for Zones 4-5 underway • Workplan for Zone 6 into KHC for endorsement • MDLs for Zone 7 in development |
| Future ReBuild Preparing for the Future | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teleconference with Co-operators as potential funding for Pacifican grant • Site meetings with owners and builders in preparation for construction |

The rebuilding of community amenities is critical to the recovery of the community. While work continues on establishing essential services (water, sewer, electricity) plans need to be made for future required projects.



Stay tuned...

Financial Impact:

Funding for critical, community infrastructure has been committed by the Province of BC/ EMCR and Infrastructure Canada.

Communication to the Public:

Working in conjunction with our partners, public announcements will be planned and communicated through regular channels (newsletter, website) in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Blaschuk
 Don Wong
 Recovery Managers,
 on behalf of:

Diane Mombourquette
CAO

Attachments: n/a



OMBUDSPERSON
BRITISH COLUMBIA

*The Ombudsperson Act requires that investigations be conducted in private. Ombudsperson investigation documents are not available through the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and may be subject to rules preventing their use in court and tribunal proceedings. **Please contact the Office of the Ombudsperson before disclosing this document, or any responses, to any third parties.***

October 2, 2023
File: SYS22-1012

Delivered via email: mayor@lytton.ca

Mayor Denise O'Connor and Council
Village of Lytton
PO Box 100
380 Main Street
Lytton BC V0K 1Z0

Dear Mayor O'Connor and Councillors:

Re: Ombudsperson Report, *Fairness in a Changing Climate: Ensuring disaster supports are accessible, equitable and adaptable*

Thank you, again, for meeting with me and my staff in January as part of a meeting with the Thompson Nicola Regional District to share your and your community's experiences and insights in relation to my office's investigation of how the BC government supported people who were displaced from their homes because of extreme weather, including wildfires and floods, in 2021.

I am writing now to inform you that our investigation is complete, and I will be making public the investigation report on Tuesday, October 3.

Our investigation drew on multiple sources of information to develop an understanding of how Emergency Support Services (ESS) and Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) were administered by Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and how people who were evacuated or displaced from their homes in 2021 experienced those supports. Our investigation included a review of primary records from EMBC, a public questionnaire, a literature review, and interviews and discussions with EMBC, service recipients, service providers, First Nations, local governments, and others with knowledge or expertise related to the provincial programs or experience of long-term displacement, including First Nations' Emergency Services Society and Métis Nation British Columbia.

Our investigation is informed by the principles of administrative fairness and includes consideration of reconciliation, equity, and climate change. We did not investigate local governments or the relationship between local government and the province in providing

supports, but we understand that local governments play a key role in emergency response. Local governments have responsibility for planning for and responding to emergencies within their area of jurisdiction and for delivering emergency supports when needed. This influenced our analysis, our investigative process, and our engagement with communities.

We use the 2021 events as a case study to examine whether ESS and DFA have been delivered fairly and equitably. Where we have found unfairness in the delivery of these programs, we have made recommendations to government for change.

In the report, we specifically recommend that the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness work with local authorities and First Nations to:

- Improve data collection and analysis about evacuated households.
- Embed culturally safe practices into all aspects of the ESS program.
- Enable supportive models of surge support for large-scale evacuations that can be implemented quickly.
- Better support flexibility and resilience in the local delivery of ESS.
- Develop and implement integrated approaches to support people who are displaced long-term by disasters.

Once the report is public, you can access further information on the investigation, including a summary of our findings and recommendations and the full public report, on our website: <https://bcombudsperson.ca/fairness-changing-climate>.

I appreciate the time you took to share some of your experiences, and I hope you will see that this contributed to our analysis and reporting on how the provincial government has supported people displaced by the wildfires and floods.

Thank you again for assisting with our investigation. If you have any questions about our process or the public report, please contact Zoë Jackson, Director of Public Reporting, at zjackson@bcombudsperson.ca.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Chalke', written in a cursive style.

Jay Chalke
Ombudsperson
Province of British Columbia