



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

November 8th, 2023

Reference: 640147

Mark Pendergraft
Chair
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Email: mpendergraft@rdos.bc.ca

Dear Mark Pendergraft:

I would like to thank the delegation from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen for meeting with me at this year's Union of BC Municipalities Convention on September 20th, 2023. I appreciate your commitment to the safety of your community and want to recognize the leadership you have demonstrated in exploring multi-jurisdictional solutions-based approaches during emergencies.

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is commended for taking proactive steps to reduce the risks of climate-related hazards in your community. In our meeting, we discussed how mitigation actions do not follow jurisdictional boundaries and that collaboration is the key to enhance integrated planning, as well as the need for a solutions-based approach to issues that are multi-jurisdictional. The modernized emergency management legislation introduced this fall includes recognition of multijurisdictional emergency management organizations (MJEMOs), and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) is working to help interested communities explore this concept. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you would like to engage in further conversation on this with us.

I also appreciate your recommendation about messaging on the FireSmart Program and what is prescribed, particularly in relation to Crown Land access. It is certainly in our interest to prevent fires from happening before they start. EMCR will provide this feedback to our colleagues at the Ministry of Forests, as they are lead for the FireSmart Program.

Again, thank you and your delegation for taking the time to meet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bowinn".

Bowinn Ma
Minister of Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

CC:

Roly Russell, MLA, Boundary-Similkameen
Kathryn Forge, Assistant Deputy Minister, Disaster Risk Management, Ministry of
Emergency Management and Climate Readiness