



August 18th, 2023

Reference: 638626

His Worship Rob Douglas
Mayor, Municipality of North Cowichan
Email: mayor@northcowichan.ca

Dear Mayor Rob Douglas:

Thank you for your letter sent on December 21st, 2022, concerning the request for the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) to convene a regional recovery table. The overview of the end-of-year funding requests you provided, particularly the overview of the Chemainus River Flood Protection work, was helpful in providing an understanding of the priorities of your community.

I want to acknowledge the delay in responding to your original request and thank you for your patience. I recognize that flooding is a longstanding and pressing issue, and I appreciate the challenges facing residents impacted by the atmospheric river event in 2021 and flooding in 2020 in the Chemainus River watershed area. I commend the collaborative efforts of all the stakeholders involved in addressing the work to remove gravel from key areas that can now be used for mitigation and adaptation work.

The atmospheric river event underscored the need for collaborative and timely solutions around recovery, mitigation, and climate readiness. Your request to convene a regional recovery table with EMCR facilitating the important discussions is acknowledged. EMCR's facilitation will contribute to the continued collaborative work and seek to expand mitigation and adaptation efforts. EMCR is committed to principles of collaborative solutions and a whole-of-watershed approach to flood mitigation.


As a next step, ministry staff will connect with you to speak further about the needs and potential strategies that align with your project's objectives, as well as connections to a whole-of-watershed approach to flood mitigation in the area. Ideally, next steps can be confirmed for convening a regional table to address shared challenges and to move forward on these longstanding issues.

Regarding your June 13th correspondence addressed to the Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, requesting a meeting to discuss municipal projects and our shared priorities, I understand that Minister Ma's office will be reaching out to you shortly.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Jennifer McGuire
Assistant Deputy Minister, Disaster Recovery
Ministry of Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

CC: The Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
Chief James Thomas, Halalt First Nation
Chief Joan Brown, Penelakut Tribe
Cowichan Valley Regional District Board
North Cowichan Council
Ted Swabey, CAO, North Cowichan
David Conway, Director, Subdivision and Environmental Services, North Cowichan