

December 21, 2022

Jennifer McGuire, ADM
EMBC Disaster Recovery
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
PO Box 9201
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J1
Via email: Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca

Re: Chemainus River Recovery Table Request

On behalf of the residents surrounding the Chemainus River, and the Municipality of North Cowichan, I want to thank Emergency Management BC (EMBC) for coming forward with short term recommendations and works that will help reduce the impact of winter rains on the river system in the flood plain. Staff from the Municipality, Cowichan Valley Regional District, EMBC, Halalt First Nation, Penelakut Tribe, consultants, local residents and contractors all came together in a short window of opportunity to remove gravel from a key channel and river bank. The gravel can now be used for flood mitigation and adaption work.

We acknowledge that the work recently completed is a very small act compared to the work needed to reduce the impact of floods like the one that occurred during the atmospheric river in November 2021 and the flood of February 2020. We have seen the harmful impact to homes, property, economy and lives resulting from these events and respectfully ask that you arrange for a regional recovery table so that there is a mandate to continue with the strong collaboration and results achieved so far and expand the efforts.

We believe that EMBC would support and help facilitate discussion and actions at a recovery table that ensures that recovery makes sense for the community. We are aware that Halalt First Nation and Penelakut Tribe have recovery tables meeting frequently. A regional table should also be convened so that recovery actions consider the needs and interests of those in the watershed area.

Sincerely



Rob Douglas
Mayor

mayor@northcowichan.ca

cc: CVRD Board
Halalt Chief and Council
North Cowichan Council
Penelakut Chief and Council
David Conway, Director, Engineering Special Projects, North Cowichan
Derek Masselink, Manager, Indigenous Community Recovery, EMBC
Linsey Tupper, Executive Coordinator, EMBC
Ted Swabey, CAO, North Cowichan