



December 7, 2020

His Worship Al Siebring  
Mayor, Municipality of North Cowichan  
Email: [mayor@northcowichan.ca](mailto:mayor@northcowichan.ca)

Dear Mayor Siebring:

Thank you for your letter of September 11, 2020, addressed to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier, concerning the Halalt First Nation and the Chemainus River Flooding event. Premier Horgan has asked me to respond on his behalf. I apologize for the delay in responding.

Emergency Management BC Vancouver Island Regional (EMBC VIR) office has been involved in response and recovery efforts for the flood event of January 31, 2020. As you may be aware, a working group has been struck to consider all aspects of the impact from this most recent flood and engage in mitigative efforts to reduce future flood impacts. Members of this working group include:

- Cowichan Valley Regional District
- Municipality of North Cowichan
- Halalt First Nation
- Penelakut First Nation
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- EMBC VIR
- Subject matter experts from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development
- First Nation Health Authority
- Mosaic Forest Management
- Islands Corridor Trust
- Government of Canada

It is my understanding that the Municipality of North Cowichan is represented on this working group by Sarah Nixon. This working group meets routinely to coordinate the ongoing mitigative efforts for the Chemainus River. For instance, I have been informed that, at a recent meeting, the working group discussed gathering enhanced flood mapping data for the area. I believe that this working group is in a good position to consider the recommendations you reference in your letter and to make recommendations to government regarding further actions.

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I appreciate being made aware of your concerns.

Sincerely,



Tara Richards  
Deputy Minister  
Emergency Management BC

pc: The Honourable John Horgan, Premier  
The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource  
Operations and Rural Development  
The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Chief James Thomas, Halalt First Nation  
Alistair MacGregor, MP, Cowichan-Malahat-Langford  
Sonia Furstenuau, MLA, Cowichan Valley  
North Cowichan Council  
Aaron Stone, Board Chair, Cowichan Valley Regional District  
Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of North Cowichan

Reference: 576560