



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

April 12th, 2024

Reference: 640860

Leonard Hiebert
Vice Chair
Peace River Regional District
Email: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca

Dear Vice Chair Leonard Hiebert:

Thank you for your correspondence received on March 5th, 2024, concerning the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA). In response to your letter of March 5th, 2024, and further to my letter of March 12th, 2024 to all mayors and regional district chairs, we will not be bringing forward regulations for local authorities in 2024. As a result, the EDMA risk assessment and planning obligations for local authorities will not become effective in 2024.

I am sincerely grateful to all of the local governments that provided a submission in response to engagement that took place from October 2023 through January 2024 on the modernization of regulations for local authorities and for disaster financial assistance. All feedback we have received from local governments will be considered as part of our work to develop regulations under the EDMA. There is also a five-year review of the Act that is mandated under the legislation.

Our web page dedicated to the legislation also includes some up-to-date information that you may find useful. You can find this page at gov.bc.ca/EmergencyManagementAct. We are also working to produce and publish helpful guidance on the EDMA (gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/local-emergency-programs/local-gov-operations), and technical questions can be referred to your local regional office or to modernizeEM@gov.bc.ca

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Bowinn Ma
Minister of Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

CC: The Honourable David Eby, Premier
Bob Zimmer, MP, Prince George-Peace River-Northern Rockies
Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South
Dan Davies, MLA, Peace River North



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

March 5, 2024

File: 0125.10

The Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
PO Box 9020 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9E2

Via Email: EMCR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

RE: Emergency and Disaster Management Act

Dear Minister Ma,

At the February 8, 2024, Peace River Regional District Board Meeting, the Regional Board discussed the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) and the impacts this new legislation places on local government authorities. The EDMA will increase the Peace River Regional District's responsibilities for planning and emergencies on Crown land with no ability to collect revenues from those lands to support it and no ability to mitigate the considerable risks associated with these lands. Modernized emergency management legislation has imposed statutory and regulatory requirements that expand legal responsibilities for local government emergency management, and serve to increase exposure to liability, as well as associated risks to statutorily assigned partners that do not fund our service. In addition, the new EDMA serves to foster greater expectations on the part of residents and other organizations without adequate resources to meet them.

How EDMA ultimately affects regional districts will be greatly determined by the forthcoming regulations that will be enacted under the Act. For that reason, it is critical that the unique context and challenges of emergency management in regional district electoral areas are fully understood by the province and factored into the regulations.

After discussion, the Regional Board subsequently passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED

"That the Regional Board authorize the Peace River Regional District to send a letter to the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness with copies to the BC Premier and South and North Peace MLAs requesting that the Provincial Government provide the funding that is required by the Peace River Regional District to complete the requirements of the Emergency and Disaster Management Act; namely that an amount of \$300,000 be provided for emergency planning costs in 2024 which includes staffing."

Sincerely,

Leonard Hiebert

Leonard Hiebert
Vice-Chair

c: Premier David Eby, premier@gov.bc.ca
Mr. Mike Bernier, South Peace MLA, Mike.Bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Mr. Dan Davies, North Peace MLA, Dan.Davies.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Mr. Bob Zimmer, MP, Bob.Zimmer@parl.gc.ca

REPLY TO: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca