

October 13, 2023

Leonard Hiebert, Chair Peace River Regional District PO Box 810 1981 Alaska Avenue Dawson Creek BC V1G 4H8 Reference: 318373

Dear Chair Hiebert:

Re: Old Fort Access

Thank you for your letters regarding access to Old Fort.

The ministry recognizes the importance of safe and reliable access to the Old Fort community. As you know, the ministry assessed several access options and determined that maintaining the existing alignment is the best option to ensure long-term reliable access to the community.

I recognize the community is keen to see work advance along Old Fort Road. To date, we have observed no trends which indicate surface movement at the slide location. Last fall, we drilled three bore holes and collected soil samples at the slide site and also installed ground sensors and additional surface monitors. These instruments are helping to broaden our understanding of the composition of the slide location.

The ministry intends to hard surface the gravel alignment over the slide mass in the future, once we have gathered enough data to conduct a precise model of the site and determine what specific measures are warranted to ensure long-term safety and reliability along the route. You can be sure local ministry staff will continue to update the Peace River Regional District on the progress of this work.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the ministry's local Executive Director, Darrell Gunn. He can be reached at 250 645-9609 or Darrell.Gunn@gov.bc.ca and would be pleased to assist you.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Rob Fleming Minister

Darrell Gunn, Executive Director Copy to: Northern Region



August 21, 2023

Honourable Rob Fleming Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure PO Box 9055 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

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

Re: Sustainable Access for Old Fort Residents

Dear Minister Fleming,

In follow up to my previous letter, dated June 6, 2023, the Regional Board would like to receive an update regarding the status and timeline for the provision of sustainable access for the residents of Old Fort, which has been a longstanding concern for the community since the 2018 and 2020 landslides affecting the Old Fort Road and community.

The lack of sustainable access for the residents of Old Fort has become a matter of great importance. The current situation leaves the residents of Old Fort vulnerable, particularly in the face of emergencies and natural disasters. The Ministry must address this issue promptly and work towards establishing sustainable access for the residents of Old Fort. Further, it would be greatly appreciated if the Ministry could provide a timeline or any specific plans being considered.

Sincerely,

Leonard Hiebert

Leonard Hiebert Chair

c: David Eby, Premier, <u>Premier@gov.bc.ca</u> Dan Davies, North Peace MLA, <u>Dan.Davies.MLA@leg.bc.ca</u> Mike Bernier, South Peace MLA, <u>Mike.Bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca</u>

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June 6, 2023

Honourable Rob Fleming Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure PO Box 9055 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

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

Re: Sustainable Access for Old Fort Residents

Dear Minister Fleming,

On behalf of the Regional Board, I would like inquire about the status and timeline for the provision of sustainable access for the residents of Old Fort, which has been a longstanding concern for the community since the 2018 and 2020 landslides affecting the Old Fort Road and community.

Following the release of the "Old Fort Options Analysis Study" dated December 3, 2021, the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) invited representatives from Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) to attend a Board meeting to present the findings of the study. During the May 26, 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting, representatives from MoTI presented an overview of the Old Fort Road Options Analysis Study. Topics included options for access, environmental impacts, field investigations, environmental assessment, permitting, habitat loss, First Nations consultation, cost estimates, and criteria evaluation. At that time, MoTI informed the Regional Board that Option F maintain existing road access was being recommended because it received the highest evaluation score, was the lowest cost option, and there were no requirements for land acquisition or new construction resulting in the lowest environmental impact, and that additional assessments would began that summer.

The lack of sustainable access for the residents of Old Fort has become a matter of great importance. The current situation leaves the residents of Old Fort vulnerable, particularly in the face of emergencies and natural disasters. The Ministry must address this issue promptly and work towards establishing sustainable access for the residents of Old Fort. Further, it would be greatly appreciated if the Ministry could provide a timeline or any specific plans being considered.

Sincerely,

Leonard Hiebert

Leonard Hiebert, Chair

c: Dan Davies, North Peace MLA, <u>Dan.Davies.MLA@leg.bc.ca</u> Mike Bernier, South Peace MLA, <u>Mike.Bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca</u>

