



October 18, 2023

VIA EMAIL: leonard.hiebert@prrd.bc.ca

Leonard Hiebert, Chair
Peace River Regional District
1981 Alaska Avenue, PO Box 810
Dawson Creek, British Columbia
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Dear Leonard Hiebert:

Thank you to your delegation for meeting with myself and other Ministry of Forests representatives at the annual UBCM Convention held September 18-22 in Vancouver. I am writing to recap the conversations and commitments made at our meeting, which I hope you found as productive and beneficial as we did.

During our meeting, we discussed fire prevention and mitigation. As Assistant Deputy Minister for BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) Ian Meier mentioned, we are looking to train local communities and invest in local knowledge and community support. Funding to support this work can be accessed via the FireSmart Program. This season, 57 trained rancher liaisons were on standby, several of whom were deployed to support incident management teams. BCWS also worked with five First Nations communities to stand up initial attack response teams for their traditional territories.

In conjunction with these efforts, Premier Eby recently announced an expert task force on emergencies, including wildfires, drought, heat, floods, and other emergencies affecting the province. More information will be coming on this initiative in the days to come.

Again, I appreciate you taking the time to meet. I am pleased our governments had the opportunity to connect about these important topics.

Sincerely,



Bruce Ralston
Minister