

Received DC Office April 2, 2020

From: Stephen Dery <Stephen.Dery@unbc.ca>

Sent: April 2, 2020 8:32 AM

To: prrd dc <prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca>

Subject: Possible letter of support for a UNBC funding application

A good day to you:

I hope you are managing the COVID-19 situation as best as you can, it certainly has been quite challenging in many respects.

I am contacting you today as I wish to reach out to Mayor Dale Bumstead of the City of Dawson Creek and the Peace River Regional District in regards to a request for a possible letter of support for a funding application we are about to submit to the internal BC Real Estate Foundation. This work would explore the role of land cover disturbances such as wildfires and pest infestations on floods across British Columbia, including the devastating June 2016 event that affected Dawson Creek and other communities in the Peace River Regional District. This would follow on some of the earlier work we had done in collaboration with the City's Watershed Coordinator, Chelsea Mottishaw, and I believe the results of this work would be highlight relevant to the communities in the Peace River Regional District.

I therefore am inquiring whether there's a possibility that either Mayor Bumstead, or someone on behalf of the Peace River Regional District, would be able to complete such a letter of support? To facilitate the process, I attach a draft letter that could be used for this. Please note that we are happy to provide the Mayor or anyone on Council with our proposal if that would also help. Please note that our application deadline is April 15th.

If this is not possible, then no worries at all.
Thank you.

Stephen Dery
Professor, Environmental Science
UNBC

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To whom it may concern,

Re: Letter of support – Are British Columbia flood events exacerbated by landcover disturbances?

The Peace River Regional District fully supports the '*Are British Columbia flood events exacerbated by landcover disturbances?*' research project being proposed by Dr. Stephen Déry at UNBC. The Peace River District has been greatly impacted by flooding events in recent years and we are eager to gain any new insight that may help prepare our communities for future events. As forest fires, logging, and Mountain Pine Beetle outbreaks are ongoing in our region, we think it is of utmost importance to understand how these are affecting river and streams in the region as well as its impact on floods, in order for us to make community-minded risk-management decisions.

We are quite keen to engage with Dr. Déry and the Northern Hydrometeorology Research Group on another project relevant to our community. The City of Dawson Creek, including its Watershed Coordinator, previously interacted with Dr. Déry on a project exploring the seasonal prediction of the spring freshet within the Kiskatinaw River, the principal source of water for the City. This led to an improved understanding of the regional and remote controls on spring snowmelt timing and the resulting flows during the freshet in the context of climate change. The new project led by Dr. Déry and his team will build on this previous effort by exploring whether deforestation and other land cover changes also play a role in the timing of flows during spring as well as during major floods events such as experienced in northeastern British Columbia including the Peace River District in June 2016. This will guide future management of both the forested landscapes and water resources (such as Bearhole Lake) that may lead to improved knowledge on water security in a rapidly changing environment.

Thus the Peace River Regional District highly recommends this project be funded by the Real Estate Foundation of BC. We believe that this work, while valuable for the District, will also help other communities throughout BC best prepare for flooding events. British Columbia has extensive regions where large amounts of landcover change are occurring and we feel it is important to understand how this is affecting our water resources. We are looking forward to interacting with UNBC and Dr. Déry on this project and will provide any information or assistance we can.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,