



CAO Report – November 22, 2021

I would like to begin my report today by recognizing the tremendous work of our fellow staff in nearby municipalities affected by the flooding and mudslides in recent weeks. Our thoughts are with those public servants who are working long hours to restore key services and utilities for their communities.

On Tuesday November 16, we provided three firefighters to help unload 40 evacuees who had been repositioned from a Princeton area Interior Health Care home. It took about 1.5 hours to unload all the occupants. Our Summerland Emergency Support Services (ESS) Director Bonnie Bordas has also stepped in as ESS Branch Coordinator to support a coordinated effort with ESS in the RDOS area.

Staff in the water utility have done a thorough review of our dams and reservoirs in the watershed and I am glad to report there is no damage or concerns.

The base phones for the District Hall and other locations were impacted by the flooding and we appreciate the patience of residents who struggled to get a hold of staff in the last week. The impact was limited to those calls originating from a Telus or Bell landline or mobility device as those providers had their infrastructure damaged in the floods. We have resolved most of the issues now, but there remain intermittent issues. As a result we have implemented a temporary number that citizens can use when the District main line is not working. That number is 778-300-2131, and when it is used the call will be redirected through other channels to the District.

Recycle BC has notified us that starting today, they are suspending the collection of all glass and foam packaging from recycle BC depots, including the one located at our sanitary landfill. The reason for the suspension is because transportation corridors are compromised due to road closures, and they cannot move these materials from receiving facilities to end markets. In fact, they noted to us that their primary glass end market is currently under water and they are unable to provide a specific timeline when collection will resume. We are asking residents to store the materials until such time as recycling services restart as we do not have space on site. We have informed residents of the changes using Facebook, sandwich boards at the landfill and downtown, as well as posting the information on our website under community alerts.

Under the theme of emergency preparedness, I did want to take a moment to recognize the efforts of our electric utility crews who have maintained vigilance on our power line brushing program in the last few years. Even with the high winds that were associated with the storms in recent weeks, we did not experience any power outages in the District!

Community engagement is currently underway until November 29 to gather input on the Recreation Centre Feasibility Study. We are looking for what site the community prefers for the potential replacement of the Summerland Aquatic & Fitness Centre. Folks are encouraged to view the display boards and complete the survey – available online or at the Aquatic Centre, Arena or District Hall.

Finally, I wanted to note that we are receiving many compliments on Council's decision to provide a temporary dog park in Dale Meadows. You have probably noticed the high usage of the location – in

fact when I took Chewy and Paco there the other day there were 8 other dogs in the space! We continue to gather comments and will report back to Council in January as part of the Q4 reporting process. One change has been to have the gate close at 5pm instead of “dusk” ... a term which is open to some interpretation and was causing confusion. We also have received a recent suggestion by a group representing small dogs to have a couple times a week when the park would be limited for an hour or two to smaller dogs who can sometimes be intimidated by larger dogs in the same space. It is something we are looking at and will provide more information once we have had time to consider it further.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer