



Mayor's Report

June 13, 2022

I recently heard the Okanagan weather during the month of June described as “the June-soons”. Given the weather we’ve been having I feel that is an accurate description. A marked contrast to June 2021 with its dry weather and record temperatures. People living on Tulameen River Road have been evacuated due to risk of the Tulameen River overflowing its banks, as well as others throughout the province. The River Forecast Centre has said the increased risk of flooding depends on where it rains, how much it rains and how quickly temperatures rise. The spring thaw is about a month late because of cooler than normal spring temperatures.

The cooler, wetter spring does have an upside though—a delay in the wildfire season. On May 25 the CAO and I attended a call with provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Immigration Nathan Cullen, Minister of Forests Katrine Conroy and staff with the BC Wildfire Service. The call provided an update on the proactive work being done to address the anticipated 2022 wildfire season.

The District encourages everyone to sign up for Voyent Alert! to receive notifications on critical events including wildfires and flooding, as well as day-to-day communications such as garbage and recycling information, water and sewer notices and public engagement opportunities. The platform is easy to use, free and completely anonymous. You can choose which communications you want to receive, and you can opt in or out at any time.

The afternoon of May 27 Councillors Carlson, Van Alphen, Holmes and I—along with two District staffers—joined Anona Kampe of the Penticton Indian Band on a land walk of some PIB lands. This was the third session Council has had with Ms. Kampe, and the first out on their land. We learned about sylix uses of various plants the history of the area, and traditional use of the land and water. After the walk Anona gave some examples on how the *Indian Act* and the residential school system has impacted PIB members. On behalf of Council and District staff, I thank you again, Anona, for this very interesting and enlightening afternoon.

I, along with many elected colleagues throughout the Province, had a meeting with UBCM on May 31 to provide guidance on the work being done by that group on the Code of Conduct. Earlier this year, at the request of UBCM, the Province legislated that all local governments must consider this document that lays out Conduct by elected officials. Council adopted a Code of Conduct at our May 24 meeting. It will be reviewed at the beginning of next term and annually by Council.

Due to some personal matters, I decided not to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities convention (FCM) in person but instead attended the live portions on May 3 and 4. Since then, I have been viewing the in-person sessions that were recorded and uploaded to the event platform. Not surprisingly, top of mind for our colleagues across the country are attainable housing, health care, and climate change adaptation...and federal funding to support these critical topics.

Much of last week, in my role as a board governor with the Real Estate Foundation of BC, I was in New Westminster to attend meetings and the Land Awards. There are many outstanding projects happening throughout the province. The Land Awards honours and celebrates the best of the best, including all finalists, in five categories, as well as two awards given to outstanding individuals. This year the Emerging Leader award went to Taylor Wale for her work with education young Indigenous peoples in northern BC; Wayne McCrory was named Land Champion for his decades of work including establishing a grizzly bear protected area.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot