

# **Provincial Cabinet Minister Meeting**

**Honourable Suzanne Anton**

**Ministry of Justice**

---

**Date:** September 24, 2014 @11:40

**Location:** Glacier Room B

---

## **PURPOSE**

Joint meeting with Honourable Suzanne Anton, Minister of Justice and the District of Ucluelet to introduce

- 1) The EMBC resolution on Mass Casualty Medical Preparedness
- 2) Impact of a provincial seismic review
- 3) Secure site for disaster
- 4) Implications of kindergarten to grade 12 schooling
- 5) Showcase the Manager of Emergency & Environmental Services work
- 6) Combined space for RCMP/BC Ambulance/Ucluelet Volunteer Fire Brigade
- 7) Community consultation with RCMP as per contract

## **BACKGROUND**

The system of mass causality medical preparedness in the province of BC is ineffective for high risk remote communities that do not have Vancouver Island Health Authority hospitals and clinics. In the event of a major disaster it is necessary to have a fast and wide reaching mass causality medical strategy.

This multi-impact situation is certainly not unique to Ucluelet, and we recognize that the Ministry is attempting to address this shortfall; however, we would like to explain that Ucluelet has some options that, with the help of your Ministry, can serve to bring several alternatives into being which will address numerous inter-related shortfalls:-

- With your assistance we would like to see a prioritized resolve to the outstanding Provincial "seismic review" of the Ucluelet Senior Secondary School; which if, as we believe it will, indicates the immediate rebuild of a new Ucluelet K-12 school;
  - Once this is determined to be necessary, we propose that with multiple partner funding, the school can be built to accommodate the needs of a primary education facility for the West Coast (Tofino and many FN children are bussed to the Ucluelet High School), but also can be constructed under the necessary seismic code to accommodate its use as an "emergency accommodation centre" for the residents of, and visitors to, Ucluelet;

- o This would also fit precisely with the Municipality's concurrent proposal to utilize the adjacent Fire hall, which presently serves as the "Emergency Response Centre" such that both facilities are side-by-side;
  - o Furthermore, we have been negotiating with both the RCMP and Ambulance Service to have their buildings relocated by the Fire hall, thereby centralizing all emergency services.
  - o Geographically, Ucluelet is central to all major vessel traffic and strategically located to service the entire spectrum of west coast communities. Ucluelet will be a key to re-supplying the entire outer coast of Vancouver Island in the aftermath of a major event. The Ucluelet harbour with its deep port and sheltered shoreline offers the best solution to the Province to establish a west coast tsunami preparedness facility and training centre.
- As an aside, I think we have proven our ability to work outside of the box, when one looks at the incredible work performed by our Manager of Emergency Services and staff and Council in respect to the Japanese Tsunami debris initiative which Ucluelet has undertaken. And the recognition which this has garnered for Ucluelet, the Province and Canada as a whole, not just from Japan, but people all over the world, who cite Ucluelet and Canada for its care and compassion towards our western neighbor.

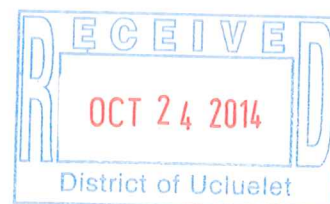
## **CONCLUSION**

Our ask is that your Ministry works with Ucluelet Staff to provide support and assistance in dealing with the various Ministry of Education, School Board, RCMP and Ambulance Service and EMBC to "sell" the bigger picture for Ucluelet; and what can be gained from a cooperative approach to several somewhat unrelated initiatives which could be combined to achieve an incredible synergy.

## **NEXT STEPS**

We ask you to provide staff members who can be appointed to work with Ucluelet to bring together these interrelated projects, and work with us and the various ministries to bring these ambitious projects to a win-win reality.

Filecode: 0410-20 MOJ  
X-Ref:  
Forwarded to: Council, Andrew  
[ ] Physical [X] Electronic



OCT 20 2014

His Worship Bill Irving  
Mayor of the District of Ucluelet  
PO Box 999  
Ucluelet BC V0R 3A0

Dear Mayor Irving:

I would like to thank the District of Ucluelet for an informative meeting at this year's Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention in Whistler. It was a pleasure to meet you and your delegation and hear about the issues of importance to your community.

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is aware of your interest to work together towards focussed recovery planning. Ms. Clare Fletcher, Regional Manager for the Vancouver Island Region, EMBC, will be following up with the District on this subject. Should you need to contact Ms. Fletcher her email is [Clare.Fletcher@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Clare.Fletcher@gov.bc.ca) and her phone number is 250-952-4904.

I was happy to hear that you are pleased with your current detachment commander. As you know, staffing falls within the internal management and control of the RCMP under Article 6.2 of the Provincial Police Service Agreement. I appreciate that the District wishes to have some input in the selection of the next detachment commander, and I have asked Clayton Pecknold, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policing and Security Branch, to raise this issue with Assistant Commissioner Norm Lipinski.

Thank you again for a very informative meeting. It was a welcome opportunity to exchange ideas and share information. Through continued partnership I am confident we can work together to address issues of importance to the District of Ucluelet.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Anton'.

Suzanne Anton, QC  
Attorney General  
Minister of Justice

pc: Ms. Clare Fletcher  
Mr. Pat Quealey  
Mr. Clayton Pecknold  
Assistant Commissioner Norm Lipinsky

5 August 2014

Emergency Management British Columbia  
Attention: Henry Renteria, Chair - Earthquake Review Board  
PO Box 9201 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J1

Dear Mr. Renteria,

**Re: Earthquake Preparedness Consultation 2014**

Thank you for the invitation to provide comments for the province-wide earthquake preparedness consultation process.

The District of Ucluelet has summarized our annotations delivered at the consultation meeting in Port Alberni on July 8, 2014. We have also highlighted additional recommendations regarding both preparedness and recovery initiatives for a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) event.

- Integrated standardized communications plan that considers the following:
  - Consistent messaging and best practices for emergency preparedness principles that are corresponding with neighbouring North America states (e.g., unified signage and symbols, bulletins, messages, etc.);
  - Incorporate North Island 911 to deliver tsunami notifications to fire departments;
  - Replacement or update the provincial emergency notification system;
  - Establish policies, procedures, and equipment for local government communications teams to communicate with the Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centre; and
  - A unified internal and external emergency notification system between the province and local governments for timely and consistent tsunami warning notification to the public.
- The four pillars of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery are expanded in this process of 'earthquake preparedness consultation'. In particular, community disaster recovery for short-term and long-term activities should be a major focus to ensure local governments can recover from associated hazards in their communities. In attempt to build community resiliency, improved training and tools for local governments are required to ensure adequate recovery plans and programs are established.
  - For example, the development of standard mass casualty medical emergency plan for remote communities without Vancouver Island Health Authority hospitals and clinics. Fast and wide reaching mass casualty medical strategies are necessary to save lives for communities that will potentially have no access to medical centres and/or hospitals due to remoteness and catastrophic damage from a CSZ. The plan should consider the following: establishment of a helicopter landing pad outside the inundation zone in a central and secure area; training and exercises for local nurses, first aiders and volunteers; Network Equipment Support Services for triage and extended medical issues; and steps towards critical infrastructure resiliency.
- Establish a benchmark evacuation elevation (e.g., 20 m) that considers standardized mapping for run-up and splash effect factors for a CSZ event in British Columbia and neighbouring North America states.

District of Ucluelet . *Life on the Edge*®

200 Main Street

PO Box 999

Ucluelet . BC . VoR 3Ao

t. 250.726.7744

f. 250.726.7335

Ucluelet.ca

info@Ucluelet.ca



- Develop standardized and systematic provincial emergency response and recovery training, including medical and emergency communication courses. Provide tax credits and other incentives for volunteers to engage in emergency training.
- Consistent funding source along with the establishment of an emergency fund for the four pillars of emergency management. Consider a possible revenue source through house insurance and work with the insurance industry to reduce coverage fees for adequately prepared Canadians. Consideration towards provincial / federal funding for high risk communities that have a limited tax base. Priority funding is required for mitigation measures towards critical infrastructure upgrades (e.g., review of the BC Building Code for post-disaster building), training first responders for applicable hazards, and providing communities with necessary equipment to address hazards.
- Complimentary ministries (e.g., MoH, MoT, Coast Guard, VIHA, etc.) review emergency and recovery plans, and support local governments with initiatives relating to the four pillars of emergency management. With a better understanding of cross jurisdictional needs, supportive relationships and collaborative partnerships can be established.

For the protection of our residents and visitors who reside on the west coast of British Columbia, we strongly advocate the necessary improvements to the Emergency Management division. We hope our recommendations and comments will assist EMBC with planning efforts for catastrophic earthquake.

Sincerely,

---

Bill Irving  
Mayor, District of Ucluelet

cc: Cameron Lewis, Project Lead - EMBC  
Andrew Yeates, CAO - District of Ucluelet  
Karla Robison, Environmental and Emergency Service Manager - District of Ucluelet



## MEMO TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

500 Matterson Drive, Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0

---

**FROM:** KARLA ROBISON, ENVIRONMENTAL & EMERGENCY SERVICE MANAGER

**FILE NO:** 0400-20 AVICC

**SUBJECT:** MASS CAUSALITY MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS

---

### **RESOLUTION:**

WHEREAS in the event of a major disaster, in particular a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) event (i.e., an earthquake with a magnitude 8 or greater followed by a subsequent tsunami) within BC's southwest seismic activity zone, the system of mass causality medical emergency preparedness in the province of BC is ineffective for high risk remote communities that do not have Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) hospitals and clinics;

AND WHEREAS fast and wide reaching mass causality medical strategies are necessary to save lives for communities that will potentially have no access to medical centres and/or hospitals due to catastrophic damage:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) urge the provincial and federal governments to establish a world-class Mass Causality Medical Emergency Preparedness Plan for high risk communities in BC's southwest seismic activity zone that do not have VIHA hospitals and clinics.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Some remote communities within British Columbia's high risk seismic zone do not have mass causality medical plans or medical/triage supplies, as well as, have no hospitals, clinics, or trained medical personal to assist with a mass causality medical incidents.

Recent wave modeling research conducted in Ucluelet, BC estimates that approximately 123 structures and between 412 - 1,149 people could be lost during a CSZ event (Johnstone et al. 2012) and the probability of occurrence of the next CSZ earthquake is to be 10% over the next 50 years, with estimated magnitude of 9.0 (Peterson et al. 2002).

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The objective of this memo is to provide additional information to assist the UBCM and the FCM to urge the provincial and federal governments to establish a world-class Mass Causality Medical Emergency

Preparedness Plan for high risk communities in BC's southwest seismic activity zone that do not have VIHA hospitals and clinics. The plan should include the following:

- BC earthquake/tsunami response strategy to illustrate how the Provincial and Federal governments will aid mass casualties in remote communities that will have potentially none too little accessibility along highways and water networks;
- Emergency helicopter landing pads outside inundation zones in central and secure areas and ensure the location of these sites are identified in the response strategy;
- Network Equipment Support Services (e.g., field hospital, trauma supplies, etc.) for triage and extended medical issues, and develop a secure location for this material;
- Training and exercises for local nurses, first aiders and volunteers;
- Initiatives and recommendations for critical infrastructure resiliency;
- Federal, Provincial and Local government cost-shared funding program with the purpose of ensuring that all of the communities in BC are able to establish and respond to mass causality preparedness plan that meet local needs;
- Inventories of the amount of people in tsunami hazard impact zones and assess the potential for successful protective actions by modelling evacuations (National Research Council 2011);
- Full vulnerability assessments that consider factors such as warning times and process individual aspects such as gender, age, and response behaviour, building properties such as materials, age and method of construction (Papathome et al. 2003); and
- Obtain knowledge and understanding on how many deaths and injuries could occur as a function of variables such as waves speed and depth and victim height, weight, age and sex (Lindell and Prater 2010).

**Respectfully submitted:**



---

Karla Robison, Environmental & Emergency Service Manager



## **MASS CASUALTY MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS**

## **Ucluelet**

WHEREAS in the event of a major disaster, in particular a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) event (i.e., an earthquake with a magnitude 8 or greater followed by a subsequent tsunami) within BC's southwest seismic activity zone, the system of mass causality medical emergency preparedness in the province of BC is ineffective for high risk remote communities that do not have Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) hospitals and clinics;

AND WHEREAS fast and wide reaching mass causality medical strategies are necessary to save lives for communities that will potentially have no access to medical centres and/or hospitals due to catastrophic damage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge the provincial and federal governments to establish a world-class Mass Causality Medical Emergency Preparedness Plan for high risk communities in BC's southwest seismic activity zone that do not have VIHA hospitals and clinics.