

July 20, 2021

The Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9010 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Email: PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Re: Need for increased wildfire response

Dear Minister Farnworth,

On behalf of the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM), I am writing to add our collective voice to the local governments that have requested additional support from the Province of British Columbia in the face of the current 294 active wildfires that are burning in our province.

We have seen repeated intensive fire seasons over the past five summers. The challenge posed by these annual crises for both provincial and local emergency services is considerable. I am very appreciative of the level of support provided by the Province in previous years, including the declarations of States of Emergency in 2017 and 2018.

At our most recent meeting, the UBCM Executive discussed the challenges posed by the current wildfire season and tragedy of the fire that devastated the Village of Lytton earlier this month. In light of the growing threat posed to other communities, we are requesting that the Province take every step possible to maximize the resources available for firefighting and to ensure the security of evacuated properties. Local governments in affected regions are expressing a high level of concern about the level of resources currently available, and the threat posed by the fires to health and safety due to highly compromised air quality as well as the threat posed to homes and businesses.

I want to assure you that our members are prepared to offer their full support to respond to local emergencies. Given the current circumstances, we encourage the Province to bring the full weight of its capacity under the powers available to it in order to strengthen our collective response.

Yours truly,



Brian Frenkel
UBCM President