

Paula Kusack

Subject: FW: Correspondence for Mayor Nathan Pachal, City of Langley re Advocacy support needed for Abbotsford long-term flood mitigation infrastructure funding
Attachments: 2024-05-13 - Advocacy Support Template Letter.docx

From: Ross Siemens <RSiemens@abbotsford.ca>

Sent: Sunday, May 12, 2024 8:11:25 PM

To: Mayor Nathan Pachal <npachal@langleycity.ca>

Cc: Nancy Friesen <NFriesen@abbotsford.ca>

Subject: Correspondence for Mayor Nathan Pachal, City of Langley re Advocacy support needed for Abbotsford long-term flood mitigation infrastructure funding

Dear Mayor Pachal,

On behalf of the City of Abbotsford and Abbotsford City Council, I am asking for the support of the City of Langley in our ongoing advocacy efforts for long-term flood mitigation infrastructure funding.

It has now been more than two and a half years since the unprecedented flood event of November 2021 left devastating and lasting impacts on our community and our region. As you likely know, the flood caused significant damage to regional and provincial transportation infrastructure, property and businesses, and severely impacted agricultural production in the most productive community in Canada. For the first time in our history, we witnessed a 9-day closure of the key transportation corridor (the Trans-Canada Highway) linking Canada's largest port with the interior and Alberta, the disruption of major railway lines, as well as the closure of the Sumas US/Canada border, which collectively halted the movement of people, goods and services, resulting in severe disruptions to the Asia Pacific gateway supply chain. In the Fraser Valley region alone, the devastating event resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in repairs at both the municipal and provincial level.

We know that it is crucial for government to take the steps needed ensure that our local and provincial infrastructure is upgraded to protect our businesses and our provincial economy from future impacts related to extreme climate events fueled by ongoing climate change.

The City of Abbotsford believes that investing in flood prevention and management infrastructure in Sumas Prairie is crucial to safeguarding the Trans-Canada Highway, our region's well-being and economic stability, and to protecting our provincial food supply and the flow of goods and services by truck and train to and from the Port of Vancouver.

However, although as a local government we are responsible for maintaining our flood infrastructure, the City of Abbotsford (like all municipalities) does not have the funding capacity to meet the financial requirements to support the critical community safety and disaster mitigation work. This is why we are asking for your support.

We kindly request the City of Langley's support in advocating to senior levels of government, urging them to prioritize and allocate the necessary funding for flood prevention and infrastructure improvements in Sumas Prairie. A template letter of support is attached, should that be useful to you.

We appreciate your support and commitment to the well-being of our local and provincial economy. Together, we can make a difference, and ensure a safer and more resilient future for everyone.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Ross

Ross Siemens

Mayor

Tel: 604.864.5500 Fax: 604.853.1934

Email: mayorsiemens@abbotsford.ca



32315 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, BC V2T 1W7
www.abbotsford.ca

The information transmitted herein is confidential and may contain privileged information. It is intended solely for the person(s) or entity(s) to which it is addressed. Any review, re-transmission, dissemination, taking of any action in reliance upon, or other use of this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient(s) is prohibited. If you received this in error, please notify the sender and delete or destroy all copies.