



BRITISH COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 621709

September 2, 2021

Jackie Tegart, MLA
Fraser-Nicola
PO Box 279
Ashcroft BC V0K 1A0
Email: jackie.tegart.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Dear Jackie Tegart:

Thank you for your letters of July 13 and August 4, 2021, addressed to Premier John Horgan, concerning the Lytton wildfire and supports for evacuees.

The destruction that occurred in the Village of Lytton was devastating, and the Province fully appreciates the severity of the event. The provincial government continues to work hard to support people and communities impacted by the current wildfire situation, both in Lytton and across the rest of the interior. This work is done under the leadership of local and First Nations governments, and in collaboration with federal departments, industry, non-government organizations, and volunteers.

The Province has made Emergency Support Services (ESS) available to British Columbians forced from their homes by wildfires or other emergencies — this includes the residents of Lytton. The delivery of emergency goods and services often includes partnering with community agencies to provide food, lodging, clothing, emotional support, and information about the crisis. There are also special services currently available like first aid, child minding, pet care, and transportation.

Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) is also available to local governments and First Nations in regions affected by wildfire. More information is available in this information bulletin: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PSSG0045-001299>

While our efforts are still focused on the emergency response to ongoing fires, ensuring that evacuees are safe and cared for, we are working to support the Village of Lytton in addressing the rebuilding needs that are still unanswered. Longer-term interim housing is a top priority for the evacuees of Lytton and Lytton First Nations while the community rebuilds. Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is supporting the Village of Lytton's leadership to identify and implement housing solutions for its residents. Some of the options being considered by the Village at this time are market rentals, modular housing, and longer-term use of hotels.

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The Village's longer-term planning for the rebuilding and restoration of existing homes will proceed with cross-government support in the coming weeks. At this time, the interim housing solutions remain the priority. EMBC has funded an agreement between the Fraser Basin Council and the Village of Lytton to support engagement with residents about the recovery process and understanding individual and community needs.

I appreciate being made aware of your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc: The Honourable John Horgan