

Visco, Greg ENV:EX

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 9:04 AM
To: Correspondence Unit ENV:EX
Subject: FW: Stakeholder engagement, Professional Reliance Review
Attachments: Professional Reliance Review.doc

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Categories: Greg

From: lloyd sotas [<mailto:lssotas@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 4:27 PM
To: Citizen Engagement GCPE:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Subject: Stakeholder engagement, Professional Reliance Review

Please find enclosed the submission from myself as a director and on behalf of the Peachland Resident's Association.

Please confirm receipt of this submission. Cheers, and thank you.

--
Lloyd Stinson Sotas

Professional Reliance Failure.

To the Professional Reliance (PR) review board;

Thanks for taking our submission to the PR review. The Peachland Resident's Association (PRA) is a BC Society of some 15 years standing and has about 100 residents of Peachland in Membership. We have been active in watershed protection, highway 97 upgrades, the closing of the Peachland compost site, the upgrades to potable water including the recent decision to borrow 10 million dollars on a tax base of 2400 residences.....and we remain active in current Peachland affairs.

In the view of PRA, the PR has been a dramatic failure. We have endured the logging of our upper watersheds in the Trepanier and Deep Creek watersheds and now these watersheds are being logged down low in the valley.

This past summer has witnessed four crucial events which have caused Peachland great concern. Details as follows;

1. The flooding of Lake Okanagan. Recent watershed data/research from Rita Winkler, PhD, has shown that 70% of the snowmelt is running off 40% faster. While this year was within the normal snow fall range for the Okanagan Basin as a whole, because it came all at the end of the snow season the lake was likely not drawn down to an appropriate level to handle all of the freshet. It can be argued that this 70% snowmelt and 40% faster run off is dramatically contributing to the problem of the Lake Okanagan high water mark. This is all the more true since all of the lower Okanagan watershed is now being logged. The upper watershed has been logged over the past 20 to 30 years and it will be another 50 years at least until it is mature. The PR system does not allow District Foresters to make decisions to not allow logging to keep the snow on the ground longer and under canopy.
2. Deep Creek silting. The Munro Forestry Service road slid into Deep Creek in late March. This caused a boil water advisory for the residents of Peachland which lasted four and a half months. If the PR system was working, why would the major logging road in the area be allowed to slough off into a drinking water supply for a town of 5500 residents?
3. MacDonald Creek flooding. Logging has begun inside of the fenced off Brenda Mine site. The MacDonald Creek washed out in a major way and eroded the access ramp to hwy 97C. A State of Emergency was declared by the Mayor of Peachland.
4. MacKinnon Road flooding. Logging in the Jack Creek watershed started a couple of years ago resulted in the flooding of Law Creek, which washed out MacKinnon Road. The result was a \$375,000.00 repair bill to the district.

Please find below a link to the Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance picture website.
<https://peachlandwpa.org/the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly-gallery/>

It has become clear that the costs of the logging are not taken into account on the plus/minus of the value of logging. Yes, we get some benefit from stumpage and the jobs provided however, we are missing the other side of the equation. That is, the costs associated with the logging washouts and loss of potable water AND the opportunity cost which is lost to the tourism industry.

Our PR model concerns do not only consider the impacts/costs of logging, but also to those of mining. I think I only need to mention Mount Polley/Quesnel Lake to get your attention.

Profession Reliance is an inherently skewed process. On one hand the Professionals have to provide a professional opinion and on the other, they are completely reliant upon not biting the hand that feeds them too hard lest they not be fed i.e. have any more work. This is doubly so in a situation where the Professional is an employee of the company for whom he is making the report.

We need to immediately get back to a District Forestry system whereby the District Forester has real power, and is not just a rubber stamp person. We need to re-establish the 35 District Offices and to staff them appropriately with Professionals that have legislative power and law behind them, to stop a logging company or to force them into compliance, for the benefit of all British Columbians and to the benefit of the landscape, flora, and fauna.

Thanks for the opportunity.
Lloyd Sotas Director
Peachland Resident's Association.
January 9 2018.