



May 29, 2020

Leanne Salter, Director, Area F  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
6300 Hammond Bay Road  
Nanaimo BC V9T 6N2

Reference: 293883

Dear Director Salter,

**Re: Corcan Road Access**

Thank you for your letter regarding emergency access to Corcan Road. I am glad to have the opportunity to review your feedback and the comments sent to me by the Corcan Meadowood Residents Association, Little Qualicum River Village and area residents. I am also responding on behalf of my colleague the Honourable Adrian Dix Minister of Health, to the letter sent to him on this issue.

I am pleased to hear that you have met with Operations Manager Stefan Yancey about this matter. As you are likely aware, ministry staff have been working and meeting with the Corcan Meadowood Residents Association about an alternate access for many years. This work included funding a study in 2012 to determine the cost and feasibility of an interchange. The study found that an interchange would not save vehicles enough travel time to justify its cost.

As you are also likely aware, the ministry closed the emergency access road from Nahmit Road after receiving multiple safety complaints from the public and RCMP. Vehicles were inappropriately using the road as a non-emergency shortcut to Highway 19, causing safety issues by cutting through the divided highway ditch and breaking the pavement edge in the southbound direction. The ministry consulted with BC Ambulance, who supported our decision to close the gate. The ministry also consulted with our local maintenance contractor about the ability to remove the barrier and reopen the gate in the case of a major emergency. Provided equipment is available, the ministry is confident that the gate can be reopened in a short period of time to provide emergency access.

While the ministry is not considering any changes in access to the neighbourhood at this time, we remain open to reviewing any proposals for access involving local roads, including privately owned property and/or privately funded options. In addition, if an opportunity exists through the subdivision of private lands, the ministry can ensure that new public road right-of-way is dedicated to lands beyond that could, in the long term, provide an alternative route to the Corcan Meadowood area.

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I encourage you, the Corcan Meadowoods Residents Association and the Little Qualicum River Village to continue to work with Mr. Yancey to explore options. He can be reached at 250 734-4822 or at Stefan.Yancey@gov.bc.ca and would be pleased to help you.

As you may know, BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS), which falls under the purview of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), provides pre-hospital emergency services throughout the province and oversees the BC Ambulance Service. In 2017, a budget increase of \$91.4 million over three years was announced to help implement the BCEHS Action Plan, a provincial strategy to transform how emergency health care services are delivered throughout B.C. The strategy focuses on three areas: improving paramedic service and emergency response in both rural and urban regions, with additional ambulances, paramedics and dispatchers; supporting new initiatives to enhance rural and remote services to create better access to primary and community-based care; and introducing province-wide innovations and improvements to support how BCEHS responds to calls. More information about the Action Plan is available on the BCEHS website at [www.bcehs.ca/about/accountability/bcehs-action-plan](http://www.bcehs.ca/about/accountability/bcehs-action-plan), and the public can also contact BCEHS through its [website](#).

I have shared your correspondence, along with the letters from residents, with my colleague the Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, so that he too is aware of local concerns about wildfires.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claire Trevena', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Claire Trevena  
Minister

Copy to: Honourable Adrian Dix  
Minister of Health  
MLA, Vancouver-Kingsway

Honourable Doug Donaldson  
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development  
MLA, Stikine

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
MLA, Port Coquitlam

Honourable Scott Fraser  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
MLA, Mid Island-Pacific Rim

Stefan Yancey, Operations Manager  
Vancouver Island District

Chris Burger, President  
Corcan Meadowoods Residents Association

Trish Curtin, President  
Little Qualicum River Village

Rob Reay