



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** Electoral Area Services Committee

**Date:** 2025-02-13

**From:** Katelyn Hipwell, Manager of Planning

**Subject:** Preliminary Interpretation of a Large Landslide Complex at Boston Bar

**Reviewed by:** Graham Daneluz, Director of Planning & Development  
Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

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### RECOMMENDATION

This report is being brought forward for the Board's information and there is no staff recommendation.

### BACKGROUND

In 2024, BGC Engineering Inc. (BGC) was conducting geohazard assessment work for Indigenous communities in the Fraser Canyon. Part of this work included analysis of new LIDAR imagery that had been acquired from the Federal government. LIDAR involves highly detailed terrain mapping using laser pulses emitted from a plane or drone. This imagery was previously unavailable for large areas throughout the Fraser Canyon. Through this work, BGC identified a previously undocumented landslide complex in Boston Bar. This occurred independently from, and unrelated to, a separate contract between the FVRD and BGC for Geohazard mapping work in parts of Areas A & B for the purposes of informing upcoming OCP updates.

BGC staff felt compelled to proactively share this information with FVRD staff in the broader interest of public safety. This information was formally shared with FVRD staff via a memo from BGC on September 10, 2024 (Appendix A). The information provided by BGC in the memo is a preliminary identification of a landslide hazard. The memo indicates that further assessment is required to adequately characterize the nature, frequency, and extent of the hazard.

### DISCUSSION

Consideration of the Boston Bar landslide hazard will need to be made in the context of ongoing and upcoming community planning projects in the community, regardless of whether further assessment is undertaken. FVRD is currently undertaking a Complete Community Study for the Fraser Canyon and anticipates a forthcoming Official Community Plan update to commence later this year.

Without further assessment the uncertainty around public safety will persist. Future community planning decisions would require an extremely cautious and conservative approach. Site specific considerations for development, such as a building permit for a new dwelling, would need to be made under difficult circumstances that would put the burden of characterizing the known landslide hazard on individual property owners. **Given the FVRD's understanding as to the scope and level of effort** required for this assessment, this is an unreasonable and unachievable requirement for a single property owner to realize.

Staff will work to identify grant funding opportunities available to the FVRD to undertake further assessment of the identified landslide hazard.

In the meantime, the memo summarizing the preliminary identification of the Boston Bar landslide **hazard will be added to the FVRD Geohazard Report Library and made publicly available on the FVRD's** website to ensure transparent information sharing with the public and qualified professionals engaged in Geohazard work in the FVRD.

## **COST**

The scale and level of effort for the required study to better characterize the landslide hazard is significant. Early cost estimates suggest efforts in excess of \$300k. A hazard assessment of this scale cannot be feasibly undertaken by FVRD or landowners outside of a grant opportunity. Staff will bring opportunities for grant funding to the FVRD Board for consideration as they are identified.

## **CONCLUSION**

A previously undocumented landslide hazard has been identified above the community of Boston Bar. Future planning decisions and development approval considerations will be affected by the presence of this hazard feature. **This preliminary information will be made publicly available in the FVRD's** Geohazard Report Library.

Further assessment of the landslide hazard is required to understand the nature, frequency, and extent of the hazard and the impacts to the community and future development potential. Future grant funding opportunities to facilitate this assessment will be brought to the FVRD Board for their consideration as they are identified.