

To: Fraser Valley Regional District Board
From: Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: 2018-06-26

Subject: Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Fraser Valley Regional District Board of information pertaining to a letter the regional district will send to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau regarding the flooding risks of the Fraser River. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

BACKGROUND

At the May boarding meeting of the Fraser Valley Regional District, staff were directed to prepare a letter to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau urging his involvement in the potential losses faced by our region each year as the Freshet happens along the Fraser River.

DISCUSSION

Staff have prepared such a letter with the following key points being highlighted.

- Flood risk mitigation is the preeminent concern for our electoral areas and member municipalities of the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD).
- Climate change will increase the frequency of such events.
- Over 71 percent of dikes along the Fraser River are vulnerable to failure during a major flood – majority of those are within the FVRD.
- Such an event could cost the Lower Mainland in excess of \$30 billion in losses, including significant agricultural production impacts.

- Strategic infrastructure of national importance at risk in the FVRD:
 - Trans Mountain pipeline;
 - Enbridge gas pipeline;
 - BC Hydro transmission lines;
 - CN Rail main line;
 - CP Rail main line;
 - Trans-Canada Highway;
 - Highway 7 (Lougheed Highway); and
 - Highway 9.
- Would effectively cut-off the Lower Mainland from the rest of Canada and impact the broader national economy due to loss of access to the ports.
- FVRD also has some of the most intensively farmed land in Canada. A major freshet flood poses a significant threat to this region's agricultural economy, potentially resulting in an economic impact of over \$1.1 billion.
- Developing a federal-provincial strategy to adequately fund the infrastructure improvements to protect Canada's strategic infrastructure and the region's agricultural economy is critical.

COST

None.