



March 14, 2025

Lara Beckett, Chair  
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George  
155 George Street  
Prince George BC V2L 1P8

Reference: 329224

Dear Chair Beckett:

**Re: Quesnel-Hixon Road**

Thank you for your letter addressed to my predecessor regarding the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George's concerns about the closure of a portion of Quesnel-Hixon Road at Cottonwood Canyon. I apologize for the delay in my response.

As you likely know, the massive landslide that occurred in 2021 in the Quesnel-Hixon Road area caused severe damage to the road. After extensive planning, geotechnical investigations, and analysis of multiple options, the provincial government determined that constructing 2.6 kilometres of new road and a new bridge to go around the massive slide would cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Given these findings, the province made the difficult decision to permanently close a 400-metre section of Quesnel-Hixon Road and take the Cottonwood River Canyon Bridge out of service. The Province is also funding the Highway 97 Cottonwood Slide stabilization project and the Knickerbocker Slide mitigation project on the Blackwater Road.

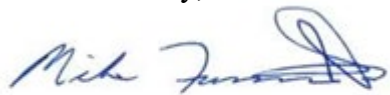
Alternate routes, such as Olson Road, continue to provide access to Highway 97 for residents north of the slide and accommodate current traffic volumes. We are currently evaluating potential safety improvements to existing roads in the area. Ministry staff also plan to engage with affected residents this spring to discuss the impact of the closure and seek their input on the proposed safety improvement. Staff will keep the community informed as planning for this work progresses.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact Greg Bruce, Director of the Cariboo Road Recovery Projects, at 250 645-9629 or [Greg.Bruce@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Greg.Bruce@gov.bc.ca). He would be pleased to assist you.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "M" and a trailing flourish.

Mike Farnworth  
Minister

Copy to:      Greg Bruce, Director  
                 Cariboo Road Recovery Program



## REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

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**Municipalities:**

McBride  
Mackenzie  
Prince George  
Valemount

**Electoral Areas:**

Chilako River-Nechako  
Crooked River-Parsnip  
Robson Valley-Canoe  
Salmon River-Lakes  
Tabor Lake-Stone Creek  
Willow River-Upper Fraser  
Woodpecker-Hixon

September 26, 2024

The Honourable Rob Flemming, MLA  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister:

**Re: Closure of the Quesnel-Hixon Road**

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is concerned about the August 13, 2024 announcement of the decision to permanently close a 400 metre section of the Quesnel-Hixon Road and decommission the Cottonwood Canyon River Bridge.

At the Regular Meeting of September 12, 2024, the Board of Directors approved the following resolution:

*"THAT the Regional District send a letter to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure expressing concerns regarding the closing of a section of the Quesnel-Hixon Road."*

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George recognizes the importance of the Quesnel-Hixon Road in our region. It serves as an alternate route between Quesnel and Prince George when Highway 97 is closed in for road maintenance and traffic accidents and fatalities. Our residents and emergency services need the route for access and egress when threatened by fires, floods and landslides. The logging, mining, agricultural and transportation industry also use the road for the economic benefit of all British Columbians.

Sincerely,

Lara Beckett, Chair

LB:he

cc: Todd Doherty, MP Cariboo-Prince George  
Coralee Oaks, MLA for Cariboo North  
City of Quesnel  
Cariboo Regional District  
Greg Bruce, Ten Roads Recovery Projects