



**Office of the Mayor**

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October 24, 2023

Chair Loyal Wooldridge  
Regional District of Central Okanagan  
1450 KLO Road  
Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4

Dear Chair Wooldridge,

**Re: Request for an Independent Public Hearing Process Regarding the Grouse Complex (McDougall Creek) Wildfire**

The Grouse Complex (McDougall Creek) Wildfire in 2023 was an extremely intense wildfire impacting five jurisdictions within the Central Okanagan Regional District (RDCO).

We are grateful to the RDCO and local government staff who worked tirelessly at the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), and to the many Emergency Support Services (ESS) volunteers who worked very long days with great compassion under strenuous conditions.

West Kelowna City Council understands that it is the intention of the RDCO to be engaged and involved with various opportunities for post-wildfire reviews, which we trust will lead to constructive and positive outcomes. Of particular concern is the challenge to effectively deliver the BC Provincial ESS program. We believe there is great merit in hearing the lived experiences from the public, from City administration and from community volunteers who served at the ESS.

At the October 10, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, Council passed the attached Resolution (C340/23) to be sent to the RDCO for consideration. We strongly encourage the RDCO to consider, as part of the review of the Grouse Complex (McDougall Creek) Wildfire, our request for an independent Public Hearing Process with a focus on Emergency Support Services and the effectiveness of the RDCO Emergency Plan.

Thank you for your consideration and response.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gord Milsom".

Gord Milsom  
Mayor

cc. West Kelowna Council  
Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer



CITY OF WEST KELOWNA  
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 10, 2023

**Councillor de Jong**

It was moved and seconded

Resolution No. C340/23

WHEREAS the McDougall Creek Wildfire is no longer considered a “wildfire of note” and is moving in to a period of recovery;

AND WHEREAS, Council recognizes the hard work of the many emergency personnel and volunteers that fought this wildfire and provided emergency services to those in need;

AND WHEREAS, the emergency personnel, volunteers, and local residents were impacted by this wildfire. The public has something to say and they deserve a time to share their stories in an open, transparent forum. Sharing of these stories is part of the healing process;

AND WHEREAS, during the McDougall Creek Wildfire there were many challenges involving Emergency Support Services, especially in West Kelowna. Emergency Support Services were coordinated through the Regional District of Central Okanagan as a local authority based Provincial emergency response program;

AND WHEREAS, there is opportunity to learn from the responses to the McDougall Creek Wildfire and how to improve the Regional District of Central Okanagan Emergency Plan, a living document that was last revised in 2020;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED **THAT** Council direct the Mayor to write the Regional District of Central Okanagan requesting an Independent Public Hearing Process regarding the McDougall Creek Wildfire with a focus on Emergency Support Services and the effectiveness of the Regional District of Central Okanagan Emergency Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I hereby certify this document to be a true copy of

City of West Kelowna Council  
Resolution No. C340/23

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023

Courne Boback

Corporate Officer  
City of West Kelowna