



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MELISSA BLAKE

August 18, 2016

The Honorable Shannon Phillips  
Minister of Environment and Parks and Minister  
Responsible for the Climate Change Office  
208 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Phillips,

I am delighted to share a wonderful progression of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's flood protection planning. As you may be aware, the Municipality has in fact been working to deliver a protection system in our river valley that would allow for us to be exempt from the regulations that were contemplated but have not yet been enacted under Bill 27, and we have been working with your department to validate the requirements.

We have shared a flood presentation with the region's residents at our last Council meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, as well as with Minister Larivee during her visit last week that recaps our situation. Even more importantly, it contemplates an alternative that has positive implications for our community's wildfire rebuilding efforts in our most historic community in the flood plain.

Attached you will find a brief on the matter of flood remediation, as well as some past correspondence on the matter. We see the *Demountable Flood Wall* as a viable protective measure that can be constructed fairly quickly, at significantly less cost, and is adaptable to changing flood hazards and legislation.

We ask for your support that would consist of:

1. Continued eligibility for the municipality and our residents for funding from the Alberta Community Resilience Program under the Disaster Recovery Program, should they suffer damage from a flood event that occurs prior to completion of the flood mitigation system, and if a flood elevation greater than the 1:100 event (or other prescribed elevation) occurs.
2. Assurance that any regulations that may be enacted under section 693.1 of the *Municipal Government Act* or section 6(c.1) of the *Emergency Management Act* will not prevent our residents from rebuilding in the floodway or flood fringe areas without the need for extraordinary flood proofing measures to individual structures, nor render them ineligible for funding under the Disaster Recovery Program, provided that the municipality implements acceptable flood mitigation measures for a 1:100 event (or other prescribed elevation) within a reasonable time.

Our combined commitment would provide certainty to those residents of Waterways whose properties are located in the flood plain or flood fringe, on their ability to re-build in place without incurring additional costs to "flood-proof" their properties, something so many long to hear.

Municipal Council looks forward to your concurrence to proceed with the demountable wall system as we hope to approve funding for the engineering studies required to assure the system's integrity in our natural environment with potential spring ice jam flooding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Blake', written in a cursive style.

Melissa Blake  
Mayor

Attachments:

- Fort McMurray Flood Mitigation Briefing Note August 18, 2016
- Municipal Affairs Letter August 21, 2013
- Municipal Affairs Letter April 16, 2014
- RMWB Letter September 26, 2014
- ACRP Grant Application September 23, 2014
- RMWB Flood Mitigation Strategy March 2014
- Environmental and Sustainable Resource Development Letter April 2, 2015
- Minister of Environmental and Sustainable Resource Development Letter April 2, 2015
- Environment and Parks Letter June 24, 2015
- RMWB Letter March 18, 2016

Cc: Council

- Brian Jean, MLA Fort McMurray – Conklin
- Tany Yao, MLA Fort McMurray – Wood Buffalo
- Marcel Ulliac, RMWB CAO