



BC's Union for Professionals

Mike Farnworth, MLA
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Via email: PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Date: February 7, 2022

To Minister Farnworth,

I am writing on behalf of the Professional Employees Association (PEA) with a request for you to meet with PEA members involved in emergency response. PEA members recently met with Parliamentary Secretary Jennifer Rice, who encouraged them to reach out to you. Included in that meeting were Assistant Deputy Ministers Alex Chandler and Mary Sue Maloughney.

The PEA represents 1,295 scientific professionals working in the BC Public Service and includes engineers, foresters, psychologists, geoscientists, veterinarians, agrologists, and pharmacists.

As a critical part of BC's emergency response, PEA members are the technical experts for the public service who step up to help during wildfires, floods, and other emergencies. Among other roles, they oversee safe reconstruction of highways and bridges, liaise with affected communities, and work with BC Hydro and telecommunications companies to get the lights back on and homes reconnected.

Unfortunately, an unfair compensation model during emergencies is making it more difficult for BC-based professionals, who have local and institutional knowledge, to do this work. This inequality is undermining BC's emergency response and impacting British Columbians in affected communities.

The PEA is committed to working with government to ensure as many of our members as possible are able to fill the critical roles in BC's emergency response. With climate change a reality, the province will continue to experience extreme weather emergencies, and the compensation model needs to be fixed so that our members are part of the plan for the next year and beyond. Attached is a briefing note of the main issues that they would like to meet about.

You can reach me at this email address or at 604-700-7187 to coordinate a meeting time. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.



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Sincerely,

Jeff Andrus on behalf of the Professional Employees Association

CC: William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca, Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca,
Sydney.White@gov.bc.ca, Alex.Chandler@gov.bc.ca, MarySue.Maloughney@gov.bc.ca