



BC's Union for Professionals

Shannon Salter

Deputy Minister to the Premier, Cabinet Secretary, and the Head of the Public Service, Office of the Premier

PO Box 9850 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9T5

via email: shannon.salter@gov.bc.ca

May 1, 2024

Dear Deputy Minister Salter,

Re: Request for Meeting with the Professional Employees Association (PEA) regarding Meritorious Service and the Province's Emergency Response

The PEA represents 1,700 government licensed professionals (GLP) who work for the Public Service, including engineers, foresters, psychologists, geoscientists, agrologists, pharmacists, lawyers and veterinarians. As a critical part of BC's emergency response, PEA members, working across 11 Ministries, are the technical experts who step up to help during wildfires, floods, and other emergencies.

Unfortunately, uncertainties, inequalities, and delays related to compensation and meritorious service during emergencies disincentivize BC-based professionals, who have local and institutional knowledge, doing this work. These barriers to effective GLP integration into the emergency response equation undermine the province's preparedness for and response to wildfires and other emergencies.

To increase the number of PEA members who volunteer, the PEA asks that the province:

1. **Provide certainty** regarding the activation and deactivation of Meritorious Service.
2. **Issue timely pay** for work performed in response to emergencies.
3. **Guarantee compensation** for PEA members who volunteer for the Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System (TEAMS), Critical Incident Stress Management teams (CISM) and other emergencies.
4. **Address rates of pay** for work performed.

The PEA is committed to working with government to ensure as many of our members as possible fill the critical roles in BC's emergency response. With climate change, the province will continue to experience extreme weather emergencies, and the meritorious service model needs to be fixed so that our members are part of the plan. This step will be crucial to delivering on the recommendations of the Expert Task Force on Emergencies, specifically related to expanding and strengthening surge capacity for response.

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We would like to meet with you to discuss strategies to increase recruitment of PEA members for emergency response. We look forward to a response to our request for a meeting with you. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Moroz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Moroz  
Labour Relations Officer

CC: [Dwayne.anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dwayne.anderson@gov.bc.ca), [mmoroz@pea.org](mailto:mmoroz@pea.org)

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