

The Honourable David Eby
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1



August 28, 2023

Dear Premier,

RE: 2023 Wildfire Response – Request for 3rd Party Review

With the unprecedented wildfires throughout our Province in 2023 that are destroying more land, homes, and infrastructure than ever before, it is important for the government of British Columbia to recognize its responsibility in analyzing each fire and their respective crew responses in order to learn and be able to improve future wildfire outcomes.

Proper analysis requires the protection and retention of all information, data and correspondence to and from BC Wildfire Service pertaining to each wildfire in the 2023 fire season.

The Government of BC is also reminded of its responsibility in undertaking a thorough, comprehensive review of the wildfire season, that this review should include a committee consisting of local elected officials and First Nations from affected areas, wildfire experts from other jurisdictions, BC Wildfire Service representatives as well as nonpartisan representation from the BC Legislature. This review needs to begin immediately and its summary, with initial recommendations, should be shared with the public before the 2024 wildfire season. Such a review/audit was done after the 2003 wildfire season in BC, and it proved to provide invaluable lessons for subsequent years.

On behalf of the District of Barriere Council, we are asking for all Regional Districts and municipalities in BC for their support of this initiative and to individually ask our Provincial Government to undertake this important review of the 2023 wildfire response.

Respectfully,

Mayor Ward Stamer
District of Barriere
mayor@barriere.ca

Cc: Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests
Chief George Lampreau, Simpcw First Nation
BC Regional Districts