



Mayor's Report

July 25, 2022

On July 18, mayors and regional district chairs in the Southern Interior of the province met with federal Minister of Public Safety Bill Blair to discuss 1) what our local priorities are related to climate change emergencies and 2) how the federal government can better assist in preparing.

On behalf of Council, I spoke to the need to ensure access to reliable wireless networks to relay consistent and regular communications to residents regardless of location. The District's VoyentAlert! System is ideal for transmitting emergency and non-emergent information, but relies on wireless networks. Many participants spoke about the need for increased and more immediate federal funding for recovery from climate change impacts but also to adapt and prepare for future impacts. I added that funding for design work would be helpful because, typically, grant applications require submissions of 'shovel-ready' projects.

On Tuesday, July 19 most of Council attended the event to mark the completion of repairs to the outlet pipe at Isintok Dam. District water utility staff, CAO Statt, MLA Ashton, the project general contractor and engineer, and Okanagan Basin Water Board executive director Anna Warwick-Sears also attended the ribbon cutting. The project, funded by the provincial and federal governments through the Investing in Canada Fund, and by the District of Summerland through capital reserves, came in under budget. Budget discussions later this year will consider allocating funds to widening the spillway at Isintok Dam. Both projects increase dam safety and contribute to ensuring appropriate water levels for humans, fish, agriculture and firefighting during drought years and times when there is increased precipitation.

Following the Isintok Dam event, Council had the opportunity to go onsite to see the work recently started on the reconstruction and watermain placement on Giant's Head Road. This project, using borrowed funds approved by Summerland residents through the Alternative Approval Process will also see extension of the existing multi-use path from Harris Road to Gartrell Road and some widening of the roadway from Giant's Head Road to Hillborn Street to further accommodate bicycle traffic.

Next Monday is a civic holiday in BC and many other jurisdictions in Canada. Historically, many people travel on this long weekend, including within the Valley. Please be extra careful on the highways and roadways this BC Day—enjoy the weather and stay safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni J. Boot