



## Central Coast Regional District Press Release

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**August 31, 2017**

**For Immediate Release**

### **Public Safety Minister meets with Nuxalk Nation and CCRD to discuss wildfire response**

*Bella Coola, BC*

Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth, Deputy Minister Bob Farnworth and North Coast MLA Jennifer Rice, Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness, met with local officials from the Nuxalk Nation and the CCRD on August 14 to discuss the joint response to the wildfire situation affecting the Valley.

“It was a very productive discussion,” said Rice. “We met jointly with the Regional District and the Nuxalk First Nation who were gracious enough to host us for discussion. The collaboration between the CCRD and Nuxalk First Nation demonstrates strong leadership of working together to help people when crises hits.”

The wildfire situation on the plateau has greatly impacted the Valley in terms of transportation of essential goods and services, resident and tourist travel, and general well-being.

“I appreciated the time our provincial officials took to come to our valley, and for recognizing that we have been significantly impacted during this time of provincial emergency,” said CCRD Chair Alison Sayers. “I was also happy the discussion turned to the feasibility of important emergency mitigation ideas that could better protect the Bella Coola Airport and our communities from flooding.”

The community worked together to ensure safe passage of travelers along Highway 20 and hosted both an Emergency Operations Centre and an Emergency Support Services Centre to assist those directly affected.

The CCRD and the Nuxalk Nation also held a joint training session on Emergency Operations Centre management on August 12 at the Nuxalk Administration building.

The situation has highlighted the benefits of a joint response to emergency management, and the CCRD and the Nuxalk Nation continue to share resources, personnel, and expertise as the effects of the wildfires continue to impact the Valley.

“It’s good to see the CCRD and the Nation working together on emergency response,” said Chief Councillor Wally Webber.

“It’s important for our communities to work together, especially during times of emergency,” said Sayers.

For updates visit the CCRD website at [www.ccrd-bc.ca](http://www.ccrd-bc.ca)