Laurie Throness
MLA, Chilliwack-Kent

Province of
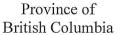British Columbia

February 5, 2020

Hon. Claire Trevena
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 2L8

Dear Minister:

As you well know, Hemlock Valley in my riding suffered a real blow last weekend when 1.5 kilometers of Hemlock Valley Road were washed away by floods combined with gale-force winds, stranding five hundred people at the top of the mountain. I want to compliment you, your staff and contractors for reopening escorted access to Hemlock Valley in just three days, which to my mind was a real feat of engineering.

This local disaster made it abundantly clear that Hemlock Valley Road is inadequate and unsafe. It is an old logging road which was never properly designed. Grades are too steep, the road's substructure is not firm enough to handle the traffic it currently bears, let alone increasing traffic volumes, and it is only partially paved.

On November 15, 2018 your staff responded (see attached) to my earlier request to upgrade this road by pledging to pave the remaining 4.5 kilometers of the road in partnership with the Berezan Group, owners of Sasquatch Mountain Resort. Recent events have made it clear that more substantial work is necessary; work that would be beyond the reach of a single company. In any case, the Ministry is responsible to maintain all provincial roads.

I understand that once emergency repairs are complete and the road is functional again, a needs assessment will be done and decisions made about how to move forward. I will be representing

my constituents in their strong desire to see this road restructured and paved, not only for the benefit of current residents and tourists, but for the future benefit of the thousands who will enjoy the much-expanded, 6,000 hectare recreational area for decades to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter; I look forward to working together with you to meet the needs of my constituents.

Best wishes,

Laurie Throness

c: Constituents