

Fix the Bamfield Road support letters

Dear Minister Fraser:

I am writing to you today in the hope that you will pass this message on to the Cabinet and Treasury Board. Our family is a property owner in Bamfield since 2004 and as such we travel the road on a regular basis. We strongly encourage the Cabinet to make the long overdue decision to upgrade the road as soon as possible in order to improve the lives and safety of residents and visitors to the area. As you, the Premier and your Cabinet members are no doubt aware, the current road conditions make for perilous travel in all seasons of the year. Combined with poor cell coverage it is easy for problems to become very serious quite quickly.

I would like to relate just one such event which my family experienced on the road a few years back. While travelling from Bamfield back to Port Alberni our truck incurred not one but two flat tires within a 10 km span due to sharp rocks that had been dug up by the road graders. My wife and I, our two young sons and our pets were stranded on the road without cell service for nearly two hours before a forestry company truck stopped and radioed their dispatch to send us a tow truck. We waited a further 2.5 hours for the tow truck to arrive on a day when temperatures reached nearly 30 degrees C. This incident obviously cost us several hundred dollars in repairs and services and could have been much worse had there not been others on the road who were willing to help. As a side note I just want to mention that the most helpful people to us that day were a young pregnant couple from Anacla who came along just before the tow truck arrived and offered us their spare tire so we could get going to town for repairs. This young couple provided rides to Port for my wife and children as we could not all fit into the tow truck cab.

Minister, we are aware that The Huu-ay-aht First Nations has put forward a plan to chip seal the road and make other safety improvements. These improvements are long overdue, and they need to become a top priority for your government. We do not need any more loss of life due to road conditions which can be solved. We know there is wide support for getting this done so let's not delay any more. September will mark the anniversary of the latest tragedy on our road. Let's not let that time pass without a commitment to fix the road as quickly as is humanly possible.

Thank You

Frank and Jeanne Novak
Bamfield, BC.

Good morning Mr. Fraser,

My name is Jon Paetkau, I am a homeowner and a retired business owner of a fishing charter company in Bamfield. As you know Bamfield is an incredible town with immense potential for sustainable population and economic growth. It's the last west coast town on the South Island without a safe road to drive back and forth. A road that has and always will be a severe detriment to the town unless something is fixed.

Now more than ever British Columbians are travelling and exploring our own province, spending BC dollars on BC business, and supporting BC families. It's time now to support small BC towns, and paving the road will do such things.

Thank you kindly,
Jon Paetkau