

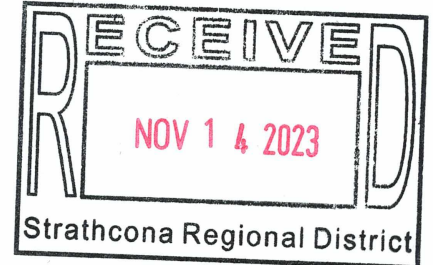


Office of the Mayor

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November 1, 2023

Chair Mark Baker
Strathcona Regional District
990 Cedar Street
Campbell River, BC V9W 7Z8



Dear Chair Baker,

Re: Thank you from West Kelowna

With the most immediate McDougall Creek Wildfire recovery efforts almost over, I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to you and the Oyster River Fire Rescue for all your incredible support during the wildfire.

This was by far the most unprecedented and devastating wildfire in the history of West Kelowna. We cannot thank you enough for sending such outstanding firefighters who put their lives on the line each and every day to help our community. How could we ever truly repay your Fire Chiefs and the army of amazing men and women who helped us continues to go through my mind. There simply are no words of thanks that run deep enough to show our gratitude. But please know that we are here for you should a wildfire crisis happen in your community. There is no doubt that these are unprecedented times and we are stronger together.

This traumatic time for so many who lost their homes includes firefighters who also lost their home. We are devastated for their loss and in awe of their resilience during such a stressful time. Our hearts go out to them and their family as they also recover from these unprecedented wildfires.

I am also grateful for all the calls, emails and messages of support along the way. Our entire fire-rescue staff send along their deep gratitude as well. The next generation of firefighters who learn from example surely benefit from your outstanding personnel who demonstrated leadership, partnership and firefighting excellence in our community.

On behalf of our Council and the entire West Kelowna community, we are so deeply thankful for your support during a remarkably difficult time for so many.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gord Milsom".

Gord Milsom
Mayor

cc. West Kelowna Council