



Elphinstone Community Association

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General Meeting November 19, 2025 – 7 PM Frank West Hall

Executive	Rod Moorcroft – President	Brian Thicke – First Vice President
	David Weintraub – Webmaster & Second VP	McKiernan - Secretary
	Jonathan Weintraub - Membership	Trish Wray - Treasurer
	Tamara Hedden – PAC & Roads	Michael Maser - Director
Absent		
Members	Estimated at general meeting	xx

1. Call to Order	Call to order at 7:xx	Action by
2. Agenda	Adopt	
3. Director's report	1 General only	Donna
4. Guest Speaker	1 No speaker again this month as we had another request for help. However, just before putting the agenda out the individual emailed to say they can not make the meeting. 2 In lieu of a guest speaker it was suggested we put the three topics before the social break for discussion during the break. 3 Membership drive 4 Ideas of guest speakers 5 BCTS and Chaster House update. 6 Roberts Creek letter. - See below	Micheal All Brian & Jonathan
	Social break – general only	
5. Adoption of previous minutes	1	
6. Correspondence	1	



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7. Reports		
1. President	1	Rod
2. Vice Pres.	1	
3. Treasurer	1	Trish
4. Secretary	1	Lucie
5. Membership	1	Jonathan
6. PAC	1 General only unless otherwise necessary.	Tamara
7. APC	1 We no longer have a reporting member for APC and I would like to remove this line from our agenda	
8. Directors at Large		
Comm Reports		
Chaster House / Park Standing Comm.	1	Brian
Website Standing Comm.	1	David
Socials Standing Comm.	1 January social Sunday January 18, 2026 Frank West 4 – 7.	Clint
Trails Standing Comm.	1	Brian
Area E Roads Standing Comm.	1	Tamara
Neighbourhood Associations	1	
8. Old Business	1 TA 0519 update 2 Grant-in-aid update	
9. New Business	1 All members are asked to make suggestions for guest speakers. 2 Membership drive	Membership Micheal
10. Next meeting	1 December – no meeting	



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	2 January ?? Winter social TBD 3 February 11, 2026 Board Meeting via zoom 7:00pm. 4 February 18, 2025 General Meeting Frank West Hall 7 PM	
11. Adjournment	1	

Committee Reports

The following is a draft letter from Roberts Creek to the Ministry – they are seeking ECA as a co-signer:

The Honourable Kelley Greene, MLA
Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
Block A, 200-2261 Keating Cross Road
[Saanichton, BC V8M 2A5](#)

Subject: Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Risk: Forestry Operations in Sunshine Coast Drinking Water Watersheds

Dear Minister Greene,

We write to bring to your ministry's attention critical emergency management and climate readiness concerns arising from forestry operations in drinking water watersheds on the Sunshine Coast. These concerns fall directly within your mandate for public safety, emergency preparedness, and climate adaptation planning.

Immediate Water and Food Security Emergency

Compounding Risks: Interconnected Aquifer System Under Threat

Recent and planned BCTS cut blocks (including TA0519, TA0520 and A94817) are on Mt. Elphinstone's mid-slopes—the crucial recharge area for Aquifer 560 which serves the Town of Gibsons and surrounding Sunshine Coast Regional District (Elphinstone, Roberts Creek), and for Aquifer 555, where brown water in private wells has recently been reported. Both aquifers share the Mt. Elphinstone mountain block recharge



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system and supply hundreds of private drinking water wells. Logging threatens the entire interconnected regional water supply for thousands of residents.

The SCRD Board submitted official comments to BC Timber Sales expressing non-support for logging blocks in groundwater recharge areas due to risks to safe, clean drinking water.

Regional Food Security: The Sunshine Coast is 98% food ferry-dependent with aging, strike-vulnerable ferry infrastructure as the sole supply route. The Sunshine Coast Farmers Institute is assessing "climate change-related drought" impacts on local agriculture, emphasizing "urgency in creating long-term policies." Watershed degradation threatens both drinking water and agricultural water—a compound emergency risk for an isolated community. Salmon and wild mushroom food production is also threatened by watershed damage.

Emergency Management Risks: Documented Pattern

Compounding Issues:

Post-Logging Catastrophic Infrastructure Failures:

2021 Atmospheric River Damage:

- Stephens Creek (at Lower Road)
- Flume Creek (at Beach Avenue)
- Gough Creek and Clack Creek (at Day Road)
- Whittaker/Smales Creek: Catastrophic slope failure following logging required evacuations and costly MOTI repairs

Ongoing Failures:

- Persistent emergency access vulnerabilities at Flume and Stephens Creeks

Multi-Year Repair Timelines:

- 2021 damage required culvert replacements continuing through 2024-2025
- Hydrology reports specify culverts must be redesigned "to accommodate future storm events and climate change"
- Flume Road and culvert repair budget: \$1.9 million



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Stormwater Management Failure Compounding Risks:

- SCRD Board has identified inadequate stormwater management as a critical infrastructure concern
- Post-development stormwater systems designed for historical rainfall patterns failing under current climate conditions
- Poor stormwater management upstream concentrates flows into natural watercourses, exceeding their capacity and causing downstream erosion, culvert washouts, and emergency infrastructure failures
- The 2021 atmospheric river infrastructure failures resulted from combined post-development stormwater inadequacy and post-logging watershed degradation overwhelming stream capacity
- Provincial housing mandates require increased development while stormwater infrastructure already failing under current loads—creating compound emergency management risks

Landslides:

- December 2020 Chapman Creek:** Created "ongoing risk" to water supply for 10,000 properties, requiring Emergency Operations Centre activation
- November 2021 Burnett Creek:** 2,800 square meters of debris moved during atmospheric river; provincial report indicated logging "may have been the tipping point"

Post-Logging Wildfire Risks:

- 2023 fires burned near Chapman Lake (primary drinking water source)
- 200+ slash piles near Egmont remain unmanaged fire hazards

Post-Logging Windthrow Compounding Power Infrastructure Failures: Clearcut logging increases windthrow (tree blow-down) by up to 216% at exposed edges (BC Ministry of Forests research), with most failures occurring in the first three years after cutting. Multi-year drought has weakened vegetation province-wide, making trees more susceptible. During 2024 windstorms, fallen trees caused extensive power outages and Highway 101 closures requiring full days to clear debris before restoration could begin.

Fire Suppression Capacity Degraded:



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- Fire Flow deficits reported in SCRD's 2025 Fire Flow Action Plan Emergency operations centers activated multiple times in single year

Infrastructure System Stress:

- Single highway (Highway 101) repeatedly blocked by debris
- 98% food supply via ferries repeatedly cancelled during storm events
- Province-mandated housing growth compounding emergency management risk

Climate Threshold Events Already Crossed

SCRD's 2024 Climate Action Plan states: *"Seven (and almost eight) of the last 12 summers had less rain than worst-case scenarios predict for 2050. Threshold events may have already been crossed where non-linear changes are to be expected."*

We're experiencing 2050 worst-case conditions now.

2024 Event Clustering:

- January: Atmospheric river (300mm rain, flood watches)
- October: Category 4 atmospheric river (4 BC deaths, \$110M insured damage)
- November 4: Windstorm (Emergency Operations Centre activated)
- November 19: Bomb cyclone (272,000 power outages, hurricane-force winds)
- December 14: Major windstorm (less than one month after bomb cyclone)

BC Hydro reported 2024 as having a "historic number of power outages" with three storms "among the top five largest in the past decade, resulting in about one million customer outages combined."

Emergency Management Implications: Multi-year repair timelines mean communities face new disasters before recovering from previous ones. Highway 101 repeatedly blocked, requiring full days to clear. 98% food supply via ferries repeatedly cancelled. Infrastructure designed for historical climate patterns failing under current conditions.

Unfunded Liability: Costs Exceed Revenue

Provincial resource approvals create **unfunded liability for taxpayers** by externalizing environmental risk onto public infrastructure and emergency services. Repair costs often exceed timber revenue—a negative



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ROI. This contrasts with POLIS Project findings: **\$1 spent on watershed protection yields \$7-10 in disaster savings.**

Watershed protection provides double ROI: prevents disaster costs (fire, flood, landslides) while preserving economic value (tourism, property values, wild food sources, climate mitigation). Mycorrhizal fungal networks function as natural water banks and carbon stores. Logging releases stored CO₂ while permanently eliminating carbon sequestration capacity—destroying both disaster prevention and climate mitigation infrastructure.

Federal Regulatory Trigger

Roberts Creek supports the last wholly wild salmon run on the southern Sunshine Coast—genetically unique populations that cannot be replaced by hatchery fish. Water temperatures regularly exceed 18°C in August (the heat stress threshold for salmon mortality and ecosystem health). A community monitoring group is filing a Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction of Fish Habitat (HADD) Request for Review with DFO, citing serious concerns about harm to this critical ecosystem.

Cross-Portfolio Risk Assessment Required

Provincial resource approvals do not assess emergency management or climate readiness implications for downstream communities. This gap is compounded when housing mandates require growth in water-stressed areas with limited infrastructure capacity. Parksville's recent UBCM resolution warns against "overloading systems and encouraging growth in areas increasingly vulnerable to wildfires, floods, droughts." This describes the Sunshine Coast exactly: mandated housing growth during documented water stress (brown water, three consecutive Stage 4 droughts) while provincial decisions degrade aquifer recharge zones and the Sechelt Landfill rapidly approaches capacity (SCRD Solid Waste Report, October 2025)—creating compound infrastructure vulnerabilities when disaster debris management capacity is most needed.

Your ministry has both the mandate and authority to require integrated risk assessment when multiple provincial decisions create compounding emergency vulnerabilities.

Request for Action

We respectfully request that your Ministry:

1. Conduct a formal cross-ministry emergency management risk assessment of provincial resource approvals in Sunshine Coast drinking water watersheds



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2. Require Ministry of Forests documentation demonstrating how approvals account for emergency management implications and climate readiness in communities experiencing threshold conditions
3. Include watershed protection as critical infrastructure in provincial climate readiness metrics and emergency preparedness planning
4. Report findings to Cabinet on whether current processes adequately protect public safety in climate-vulnerable communities

We welcome the opportunity to brief your staff and can provide emergency cost documentation, climate threshold evidence, water quality failure data, and economic analysis.

Your leadership in ensuring integrated risk assessment across government portfolios would be invaluable to protecting public safety and advancing climate readiness on the Sunshine Coast.

Respectfully,

Susan Davidson

President

Xwésam Roberts Creek Community Association

Supported by: Roberts Creek Official Community Plan Committee | Elphinstone Logging Focus | [Area E Community Association] | [Area F Community Association] | Sunshine Coast Farmers Institute | Roberts Creek Forest and Water Committee | Roberts Creek Streamkeepers Society

Representing governance, agricultural/food security, technical expertise, and environmental monitoring capacities across Electoral Areas E, F, and the broader Sunshine Coast Regional District.

cc: Premier David Eby | Hon. Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship | Hon. Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests | SCRD Board of Directors

Jonathan Weintraub

(m) 571-258-9187