

August 6, 2014

Fraser Basin Council Statement

Mount Polley Mine Tailings Dam Failure

The Fraser Basin Council directors and staff are deeply saddened by news of the Mount Polley Mine tailings dam failure and subsequent downstream impacts.

While the facts and data are still coming in, it is clear that this is a serious incident and that adverse impacts to Likely and the surrounding area are undeniable.

Our hearts go out to all community members now struggling to come to terms with this event and its aftermath. We are also extremely concerned about the impacts on the downstream ecosystem, including the estimated 1.5 million sockeye salmon headed for Quesnel Lake.

We will be watching this issue closely in the coming days and weeks. FBC staff will remain in close contact with the Cariboo Regional District, Xat'sūll (Soda Creek) First Nation, Williams Lake First Nation and the community of Likely to offer our support wherever we can. We welcome communities to contact Maureen LeBourdais at FBC's Cariboo-Chilcotin Regional office: E: mlebourdais@fraserbasin.bc.ca | T: 250 392-1400.

For current information on the situation, residents are reminded to contact the Cariboo Regional District Emergency Operations Centre:

Website: www.cariboord.bc.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CRDEmergencyOperations

Telephone: 1-800-665-1636

Sincerely,

Colin Hansen
Chair, Fraser Basin Council

Jim Vanderwal
Acting Executive Director, Fraser Basin Council