



Office of the Mayor

2760 Cameron Road, West Kelowna, British Columbia V1Z 2T6
Tel (778) 797.2210 Fax (778) 797.1001
mayorandcouncil@westkelownacity.ca

RECEIVED
Regional District

November 1, 2023

NOV 08 2023

101 Martin Street
Penticton BC V2A 5J9

Chair Mark Pendergraft
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
101 Martin Street
Penticton, BC V2A 5J9

Dear Chair Pendergraft,

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 Erris Volunteer Fire Association 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