

From: Corey Borne <cbkf@telus.net>

Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 8:19 PM

To: FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca <FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Mayor and Council <MayorandCouncil@districtofmackenzie.ca>; ryan.bichon@gov.bc.ca <ryan.bichon@gov.bc.ca>; jesse.wright@leg.bc.ca <jesse.wright@leg.bc.ca>

Subject: Bridge closure north of Mackenzie

Hello Bruce Ralston

My name is Corey Borne and my wife and I are long time residents of Mackenzie. We spend most of our free time outdoors and like a lot of adventurers, we have our favorite spots. One of those spots we like to frequent is Finlay Bay, 94kms north of Mackenzie on the east side of Williston Lake. However, our access is now being blocked due to a bridge closure at 41km, referred to as the Six Mile Bay bridge. Mackenzie Natural Resource District has deemed it unsafe due to a minor washout. They have dug out a deep trench and used concrete blocks to limit access to Finlay Bay. The amount of work to limit access across the bridge could have been used to fix it. I have stopped into Mackenzie Natural Resource District office and spoke with the receptionist who encouraged me to email the engineer, which I have, but still have not heard back since I emailed him a month ago. In my opinion, the approach to the bridge could be repaired and the bridge de rated to 30,000 lbs to get a truck/camper/boat unit across safely. There is no need to have it certified to support a loaded logging truck as logging no longer takes place up there. I would also like to mention that there is deeded property at Finlay Bay and 3 residents of Mackenzie can no longer get there unless they take an ATV for the remaining 54kms or travel by boat. This is not a practical way to gain access to their property. As a person who sat on the Caribou Advisory Committee for snowmobiling, I am aware that there are forces at play to limit access to the back country. The receptionist mentioned that they are not going to repair the bridge. Can you imagine living on Vancouver Island and not having access to the ocean? This is just another blow to Mackenzie. There is very little here for industry and work, and without access to the backcountry, there is very little future left for Mackenzie. It would be appreciated by the citizens of Mackenzie if you could look into the matter as the Mackenzie Natural Resource District seems to be playing the role of gatekeeper. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Concerned resident of Mackenzie,

Corey Borne