



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Constituency Office:
102- 3731 Old Okanagan Hwy
West Kelowna BC V4T 0G7
Phone: 250-768-8426
Fax: 250-768-8436

Legislative Office:
Room 201 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8W 1X4
Email: Macklin.McCall.MLA@leg.bc.ca



Macklin McCall
MLA West Kelowna-Peachland

Via Email

March 10, 2026

Hon. David Eby, K.C.
Premier of British Columbia
Office of the Premier
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Eby,

Re: Supporting Lake Okanagan Resort – Urgent Provincial Action Required

Further to my letter of August 21, 2025, I am writing to request urgent provincial action to remove a serious barrier that continues to stall wildfire recovery for residents in the Central Okanagan, specifically those at Lake Okanagan Resort (LOR), who remain unable to rebuild more than two years after the 2023 McDougall Creek wildfire.

At your press conference in West Kelowna on August 22, 2023, you stated, *“Lots of people have lost everything and we’re going to be there to support them.”* Today, those same residents are still without the most basic prerequisite for recovery: access to potable water.

Homeowners at LOR, one of the hardest-hit sites in the McDougall Creek wildfire, cannot obtain building permits, cannot rebuild, and cannot return home because utilities remain non-functional. Public reporting confirms that potable water, wastewater systems, and electrical distribution have not been restored. This inaction by the private owner has stranded approximately 150 units and the families behind them.

.../2



A summary of the situation:

- LOR's water system depended on a well located on privately owned land.
- The owner has not restored, provided access to, or made regulatory applications for essential utilities.
- Homeowners and strata are legally blocked from reconstruction without potable water and wastewater services approved by Interior Health Authority.
- This has stalled recovery, displaced workers, and delayed the reopening of an important tourism and employment centre in the Central Okanagan.

Two years after the wildfire, residents are effectively trapped, unable to move forward with insurance, permitting, or rebuilding through no fault of their own.

The *Emergency Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) (SBC 2023, c. 37) gives the Province clear authority to resolve this. Under Part 5, following a declared provincial recovery period under section 62, the Province may exercise recovery powers (sections 87–89) to:

- Direct owners to restore essential private infrastructure;
- Require cooperation and information-sharing;
- Authorize the Province to undertake the work if the owner fails to do so;
- Recover costs or impose administrative penalties.

These powers were designed precisely for situations like this, where essential services remain down and recovery is stalled.

Response-phase powers under s. 76 (property access during a state of emergency) are only applicable during an active provincial emergency. However, the restoration of utilities for rebuilding is squarely within recovery-phase authority under ss. 87–89.

Requested Provincial Actions

1. Declare a provincial recovery period for the McDougall Creek wildfire impact area (s. 62).
2. Issue a Recovery Order-in-Council under s. 89 that:
 - Directs the LOR owner to restore potable water, wastewater, and electrical distribution to minimum standards required for safe re-occupancy and reconstruction, with a fixed schedule and compliance requirements.
 - Mandates cooperation with the RDCO, Interior Health, and BC Hydro.



- Authorizes the Province to complete the work if the owner fails to comply, with cost recovery and penalties under Part 8.
- Establishes a one-window approvals cell (EMCR / Interior Health / RDCO / BC Hydro) with time-limited milestones to coordinate regulatory processes.

Why This Action Is Needed Now

- Public health and safety: Lack of potable water and wastewater infrastructure prevents safe rebuilding and occupancy; Interior Health approvals cannot proceed without system restoration.
- Economic recovery: The tourism corridor between West Kelowna and Vernon cannot fully recover while LOR remains frozen in the aftermath of 2023.
- Community well-being: Families remain displaced, trades are sidelined, and local businesses lose revenue, almost three years after a disaster that government committed to help them recover from.

Premier, you personally assured West Kelowna residents that this government would support those who suffered losses in the McDougall Creek wildfire. Enabling the restoration of potable water at Lake Okanagan Resort is the single gatekeeping action that will allow these residents to honour their insurance timelines, secure permits, rebuild homes, and return to their community.

The EDMA provides the tools, the authority, and the mechanism to act. I respectfully request a meeting with you and the Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness at your earliest convenience to discuss the required implementation steps.

Sincerely,

Macklin McCall, MLA
West Kelowna-Peachland
Conservative Caucus of British Columbia
Critic for Public Safety and Solicitor General

cc: Hon. Kelly Greene, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
Sheldon Clare, Critic for Emergency Management
Hon. Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Linda Hepner, Critic for Housing
Hon. Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Donegal Wilson, Critic for Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Heather Ormiston, Lake Okanagan Resort Resident Spokesperson