
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Community and Rural Development

PROVINCE SUPPORTS COMMUNITIES IN FIGHT AGAINST BEETLE

KAMLOOPS – The Province is providing the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition with \$450,000 to begin implementation of its strategy to meet the challenges posed by the mountain pine beetle epidemic, announced Donna Barnett, Parliamentary Secretary for Pine Beetle Community Recovery to the Minister of Community and Rural Development.

“Our government is pleased to continue to support the strong regional, local government and First Nations partnership that the Southern Interior Beetle Action Coalition (SIBAC) has built in the southern interior,” said Barnett. “We look forward to continuing to work in partnership in implementing actions that help address concerns about this epidemic.”

The future role and focus of the beetle action coalitions, including the SIBAC, is to provide oversight and leadership in implementation of the recommendations of various mountain pine beetle mitigation plans.

“This funding is in addition to \$1.6 million allocated to SIBAC up to the end of September of this year,” said Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development. “The broad membership of SIBAC provides a strong base for addressing mountain pine beetle concerns.”

The SIBAC is one of three regional beetle action coalitions, in addition to the Omineca Beetle Action coalition and the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition.

“We are very pleased that government has responded so quickly to the submission of our report,” said SIBAC Chair Rhona Martin. “As a board, we are looking forward to continuing to develop partnerships and projects that help our communities respond to the mountain pine beetle epidemic.”

Encouraging immediate and long-term economic sustainability for communities is part of the provincial Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan. For more information on the Mountain Pine Beetle Response, visit www.cd.gov.bc.ca/pine_beetle_epidemic_response/index.htm.

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