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March 5, 2026

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

**Honourable Kelly Greene**  
Minister of Emergency Management and  
Climate Readiness  
PO Box 9010 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
[EMCR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EMCR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Honourable Randene Neill**  
Minister of Water, Land and Resource  
Stewardship  
PO Box 9012 Stn Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8M 9L6  
[WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Greene and Minister Neill,

**RE: Place Glacier Outburst Response Funding**

On behalf of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Board, I write to you with great urgency concerning an immediate need for provincial emergency response funds to protect the public from hazards emanating from Place Glacier. Without diminishing the ongoing collaboration between staff at the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and staff at the SLRD, the complexity and time-sensitivity of this current situation necessitates that I contact you directly.

The SLRD understands that EMCR has brought forward a Decision Note to their Assistant Deputy Minister about provincial funding for Place Glacier hazard response. The SLRD also understands that staff from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship have been advising EMCR in their role as land manager for Place Glacier and its downstream water channels. This letter serves to underscore the importance of approving provincial emergency response funds to alleviate disaster impacts from this ongoing emergency.

As you know, in 2024 and 2025, an ice-marginal lake on Place Glacier experienced a rapid outburst of water, causing a debris flood through residential properties near Poole Creek and Gates Lake in the SLRD's Electoral Area C. In 2024, EMCR provided emergency response funds to restore water channels back to their normal alignment and drain flood waters. During the 2025 outburst, these water channels were re-damaged and are now vulnerable to future glacial outbursts and precipitation-driven flood events. In both 2024 and 2025, properties were placed on Evacuation Alert given the increased potential for precipitation-driven flooding to impact residential structures due to these damaged water channels.

In 2025, EMCR funded a *Place Glacier Hazard Assessment Report* to better understand the hazard's long-term public safety risks. This study found that ice-marginal lake outbursts from Place Glacier are likely to recur on an annual basis until the glacier recedes, thus posing a persistent hazard to residential structures at valley bottom. The magnitude of these annual outbursts may be equivalent to or greater than 1 in a 200-year return period flood. Without

intervention, they will continue to pose an ongoing risk to public safety, especially when outburst flooding is followed by heavy precipitation.

EMCR has also funded a *Conceptual Design Options Summary* that includes proposals to reduce disaster risk associated with Place Glacier hazards. In this summary, experts recommend repairing the damaged water channel and proactively addressing the outburst hazard. Both measures are necessary to protect public safety. Proactively addressing the outburst hazard also has the potential to significantly reduce channel repair costs in the future.

This situation constitutes an ongoing emergency event that presents an imminent risk to public safety. We have an extremely high level of confidence that there will be disaster impacts in the coming months. The severity, the urgency and the certainty of the Place Glacier hazard require that emergency response action be taken immediately. The SLRD believes that funding for the recommendations in the *Conceptual Design Options Summary* should be provided through EMCR as an emergency response measure.

Please know that alternative funding options have been explored but are not feasible given the time-sensitivity involved. The next outburst of Place Glacier is expected in the summer of 2026, so there are no disaster mitigation grants that can be approved with enough time for the necessary work to be completed. This short timeline also precludes the establishment of an SLRD service area that would be funded by the impacted community, even if it were considered appropriate to ask the community to fund the measures required to respond to debris floods emanating from provincially managed land.

In addition, Lil'wat Nation has communicated its strong desire to see the hazards associated with Place Glacier addressed in a timely manner to protect public safety and the health of the Birkenhead River salmon stocks, which are integral to their food, social, and ceremonial practices. The salmon population relies heavily on the contributions of Place Creek and Poole Creek to maintain cool water temperatures and adequate river flows within the Birkenhead River system. The SLRD shares these concerns.

The consequences of inaction include risks to life safety for people in the floodway, the year-on-year distress caused to community members subject to repeated Evacuation Alerts and Orders, and the potential for significant property damage. Community members and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans have also expressed concern about ecological impacts to important salmon habitat. The consequences of repeated Place Glacier outbursts are comparable to those of flood and wildfire events, and the rationale for funding response activities is consistent across all of these hazards.

Based on these factors, SLRD respectfully requests that EMCR fund the emergency response measures that are proposed by experts in the *Conceptual Design Options Summary*. The SLRD Board would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this critical and time-sensitive matter of public safety. Please contact SLRD Chief Administrative Officer Heather Paul at [hpaul@slrd.bc.ca](mailto:hpaul@slrd.bc.ca) (or 604-894-6371 ext. 231) if you would like to schedule a meeting.

The SLRD Board has directed staff to make this letter available to the community of Gates Lake and to post it on the SLRD website.

The SLRD looks forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Jen Ford  
Chair, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

CC:

Skalúlmecw Political Chief Dean Nelson, Lil'wat Nation  
Lhpatq Councillor Maxine Bruce, Lil'wat Nation  
Nteqwk Councillor Troy Bikadi, Lil'wat Nation  
Svklóy | Yámkcen Tara Smith, Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Lil'wat Nation  
Board of Directors, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District  
Heather Paul, Chief Administrative Officer, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Enclosure:

1. [Stantec. 2025. Place Glacier Hazard Assessment Report](#)
2. [Stantec. 2026. Conceptual Design Options Summary](#)