



MAYOR'S OFFICE

NOV 08 2018

November 2, 2018

Her Worship Lisa Helps
Mayor of the City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps:

Your letter of September 21, 2018, addressed to the Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, regarding the Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers (PSLV), has been referred to me.

Currently, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) is not one of the disciplines recognized under our PSLV program. The only authorized USAR program in British Columbia is in Vancouver and it falls under a federal support structure. While the Province has periodically stepped in to ensure the readiness of this team, there is considerable benefit in maintaining the overall lead of USAR at the federal level.

The City of Victoria USAR team has been supported by the Province with the provision of an annual training task number which provides liability and work safe coverage for volunteers while training.

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is working with Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada through the National USAR working group. This group is examining possible changes to the USAR program in Canada, as well as the USAR standards in use in Canada.

EMBC has been in touch with City of Victoria Emergency Management staff to explore the possibility of entering into a pilot project together that is based on the structure and approach used by USAR Task Force 1 in Vancouver.

The support that the City of Victoria provides to its PSLV groups is very much appreciated and we look forward to working with the City to explore a volunteer-based USAR pilot program.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General



pc: The Honourable Claire Trevena
The Honourable Harry Bains