



## **Village of Lytton Update for October 21, 2021**

### **Updates from Re-Entry Coordinator, Tim MacLeod**

Over the years I have taken on several assignments. As I got into this project, I soon realized I had never faced one with more complexities. One would think that preparing a site for re-entry was simple, but instead it came with challenges on several fronts that took time to work through. From the very beginning, though, I carried with me the motto I bring to every task, which is "listen, learn, and share". This of course relates to residents of Lytton, after all, connecting with Lyttonites is why we are here

More than connecting with residents, it also means connecting with the many organizations, groups and people who were also trying to move things forward in a positive way. That method of collaboration paid off, and with the joint efforts of many, things are taking a positive turn.

This week I would like to share some positive wins. While I have been working in the Village, there has been a team of people working in the background, and still are. After many discussions, they have resolved some of the immediate issues we faced, and are pleased to share progress with you today. I wanted to share a few of the issues that caused the appearance of visual inactivity and how their efforts resolved these issues.

The fact that the entire Village was destroyed, other than a few homes, meant all properties had to be cleaned up. For the insured properties, individual assessments were completed and the projects tendered to find the appropriate contractor who could clean up those sites, which will be funded by their insurer. Discussions are now underway with the Village and a number of key partners to ensure a coordinated approach to debris removal within the Village of Lytton.

I will continue in my role as Re-entry Coordinator on behalf of the Village and continue to work collaboratively with all parties to ensure debris removal planning can continue to move forward. It's important to clean up the village in a coordinated manner as sites with unremoved debris may re-contaminate previously cleaned sites and slow the process. In preparation for the anticipated activities, Calder Graham will be joining me to assist the Village. Calder will be a great addition to ensure we are proceeding efficiently, quickly, and safely.

The next challenge was that for the contractors to proceed, they require a demolition permit and inspection of compliance after completion. The Village has now determined an appropriate process to approve permits, confirm the process was done appropriately and then inspect and document successful completion to ensure the properties are left in a clean, safe condition to be re-build ready. We anticipate that permits will be accepted by the Village as early as next week. Once the permits have been reviewed to show the legal ownership and the owner's approval (permission), the cleanup of properties can begin.

I have listed the activities related to re-entry below in bullet points for easy reference. However, I know this leaves many unanswered questions on the broader recovery activities, therefore, I

would like to briefly touch on a few questions many residents have inquired about. A short-term recovery plan will be made available for public viewing starting early next week, with a public council session scheduled to discuss the contents on Wednesday. This plan outlines the next steps we can take together as a Village in our collective recovery. Our focus in the plan is the short term and immediate next steps. Once we are confident that people are supported in the interim, we will focus our efforts on the long-term work of rebuilding can begin.

Along with the presentation of the plan, The Village has partnered with Emergency Management BC (EMBC) to conduct a second, detailed survey of residents who were impacted by the wildfire. The purpose of the survey is to create a clear and up-to-date understanding of the unmet needs of residents, including ongoing needs for interim housing. The survey results will help the Village of Lytton and EMBC take account of your current and future needs. Survey participation is voluntary. The intention is get a fully up-to-date picture of residents' needs and greater survey participation. I encourage you to take the time to be heard (including those residents who previously filled out a temporary housing survey in August). It will be your voice that keeps Lytton Strong.

Below is a list of some of the activities to date and steps moving forward. Please contact [communication@lytton.ca](mailto:communication@lytton.ca) if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Thanks,  
Tim

## RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

- Team Rubicon completed their sifting on schedule. During a small exit ceremony, they voiced that they were grateful to be able to serve the Village of Lytton, and I think I speak for many when I say we were grateful for them.
- As I mentioned in my last update, BC Heritage Society sent up a team of volunteers, with many of them being students from UBC. The group sifted the Chinese museum and uncovered 200 items, of which there were 40 undamaged.
- The group completed sifting of the Lytton Museum and recovered 20 items, which was more than expected. These items will one day be set up in the new museum to tell Lytton's story.
- Winterizing the homes that were not destroyed has been completed.
- Equipment is working this week to remove items from the right of way, such as park benches, planters, and cement garbage cans, to clear a way for the anticipated cleanup of properties. Items will be placed in storage and are anticipated to be reset once the rebuild is completed.
- Miscellaneous debris from Village right of way, such as downed branches and trees will be removed to clear the way for contractors to cleanup the private properties.
- Monuments, such as the one near the Legion, have been protected to ensure there is no damage once cleanup of properties begins.
- Demolition permits are being finalized and will be accepted and reviewed. Approvals are being given to begin the cleanup process and dispose of debris.
- It should be made abundantly clear that there will be no works on private property without the consent and pre-approval from the property owner.
- Safety equipment, such as Emergency Transport Vehicle (ETV) will be rented in anticipation of being on site once permits have been approved.

- The entry point at the security building will be used as a first aid station, with a second one located within the excluded (fenced) area.
- A full-time first aid attendant is being hired and will be available on site to ensure the safety of multiple contractors on site.
- Surveying will be done in a staged process, beginning with setting up monuments to triangulate from and re-set property pins that were either destroyed by the fire or anticipated to be destroyed during the cleanup process. We have confirmed with the surveyors that they can do this in coordination with the cleanup and will not cause an additional delay.
- Although we had planned to remove the danger trees before site cleanup, in anticipation of the cleanup beginning, it was decided to wait and have one of the contractors remove them as opposed to mobilizing equipment specifically for that task.
- Urban Systems continues to work with Interior Health to restore the water system and complete any necessary repairs.
- Security fencing will remain in place and will be monitored on a 24-hour basis to ensure security and privacy for property owners, but also to ensure the safety of the general public until the All Hazards are removed.
- Main Street will continue to be open to general traffic and the security with privacy fencing will be kept in place. The Lytton First Nation has agreed to work in conjunction with the Village where traffic will be diverted back through the First Nation at an interval that will not impede their own works.
- Although not specifically related to re-entry, phone line will soon be set up for residents or business owners to call in with any inquiries.