



June 30, 2023

Mayor's Statement: Two-Year Anniversary of Lytton Creek Fire

Remembering the wildfire

On June 30, 2023, Lytton will mark the two-year anniversary of the devastating Lytton Creek Fire. The Village of Lytton acknowledges the profound losses experienced by community members and local business owners. We can never forget the two lives that were lost due to the wildfire, and we are immensely thankful to everyone who risked their lives on that tragic day to help Lytton.

We understand the challenges faced by Lyttonites, who are scattered across the province, away from homes, lives, and livelihoods. We know you want to return and rebuild your lives.

Hope as we begin rebuilding

We are also feeling hopeful, as Council lifted the State of Local Emergency on June 19. This milestone means that most of the remediation work is complete. Fencing surrounding the Village has been pushed back, so residents can now visit the Village and walk around. Some fencing remains in areas where there are hazards and archaeologically sensitive areas.

The Village is now shifting from recovery to rebuilding. We are actively preparing to backfill sites that are free from contamination and where no further archeological work is required. As staff continue to update our building bylaw, we encourage property owners to start applying for building permits. The Village can help with you with your plans and permits.

Gathering for a rebuilding blessing event on June 30

We are inviting community members to gather on June 30 for a rebuilding blessing ceremony in the Village. The event will consist of a walk and multi-faith blessing ceremony with local leaders and community members starting at 10:30 at the Parish Hall followed by lunch together.

This is an opportunity to bless the ground on which we will rebuild our community.

Moving forward together

We hope to remember this day going forward, not only as the anniversary of the wildfire, but also as Lytton's rebuilding anniversary. We are thankful for the significant funding and ongoing support from the Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia over the last two years. As we rebuild Lytton, we wish to strengthen our relationships with all of our neighbouring First Nations, particularly Lytton First Nation and the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council. We are more resilient together.