

Letter to Old Fort residents – Winter road conditions update – November 2022

Dear Old Fort neighbours,

Winter conditions have set in and we want to provide an update on Old Fort Road. We are also providing an update on the work we have done to date to help mitigate the construction impacts you have experienced this past year.

Since the community meeting in late July, we have removed vegetation near Gate B on Old Fort Road to improve line of sight, swept gravel from in front of Gate B and frequently applied water and dust suppression to gravel roads within the project site with an emphasis on those closest to Old Fort. We also staged work activities in the area near Old Fort to help reduce noise, dust, and visual impacts.

During the construction season, we provided temporary relocation to 28 households, paid for the exterior washing of 15 homes that homeowners had arranged by agreement and distributed car wash cards to those who requested them. The fish enhancement excavation work on the island adjacent to Old Fort (P6 island) is done. Hauling of material from the island is expected to be finished early in 2023. Reclamation has started and will continue through next year.

The Site C Project team has developed a procedure to allow residents of Old Fort and first responder vehicles to detour through Site C if there is a temporary closure of Old Fort Road. Old Fort Road is part of the public road network which the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure maintains. We have engaged an additional resource to assist in sanding and clearing the road, to ensure the road is well maintained during winter conditions.

In the unlikely event Old Fort Road is closed due to adverse winter weather, or a vehicle incident, residents of Old Fort and essential traffic will be permitted to detour through Site C between Gate A and Gate B, or vice versa. Residents who need to use the detour route can report to the Site C Security Gate (A or B). Traffic will be hosted through site by Site C Security with a pilot vehicle. For safety reasons, vehicles will need to have, at minimum, M+S (Mud and Snow) rated all-season tires and four-way flasher hazard lights operating on the vehicle. Security will ask for identification, such as a Driver's Licence, or vehicle insurance. Travel between the gates takes about 5 minutes.

BC Hydro has provided details of the alternative route to BC Ambulance Service and the local RCMP. These agencies are already aware of the potential detour scenarios and know to expect a call from BC Hydro if the road is blocked. For all traffic, we will have a portable electronic signboard to indicate the detour is in effect if the road is closed. A few Old Fort residents have already done a test drive, travelling between Gate A and Gate B.

We want to again acknowledge that the presence of our project is being felt by you and others in the area. We are committed to working to reduce construction impacts and hope we can continue to work with you in the community until Site C is complete.

Kind regards,

Site C Project team