

**INTERESTING QUOTES FROM SCRIBE NOTES TAKEN AT THE  
ALBERTA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROVINCIAL OPERATIONS CENTRE  
MAKING REFERENCE TO FLOOD-RELATED EVENTS IN HIGH RIVER, ALBERTA  
JUNE & JULY 2013 – First Draft**

Alberta Municipal Affairs FOIP Response – FOIP Request Number 2015-G-0034 – August 24, 2015

By Dennis R. Young – Airdrie, Alberta – February 13, 2016

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

1. This 755-page FOIP response of handwritten notes took a long time to go through. Unfortunately, many of the pages did not include the dates the notes were taken. If dates were on a notated page, I provided them. I did not attempt to guess on which date the Scribe notes were taken based on dates from the previous or following pages.
2. The most interesting Scribe Notes are highlighted in **Yellow**.
3. I apologize for the length of time it has taken to review this FOIP response. A heart attack intervened in the process during my review.

**NOTABLE HIGH RIVER HANDWRITTEN NOTES  
BY OPERATION CHIEF SCRIBES (FOIP Pages 0010 to 00343)**

FOIP PAGE NO. 0058 – “RCMP looking for military support, clarifying exact purpose ie; security, roadblocks, door knocks, etc.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0062 – “1 griffin in recky w/minister”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0082 – “you help knock the door to door to clarify if somebody at home”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0085 – “Prim. Min was in High River in the morning”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0086 – “Prem. was in High River”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0097 – “Number of evacuations occurred some mandatory some voluntary”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0099 – “MESA [Major Event Support Apparatus] deployed in High River to help”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00131 – “#2: security of inspectors. Sometimes ppl have moved back & one case was violent”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00132 – “R: who decided to chk houses?”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00139 – “T: High River survey of homes – priority”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00158 – “criteria used to return home the same as Calgary”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00183 – “RCMP – no update - 250 resources on the ground”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00183 – “SolGen – Sherriffs on the ground – no update.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00185 – June 29/13 “RCMP is not resourcing us. Asked for them to be in meetings”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00185 – June 29/13 – “EOC finally running as it should”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00186 – June 29/13 – “RCMP are keeping ppl out.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00192 – June 27 – “Culture: Minister looking for artists to work at recept ctrs”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00207 – July 1 – “RCMP – no problems in security. Redford to visit H. Riv EOC today”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00214 – “RCMP: 529 firearms seized”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00216 – July 1, 2013 – “StatCanada would like a Data dump of every thing we have on High River”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00256 – “Municipal oper’s are doing a good job, but almost ignored by leadership and short-staffed. – “Frustrated by ppl saying “I don’t report to you”. SOLE means you do. It’s hard to support ops.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00258 – July 5, 2013 – “Make sure the RCMP are aware of need for officers – looking for 25 officers to cover a wide area of the next 2 or so days – 25 seems a little high – Justice/SolGen taking care of it”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00260– July 6, 2013 – “Premier’s report reviewed”

- **My Comment: Might be worth filing another FOIP to get a copy of this report?**

FOIP PAGE NO. 00270– July 11, 2013 – “Brief \* Province’s SOL expires tomorrow \* Will probably move to HR SOLE”

FOIP PAGE NO. 00338– 28 June – “Conference call with Jim Cornish” Evac movements RCMP if refuse to leave – nothing. Mark Eckby wants Type 2 wrnt to High River ASAP”

- **My Comment: Might be worth filing another FOIP to get a copy of this “Type 2 Warrant”?**

**NOTABLE HIGH RIVER HANDWRITTEN NOTES**  
**BY POC DIRECTOR SCRIBES (FOIP Pages 002 to 00414)**

FOIP PAGE NO. 033 – “Military to take over assets from RCMP”

FOIP PAGE NO. 062 – “Premier doing S. Tour with Minister”

FOIP PAGE NO. 077 – “Jim Cornish + Flemming to H.R.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 079 – “H.R. EOC SITREP – GoA Comms staff experiencing frustrations – town comms staff doing Comms w/out approval of EOC Director”

FOIP PAGE NO. 079 – “People have refused to evacuate communicating everything is fine”

FOIP PAGE NO. 079 – “May want to look at plain clothed sheriff to provide discreet personal security for Comms visiting reception centre”

FOIP PAGE NO. 91 – “2. Security – Some ppl stayed, run into criminal (growop)”

FOIP PAGE NO. 098 – “Justice – Looting in High River”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0121 – “When all conditions are met we can bring you in (the people)”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0122 – “Brian Cornforth to go out and visit w/Mayor and Jim when doing rounds tomorrow”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0122 – “Jim – Draft re-entry plan ready for sign off today. w/key messages that mayor will be able to use.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0129 – “High River Report – Jim Cornish/Tiger Team”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0129 – Jim to DEM(?) – don’t want to house fare + bus far – take up option of everyone in reception to Red Deer and Olds Colleges + he is furious – will phone Mayor Neenshi tomorrow – Minister \_\_\_\_\_ attention as well – only other suggestion is the Premier move people from UofC out as it is a government facility – they may take up on it because people are really angry. People being treated horribly bad as well. – Saying not getting enough info. People inside town are vicious on Twitter because an opposition MLA is fanning the flames of why people can’t be moved back in.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0131 – “POC DIRECTOR SCRIBE HANDOVER JUNE 26, 0600”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0131 – June 26, 2013 – “John Evans for Jim Cornish – Mayor approved addendum to re-entry plan to allow entrants of specific subdivisions”

- My Comment: Who gave permission for RCMP to keep kicking in doors, entering homes, searching them and seizing private property – ALL WITHOUT WARRANTS? And why isn’t in the Scribe Notes?

FOIP PAGE NO. 0160 – “Have ready in ½ hour Prov State of Emerg. Minister Fraser. Plan needs coordinating instructions.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0161 – “Enable Minister Fraser to run the town. Steps to be taken before end of June 27/13.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0161 – “Confidential Gov’t of AB declaring Provincial State of Emergency. Indecisive leadership in preparing effective management response”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0165 – Province will be declaring a Provincial State of Emergency. The Mayor of High River obstructing movement of people from High River. So province will take over to move people out of High River. Premier briefed last night. It’s expected that the Mayor won’t want to go & will go right to the media. Shane will become your point of contact as the municipality won’t exist. When we take control we don’t lost control.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0166 – “This has never happened before Rick Fraser – Assoc Minister to (Doug Griffiths right hand) will take over. Phase 3 – Mayor can’t overturn any of our decisions.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0166 – “Once we launch the team things will go quickly. The mayor has been the roadblock.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0166 – “Get a sense of how long this would take to get extra security down there from RCMP? Gord working on this.”

- My Comment: Why did they feel extra RCMP security was needed at this point in time?

FOIP PAGE NO. 0185 – “Colin – will declare Provincial state of Emergency. – under EMA we’re resp. for all operations – Shane Schreiber will be director of ops in High River. – in effect for 14 days and can be updated.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0198 – “Transfer of Authority ‘Municipal Gov’t to Provincial’ Colin Blair is running it.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0201 – June 29, 2013 – “legal advice for High River – Authority to force evacuations – Robert Fernandez (Assoc. Min. Fraser Asst.)”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0202 - June 29, 2013 “Jim – SRD in – backstopped a serious situation – loss of staff – lineup for miles/busses/people looking for help/traffic congestion – people returning to have a look – ‘now I see why we can’t go’ –

‘worse that we thought’ – RCMP not available to escort inspection teams, risk of sending back to unsafe homes – Section 2 will be difficult with stress on resources – Positive – SRD has bailed out + working well – under strain + risk”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0207 – “Len called Adrien left message urgent call re: signing waivers High River – **need legal info before tomorrow morning**”

- **My Comment: What waivers and what legal info was needed?**

FOIP PAGE NO. 0211 – “Handover Len to Steve – Busy w/legal piece on waivers + media release update – What if they refused to sign the waivers, will they be let in.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 258 – “Ron - If Gord has S.O. from Tiger Team going to H.R.? They need a high-level exec making sure contractors are meeting our expectations.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0261 – Comms issues are ongoing – negative media – comms not a success.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0261 – “influx of ppl back in recp ctrs – ppl went back home, didn’t like it, went back to R.C.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0261 – “pet issues – not enough resources on rescued pets – again recomm’s to have Type 1 team to come in”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0261 – “July 19 estimated last day of ops.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0381 – “**50 people storming blockades** – inspectors lost RCMP escorts”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0382 – “**announce no one is being forced to leave**”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0393 – “Jim Cornish High River Update – **Reception centre is violent/hostile. – DEM is very upset** – Premier has authority to put people out of U. of C. U. of C. is a public facility & not City of Calgary. High River Mayor is combatting so much negative information – **MLA is telling public there are no issues.**”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0399 – As of June 26, 2013 – Jim Cornish – Mayor of High River felt he was pressured into making a decision & then an announcement **Mayor is furious**

FOIP PAGE NO. 0401 – June 28, 2013 07:43 hrs – “Ken Fraser, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs, Shane Schreiber, Deputy DEM, POC Director Point of Contact – Provincial State of Emergency lasts for 1 month or until objectives are achieved. \* **When will the mayor be told? When we take control we don’t want to lose control. Why are we doing what we are doing?**

FOIP PAGE NO. 0402 – “RCMP – 90 assets arrangement We require more. **Threats – Griffiths – Civil Disobedience Planned – Probes of Security Lines – OC Signed – Order in Council signed** – Public Disorder – Residents in place tomorrow – Additional RCMP – 08:36 Staff Sgt Brett White, Greg Medley – Heads up **What is credibility of the threats. SOLE What are the authorities?** Dale Galea has copy of decisions (CROPS) - **What offence has been committed – If government allows some people in & not others** Political Humanitarian – local detachment tripled to handle volume of calls. George Stevenson is 2IC in Calgary & be briefed on this.”

- **My Comment: What is the wording of this Order in Council?**

FOIP PAGE NO. 0405 – “Shelly – will you confirm with Gord that the RASS Teams for High River are coordinated out of the POC – not the High River EOC. Gord understands!”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0408 – “Thursday – AEMA GoA – transition from POC to HR EOC to Tiger Team. We are not standing up until July 19.”

FOIP PAGE NO. 0411 – “Robert Fernandez - Exact numbers on returned guns”

“Minister said get them ‘all’