



Date: 03/07/2020

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

And To: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO

Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Jul10_2020

File: 1850-01

Short Summary:

Letters of Concern from Independent Fire Departments Regarding Grant Funding

Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

Memorandum:

Letters have been received from various volunteer fire departments regarding the CRD Board's recent decision to cease funding of grants for assistance to independent volunteer fire departments. The letters are attached hereto for information of the Board as well as the letter of response from the CRD to the Hawkins Lake Volunteer Firefighters Association.

Attachments:

Letters as follows:

- 1) Hawkins Lake Volunteer Firefighters Assoc., dated June 10, 2020
- 2) Response from CRD to the Hawkins Lake Volunteer Firefighters Assoc., dated June 22, 2020
- 3) Likely and District Volunteer Fire and Rescue Society, dated June 27, 2020
- 4) McLeese Lake Volunteer Fire Department, dated June 30, 2020
- 5) Watch Lake-North Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department, dated July 2, 2020
- 6) Big Lake Volunteer Fire/Rescue, dated July 2, 2020
- 7) Tyee Lake Community Assoc., dated July 6, 2020 (Attached at late publishing)

Financial Implications:

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Policy Implications:

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Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- ☐ **Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- ☐ **Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- ☐ **Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- ☐ **Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

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CAO Comments:

We understand fully the concerns raised by the Independent Firehalls. Our Manager of Protective Services has noted the request to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to attempt to limit and/or mitigate the risk to the Regional District. This is difficult, and likely will be of limited effect. As was pointed out in our earlier discussion many of the independent fire services do not have the corporate structure to honour such an MOU. Unless there is legislative change that removes the risk to Local Government from the operation of independent fire services we feel the Board must prioritize the fiduciary responsibility we have to the entire Region.

Options:

- 1) Receipt
- 2) Receipt and other action
- 3) Defer

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO, dated July 3, 2020, and letters of concern from various volunteer fire departments regarding the CRD's recent decision to cease funding of grants for assistance to independent volunteer fire departments, be received.