



Likely and District Volunteer Fire and Rescue Society

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June 27, 2020

Margo Wagner, Chair
Cariboo Regional District
180 D North 3rd Avenue
Williams Lake, BC
V2G 2A4
Via email: mwagner@cariboard.ca and Canada Post

Dear Margo:

Re: Funding for Independent Fire Halls

The Likely and District Volunteer Fire and Rescue Society (LDVFRS) is responding to the recent decision of the Cariboo Regional District to cease grants to independent fire departments. We were extremely disappointed to hear this and strongly object to this decision.

The LDVFRS is governed by the BC Societies Act. The purposes of our Society are:

- a) to promote, acquire and operate a First Responder Service prioritized on a volunteer basis in and about the Likely Area. These services are to include a First Aid Department and a Fire Department and to include a Fire Hall
- b) to provide general safety and hazards information to the community and training First Responders and Fire Fighters.

We are an independent fire department. Our operating budget comes from annual dues, our fundraising efforts, donations, and provincial Gaming grants. Also, we apply for other grants when available for specific projects or equipment - such as the Red Cross, Union of BC Municipalities, and FireSmart BC.

We do not believe that the occasional grant or donation establishes any ongoing legal obligations between the LDVFRS and the various donors. There have been no other concerns about liability raised by any other organizations.

The categories for the Grants for Assistance as listed on the CRD website are:

1. Capital Expenditure – equipment purchase, repair, or upgrade of facilities
2. Event/Special Project – one-time special event, program, or activity.

The LDVFRS is confused on why a grant under either one of those categories would leave the regional district open to lawsuits. In our case, we have asked for a Capital Expenditure grant for a special project – a composting toilet and a shelter to house it as the LDVFRS Firehall is without running water. We have not asked for a contribution to our operating funds.

It is interesting to note some of the Grants for Assistance that were recently approved included: a snowmobile for a Ski Club, funds toward Afterburn Slot Races, a Petting Zoo, a Barrel Race and a field society for research and education. Is the CRD liable for any of the actions taken by those Societies or Clubs?

If the independent fire and rescue services did not exist, the community members in rural areas could be waiting up to 2 hours for any kind of response.

The LDVFRS requests that the CRD reconsider its decision to “cease to provide funding grants for assistance to independent volunteer fire departments”.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely:

Tyler Penner
Tyler Penner,
Chair, LDVFRS

Denis Deschenes
Denis Deschenes,
Fire Chief, LDVFRS

cc: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North
Maureen LeBourdais, Director Area F