



**Date:** 06/01/2021

**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\_Jan15\_2021

**File:** 400-50-02

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## Short Summary:

Request from Director Forseth – Proposed 2021 NCLGA Resolution regarding Financial Support for Fire Department Societies in Electoral Areas

## Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

## Memorandum:

The following request has been submitted by Director Forseth:

### ***"PURPOSE:***

*To propose to the Board submitting a 2021 NCLGA Resolution in respect of financial support from local governments for Independent Fire Department Societies in Electoral Areas, not aligned with a Regional District*

### ***BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:***

*Over the last number of years – a number of unincorporated communities in Electoral Areas, within this Regional District and many other RD's in BC, have established Societies to provide for Fire Department Services, not aligned with a Regional District, with local government financial support typically through either a RD Grant in Aide Service or annual Grants for Assistance being provided to these Societies. Due to legal liabilities to Regional Districts' in BC – Grants to Ind. Fire Department Societies have either now ceased or will be done so in fairly short order.*

*Services provided from these Societies in these Electoral Areas are critical to community protection and generally are equivalent to those provided from Regional Districts' directly. While there are provincial/federal government grants are available to support the work of these Societies – these are received on occasion and local government financial support, where possible, is welcomed for these Societies in the Electoral Areas as they are far easier to apply for than provincial/federal government grants*

*The Cariboo Regional District Board has already written to the Provincial Government, last year, asking it remove any legal liability flowing to BC Regional Districts', due to a Regional District providing a Grant to these Societies and I believe it would be appropriate to follow up the Board's letter with an NCLGA Resolution for consideration of the NCLGA Membership at the 2021 NCLGA Virtual AGM in May 2021"*

### **Attachments:**

None

### **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:**

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### **Options:**

- 1) Receipt
- 2) Receipt and request staff to draft an NCLGA Resolution
- 3) Defer

### **Recommendation:**

That the agenda item summary from Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO, dated January 6, 2021, regarding a request from Director Forseth that staff draft an NCLGA resolution to remove provincial policy/legislative impediments to local governments providing financial support to rural Independent Fire Department Societies, be received.  
*Further action at the discretion of the Board.*