



# BOARD REPORT

**TO:****Chair and Directors****File No:** 7200 01**SUBJECT:**

Establishment of a Regional Junior Firefighter Program

**DESCRIPTION:**

Report from Derek Sutherland, Team Leader, Protective Services, dated October 3, 2018. Authorization for the establishment of a regional junior firefighter program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT: the Board support, in principle, the establishment of a junior firefighter program for CSRD fire departments to engage and provide youth an opportunity to learn firefighting skills in a safe and inclusive environment.

**SHORT SUMMARY:**

The CSRD's volunteer fire departments have long been dedicated to the communities they serve. The Junior Firefighter Program will provide an opportunity for youth in the region to acquire basic firefighting skills. The program is designed to help 15 to 17 year olds learn the value of public service and build character, while stimulating an overall interest in the fire service. The program is designed to support and enhance youth's contributions to the community with an opportunity to enhance future recruiting and training opportunities.

**VOTING:**Unweighted  
CorporateLGA Part 14  
(Unweighted)Weighted  
CorporateStakeholder  
(Weighted)**BACKGROUND:**

The Junior Firefighter Program is a new program proposed for the CSRD's 13 fire departments. The program has been offered with success in other jurisdictions. The Town of Golden had a program in the past and the District of Sicamous currently has a program in place. CSRD staff has been in discussions with the administration from the area high schools, who will offer course credits to students who participate in the program if implemented. The municipal fire departments within the region that are not currently offering the program have been included in discussions and have expressed some interest in joining the CSRD in offering the program.

**FINANCIAL:**

Costs for this program are estimated to be \$5,000 per year, per department for program development, instructor time and proper equipment (PPE) for the students. Whenever possible, junior members will be outfitted with existing spare equipment. Costs for 2018 will be negligible and beginning in 2019, \$5,000 per department per year will be allocated to each respective fire department budget, through the budget process.

**KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:**

The Junior Firefighter Program benefits the participants, the fire department and the community. Participants learn new skills, the value of public service and build character in a constructive and inclusive team environment, while earning up to four course credits for each year of participation in the program. The fire departments benefit from a steady influx of already trained recruits, if the junior

participants are interested in joining the departments as a regular member once they turn 18. A significant part of the program is designed to teach the value of community service, which is key for volunteer fire departments. Participants are expected to participate in the various community events lead by the fire departments. Participants will not respond to calls for service, but may be engaged in cleanup activities at the fire hall after an incident.

Safety of the students who participate in the program is a top priority and focus in the program. Students will participate in a modified training program designed to limit exposure to higher hazard activities. They will be issued all appropriate personal protective equipment and will be closely supervised by experienced firefighters. A comprehensive Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) will be developed and implemented prior to commencement of the program.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

Upon Board approval, CSRD staff will work with the relevant school districts to develop and implement a Standard Operating Guideline as well as an application document and selection criteria.

**DESIRED OUTCOMES:**

The Board approve the recommendation to implement a Junior Firefighter Program within CSRD fire departments.

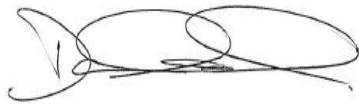
**BOARD'S OPTIONS:**

1. *Endorse the Recommendation.*
2. *Deny the Recommendation.*
3. *Defer.*
4. *Any other action deemed appropriate by the Board.*

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	2018_10_18_ Junior Firefighter Program.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Oct 5, 2018

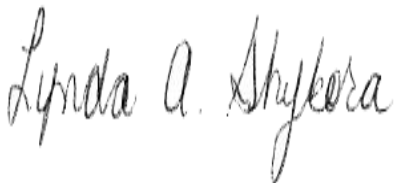
This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



**Darcy Mooney - Oct 4, 2018 - 2:52 PM**



**Jodi Pierce - Oct 4, 2018 - 3:22 PM**



**Lynda Shykora - Oct 4, 2018 - 4:43 PM**



**Charles Hamilton - Oct 5, 2018 - 8:33 AM**