

November 16, 2017

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Mayor Mark McKee and Members of Council
City of Revelstoke
City Hall P.O. Box 170
REVELSTOKE BC
V0E 2S0

Dear Mayor McKee and Members of Council:

Re: CSRD Electoral Area B Rural Fire Protection Services

The CSRD Board of Directors (Board) has received the October 27, 2017 letter from the City of Revelstoke's (City) Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Chabot with a new one year Fire Service Agreement and Bylaw. The Board has directed that I reply with this letter to the City to the attention of Mayor and Council.

At the outset, the CSRD has been clear with the City that we acknowledge and agree that the existing agreement is outdated and needs to be modernized and in particular, the agreement could be amended to address the risk management concerns which have been raised by the City.

The draft agreement that was recently provided to the CSRD is not acceptable in its current form as a number of issues remain outstanding and the agreement does not reflect the points and concessions that have been mutually agreed to by CSRD and City officials over the past several months.

CSRD staff have attempted to work with City officials in seeking to find a mutually agreeable way to allow for the continuation of this service and effectively address overall concerns and budget implications.

While we had hoped that a flexible and open communication style with an open mind towards compromise would allow us to move forward collaboratively, the response from the City to quickly advance another Agreement without discussion is a concern for the Board. The advancement of another Agreement by the City without discussion does not allow for any meaningful negotiations to take place.

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The CSRD Board therefore requests that the City:

1. agree to enter into a binding arbitration process as envisioned in the *Community Charter* to resolve this matter; and
2. provide confirmation that services will not be withdrawn December 31, 2017 so as to allay any concerns by residents in Area B who may be forced into the position of seeking alternative fire protection services if this matter cannot be resolved.

The Board would have preferred that the City recognize the need for further discussion and compromise with the CSRD without simply presenting a draft agreement as was received. At this point, a mutually agreed upon third party dispute resolution process makes the most sense.

Yours truly,

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

Per:

Charles A. Hamilton
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Allan Chabot, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Revelstoke
Rhona Martin, Chair, CSRD
Loni Parker, Electoral Area B, CSRD
Darcy Mooney, Manager, Operations Manager, CSRD
Derek Sutherland, Team Leader, Operations Management, CSRD