



COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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December 20, 2017

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To Rural Revelstoke Area B Property Owner:

RE: Fire Suppression Rural Revelstoke Area B and the City of Revelstoke

You are receiving this letter as you own property in the Fire Suppression Specified Service Area of Electoral Area B (fire service area) and to inform you that your fire service may be interrupted starting January 1, 2018. As you may be aware, the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSR D) has been involved in discussions with the City of Revelstoke (City) regarding the on-going provision of fire service by the City to the property owners within the fire service area. Since 1980, the City has provided fire suppression service to approximately 250 properties within the fire service area through an agreement with the CSR D.

This agreement outlines service provisions related to fire suppression and provides compensation to the City on an annual basis based on property values. In 2014, the CSR D and the City began discussions regarding updating the 1980 agreement. On December 6, 2016, the City provided official notice to the CSR D that the existing agreement from 1980 would be terminated effective December 31, 2017. The City's intent was to expedite a new agreement and ensure that fire protection in the specified area of Electoral Area B was not discontinued.

In March 2017, a new draft agreement was provided to the CSR D from the City. The CSR D had concerns with several areas of the new agreement including:

- the City's desire to lower the level of service offered from a full service fire response to one where they would not enter any structures under any circumstance;
- the City's desire for a 3000 gallon water tender;
- the request for other specialized apparatus needed to respond to fires initiating on the BC Hydro draw down lands; and
- an administrative increase of 10% in operational costs over what property owners in the City currently pay.

This draft agreement amounted to an immediate increase of over 165% of the average cost in the tax requisition to Electoral Area B property owners over previous years.

Since March 2017, CSR D staff has had meetings with City staff, BC Hydro staff, City Council and the Electoral Area B Director, all in an effort to develop a fair agreement that provides practical, efficient and affordable solutions for the fire service area. During this time, the CSR D felt confident these negotiations were moving in a positive direction and a new agreement would be achieved.

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ELECTORAL AREAS

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C SOUTH SHUSWAP
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM

MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN
REVELSTOKE

SALMON ARM
SICAMOUS

On September 25, 2017, the CSRD received a letter from the City's solicitor rejecting the alternative options advanced by the CSRD and stipulated that if an agreement was not agreed to by the CSRD by midnight on December 31, 2017, the City would cease to provide fire services to the CSRD altogether.

On December 7, 2017, the CSRD Board of Directors filed a court injunction against the City. The injunction requests that the City continue to provide fire service to the fire service area until December 31, 2018. The CSRD has been assigned a court hearing date of Thursday, December 28, 2017. The outcome of the court hearing could either provide additional time for the fire suppression service to continue or it may indicate that the service will expire at midnight on December 31, 2017. In the event that the service does expire on December 31, 2017, property owners will need to provide this information to their insurance broker.

The CSRD will post the results of the court hearing on its website on December 29, 2017. The posting will be placed under "News" on the CSRD's main webpage at www.csr.bc.ca.


Early in 2018, the CSRD will arrange for a community meeting to be held with affected property owners. This meeting will provide further information and gauge the community's interest in various options available to continue fire protection in the community.

If you have any further questions, please contact the undersigned directly at 250.833.5938 or email dmooney@csr.bc.ca.

Yours truly,

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

Per:



Darcy Mooney, Manager
Operations Management

Cc Derek Sutherland, Team Leader, Protective Services
Loni Parker, Director, Electoral Area B