



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-072

From: David Sturgeon, Protective Services Manager

Date: May 13, 2021

Subject: **Fire Protection Service Establishment Policy**

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## **RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board adopt the 'Fire Protection Service Establishment Policy', which specifies minimum standards for the establishment and funding of a new or expanded fire protection service within the Peace River Regional District.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

The "Fire Protection Service Establishment Policy" has been prepared for the Regional Board's consideration following discussion of legal liability, minimum service standards, and mutual aid agreements in the region, following consultation with Fire Chiefs and their respective municipal councils. This policy applies to all individuals and groups seeking to establish a new or expanded fire protection service within the PRRD and who wish to receive funding, grants or contract fees from the PRRD. The policy outlines the minimum standards applicable for the establishment and funding of a new or expanded fire protection service within the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) that is financially or contractually connected to the PRRD.

This policy is meant to address the potential liability issues that may arise should the PRRD fund private fire services and therefore limits funding to only those fire services that meet the following criteria:

*PRRD involvement and funding in new or expanded fire departments shall be limited to those that are authorized by an adopted fire service establishment bylaw. Fire protection services authorized by a PRRD Service establishment bylaw shall operate under one of the following service delivery models:*

- a) Fire service directly operated and funded by the Regional District – whether by means of a full time career department, paid on call, volunteer or composite fire department;*
- b) Fire service provided by a member municipality under contract – whether by means of full time career department, paid on call, volunteer or composite fire department; or*
- c) Fire service provided by a registered not for profit society, under contract – whether by means of a volunteer or composite fire department.*

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Organizational Effectiveness
- ☒ Comprehensive Policy Review

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

This policy will be posted to the PRRD website and distributed to each fire department in the region that is affiliated with the PRRD in some way. The policy will also be used as a resource to inform future enquiries from communities interested in establishing fire protection services in their area.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

Both the Thompson Nicola Regional District and Cariboo Regional District have similar policies that outline the conditions under which funding will be provided for fire services in their regions.

**Attachments:**

1. Fire Protection Service Establishment Policy 2021