



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-070

From: David Sturgeon, Protective Services Manager

Date: April 15, 2021

**Subject: South Peace Fire Services Mutual Aid Agreement**

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## **RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Weighted- LGA Sec 210 (2) a)]**

That the Regional Board authorize a fire service mutual aid agreement with the City of Dawson Creek, the Village of Pouce Coupe, the District of Tumbler Ridge, and the Tomslake and District Volunteer Fire Department Society, for a period of five years from the date of execution; further, that the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the PRRD.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

On March 26, 2020, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General issued [Ministerial Order M084](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In that Order, it states that:

*7 (1) Each local authority must use best efforts to enter into mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions to ensure that first responder, waste water and drinking water services are maintained during the period referred to in section 2.*

After a review of the mutual aid agreements for fire services in the region, it was determined that a mutual aid agreement was needed for the South Peace departments to provide support to each other.

Mutual aid agreements are between fire departments to provide support across jurisdictional boundaries in the event that a local fire department determines that its resources are insufficient to bring a fire or other emergency under control. In this case, the responding department may request assistance from another department, who, if available, may provide an engine or tender and a wildland unit plus personnel to assist. The advantage of having a sub-regional mutual aid agreement is that if one fire department is unavailable, mutual aid could come from the next closest neighboring fire department.

The City of Dawson Creek has signed the agreement and has forwarded it to the remaining parties for signature.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Partnerships
- ☒ Collaboration with Local and First Nations governments

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

In Section 8 of the mutual aid agreement, Reimbursement includes:

1. Consumables in excess of \$500.00 may be billed to the Requesting Party prior to the end of the calendar year. Any invoice will be accompanied by an inventory of consumables used, including the location and date of the incident requiring the use of the consumables.
2. Responses to commercial/industrial properties that exceed the defined "Primary Mutual Aid" response may be billed out at the British Columbia Inter-Agency Working Group Report Reimbursement Rates, for the current year.
3. The Requesting Party shall pay the account of the Providing Party within thirty (30) days of receiving it.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

None.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

The West Peace mutual aid agreement was authorized by the Regional Board on August 13, 2020, between the District of Chetwynd, the District of Hudson's Hope, and the Moberly Lake Volunteer Fire Department Society for a period of five years.

Attachments:

1. PRRD Mutual Aid Agreement: Tomslake, Pouce Coupe, Dawson Creek, and Tumbler Ridge.