



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-110

From: Crystal Brown, Electoral Area Manager

Date: December 1, 2020

Subject: Licensing of First Responders

RECOMMENDATION: *[Corporate Unweighted]*

That the Regional Board receive the report titled "Licensing of First Responders – ADM-BRD-110", which identifies concerns for proposed changes to licensing of first responders, for discussion.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

During the November 19, 2020 Electoral Area Directors Committee meeting, the Electoral Area Directors requested that the Fire Chiefs' Association of British Columbia Statement of Principles, along with the PRRD response letter regarding proposed changes to the licensing of first responders, be forwarded to the Regional Board for discussion.

In September 2020, the provincial government requested feedback on proposed changes to licensing of first responders (FR) to ensure that all emergency medical assistants (EMAs) are examined to the same standards. Currently, training institutions or fire departments can administer the practical examinations for first responders. Local governments and their protective services branches were asked to provide feedback on the proposed options by September 30, 2020.

Effective April 1, 2021, training institutions and fire departments will no longer be permitted to invigilate practical examinations and determine pass/fail. All EMA First Responders (EMA FRs) will be required to complete EMA practical exams with, or verified by, a Branch contracted examiner. The Branch would like to hear from the training institutions and fire departments regarding the impacts of this change and which option best serves your community. The options being considered are:

Option 1: All EMA FRs are required to attend a Branch scheduled practical exam session. Practical exams are scheduled monthly in Victoria, Lower Mainland, Vernon, Cranbrook, and Dawson Creek.

Option 2: All EMA FRs that are within 3 hours of an exam location are required to attend a Branch scheduled practical exam session. Practical exams are scheduled monthly in Victoria, Lower Mainland, Vernon, Cranbrook, and Dawson Creek. Special exam sessions will be approved on the basis of examiner availability, location, and number of candidates.

Option 3: EMA Licensing Branch travels to all training institutions to conduct exams that are greater than 3 hours travel to an exam centre.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. PRRD Response – Licensing of First Responders
2. Fire Chiefs' Association of British Columbia Statement of Principles