

Cover Page

Chad Hegge
142 Moore Way
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4E8

City of Dawson Creek Mayor and Council
10105 12A Street
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 3V7

Peace River Regional District Board of Directors
1981 Alaska Avenue
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4H8



Re: Rural Fire Protection

The attached documents are to be added to the agenda and presented to the City of Dawson Creek Mayor and Council as well as the Peace River Regional District Board of Directors at their next meeting.

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Page 4	-Map of existing city and rural fire protection boundaries -From fire department Master Plan
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Page 6	-Map of proposed additional area showing the residents that are in support of the proposal
Page 7	-British Columbia wildfire stats -from the BC Government webpage
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May 28, 2019

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City of Dawson Creek Mayor and Council
10105 12A Street
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Peace River Regional District Board of Directors
1981 Alaska Avenue
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Hello Sirs and Madams,

My name is Chad Hegge; I am a long-time resident of Dawson Creek as well as a local business owner. I recently built a family home approximately 10km east of Dawson Creek in the Hingley Estates portion of the Moore Subdivision off of Highway 49.

The area that we built in is not currently in a registered fire protection area and it is my hope that after reviewing my letter and attached documents that you will consider extending the rural fire protection area to include the Moore Subdivision, Johnson Subdivision, Diamond Willow Subdivision and the many other homes in the area that are not currently in the protected zone.

There are roughly 80 occupied homes and properties in this area with a subdivision extension currently with roughly 15 more lots for sale. This is one of the most densely populated rural subdivisions near Dawson Creek that is currently 'unprotected'.

As seen on the attached map, I am requesting that the rural fire protection zone for the Dawson Creek Fire Department be extended by roughly 3.25 kilometers to the east to cover an additional 9 square kilometer area. The proposed eastern border of the area would be roughly 13km from the Dawson Creek Fire Department.

The current Fire protection area for the Dawson Creek Fire Department ends roughly 200 meters past the Briar Ridge Road on Highway 49. The Pouce Coupe fire protection area ends at Highway 49 at the end of the Briar Ridge Road.

Research on wild fires shows that 2018 had more wildfires in BC than the previous 9 years and although the average numbers of fires per year over the last decade have not increased dramatically, the size and amount of damage caused by them has. There was a total of 2,697,024 hectares affected between 2008 and 2016, which are just slightly more than the 2,570,337 hectares affected in 2017 and 2018 combined.

As climate change continues to increase the amount of natural disasters, insurance companies continue to raise their premiums to protect themselves, and the cost of insurance is skyrocketing for rural properties in unprotected areas.

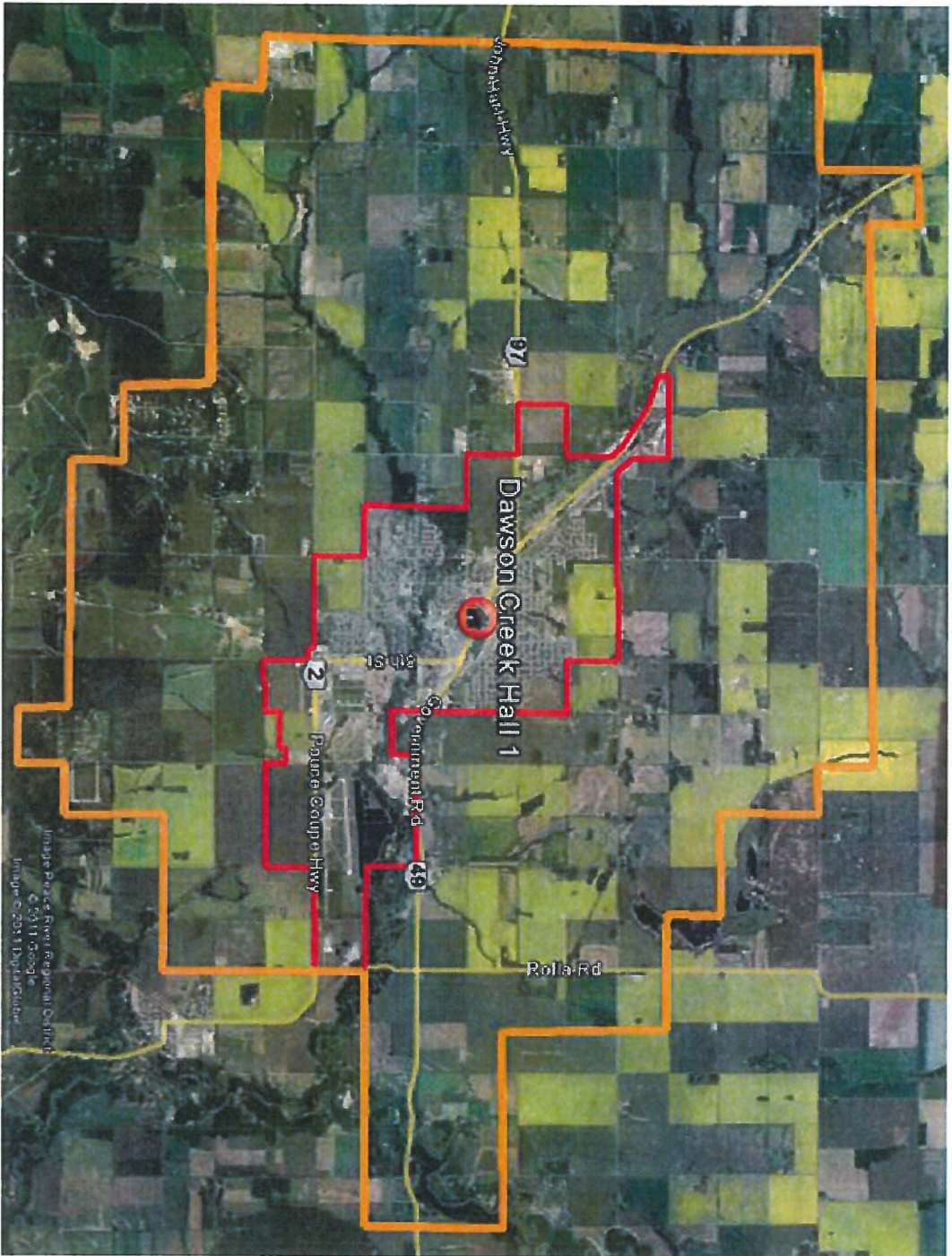
Aside from the cost of insurance there is very little peace of mind knowing that in the event of a fire our only hope is for the neighbours to band together to try and prevent the spread of the fire to other homes and surrounding mature and dry bush. This exact scenario happened in 2016 on the lot next to me while I was building. A brush fire from the winter had flared up 4 months later when the winds picked up and was spreading fast due to the high winds. If it wasn't for some quick thinking neighbours who took personal risks to save the property (attacking the fire with a small dozer and a water delivery truck) the entire north face of Briar Ridge may have a completely different look to it today.

As you can see from the attached signatures of the local residents, the vast majority of them are in favour of this proposal and would like to see it implemented. In fact, every resident who was approached added their name to the petition. The increase in property tax was explained to all of them and it was still not a deterrent. The residents who did not add their name to the petition were either not home at the time of my visits or did not answer their door, though many have called me to make arrangements to add their names after reading the note left for them.

In closing, I hope that not only is this proposition considered but that the area is extended to include these homes as quickly as possible.

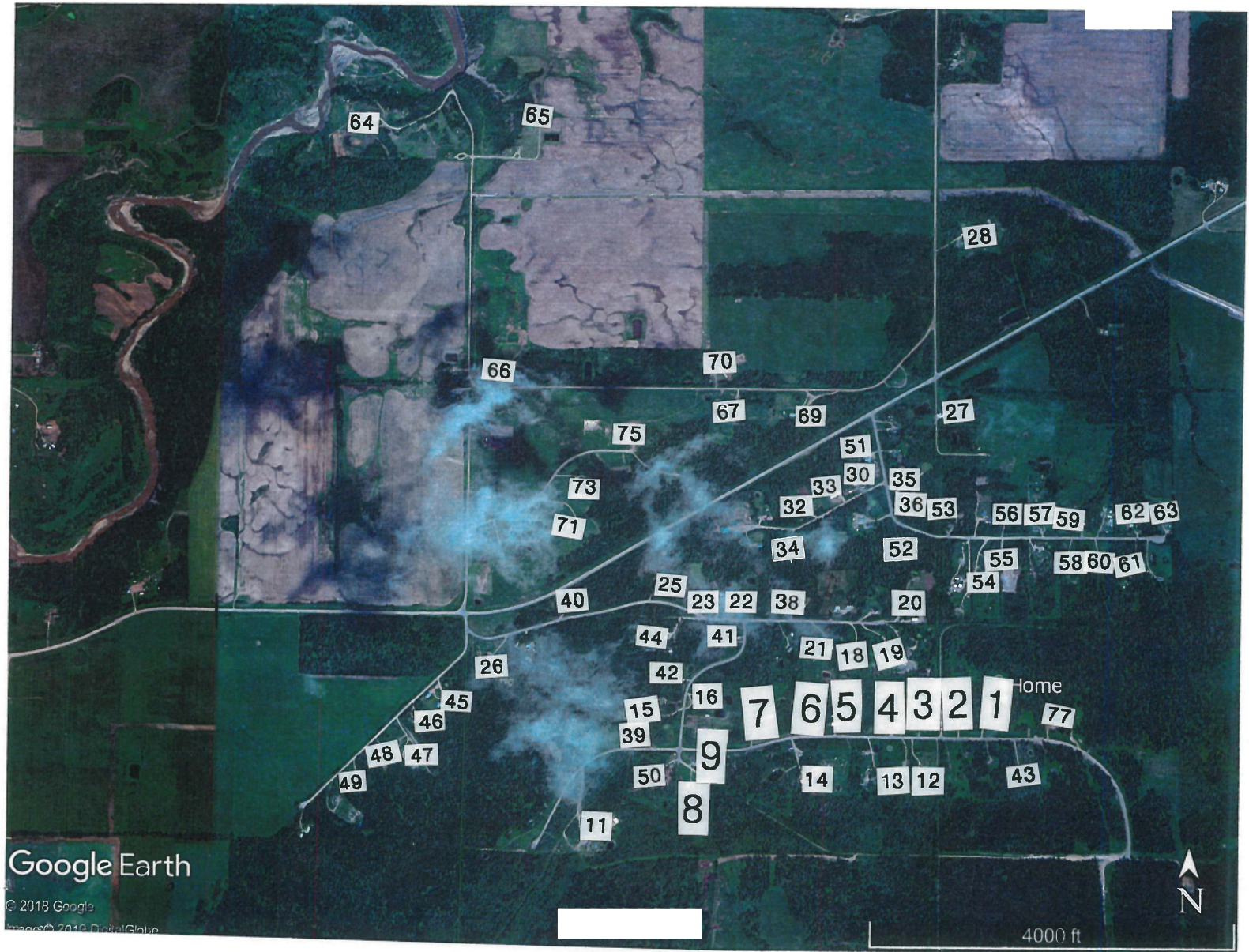
Regards,

Chad Hegge



Proposed Area to be





Wildfire Averages

The current 10-year average*, taken from 2008 to 2017, is 1,666 fires, 42.5% caused by people and 57.3% caused by lightning.

The following table shows the number and percentage of person and lightning-caused fires for last year and the 10 preceding years.

Wildfire Season Averages

Year	Total Fires	Total Hectares	Total Cost (millions)	Average Hectares per Fire	Person-caused	Person-caused (%)	Lightning-caused	Lightning-caused (%)
2018**	2,117	1,354,284	\$615.0	639.7	535	(25.3%)	1,489	(70.3%)
2017	1,353	1,216,053	\$649.0	898.8	552	(40.8%)	773	(57.1%)
2016	1,050	100,366	\$129.0	95.6	564	(53.7%)	486	(46.3%)
2015	1,858	280,605	\$277.0	151.0	617	(33.2%)	1,237	(66.6%)
2014	1,481	369,168	\$297.9	249.3	664	(44.8%)	817	(55.2%)
2013	1,861	18,298	\$122.2	9.8	564	(30.3%)	1,297	(69.7%)
2012	1,649	102,122	\$133.6	61.9	708	(42.9%)	941	(57.1%)
2011	653	12,604	\$53.5	19.3	444	(68%)	209	(32%)
2010	1,672	337,149	\$212.2	201.6	680	(40.7%)	992	(59.3%)
2009	3,064	247,419	\$382.1	80.8	881	(28.8%)	2,183	(71.2%)
2008	2,023	13,240	\$82.1	6.5	848	(41.9%)	1,175	(58.1%)
Average*	1,666	269,702		161.9	652	(42.5%)	1,011	(57.3%)

Hello,

My name is Chad Hegge and I live in the new portion of the Moore Subdivision. I am collecting signatures to approach Mayor and Council of the City of Dawson Creek as well as the Board of Directors of the Peace River Region District to extend the rural fire protection area to include this area of land.

The rural fire protection zone currently ends at the Briar Ridge Road on Highway 49, the Pouce Coupe rural fire protection area currently ends at Highway 49 at the end of the Brier Ridge road leaving roughly 80 currently occupied properties "unprotected". This is one of the densest populated areas around Dawson Creek that is currently unprotected.

It is my goal to have council approve an extension of the area currently protected by the Dawson Creek Fire Department by roughly 3.25 kilometers and would encompass a 9km square area including your home.

Insurance companies will consider a property protected if it is inside a protected area by a registered fire department and within 13km from the department. The east border of the proposed area is 13km from the Dawson Creek Fire Department and 11km from the Pouce Coupe Fire Department. If the property meets these requirements it can reduce insurance fees, but will also increase property tax. The amount of savings for the insurance is unknown since each house is so different from one another. The tax rate on rural fire protection is currently 89.4cents per \$1000 of assessed value. If a property is assessed at \$500,000.00 then the tax increase would be \$447.00 per year. It is my belief that the extra cost in property tax will be offset by the insurance savings.

My goal in starting this is not primarily to save money on insurance as the increase in property tax usually nullifies any savings. My main goal is to feel more comfortable that the department will respond if there is a fire in the area due to the increase in wildfires in our region and the Province as a whole.

I hope I can count on you to add your name to the list as I feel that if the residents of this area band together the probability of approval will be much higher. If you are receiving this letter you were not home when I stopped by if you'd like to sign the petition please contact me at 250-219-0456 and I will make arrangements to meet up with you.

Regards,

Chad Hegge

Proposed Expansion of Dawson Creek Fire Protection Area Petition

Lot # of Map	Name	Address	Phone Number	Signature
	1 Chad Hegge			
	2 Lynsey DeVries			
	3 Darren Smadella			
	4 Chrissy Poulin			
	5 George Kowagrad			
	6 Ivan Brausse			
	7 Winter Poulin			
	8 CINDY GABLER			
9 ←	9 Kevin Rausse			
	10 Sarah Rausse			
	11 Nicole Armstrong			
	12 Richie Wolfmore			
	13 ROY HENRIKSEN			
	14 Treu Hingley			
	15 WENDIE DENYER			
16 ←	16 RADDY GUERIN			
	17 Toni Guerin			
	18 JEFF GINTER			
	19 Fock Petrick			
	20 DUSTI DUECK			
	21 Tina MIDDLETON			
	22 DARCY Suchy			
23 ←	23 David Graham			
	24 Nicole Graham			
	25 Corey Unners			
	26 Jermie Kitchen			
	27 WAYNE MIDDLETON			
28 ←	28 Theresa Simmonds			
	29 Shawn Simmonds			

Proposed Expansion of Dawson Creek Fire Protection Area Petition

Lot # of Map	Name	Address	Phone Number	Signature
30	Mike Bomber			
31	Maureen Cook			
32	Georin Bonnor Stephen Bonnor			
33	WAYNE PETERS			
34	Jasen Klein			
35	KEVIN SEKYER			
36	ELWIN JOHNSON			
37	Michelle Johnson			
38	MIKE ZYGUN			
39	BRAD SHIPTON			
40	M.J. Gordon			
41	Nicole Jackson			
42	Carlin Duchesne			
43	TRANS BROWN			
44	SHARON SEYMITH			
45	Tracy Stanek			
46	Angela Fehr			
47	KEN WRIGHT			
48	S. Thansa			
49	Kaylen Endlicher			
50	Doug McLeod			
51	Moni Chutley			
52	LAWA FEERE			
53	DAN BOYLE			
54	MARILYN FELLE			
55	Brandon Nixon			
56	CHRISTINE SCHUL			
57	Lance Patterson			
58	John Sadford			
59	JEAN WALPER			

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Proposed Expansion of Dawson Creek Fire Protection Area Petition

Lot # of Map	Name	Address	Phone Number	Signature
60	GORDON DYER			
61	MERLE SHUMAN			
62	Colin Harder			
63	Calvin Willis			
64	Ana Lichti			
65	Sally Munro			
66	Randy Macdonald			
67	AUDREY JENSEN			
68	De Jensen			
69	D. Smith			
70	Schulthaus			
71	John Schmuck			
72	A. Schuster			
73	Joel Wiebe			
74	Michaela Wandlin			
75	Chanelle Pngak			
76	Rick Palf			
77	Chris Ferguson			
78	Tara Ferguson			
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