

To: CAO for the Electoral Area Services Committee  
From: Jaime Reilly, Manager of Corporate Administration  
Reg Dyck, Manager of Electoral Area Emergency Services

Date: 2019-10-08  
File No: 3920-20-1545, 2019

**Subject: North Fraser Harrison Mills Fire Protection Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1545, 2019**

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## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board consider giving three readings to the bylaw cited as *North Fraser Harrison Mills Fire Protection Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1545, 2019*.

## STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

## BACKGROUND

The *Fraser Valley Regional District North Fraser Harrison Mills Local Service Area Conversion and Merger Bylaw No. 0072, 1996* was adopted by the Board in 1996, creating a fire protection service area for the purposes of provision of assistance to ambulance, and other similar emergency response agencies. Bylaw 0072, 1996 was amended by *Fraser Valley Regional District North Fraser and Harrison Mills Fire Protection Local Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1274, 2014* to extend the boundaries of the service area to Electoral Areas C, F and G.

## DISCUSSION

As part of Bylaw 1274, 2014, the Lougheed Highway (which is a Provincial Highway) is included in the boundaries of the fire protection service area. This road is a high traffic road which has seen a significant increase in the number of responses by the North Fraser Fire Department for calls regarding Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI).

The inclusion of the Lougheed Highway in the fire protection service area boundary has implications from an emergency management perspective and our ability to obtain a task number through Emergency Management BC (EMBC). The North Fraser Fire Department responds to multiple events each year along the Lougheed Highway and staff believes there could be a considerable amount of funds recovered by changing the fire protection service area boundaries to exclude the Lougheed

Highway. In other FVRD fire protection service areas where a provincial highway has been excluded from the service area boundaries, the fire departments have been successful in receiving task numbers for highway road rescues, resulting in the ability to recoup costs through EMBC.

The draft bylaw excludes the Lougheed Highway from the boundaries North Fraser Harrison Mills Fire Protection Service Area. By removing this roadway from the fire protection area the North Fraser Fire Department may obtain a task number from EMBC when requested to attend Motor Vehicle Incidents along this corridor. This would allow the department to recoup some expenses for providing this service without any effect to service levels.

## **COST**

There are no costs associated with this bylaw.

## **CONCLUSION**

As a result of increased MVIs along the provincial Lougheed Highway, staff is recommending the exclusion of this road from the North Fraser Harrison Mills Fire Protection Service Area boundary. This will allow the North Fraser Fire Department to attend MVIs and obtain a task number directly from Emergency Management BC as they are a recognized First Responder and road rescue fire department. This will not result in any decreased service levels to the participants of this service area.

## **COMMENTS BY:**

**Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services**

Reviewed and supported.

**Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer**

Reviewed and supported.