

# Little Fort Fire Protection Service Area Establishment Petition



The Region of BC's Best

## Background

The Little Fort volunteer fire department has been delivering a wonderful service to the community for many years but is facing difficult decisions due to changing legislation relating to the provision of fire protection. Funding has not been sufficient to meet the new legislative requirements (supply and maintenance of equipment, training, administrative support and WorkSafe BC to name a few). Due to the liability issues presented by society-operated fire departments, the TNRD will discontinue funding such departments as of December 31, 2022 but has agreed to pursue the establishment of a TNRD-administered fire protection service **if** that is what the community would like it to do.

A public information meeting was held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to provide details about the proposed service including the background, service area, costs and how the service would be delivered.

A straw poll was held at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and attendees voted overwhelmingly in favour of moving forward with the TNRD carrying out a formal petition process to determine if there is support for service establishment.

Petitions for each property will be distributed at the **May 15<sup>th</sup>** meeting to determine if there is support for a fire protection service area as presented by the TNRD. *If you are unable to attend the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, your petition will be mailed to you.*

## How the Petition Process Works

In order to establish a service, approval is required through a public assent process. The TNRD Board has selected the use of Petitions as the means of public assent.

- Petitions will be sent to the owners of property located in the proposed service area.
- Property Owners will receive one petition **for each property they own**.
- Properties owned in the names of individuals and businesses are all eligible to submit their petition(s) if they are in favour of the establishment of the fire protection service.
- If a property is not subject to property tax, that property owner will not receive a petition.
- If a property is not in the proposed service area, that property owner will not receive a petition.

## What to Do if You Want a Fire Protection Service?

If you want the TNRD to establish a fire protection service, sign each petition you receive and return it/them to the TNRD so that it/they are received at the TNRD office **by 12 Noon on Friday July 6, 2018**. Signed and scanned petitions may also be returned by email to [cblack@tnrd.ca](mailto:cblack@tnrd.ca) with the original returned by mail.

## What to Do if you DO NOT Want the Fire Protection Service?

If you are not in favour of establishing the Little Fort fire protection service area, do not sign your petition(s) and do not return it/them to the TNRD.

## NEXT MEETING

May 15, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Little Fort Community Hall

## DETERMINING RESULTS

In order for the fire protection service to be established, enough petitions (see *Details for Sufficiency* below) must be signed and returned to the TNRD by the **12 noon, Friday July 6, 2018 deadline** to meet sufficiency requirements.

DETAILS OF AREA/PETITIONS	
Total # Parcels in Area	192
TOTAL AREA ASSESSMENT	\$48,966,276

DETAILS FOR SUFFICIENCY	
Total # Petitions ÷ 2	96
Total Assessment ÷ 2	\$24,483,138

### IMPORTANT NOTE for the completion of the petition:

1. If there are two (2) owners of the property, both owners just sign the petition
2. If there are more than two (2) owners of the property, a majority of the registered property owners must sign the petition.

If the required number of petitions (see *Details for Sufficiency* above) is received by the July 6<sup>th</sup> deadline, the petition will be certified as sufficient and a bylaw establishing the fire protection service will be presented to the TNRD Board of Directors. The fire protection service would then officially commence on January 1, 2019.

If the required number of petitions is not received by the deadline, the service will not be established and it will be a decision of the Little Fort fire department as to next steps (carrying on as is or disbanding).

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### What services will be provided?

The Little Fort Volunteer Fire Department will continue to respond to building and vehicle fires within the Little Fort fire protection service area.

### Who will administer the service?

The TNRD will assume responsibility for administration, financing and liability for the fire service. The TNRD will work with the local fire chief to deliver firefighter training, to keep required records, etc. The fire chief will be responsible for all fire operations during a fire response.

### What is the service area boundary?

There are 192 properties in the proposed service area. This includes the properties currently in the service area plus the 15 properties between the current service area and the neighbouring Blackpool fire protection area. A map of the proposed service area will be included on your petition and is available at [www.tnrd.ca](http://www.tnrd.ca)

### What are the costs for the service?

The maximum annual operating cost of this service will be \$150,000 per year. This equates to a residential tax rate of \$1.6804 per \$1,000 of assessment (2018 costs). Based on average residential assessment of \$178,701 (2018) the tax requisition for the service would be \$300

### What about insurance?

The TNRD cannot provide assurance that there will be a reduction in insurance premiums. Home owners are encouraged to contact their own insurance brokers to discuss coverage and costs.

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### Privacy

*Returned petitions will be viewed only by the TNRD Legislative Services staff for the purpose of determining results. **Individual results will be not be released.** If you have any questions about collection, use or disclosure of personal information by the TNRD or your individual petition response, please contact the TNRD Corporate Officer.*

### HAVE MORE QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Carolyn Black, Corporate Officer  
Phone: 250 377-8673  
Toll-free 1-877-377-8673  
Email: [cblack@tnrd.ca](mailto:cblack@tnrd.ca)

Information is also available on the TNRD website at [www.tnrd.ca](http://www.tnrd.ca) .

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**The deadline to submit petitions is Noon on July 6th**