

**For immediate release
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**Britannia Beach Volunteer Fire Department achieves Interior Attack training level
*New designation brings new skills to fighting structure fires***

Pemberton, BC – The Britannia Beach Volunteer Fire Department has achieved a significant milestone which will improve its service to the community.

The BBVFD has successfully transitioned from an exterior attack department to an interior attack department, which enables firefighters to enter a burning structure, conduct rescues and attack a fire from within the building.

“Our communities are fortunate to be so well-served by such dedicated people in these important roles,” said SLRD Electoral Area D Director, Tony Rainbow. “Congratulations to the Britannia Beach Volunteer Fire Department on this impressive achievement, and thank you for your ongoing commitment and service.”

SLRD Regional Fire Chief Rob Van Doorn notes that the new designation is the result of a great deal of time and effort on the part of the fire department team.

“This achievement is the result of a great deal of hard work and dedication, and is representative of the commitment of the volunteer firefighters in this community,” he said. “The members of the Britannia Beach Volunteer Fire Department are to be commended for reaching this new height and for their dedication to serving their community.”

The Britannia Beach Volunteer Fire Department, under the leadership of Chief Rob Nicholls, has made significant efforts over the past several years to enhance the department’s team and capabilities. The BBVFD’s two Deputy Chiefs, Richard Kagerer and Martyn Jackson, played a vital role in overseeing the training and operations that enabled the department’s successful growth and transition.

The service level change is in response to the requirements for serving an increasing population and the construction of multi-family homes and commercial buildings in the area. It sets the department up to staff a second fire hall that will be constructed in Furry Creek.

The BBVFD will also add a new aerial fire apparatus to replace the current unit, which has reached the end of its service life. The new ‘Quint’ will also improve the department’s technical fire suppression capabilities while ensuring fire underwriters’ compliance.

First established in 1904, the BBVFD is composed of a team of nearly 40 volunteers and responds to a growing number of emergency calls, increasing year-over-year.

For more information on the Britannia Beach Volunteer Fire Department, contact Chief Rob Nicholls at rnicholls@slrd.bc.ca

About the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Located in southwestern BC, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) is a local government federation consisting of four member municipalities (the District of Lillooet, the District of Squamish, the Village of Pemberton and the Resort Municipality of Whistler) and four unincorporated, rural electoral areas (A, B, C, and D). Headquartered in Pemberton, which is the approximate geographic centre of the region, the SLRD delivers a wide range of local, regional and sub-regional services to approximately 50,496 residents (2021 Census as certified by the Minister of Municipal Affairs).

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District is found within the traditional territories of several First Nations, including the Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), St'át'imc and Lil'wat. Small parts of the SLRD also overlap with the traditional territories of the Stó:lō, Tseil-Waututh, Nlaka'pamux, Tsilhqot'in, and Secwepemc Nations. While the SLRD does not provide direct services to the residents of the First Nations communities located within the region, the organization is committed to enhancing relations with the Indigenous communities and First Nations within whose territories the SLRD operates.

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