

For immediate release
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**Garibaldi fire department deploys new wildland truck for
Lucille lake fire
Rapid response wildland vehicle provides increased capacity**

Pemberton, BC – The newest addition to the Garibaldi Village Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) made its debut over the weekend.

In November, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) announced it had upgraded the Garibaldi Volunteer Fire Department's (GVFD) firefighting fleet with the addition of a new rapid response wildland truck, increasing the department's ability to fight wildfires.

On Sunday, the vehicle was used in its initial attack, helping to quickly contain a wildfire at Lucille Lake.

At 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 9, the GVFD was called to investigate smoke reported near Lucille Lake; the fire department, along with BC Wildfire Service, confirmed a half-hectare rank 2 and 3 wildfire and proceeded with an aggressive initial attack. By noon, the fire was contained and under control. GVFD was left to monitor the site and attack hot spots, as high winds picked up throughout the day and into the evening.

As GVFD Chief Dan Ross explains, use of the rapid response truck was vital in containing this fire quickly, and in preventing what could have become a much more serious, and destructive, incident.

"We have said from the beginning that this new wildland truck would be a game-changer for our department, and we saw that first-hand over the weekend," Ross said. "This is exactly the type of scenario where we need this vehicle. Having access to this truck, to help us attack this fire, meant we could do this job quickly, and contain the fire before it could get away on us. Wildfire is unpredictable; these tools give us the best chance of having that upper hand and preventing a worst-case scenario situation."

The SLRD contributed \$100,000 to the purchase of the vehicle, with the additional funds contributed by the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation, Woodfibre LNG, and the GVFD Society.

"The contribution toward this truck was money well spent," said SLRD Electoral Area D Director, Tony Rainbow. "This is an investment that will pay off in the protection of our communities," he said. "While Lucille Lake is not immediately adjacent to one of our communities, we have seen in other parts of B.C. and Canada how wildfires can spread very quickly if not contained in the early stages. The SLRD is grateful to the GVFD team and their ongoing work and commitment to their community."

Wildland vehicles are rapid response fire trucks specifically designed to transport firefighters, water, pumps, hoses, and other equipment to the scene, with the ability to drive through rough terrain.

The new vehicle was unveiled at a ceremony on November 28, 2022, hosted by the GVFD and attended by Rainbow, Ross and additional representatives from the GVFD and the SLRD.

The SLRD manages two volunteer fire departments in Howe Sound East/ Area D (GVFD and the Britannia Beach Volunteer Fire Department) and provides financial contributions to a number of other established volunteer fire services.

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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 Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), St'át'imc and Lil'wat. Small parts of the SLRD also overlap with the traditional territories of the Stó:lō, Tsleil-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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