

What We Heard

Engagement Summary Report

Seton Portage and Tsal'alh Fire Protection Service Survey

Introduction

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District invited residents and property owners to provide feedback on proposed changes to the Seton Portage and Tsal'alh Fire Protection Service.

A total of 33 survey responses were received. Respondents shared feedback on the current service, proposed funding changes, and potential future service options.

Who We Heard From

Community Representation

- **Seton Portage / Tsal'alh:** 90.9% (30 respondents)
- **Other:** 9.1% (3 respondents)

Property Ownership

- **Registered property owners:** 81.8% (27 respondents)
- **Non-owners:** 18.2% (6 respondents)

What we heard: Survey responses primarily reflect the perspectives of property owners within the service area.

Importance of the Fire Protection Service

- **Very important:** 87.5%
- **Somewhat important:** 9.4%
- **Not important:** 3.1%

What we heard: Most respondents indicated that the current fire protection service is very important to their household.

Feedback on Funding and Taxation Changes

Aware that the fire protection service is funded using property value taxation?

- **Yes:** 81.8%
- **No:** 18.2%

Support for Increasing the Maximum Requisition Limit

- **Support:** 38.3%
- **Oppose:** 44.1%
- **Not sure:** 17.6%

Support for Modest Taxation Increase

- **Support:** 41.2%
- **Oppose:** 35.3%
- **Not sure:** 23.5%

What we heard: Responses were mixed on potential taxation increases for the service, with support and opposition relatively evenly divided.

What We Heard in Written Comments

A total of 20 respondents provided written comments, offering additional context to the survey results. Several common themes emerged.

Service Level Concerns

What we heard: Respondents expressed concerns regarding the current level of fire protection service, including longer response times, the absence of local firefighting personnel and uncertainty regarding service coverage.

Fire Hall and Equipment Maintenance

What we heard: Several comments highlighted concerns regarding the maintenance of the local fire hall, firefighting equipment, and water supply infrastructure.

Accountability of Spending

What we heard: Some respondents indicated they would be unwilling to support additional taxation without greater accountability and transparency regarding how funds are being used. Comments emphasized the need for clear plans, demonstrated service improvements, and assurances that funding would be directed toward addressing identified service gaps and maintaining fire protection infrastructure.