



Fire Protection Seton -Tsal'ah Service

Community Town Hall
June 20, 2026



Welcome

Why we are here

1. Provide an update on Seton Portage fire service
2. Provide an update on fire hall expansion
3. Explain and gather feedback on the alternative approval process

What we will cover

1. Fire Service Review
2. Fire Hall Maintenance and Expansion
3. Budget and Alternate Approval Process
4. FireSmart Update



Meeting Conduct and Expectations

- The SLRD is committed to providing a respectful, safe, and inclusive environment for all participants.
- Treat all attendees, presenters, staff, elected officials, and technical experts with courtesy and respect.
- Allow speakers to finish their comments and avoid interruptions or disruptive behaviour.
- Keep questions and comments relevant to the discussion and be mindful of time so others can participate.
- Differing opinions are welcome; personal attacks, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, or abusive language will not be tolerated.
- The facilitator may intervene to maintain order and ensure a productive meeting.
- Meeting conduct is guided by the SLRD Respectful Workplace Policy and commitment to respectful public engagement.

Thank you for helping foster a constructive and respectful dialogue.



Fire Protection Overview

- **Fire Service Resiliency**
- **Apparatus and Equipment**
- **Fire Underwriters**
- **Water Supply**
- **Reporting**



Fire Service Resiliency Project

1. Policy, Service Agreements and Bylaws
2. Work directly with society departments to improve operations



Apparatus and Equipment

Seton Portage

- 2008 Pierce
- 1991 Hub

BC Hydro Hall

- 2023 Rosenbauer

Grant Funds

- SCBA cylinders
- Cascade cylinders
- Hose and appliances



Fire Underwriter's Rating

Current

- 4 – Fire Hall Protected

Possible

- 3B – Alternative Water Supply
 - Water supplies - 24/7/365
 - Fire Pumper – 625 GPM
 - Water Tender – 880 Gallons
 - 15 Firefighters
 - 1 Chief Officer



Water Supply

- **Water Tanks**
- **Drafting and Plans**
- **Dry Hydrants**



Reporting

- Apparatus Flow Testing
- Equipment
- Membership
- Training



Fire Hall Maintenance and Expansion



SOUTH ELEVATION (PROPOSED)

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Fire Protection Seton -Tsal'ah Service

2026 Budget Overview

- Budget Process Overview
- Service Expenses
- Service Revenues
- AAP Process



About the SLRD Budget Process

- The SLRD adopts a five-year Financial Plan each year.
- Each service has its own budget and cost centre .
- Taxation collected for a service must remain within that service area.
- Service taxation is limited by the maximum requisition limit established in the service bylaw.
- The approved 2026 –2030 Financial Plan is available on the SLRD website.



Fire Protection Seton -Tsal'ah Service

2026 Budget Overview

2026 Taxation: \$33,831

Total 2026 Cash Expenditures: \$277,162

Operating Expenses: \$78,912

- Ongoing service delivery and administration
- Funded through taxation, rental revenue, interest income, and Board-approved grants

Capital Projects & Special Initiatives: \$198,250

- Infrastructure improvements and one-time projects
- Fully funded through external grants and Board-approved grants



Special Projects & Capital Expenses (2026 Budget)

What are the costs of the current fire service projects

Category	Amount	Funding Sources
Fire Hall Expansion Project (Phase 1 in 2026)	\$158,250	Fully funded via SLRD discretionary funds <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$150,000 – Community Works Funds• \$8,250 - BC Hydro PILT Reserve
CEPF Volunteer Fire Department Equipment & Training Grant	\$40,000	Fully Funded via external grant <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$40,000 - UBCM CEPF Program
Total	\$198,250	



Fire Service Operating Expenses (2026 Budget)

What does it cost to run the fire service?

Category	Amount
Insurance, Travel & Gen. Admin.	\$2,381
Tsal'ah Fire Service Contract	\$19,022
Operating Supplies	\$989
Fire Hall Repairs & Maintenance	\$15,000
Utilities & Hydro	\$6,520
SLRD Staff Costs	\$25,000
Contribution to Service Reserve	\$10,000
Total	\$78,912



Service Revenues

How is the service funded?

Category	Amount
Taxation	\$33,831
Prior Year Deficit/Carry-forward	(-\$193)
Rental Income	\$12,042
Interest Income	\$1,427
BC Hydro PILT (from policy)	\$7,110
BC Hydro PILT Reserve Funds (allocated by SLRD Board)	\$24,695
Total	\$78,912



Alternative Approval Process (AAP)

Increasing the maximum requisition

A legislated process where a proposal is approved unless at least 10% of eligible electors formally oppose it.

Current Maximum: \$33,831 → **Proposed New Maximum:** \$65,000

Why is this needed?

- The current requisition limit is no longer sufficient to support service needs.
- The 2026 budget required a \$24,695 subsidy from Area B BC Hydro PILT funds.
- BC Hydro PILT funding is not guaranteed and should not be relied upon as a long-term funding source.
- The increase would help ensure the long-term sustainability of the Seton-Tsal'ah Fire Service.



AAP Community Engagement Survey

What we heard

33 Survey Responses

90.9% of respondents live within Seton Portage / Tsal'alh

81.8% were registered property owners

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 fire protection service is very important to their household.



AAP Community Engagement Survey

What We Heard

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.



AAP Community Engagement Survey

What We Heard - Written Comments

Service Level Concerns

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

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

Accountability of Spending

Some respondents indicated they would be unwilling to support additional taxation without greater accountability and transparency regarding how funds are being used.



2026 SLRD Residential FireSmart Program



FREE Home Assessments

- Bookings grouped by community for efficiency.
- Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation guides are distributed.



Financial Support

- Only 1 rebate per property/title.
- Open to recreational and residential properties.
- Limited number of rebates.

Thank you

