



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

Main Office: 155 George Street, Prince George, BC V2L 1P8
Telephone: (250) 960-4400 / Fax: (250) 563-7520
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1959 / www.rdffg.ca

REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION

TO: Chair and Directors File No: VAL 1.2

FROM: Melanie Perrin, Senior Manager of Public Safety Services

DATE: July 31, 2024

SUBJECT: Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024

SUMMARY: Purpose: Consider Requisition Limit Increase

Attachments:

1. Consolidated Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990
2. Proposed Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024

Previous Reports: Item No. 9.2.1, October 2018

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. THAT the report dated July 31, 2024, regarding "Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024" be received for information.
2. THAT Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024 be now introduced and read a first time.
3. THAT Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024 be given second and third readings.
4. THAT participating area approval be authorized to be given by director and municipal consent pursuant to Sections 346 and 347 of the *Local Government Act*.

ENTITLEMENT	HOW VOTE COUNTED
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority

ISSUE(S):

The Valemount and District Fire Protection Service has been operating at its maximum requisition limit of \$203,880 since 2019. During the 2023 budget process, Public Safety Administration and the Valemount Fire Chief identified that the current requisition limit for this service is insufficient to provide appropriate funds to meet existing needs of the fire protection service. Budget pressures from inflation, capital purchase requirements, and asset management have resulted in the current requisition amount not providing sustainable funding for the fire protection service in order to maintain current service levels.

As presented in the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan for Valemount and District Fire Protection, an increase in requisition of 25% in 2025 is needed to support service delivery. Public Safety Administration is recommending that the Board consider adjusting the requisition by 25% to support the approved 5-year financial plan.

The Board is being asked to consider giving first, second and third readings to Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw 1163, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024 and authorizing participating area approval be given by director and municipal consent to allow for a 25% increase to the maximum allowable limit that could be requisitioned for the Valemount and District Fire Protection Service.

RELEVANT POLICIES:

1. Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990
 - establishes the Valemount and District Fire Protection Service for the Regional District
2. *Local Government Act*, s. 346 and 347
 - allows for participating area approval by consent of a municipal council; and
 - allows for participating area approval by consent of an electoral area director
3. Regional District Establishing Bylaw Approval Exemption Regulation 113/2007
 - authorizes a requisition increase to a maximum of 25% over a five-year period without the requirement of approval of the Inspector of Municipalities

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

- ☐ Climate Action ☐ Economic Health ☐ Indigenous Relations ☒ Strong Communities
- ☐ None – Statutory or Routine Business

SERVICE RELEVANCE:

In 1983, the Valemount and District Fire Protection Service was established. The fire department provides fire protection to the Village of Valemount and a portion of Electoral Area H surrounding the Village. Under Supplementary Letters Patent, the Regional District acquired the function of fire protection with the Village of Valemount and a defined area of Electoral Area H as participating members. In 1990, the function was converted to a local service with the adoption of Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

In 2024, a residential property paid \$31.20 for every \$100,000 that residential property was assessed at. The proposed increase in the requisition limit would result in a maximum annual tax increase of \$50,970, which would translate into a residential property paying \$39.00 for every \$100,000 that residential property is assessed at, or a \$7.80 increase in property tax on a residential property for every \$100,000 it is assessed at (using 2024 BCAA values for calculation).

This would result in a maximum annual tax of approximately \$125.47 on an average home valued at \$339,897. Currently the maximum annual tax on an average home valued at \$339,897 is \$100.37.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

In October of 2018, Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw 1163, 1990 was amended to allow for the requisition limit to be increased by 25%, from \$163,110 to its current \$203,880. It has been six years now since this last bylaw amendment. With the Valemount and District Fire Protection Service maximum requisition limit being \$203,880, it sits below the Regional District Fire Services 2023 average requisition of \$249,359. That, combined with the fact that Valemount and District Fire Protection provides services to complex structures such as hotels, commercial structures and critical infrastructure, has resulted in an urgent need to proceed with the bylaw amendment to increase the maximum allowable requisition. The current requisition does not provide for a sustainable funding source for the Valemount and District Fire Protection Service to maintain service levels.

The additional funds provided by an increased requisition will more suitably assist in providing funds to operate the fire department, provide for future capital expenditure needs and support asset management strategies. During the 2023 budget preparation process, an increase to the requisition limit was recommended by the fire chief and Public Safety Administration.

Under the provisions of the *Local Government Act*, a service establishment bylaw can be amended to increase the requisition limit without the Inspector of Municipalities approval if the increase is an amount less than or equal to 25% over a five-year period. The attached bylaw amends the maximum amount that could be requisitioned from \$203,880 to \$254,850 (a 25% increase).

The participants in the Valemound and District Fire Protection Service Area include the Village of Valemound and a portion of Electoral Area H. Participant consent from the Village of Valemound Council and the Electoral Area H Director will be required prior to bylaw adoption.

If participant consent is received, Valemound and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024 will be returned to the Board for consideration of adoption.

DECISION OPTIONS:

1. Approve recommendations.
 - Consent packages will be provided to service participants
 - Once consent is received and the bylaw is adopted, the Valemound and District Fire Protection Service will be able to continue to operate at required service levels and provide for future increases to operating costs and capital replacement needs

Other Options:

- a. Do not approve recommendations:
 - requisition limit will not be increased
 - capital replacement needs may not be met
 - current service levels may not be able to be maintained
 - bylaw cannot be considered further
- b. Postpone consideration of a second reading if additional information is required
 - bylaw may not be adopted in time for the 2025 budget process

COMMENTS:

Approval of the amending bylaw will allow for an increase to the requisition limit to support the continued operation of the Valemound and District Fire Protection Service at the current service level and to allow for sufficient funds for operations and capital improvements where necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

“Melanie Perrin”

Melanie Perrin
Senior Manager of Public Safety Services

MP:mz



**REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George**

**VALEMOUNT AND
DISTRICT FIRE
PROTECTION LOCAL
SERVICE
ESTABLISHMENT
BYLAW NO. 1163**

**CONSOLIDATED
VERSION**

as authorized by Bylaw Consolidation
Authorization Bylaw No. 2579, 2009

This bylaw has been consolidated to include the text and appendices of:

Amending Bylaw	Effective Date
Bylaw No. 2426	April 17, 2008
Bylaw No. 2585	December 17, 2009
Bylaw No. 3111	December 20, 2018

For reference to original bylaws, please contact:

General Manager of Legislative and Corporate Services
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
155 George Street
Prince George, BC V2L 1P8
Telephone: 250.960.4444

Email: maureen.connelly@rdffg.bc.ca



**REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George**

BYLAW NO. 1163

**A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A FIRE PROTECTION LOCAL SERVICE WITHIN
THE VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT AND ELECTORAL AREA H OF THE
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER-FORT GEORGE**

WHEREAS the Regional District has, by Division 30 of supplementary Letters Patent, acquired the function of fire protection with the Village of Valemount and a defined area of Electoral Area H as participating member municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Regional District desires to convert the said fire protection function to a local service in accordance with Section 788 of the *Municipal Act*.

AND WHEREAS the Regional District has received the assent of the electors to extend the boundaries of the fire protection area.

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. The fire protection function acquired under Division 30 of supplementary Letters Patent is hereby established as a local service for the Village of Valemount and that portion of Electoral Area H shown outlined in bold on Appendix "A," attached to and forming part of this bylaw, to be known hereafter as the Valemount & District Fire Protection Local Service Area.
2. The Regional District may undertake and carry out, or cause to be carried out, fire protection in and for the said local service area and do all things necessary or convenient in connection therewith including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, establishing a fire department and making provision for the appointment of such personnel to the fire department as is considered necessary for the purpose of:
 - a. controlling and suppressing outbreaks of fire and responding to fire emergencies or perceived fire emergencies;
 - b. rescuing and providing emergency medical assistance, where necessary, to victims of fires, accidents, disasters, and other unforeseen occurrences; and

- c. carrying out and enforcing such fire prevention programs as may be authorized.
3. The net cost of providing a fire protection service within the Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Area shall be apportioned among the participating areas on the basis of the converted value of land and improvements and recovered by a property value tax levied against the net taxable value of land and improvements.
4. Notwithstanding Section 3, the Regional District shall impose, by bylaw, fees and other charges for the purpose of recovering the cost, or a part of the cost, of providing a fire protection service.
5. The maximum amount which may be requisitioned annually for the purpose of providing a fire protection service within the Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Area shall be \$203,880 (Two Hundred and Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars).
6. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990.

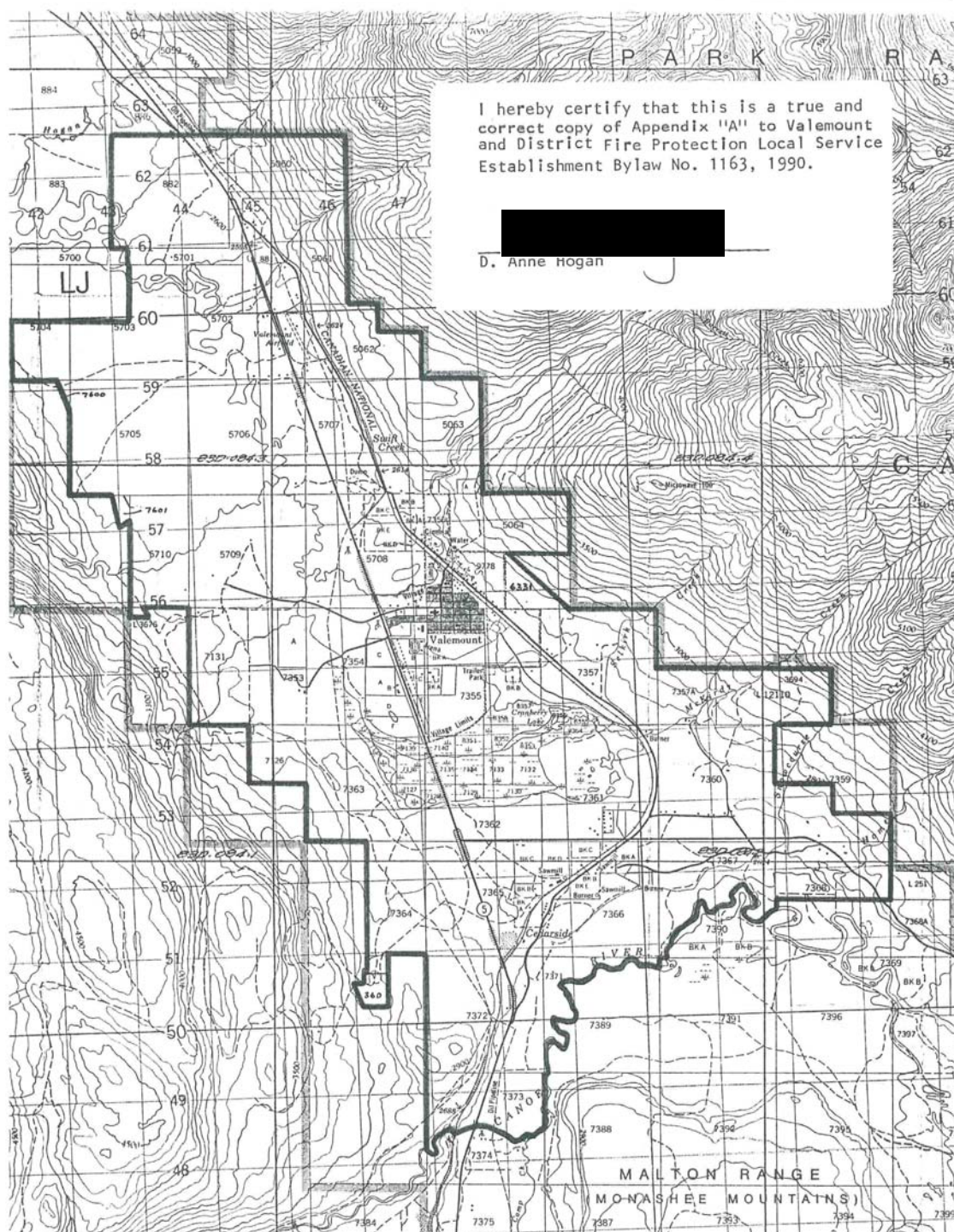
AMENDED BY
SEC 1 BL 2585
SEC 1 BL 3111

THIS BYLAW is a copy of Bylaw No. 1163, consolidated pursuant to Section 139 of the *Community Charter* and is printed on the authority of the General Manager of Legislative and Corporate Services of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

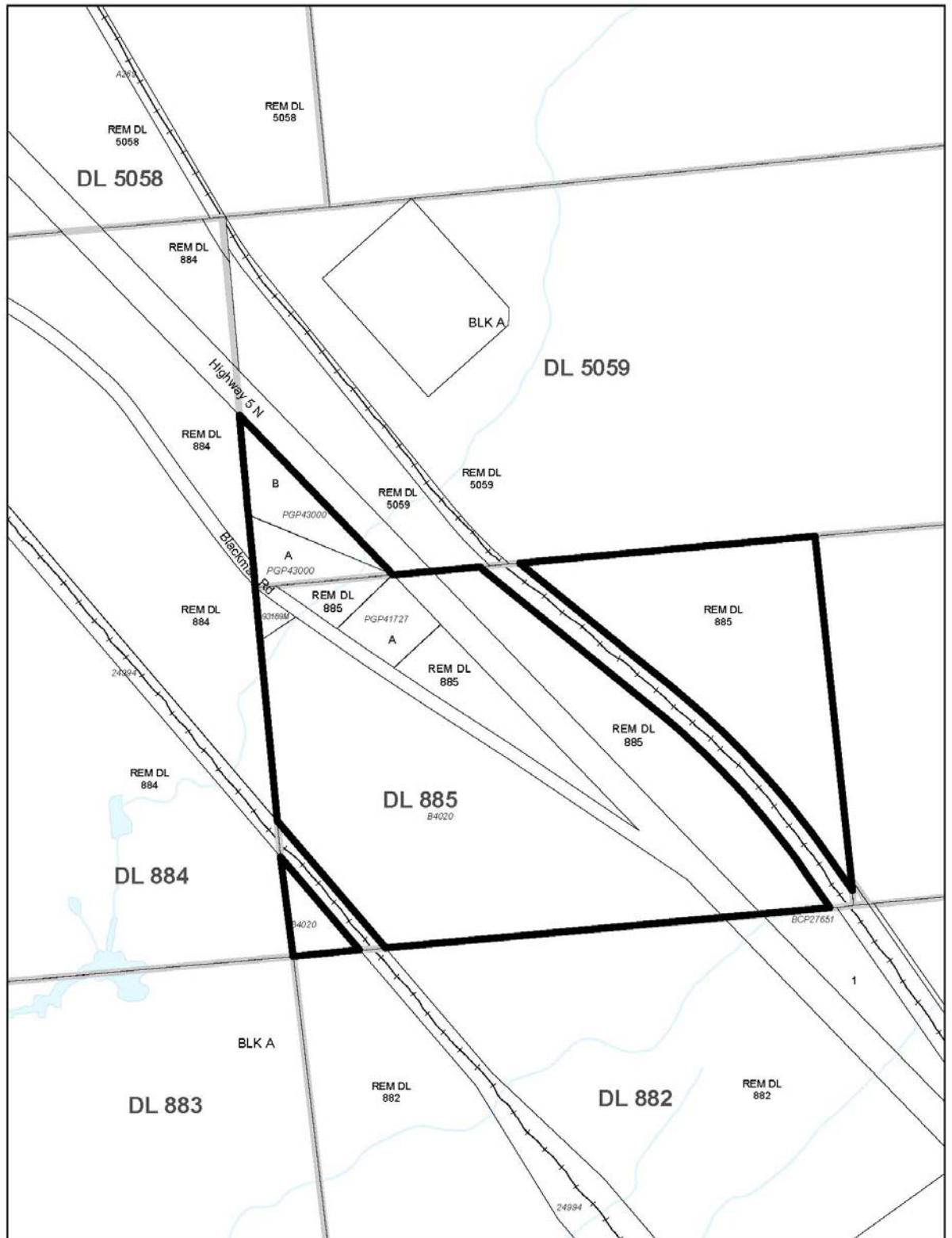
"K. Jensen"

Karla Jensen
General Manager of Legislative and Corporate Services
Date: April 5, 2019

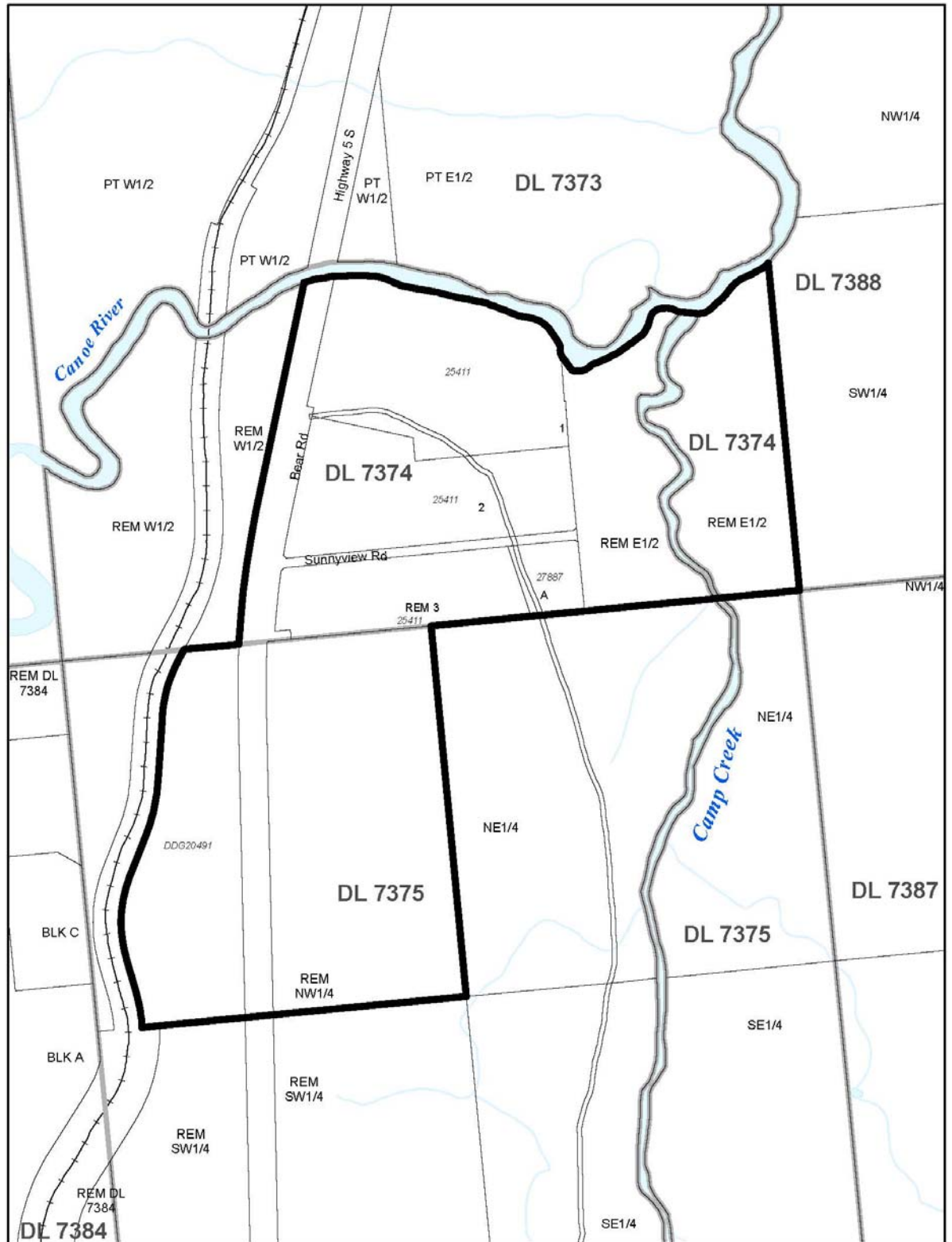
APPENDIX “A”



AMENDED BY
SEC 1 BL 2426



AMENDED BY
SEC 1 BL 2426





REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George

BYLAW NO. 3365

A BYLAW TO AMEND VALEMOUNT AND DISTRICT FIRE PROTECTION LOCAL SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW 1163, 1990

WHEREAS the Regional District has, by Bylaw No. 1163 established the Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Area;

AND WHEREAS the Regional District desires to increase the requisition limit;

AND WHEREAS the consent of the Village of Valemount has been obtained in writing pursuant to Section 346 of the *Local Government Act*;

AND WHEREAS the consent of the director representing Electoral Area H has been obtained in writing pursuant to Section 347 of the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Bylaw No. 1163 is hereby amended by deleting Section 5 in its entirety and substituting therefore the following:
 5. The maximum amount which may be requisitioned annually for the purpose of providing a fire protection service within the Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Area shall be \$254,850 (Two Hundred and Fifty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars).

2. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE ____ DAY OF ____, 2024

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE ____ DAY OF ____, 2024

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE ____ DAY OF ____, 2024

ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF ____, 2024

Chair

General Manager of Legislative and
Corporate Services