



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

July 31, 2023

UBCM Member local Governments

VIA Email

Re: BC Wildfire Service Fire Fighting Equipment

Dear Mayor and Council / Board of Directors

At its June 29, 2023, Regular Meeting, the Peace River Regional District Chair and Directors endorsed the following resolution and resolved that it be forwarded to the UBCM members for consideration of support:

WHEREAS, the province of British Columbia is prone to wildfires, which pose significant threats to public safety, communities, property, and the environment, and where climate change has contributed to an increase in the frequency, intensity, and severity of wildfires, thereby placing an unprecedented strain on available firefighting equipment;

AND WHEREAS, the Provincial Government has the responsibility to ensure that the BC Wildfire Service has adequate resources, including equipment, to effectively respond to and manage wildfires to safeguard lives, protect infrastructure, and preserve the natural environment, and where the effectiveness and efficiency of the BC Wildfire Service's operations in the containment of wildfires heavily depend on the availability of adequate equipment and resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government take immediate action to ensure that BC Wildfire is provided with all available firefighting equipment, including Coulson Aviation's Next Gen fire suppression equipment, and any other available Canadian company with aviation firefighting equipment, to combat wildfires during increased demand during peak wildfire seasons;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Provincial Government explore partnerships with federal agencies, neighboring provinces, and available contractors to enhance equipment sharing and mutual aid agreements, ensuring a more robust response to wildfires and promoting regional collaboration in firefighting efforts.

Yours truly,

Leonard Hiebert

Leonard Hiebert
Chair

Background information on this resolution is enclosed for reference.

diverse. vast. abundant.



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Wildfires pose a significant threat to public safety, communities, infrastructure, and wildlife. In British Columbia, wildfires have increased in frequency and severity in recent years. The efficient and effective management of wildfires requires access to a well-equipped and adequately resourced firefighting force, allowing BC Wildfire to respond rapidly to suppress and contain wildfires and sustain firefighting efforts during prolonged operations, minimizing their destructive impact. Inadequate access to firefighting equipment can lead to delayed response times, compromising firefighting efforts, and increased risk to human life and property. Therefore, the Province must ensure that BC Wildfire can access all available firefighting equipment.

REPLY TO: Peace River Regional District at prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca