

Port Moody Firefighters

Local 2399

OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS

150 Newport Drive, Port Moody, B.C. V3H 5C3
email:president2399@gmail.com



Mayor Meghan Lahti and Members of Council
Port Moody Fire Rescue
100 Newport Drive
Port Moody, BC V3H 5C3

Re: Decision to Discontinue Funding for the Volunteer Firefighter Association

Dear Mayor Lahti and Members of Council,

On behalf of Port Moody Fire Fighters Local 2399, I am writing to express our support of the recent strategic decision regarding the Volunteer Firefighter Association.. This decision reflects the evolving needs of our community and the realities faced by our fire service, particularly as it pertains to operational efficiency, training, and resource management.

The demands of the modern fire service are diverse, complex, and increasingly challenging. As such, training standards have followed suit, thus making it increasingly more difficult for the Volunteer Firefighter Association to be able to meet the standards set forth by the Fire Commissioner. The burden of providing this training has fallen heavily on the department's training division, diverting critical resources away from other essential priorities.

Over the years the Volunteer Association has seen many of its members become Career firefighters, whether here in Port Moody or throughout the lower mainland. Given that the Fire Service, as previously mentioned, has undergone so much technical and complex change, and Volunteer Firefighter programs in other municipalities have been shuttered, Port Moody Volunteer Firefighter Association has experienced significant turnover with many members using the opportunity as merely an employment stepping stone. While we are proud to see their success, the constant cycle of recruitment and training has proven to be unsustainable, both in terms of time and financial resources.

Since 2011 when Glenayre Firehall came online and was staffed 24/7, the operational role of the Volunteer Firefighter Association has diminished significantly. With the enhanced capacity of career firefighters and improved response times, the usage of volunteer firefighters has declined, further questioning the necessity of maintaining this program in its current form.

As our city grows, it is imperative that we focus our resources on strategies and programs that deliver the greatest benefit to the safety and well-being of Port Moody residents. We believe that

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this decision aligns with that objective and supports the long-term sustainability of our fire service.

We appreciate the difficult decisions you face as council members and are committed to working collaboratively to ensure that the fire department continues to provide the highest level of service to our community.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require further information or would like to discuss this issue in more detail.

Sincerely,

Mitch Donahue
President
Port Moody Firefighters
Local 2399
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