

From: Terry Robert <trobert@nclga.ca>

Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 4:21 AM

To: jatkinson@rdffg.bc.ca; Diane Smith <diane@districtofmackenzie.ca>

Cc: Sandra Moore <admin@nclga.ca>

Subject: 2024 NCLGA Resolution Confirmation of Support (Initial Fire Attack Crew Relocation, District of Chetwynd)

Hello Mayor Atkinson and Diane Smith,

I am writing to officially confirm the District of Mackenzie's co-support for the attached submitted resolution (Initial Fire Attack Crew Relocation) received from the District of Chetwynd on March 5, 2024.

The NCLGA received this resolution with recognition of co-submission support from the District of Hudson's Hope, District of Tumbler Ridge, and District of Mackenzie.

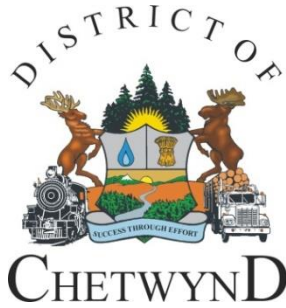
It is imperative that we ensure all submitting members, for each resolution, are duly recognized in the NCLGA Annual Report. To this end, I have attached the resolution received from the District of Chetwynd, along with the letter addressed to the Honourable Bruce Ralston, M.L.A., Minister of Forests, outlining their concerns.

Kindly note that an email confirmation, or a copy of the motion, indicating the District of Mackenzie's support for the submitted resolution will suffice to be identified in the 2024 NCLGA Annual Report (and resolution voting process) as a co-submitting member. Having multiple members co-submit a resolution gives a strong indication of support for the proposed resolution during the debate and voting process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,

Terry Robert
Executive Director
North Central Local Government Association



District of Chetwynd

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January 12, 2024

Honourable Bruce Ralston,
M.L.A., Minister of Forests
Re: Chetwynd NIFAC Base Relocation

Dear Minister,

This letter is to express our serious concerns and opposition to the arbitrary decision to remove the Northern Initial Fire Attack Crew (NIFAC) based at Chetwynd and relocate it to Dawson Creek. This decision was made without any consultation with local stakeholders and increases the potential risk to area residents in this time of drought and extreme wildfire danger. Some of the communities imperilled by this move include Chetwynd, West Moberly First Nations, Saulneau First Nations, Hudson's Hope, Tumbler Ridge, rural communities like Jackfish Lake, East Pine, and Hasler Flats, as well as the main highway, rail, and utilities corridor through the Pine Pass. ***The loss of this vital service will result in an additional minimum of one hour of road travel for initial attack crews to respond to wildfires in our area and directly impacts thousands of people and many millions of dollars of infrastructure.***

The BC Wildfire Service within the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource website states: "Initial attack crews are often the first to respond to a wildfire. Due to the quick and effective response of this 3 to 4 person crew, approximately 94% of all new wildfires in B.C. are suppressed."

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/wildfire-response/wildfire-personnel-and-response-tools/wildfire-crews/initial-attack-crews#:~:text=Initial%20attack%20crews%20are%20often,quickly%20using%20vehicles%20and%20aircraft.>

Our region sees many wildfires each year, and some of these have directly threatened our homes, lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure. The most rapid response possible is necessary to suppress these fires efficiently and we highly value the extraordinary efforts of our NIFAC team to help us with these suppression efforts.

Our data on local wildfires for the last ten years is:

2013-2023

Within 5km of Chetwynd - 14

Within 10km of Chetwynd - 8 (22 total)

Within 25km of Chetwynd - 65 (87 total, and 13 of these were in the 2023 fire season)

All available climate projections indicate that the threat to our communities posed by wildfire will continue to increase for the foreseeable future.

We urge you in the strongest possible terms to revisit this decision and help keep our NIFAC base located in Chetwynd to continue to effectively serve our region.

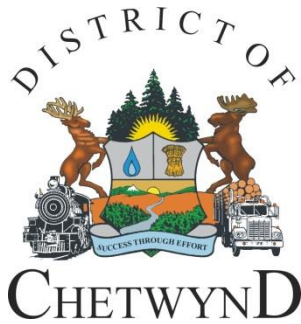
Respectfully submitted on behalf of the District of Chetwynd,

Allen Courtoreille
Mayor
District of Chetwynd

Steve McLain
Chief Administrative Officer
District of Chetwynd

Vision Statement

Chetwynd exists in order that area residents have sustainable opportunities for
Security, Health, Safety and Prosperity
in surroundings that display the best of our natural environment.



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Initial Fire Attack Crew Relocation

District of Chetwynd

WHEREAS the BC Wildfire Initial Attack Crews are a critical component of the wildfire response and rapid wildfire suppression in the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS Initial Fire Attack Crew Base locations are key to providing timely wildfire suppression efforts; especially in remote and rural areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to maintain the Initial Fire Attack Crew Bases in their current locations, and not relocate them without significant local stakeholder consultation.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Steve McLain

Chief Administrative Officer

District of Chetwynd

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