



Reference: 278101

March 27, 2024

**VIA EMAIL: [chelsea@districtofmackenzie.ca](mailto:chelsea@districtofmackenzie.ca)**

Joan Atkinson, Mayor  
District of Mackenzie  
1 Mackenzie Boulevard  
Mackenzie, British Columbia  
V0J 2C0

Dear Mayor Atkinson and Council:

Thank you for your letter of February 29, 2024, regarding the relocation of the Chetwynd Northern Initial Fire Attack Crew (NIFAC) Base.

I understand your concern regarding the closure of the base. The portion of the Chetwynd facility with staff lodging closed on December 15, 2023. This closure is due to the current absence of full-time staff, as well as ageing infrastructure of the base itself.

It is the intention of the Province of British Columbia to replace the current Chetwynd facility with a forward attack Facility. This will enable BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) to position initial attack resources in the Chetwynd area during times of increased wildfire hazard.

However, the closure of the existing facility will not result in a reduction of service. The Dawson Creek Fire Zone, within which Chetwynd is located, assigns staff and resources based on hazard and fire activity levels, and though personnel will not be stationed in Chetwynd full-time, they will be available when their capabilities are needed. When crews are not located at the Chetwynd forward attack base, travel by helicopter would be 20-30 minutes from the crew's assembly point in the Dawson Creek Fire Zone.

If you require further information on the planned facility and its capabilities, please contact Shane Greenlees, Acting Fire Centre Manager, BC Wildfire Service at [shane.greenlees@gov.bc.ca](mailto:shane.greenlees@gov.bc.ca).

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Ralston".

Bruce Ralston  
Minister

Joan Atkinson, Mayor

pc: Shane Greenlees, Acting Fire Centre Manager, BC Wildfire Service