



Amendment Bylaw 1933.01 – Wellington Fire Protection Service

RECOMMENDATION

That “Wellington Fire Protection Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 1933.01, 2025” be introduced and read three times.

BACKGROUND

In August 2024, the *Fire Safety Act* (“FSA”) was introduced by the Province of British Columbia. While the legislation has not imposed a substantial change in service delivery, the introduction of the new legislation means the operational bylaws for fire protection in the Regional District of Nanaimo (“RDN”) must be updated. This requirement for updating the operational bylaws led to the realization that the service establishment bylaws for each fire service should be reviewed and amended to align with the current services provided, maximize flexibility for funding the service delivery, provide consistency across fire services and complete administrative updates.

In November 2024, staff began the formal review of the establishment bylaws with a local government consultant to support the process. Most of the service establishment bylaws that were reviewed required amendments and have now been amended. Undertaking this review to amend the bylaws has provided the opportunity to update the bylaws with modernized and standardized wording.

The “Wellington Fire and Streetlighting Local Service Area Establishment and Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 992, 1995” (Bylaw 992) was recently divided into two separate bylaws, each addressing its respective service: “Wellington Fire Protection Local Service Area Establishment and Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 1933, 2025” (Bylaw 1933) and “Wellington Streetlighting Local Service Area Establishment and Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 1934, 2025” (Bylaw 1934). The review and further amendment of Bylaw 1933 relating to the Wellington Fire Service has been postponed until after its adoption on September 16, 2025. To maintain standardization and ensure consistency across all fire services, “Wellington Fire Protection Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 1933.01, 2025” (Bylaw 1933.01) is now being presented for the Board’s consideration.

There are no changes to the fire protection service or to the costs of providing the service. The amendments proposed today in Bylaw 1933.01 comprise of the following changes, including those to standardize and modernize wording:

- The “Whereas” clauses have been updated to reference the *Local Government Act* instead of the *Municipal Act* and remove references that have been merged into the main bylaw in the past;
- “Service Established” has been updated to be consistent with the other Fire Service bylaws and with the service currently being provided;

- A new section has been added to clarify the Regional District’s ability to contract with other parties for service delivery;
- Service Area Boundaries and Participating Areas have been reworded to current form and wording;
- A title “Maximum Requisition” has been added to the start of that section;
- Cost Recovery methods have been updated to align with current legislation;
- Schedule ‘A’ has been removed; it was historically incorporated into the full map for the Service; and
- Schedule ‘B’ has been renumbered to Schedule ‘A’.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications from Bylaw 1933.01 or this report, the cost operations for the Wellington Fire Protection Service are appropriately represented in the RDN’s 2025-2029 Financial Plan.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Fire protection is a service that is supported by staff work and expected by the communities currently receiving it, under the understanding that it will continue as an important part of RDN service as broadly described in the “Our Role” section of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. Beyond that, the Board’s Strategic Plan does not explicitly identify fire protection as a Strategic Focus Area.

REVIEWED BY:

- S. Windsor, Manager, Fire Services
- N. Richardson, Acting/Assistant Manager, Legislative Services
- L. Grant, General Manager, Development and Emergency Services
- D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT:

1. Wellington Fire Protection Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 1933.01, 2025