



**REPORT TO THE ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2010**

SUBJECT **Repeal of Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue Bylaw 3128**

PURPOSE

To propose the repeal of Bylaw 3128 Juan de Fuca (JdF) Search and Rescue (SAR) Management Bylaw, 2003.

BACKGROUND

The JdF SAR program was established by the Capital Regional District (CRD) in 2003. Prior to this, the program was provided by an independent society. At the time of establishment, a committee was put in place to provide management of the service.

The JdF SAR team is a trained and certified group of over 30 volunteers that provide assistance to response agencies such as the RCMP, and specialize in ground search and rescue, first aid, tracking, wilderness navigation, survival, rope rescue and swift water rescue. They respond throughout the JdF electoral area, and also support, through mutual aid, SAR teams in other areas.

Over the past three years, the program has been managed by volunteer SAR managers. In 2009, a contract was put in place, with a small stipend, for Bill Meikle and Victoria Weber to continue to manage the program and report to the CRD Protective Services division.

At the current time, there are no appointees to the committee, and they have had no recorded meetings in the past three years. The service has operated successfully under the direction of the SAR managers, and in consultation with CRD staff. Repeal of the committee bylaw will therefore not change the current operational model.

Bylaw 3101 "Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2003" will remain as the service establishment bylaw. There is no requirement to alter Bylaw 3101 or to replace Bylaw 3128.

ALTERNATIVES

1. To approve that Bylaw 3128 "Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue Management Bylaw, 2003" be repealed.
2. To maintain the current committee structure for JdF SAR, with a review to clarify roles of staff, local emergency coordinators and the commission in the management of the service.
3. To continue with the service as current, with no review of roles.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommended changes will have no operational impact and therefore no financial implication.

PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

With the contract in place with the SAR managers, there exists a process for program management. The SAR managers work with the volunteer membership to determine program needs, and these are presented through the budget process to staff, and then to committee and Board.

This is consistent with current practices and therefore there are no program implications expected.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

Repeal of Bylaw 3128 is recognition of how the service is currently being managed. It will not result in any operational change, as the committee currently does not meet on a regular basis. Under the contracts signed last year, Mr. Meikle and Ms. Weber act on behalf of the program to prepare reports and budgets, and report directly to the CRD Protective Services division.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw 3709 “Bylaw to Repeal Bylaw No. 3128 being Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue Management Bylaw, 2003” be introduced and read a first time, read a second time, read a third time and adopted.



Travis Whiting, Manager
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Robert Lapham, MCIP
General Manager, Planning & Protective Services
Concurrence

Kelly Daniels
Chief Administrative Officer
Concurrence