



JOINT NEWS RELEASE

December 6, 2019

Qualicum Beach and Parksville to Conduct Fire Services Review

The City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach are pleased to announce their intention to conduct a comprehensive fire services review which will focus on the feasibility of creating a fire commission for the joint management and operations of the Qualicum Beach and Parksville fire rescue departments. This review will provide recommendations for the optimal governance structure for an Oceanside Protective Services Commission, including a terms of reference for the Commission as well as appropriate funding model options. This process will include dialogue with the Regional District of Nanaimo and the regional fire departments with whom we share valuable mutual aid and automatic aid agreements.

In June, Parksville Fire Chief Marc Norris was appointed fire chief for Qualicum Beach and Parksville in a shared capacity. Since this time, the municipalities have been teaming up to find mutually beneficial opportunities for both departments.

The Parksville and Qualicum Beach fire departments have distinct identities; however, each department is running similar administrative, training, equipment maintenance, purchasing, fire prevention programs and retention/recognition programs. For the first time, the two departments are collaborating on the firefighter member recruitment campaign.

The cost of the review, to be completed in 2020, will be shared between Parksville and Qualicum Beach. The review will identify benefits to our communities and also address potential operational efficiencies that may be gained through shared resources.

QUOTE:

Parksville Mayor Ed Mayne and Qualicum Beach Mayor Brian Wiese in a joint statement said, "The Town of Qualicum Beach and the City of Parksville have been diligently building a strong working relationship which supports this innovative opportunity. We look forward to receiving the results of the fire services review."

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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