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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026**

SUBJECT **Bylaw No. 4757 – Amendment to Expand Shirley Fire Protection Local Service Area to Include a Section of Highway 14**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The Shirley Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Commission recommends that the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board expand the Shirley Fire Protection Local Service Area to include a short section of Highway 14.

BACKGROUND

On October 27, 2025, the Shirley Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Commission passed a motion recommending the expansion of the Shirley Fire Protection Local Service Area to include a portion of Highway 14, locally referred to as 'Blueberry Flats'.

Currently, the segment of Highway 14 extending from the top of Kirby Creek Hill to just west of Invermere Road lies outside the Shirley Fire Protection Local Service Area. The forested lands on the north side of the highway, and portions of the south side, are owned by Mosaic Forest Management and fall under the jurisdiction of the BC Wildfire Service. Fire response within this area, primarily for wildfire incidents, currently requires authorization from the BC Wildfire Service.

This section of Highway 14 would generally fall under Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) for motor vehicle incident (MVI) response. However, there are limitations on the issuance of EMCR task numbers for road rescue, creating the possibility that Shirley Fire Department resources may not be authorized to attend MVIs in this area.

In the event of a motor vehicle incident resulting in debris, vehicle damage, or other hazards, the inability to respond could lead to prolonged highway closures. This presents a service delivery risk and potential liability, as the Shirley Fire Protection Local Service Area includes residential properties located along Highway 14, a residential area east of the current boundary on Invermere Road, and areas extending toward Muir Creek. A blocked highway could prevent emergency response to these surrounding areas.

Expanding the service area to include this section of Highway 14 would support timely emergency response, improve public safety, and reduce operational risk.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4757, "Shirley Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1991, Amendment Bylaw No. 4, 2026", be introduced and read a first, second, and a third time;
2. That Bylaw No. 4757 proceed to obtain participating area approval by way of Electoral Area Director consent on behalf; and
3. That Bylaw No. 4757 be submitted to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information based on Electoral Areas Committee direction.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

This bylaw is not expected to negatively impact the service requisition.

Service Delivery Implications

No negative impact to service area participants or volunteer firefighters is expected. The level of service provided to the property would be consistent with the policies and operating guidelines of the Shirley Fire Department.

CONCLUSION

Expanding the Shirley Fire Protection Local Service Area to include the identified section of Highway 14 will improve emergency response capability, reduce service delivery risks, and enhance public safety. Staff recommend adoption of Bylaw No. 4757 to support the continued effective operation of the Shirley Volunteer Fire Department.

RECOMMENDATION

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4757, “Shirley Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1991, Amendment Bylaw No. 4, 2026”, be introduced and read a first, second, and a third time;
2. That Bylaw No. 4757 proceed to obtain participating area approval by way of Electoral Area Director consent on behalf; and
3. That Bylaw No. 4757 be submitted to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

Submitted by:	Shawn Carby, CD, MAL, Senior Manager, Protective Services
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P.ENG., MBA., General Manager, Planning & Protective Services
Concurrence:	Steven Carey, B.Sc., J.D., Acting General Manager, Corporate Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Map of Proposed Shirley Fire Protection Service Area Amendment

Appendix B: Bylaw No. 4757, “Shirley Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1991, Amendment Bylaw No. 4, 2026”