



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Grand Opening of the new Cluculz Lake Fire Hall

Burns Lake, B.C. – The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department were thrilled to host the Grand Opening of the new Cluculz Lake Fire Hall on May 7, 2022. There was wonderful community turn-out for the Ribbon Cutting and Barbecue.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) Director, Jerry Petersen, performed the ribbon cutting ceremony. Director Petersen, who has served residents of the area for over 25 years and was instrumental in seeing the project achieved, was thrilled to see the hall finally open for response. This infrastructure project was made possible through the Northern Capital and Planning grant from the Province of BC, which Director Petersen was able to allocate to the construction of the new Fire Hall.

The new fire hall at Cluculz Lake is part of a larger plan to increase fire response capacity in the Cluculz Lake area. RDBN Regional Fire Chief, Jason Blackwell, explained that the new facility is step one of an ongoing plan to build the rural fire protection service up to a better standard than what it has been in the past. This improved service means that residents can enjoy increased peace of mind that their homes and property will be protected in the event of a fire.

The Hall also provides a training area and space for equipment storage, components that will assist with volunteer recruitment and retention. Cluculz Lake Fire Chief, Nicholas Straughn, is excited about the upgrades, noting that the size of the hall is a vast improvement from the old one. In addition to equipment, further support will ensure that volunteer firefighters in the area have access to the resources they need, such as in-house training in Critical Incident Stress Management. Chief Straughn emphasized that, as an independent society, members have had to respond to some very serious calls, and the new relationship with the RDBN will increase the resources available to members in a significant way. He looks forward to continuing the process of adding capacity to the rural fire department.

“This Fire Hall is the culmination of many years of work by the community at Cluculz Lake. I am glad to see the volunteers who protect our lives and property well-supported to continue doing this critical work. This is truly a wonderful investment that will benefit the area for many years to come.”

~ Jerry Petersen, RDBN Director for Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

“Director Petersen’s tireless advocacy over many years has resulted in this marvellous commitment to serving rural residents. I am so pleased to see the great community participation in recognizing this important achievement. Our sincere thanks also to the dedicated volunteers that ensure this service is delivered to the best standards. This is truly a wonderful accomplishment.”

~ Gerry Thiessen, RDBN Board Chair

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