



TOWN OF MINTO

DATE: August 17, 2017
REPORT TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Callise Foerter/Chris Harrow
SUBJECT: Updated Master Fire Plan Draft

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Protect the health and safety of the community and citizens, business and the environment, by supporting a quality Volunteer Fire Department, emergency preparedness, and access to health care, prevention and wellness opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

Earlier this year, Council gave the Fire Department direction to update the existing Master Fire Plan which was first approved in 2012 with a five year scope. In the previous Master Fire Plan, we were able to complete 29 of 35 recommendations. It guided us to creating a water rescue and confined space team, both of which are operational now. It also helped to strengthen our fire prevention program by hiring a part time Fire Inspector. The previous plan was an excellent document used to shape the way Minto Fire is today.

Using a similar concept as the previous Plan, a committee was formed consisting of Firefighters, Officers, Senior Management and a Fire and Emergency Services Chair Deputy Mayor Faulkner. The committee met a total of 4 times and created a draft complete with recommendations to move the Department forward for the next 3 – 5 years. The committee and total rewrite of the Plan was completed by our Administrative Coordinator, Callise Foerter and completed in house with no Consultants used.

COMMENTS:

The Committee drafted 30 recommendations in the new Plan. The new recommendations include items for improving communications on all levels of the department, continuing to finance the 25 year equipment plan and getting the Associations more involved in social activities for the entire department.

The Committee used similar ideas from the last plan and surveyed the members for ideas and thoughts on what should be included. New this time was a spousal survey that polled all of the partners of the Firefighters to get their perspectives on the organization. Some very useful information came from this group and was included in the plan to ensure we are keeping the family environment prevalent at Minto Fire.

There were some new sections added to this version of the Master Fire Plan. A health and wellness section was added to look at a new concept emerging in the fire service. We extended some of the ideas to capture the entire department including the partners. A great deal of good discussion took place involving this topic and excellent ideas came forward.

The plan speaks to issues of succession planning and training including the potential for new Provincial regulation related to training as a result of a coroner's inquest. The Town will continue to pursue identification of lightweight construction buildings even if Provincial legislation is not finalized. Initiatives showing leadership in social media and potential for a training centre in Minto are identified in the Master Fire Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

When different recommendations are implemented, there may be some financial implications. These recommendations will have to come back to Council or be included at budget. No financial considerations were involved with the writing of the Master Fire Plan except for internal staff time covered under the current operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Minto approves the 2017 Master Fire Plan as written.

Callise Foerter
Administrative Coordinator

Chris Harrow
Fire Chief