



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

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Municipalities:

McBride
Mackenzie
Prince George
Valemount

Electoral Areas:

Chilako River-Nechako
Crooked River-Parsnip
Robson Valley-Canoe
Salmon River-Lakes
Tabor Lake-Stone Creek
Willow River-Upper Fraser
Woodpecker-Hixon

Invitation for Community Feedback Proposed 45.7 Metre 9-1-1/Fire Dispatch Radio Communication Tower Located at 5645 Buckhorn Lake Road, Prince George BC

May 28, 2025

Dear Neighbour,

ISED informed the Regional District that some required information was missing from the original letter. Public Safety Administration has updated the letter accordingly, and this is a resubmission including the necessary revisions.

The 9-1-1 Emergency Response Service provides for emergency 9-1-1 call taking services, transfer of emergency calls to the appropriate downstream agency, and coordinated fire dispatch and communications services. It supports fire/rescue radio dispatch and communications system for agencies in the City of Prince George (CPG), the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG) as well as a centralized fire dispatch facility, the Fire Operations Communications Centre (FOCC), currently located in Prince George Fire Hall #1.

9-1-1 Services are provided to over 210,000 residents within the:

- City of Prince George (CPG),
- Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG),
- Regional District Central Kootney (RDCK),
- Cariboo Regional District (CRD),
- Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS); and
- Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. (RDBN)

The FOCC dispatches and coordinates 100 fire/rescue agencies, one of the largest fire dispatch service areas in BC.

PROPOSAL DETAILS:

The RDFFG is planning to replace the existing tower at the Buckhorn Volunteer Fire Department with a 45.7 metre (150 foot) 9-1-1/Fire Dispatch radio communications tower. It is estimated the tower will be 2.2 meters (7.2 feet) across at the bottom and .55 meters (1.8 feet) across at the top. The tower will be placed on the east side of the Buckhorn Fire Hall building, geographical coordinates Lat. N53 47 35.1 Long. W122 38 43.9. The tower is necessary to enhance 9-1-1 emergency communications.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY:

Radio Communication providers are required by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), formerly Industry Canada, to consult with the local municipality and the public regarding new installations. The RDFFG is committed to meaningful consultation with the surrounding neighbours and the public. The RDFFG does not currently have a specific policy towards Radio Communication Tower Siting and Consultation and therefore the ISED default consultation process is adopted for the proposed installation.

This letter provides written notification as per ISED to adjacent landowners and stakeholders who are located within the consultation area with an opportunity to engage in reasonable, relevant, and timely communication regarding this proposal. You have received a copy of this notification package because your property, or a property you have an interest in, is located within a minimum radius of three times the tower height from the proposed installation. The closing period for written comments

regarding the proposal is **July 4, 2025**. Any inquiries that are received as a result of this notification will be documented and submitted to the RDFFG as part of our application process.

Purpose:

A new communication tower of this height is essential to ensure reliable radio coverage for the main fire dispatch center, located at Prince George Fire Hall #1, as well as for the Regional District's volunteer fire departments. The existing tower on the site is not tall enough to provide sufficient signal coverage for the Buckhorn Fire Department and therefore must be replaced. The proposed tower is specifically designed to support the required antennas for current operations, with additional capacity built in to accommodate future communication needs. After a thorough site assessment, it was determined that no other location on the property would offer the necessary coverage. Furthermore, there are no existing towers within the Buckhorn Fire Protection boundary capable of meeting these communication requirements. The tower will have sufficient room for the Regional District's required antennas and possible space for leasing to other agencies if the need arises, such as RCMP or FORTIS.

Location:

The 9-1-1/Fire Dispatch Radio Communications Tower will be located at the geographic coordinates Lat. N53 47 35.1 Long. W122 38 43.9, 5645 Buckhorn Lake Road, Prince George BC. This property is owned by the RDFFG for the operations of the Buckhorn Volunteer Fire Department.

Description of Antennas:

The tower will support several antennas designed to meet current operational needs. These include two four-element folded dipole antennas, each utilizing a half-wave design and offering 8 dBd gain, which are well-suited for providing reliable, wide-area coverage. In addition, a single-element folded dipole antenna, also of half-wave design, with a gain of 2.5 dBd, will be installed to support localized or backup communications. A directional Yagi antenna with a gain of 10 dBd will also be mounted to ensure focused, point-to-point connectivity where higher signal strength is required. These antenna configurations are critical to maintaining clear and dependable communication between dispatch and fire crews, especially in challenging terrain or remote areas.

Health & Safety of Wireless Facilities:

ISED manages the radio communications spectrum in Canada and requires radio communication facilities to comply within the guidelines set by Health Canada in order to protect people who live or work near these facilities. Health Canada safety guidelines are outlined in their Safety Code 6 document. All RDFFG facilities adhere to and are well within these standards. RDFFG attests that the 9-1-1/Fire Dispatch radio tower installation described in this notification package will be installed and operated on an ongoing basis to comply with Health Canada's Safety Code 6, as may be amended from time to time for the protection of the general public including any combined effects of nearby installations with local radio environment. If you have questions about this proposal, you are welcome to contact us.

Site Access:

Access is via the existing driveways off Buckhorn Lake Road. Construction is proposed to take place in 2025. Once complete, the site will be accessed for routine maintenance visits on a regular basis. To safeguard the site from the public, the property has been enclosed by a secure fence with locked gates.

Environment:

RDFFG confirms that the installation is in compliance with the Impact Assessment Act.

Design:

This proposed site plan consists of replacing the existing tower with a 45.7 metre 9-1-1/Fire Dispatch radio communications tower on a pile and pile cap.

Transport Canada:

The tower will be marked in accordance with the Transport Canada and NAV Canada requirements with alternating sections painted white and orange.

Structural Considerations:

RDFFG attests that the 9-1-1/Fire Dispatch radio communications tower structure described in this notification package will apply good engineering practices, including structural adequacy during construction to CSA Standards.

Local Government:

Regional District Public Safety Administration has reviewed this proposal as per existing land use regulations. The Regional Board will provide approval or non-approval at a regular Board Meeting following the consultation process.

General Information:

General information relating to antenna systems is available on ISED's Spectrum Management and Telecommunications website: [https://www.ic.gc.ca/Facts about towers](https://www.ic.gc.ca/Facts%20about%20towers)

Contacts:

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