



June 29, 2026

Dear Elector in the Cluculz Lake Fire Protection Area:

Re: Proposed Amendment to Cluculz Lake Fire Protection Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1127

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) is initiating an Alternative Approval Process to determine if electors in the Cluculz Lake Fire Protection Area are in favour of adopting Cluculz Lake Rural Fire Protection Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2108, 2026 which would increase the maximum tax limit for the service area to support continued fire protection services.

In 1999, the Cluculz Lake Emergency Response Team (CLERT) was created under the Establishment Bylaw 1127 with a maximum requisition of \$15,000. This bylaw has been amended several times throughout the last 27 years as follows:

- Bylaw 1610 (2013) – amend maximum tax limit from \$15,000 to \$18,750
- Bylaw 1847 (2019) – amend maximum tax limit from \$18,750 to \$23,437
- Bylaw No. 1906 (2020) -repealed and replaced the CLERT with the Cluculz Lake Fire Protection Service for the purpose of fire protection and suppression
- Bylaw No. 2056 (2024)- amend maximum tax limit from \$23,437 to \$29,296

The current service taxation for the Cluculz Lake Fire Protection Area is limited under the existing establishment bylaw and is not sufficient to fund a modern, rural fire department. This amendment would change the maximum tax limit from \$29,296 per year to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of net taxable value of land and improvements within the service area.

The Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department provides fire suppression, volunteer firefighter training, public fire safety education, first responder medical response, and wildfire response within the fire protection area. The proposed amendment is being brought forward because the current maximum tax limit is no longer sufficient to support the ongoing operating, training, equipment, and capital needs of the service.

Rural voluntary fire departments in neighbouring regional districts have an average annual budget of over \$200,000. The Cluculz Lake Fire Department has been running at a structural deficit, with an over reliance on grant funding and volunteer time to keep the department running. For example, there are between 15-20 volunteer firefighters at any one time, and the cost of turnout gear for each firefighter is over \$4,000. In addition, through grant funding, the new Fire Hall was constructed in 2021 at a cost of \$1.1 million, in 2025 the department received a new water tender at a cost of \$510,000 and recently in 2026 a new fire truck (engine) at a cost of \$680,000.

This proposed bylaw amendment will give the flexibility to increase taxation as needed to help ensure that the fire protection service can continue to meet community needs into the future and replace the recent capital investments when the time comes.

The following table outlines various examples for property values (assessments) for the current and estimated taxation impact for properties within the Cluculz Lake Fire Protection Area.

Property Assessment (Examples)	Tax at Max. Rate \$0.084 per \$1,000 (Current)	Tax at \$0.20 per \$1,000 (Estimate)	Tax at \$0.30 per \$1,000 (Estimate)	Tax at \$0.40 per \$1,000 (Estimate)	Tax at Max Rate \$0.50 per \$1,000 (Estimate)
\$200,000	\$16.80	\$40.00	\$60.00	\$80.00	\$100.00
\$300,000	\$25.20	\$60.00	\$90.00	\$120.00	\$150.00
\$400,000	\$33.60	\$80.00	\$120.00	\$160.00	\$200.00
\$500,000	\$42.00	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00

* The average tax rate for the other three rural fire protection areas in the RDBN is approximately \$1.25 per \$1,000 with an average annual requisition of \$78,000.

* The tax rate for residents of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George in the Beaverley Fire Protection Area is \$0.58 per \$1,000 with an annual requisition of \$398,000.

The Alternative Approval Process gives eligible electors an opportunity to indicate whether they are opposed to the proposed amendment. If Elector Response Forms opposing adoption of the bylaw are received from at least 10% of eligible electors within the service area by the deadline, the bylaw cannot proceed without further elector approval. If you are opposed to the proposed amendment, you will need to fill out an Elector Response Form and return it during the established 30-day period. **If you support the proposed amendment, no response is required.**

If the proposed amendment to increase the maximum tax limit for the Cluculz Lake Fire Protection Area is not passed, there is an increasing likelihood that the department will not be operationally sustainable, and the ability for the volunteers to meet the operating, training and equipment requirements set out by the *Fire Safety Act* and WorkSafeBC will become more of a strain on the department.

Public Information Meeting

A public information meeting will be held at the Cluculz Lake Community Hall on Saturday, July 18th from 10 am to 12 pm to provide an opportunity for electors to ask questions and learn more about the services provided by the Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

Following the public meeting, hotdogs and refreshments will be served at the Cluculz Lake Firehall.

More Information

Attached is a copy of the unofficial public notice of the Alternative Approval Process and proposed bylaw No. 2108. Elector Response Forms will be available at the meeting. Notice will be provided in accordance with the RDBN's public notification requirements, including publication in the Omineca Express, posting on the RDBN website and Facebook page, and information will be available at the RDBN office in Burns Lake. If you are opposed to the proposed amendment and are a qualified elector, your completed Elector Response Form must be received by the RDBN no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, August 31, 2026. If you have any questions, or need further information, please call the RDBN at 250-692-3195 or toll-free at 1-800-320-3339.

Map of Cluculz Lake Fire Protection Area

