



Petitions for Services - Fire Protection Areas

In B.C., fire departments are formed under Local Government bylaws that create Fire Protection Areas (FPA). Many areas in British Columbia (B.C.) and the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) do not have fire protection, partly due to no legal requirement to provide this service. The FPAs enable fire departments to deliver fire protection services to residents and visitors within their area.

To establish a local service, a bylaw must be established and must:

- Describe the service
- Define the boundaries of the local service area
- Identify the methods of cost recovery for the service, including the form of local service tax (property value tax and/or parcel tax) and the portion of the service costs that are to be recovered by the local service tax
- Identify the portion of the service costs that are to be recovered by a general property tax, if applicable



Petition for service

Petitions are usually initiated by residents interested in receiving a service in their area, e.g. fire protection services.

The petition must:

- Describe the service in general terms
- Define the boundaries of the local service area
- Provide an estimate of the costs of the service
- Indicate the proposed methods of cost recovery for the service
- Indicate what portion of the costs will be recovered by a general property tax, if applicable
- Include any other information that the Local Authority requires

For the Local Authority to rely on the petition as authority to create the local area service:

- The petition must be signed by the owners of at least 50 per cent of the parcels that would be subject to the local area tax, and
- Those same persons must be the owners of the parcels that in total represent at least 50 per cent of the assessed value of land and improvements that would be subject to the local service tax.

This document is provided for information purposes only and provides highlights only. Please review the Local Government Act and contact the Regional District of Nanaimo for more information including specific requirements for submitting petitions for service.

To learn more about Fire Services in the RDN:

- ✓ [Fire Departments](#)
- ✓ [Fire Protection Area Mapping Tool](#)

To learn more about Service Areas and Petitions:

- ✓ [Community Charter - Section 212](#)
- ✓ [Local Government Act - Petitions for electoral services](#)

For more information, please contact:

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Fire Services Department
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