

## **Parties agree to mediation over the future of Greenwich Fire Services**

December 23, 2022

GREENWICH, N.S. - The Greenwich Volunteer Fire Department, Greenwich Fire Commission, and the Municipality of the County of Kings are announcing today an agreement to move forward with mediation to settle the outstanding questions surrounding the status of fire services in the Greenwich Fire District.

The Greenwich fire station serves approximately 1,800 residents in Greenwich, White Rock, Black River, Sunken Lake, Little River Lake & Black River Lake.

In July, the Province, through the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, stepped in offering the services of a mediator.

The Greenwich Volunteer Fire Department, the Greenwich Fire Commission, and Municipality of the County of Kings have now agreed on a framework for talks.

Consistent with their past comments, the Municipality confirmed that public information sessions will be held with the communities affected, regarding a new station location or service consolidation. Regardless of the outcome of the mediation, there will be public consultation before significant changes are made to the delivery of fire services in the Greenwich Fire District.

For their part, the fire department is pleased to have a road map toward a resolution that they hope will ensure the quality of service for the residents they serve is not diminished, “Our focus has been, and continues to be, that the residents of the Greenwich Fire District continue to receive the high quality of service they currently receive from the Greenwich Fire Department” said Fire Chief Jason Ripley.

The mediation process itself is set to get underway early in 2023. Should mediation not be successful, the parties have agreed that the dispute will move to binding arbitration.