



For Immediate Release
February 27, 2026

Wet'suwet'en First Nation and Village of Burns Lake Sign Fire Protection Services Agreement

Historical agreement reinforces emergency response collaboration and commitment to community safety



(Wet'suwet'en First Nation Territory - Burns Lake, BC) -- Wet'suwet'en First Nation and the Village of Burns Lake are pleased to announce the signing of a five-year Fire Protection Services Agreement, reinforcing emergency response collaboration and enhancing community safety for Wet'suwet'en First Nation residents.

Under the Fire Services Protection Agreement, Burns Lake Fire and Rescue will provide structural fire protection services and commercial inspections within the designated service area, with emergency response accessed through 911. The arrangement strengthens operational coordination between the two governments and reflects a cooperative government-to-government relationship grounded in public safety, clarity of service, and long-term stability.

By formalizing service levels, financial terms, and operational standards, the Fire Protection Services Agreement establishes a clear and sustainable framework to protect Wet'suwet'en First Nation residents and property. The Agreement will remain in effect through March 31, 2031.

“Our community will now, at long last, have the same level of fire protection as the rest of the area,” says Chief Maureen Luggi of the Wet’suwet’en First Nation. “Fire protection is not just about the land, buildings, and infrastructure; this partnership also provides peace of mind for our families.”

“Through respectful government-to-government collaboration, we have established a clear and dependable approach to fire protection. This Agreement builds on our partnership and ensures continued service stability for the years ahead.” Henry Wiebe, Mayor

About the Wet’suwet’en First Nation:

The Wet’suwet’en First Nation is located in Northern British Columbia, near Burns Lake. The community votes for its Chief and Council members every three years. The Elected Chief and Council are representatives who administer programs and services directly for the community and participate in the management of land and resources within their traditional territory.

About the Village of Burns Lake:

The Village of Burns Lake is a local government in northern British Columbia serving as a regional hub for the Lakes District. Governed by an elected Mayor and Council, the Village provides municipal services including fire protection, water and sewer utilities, public works, recreation, and community planning. The Village works collaboratively with neighbouring First Nations, regional partners, and provincial agencies to support public safety, economic resilience, and community well-being.

Media Contacts:

Village of Burns Lake

Ryan Nitchie, CAO

Henry Wiebe, Mayor

Wet’suwet’en First Nation

Maureen Luggi, Chief