

From: Stephen Gamble

Subject: The New Fire Safety Act

President Pley I would like to once again thank you for allowing me the opportunity to attend today's session in Victoria where the new Fire Safety Act received first reading in the Legislative Assembly.

To witness this historical moment is one I will truly cherish.

This new Act is a compilation of years of work by a number of associations and individuals that stems back prior to and after the 2009 FSLG Transforming the Fire/Rescue Service report.

As the new Act winds itself through the Legislative Assembly we are unable to say for sure what the final document will look like as today was only the introduction of the Act. However, I am confident from the work put into the Act it is a far superior document than what we currently have and it is in line with what we were looking for at the start of this process.

The new Fire Safety Act provides local governments with the means to introduce a risk-based compliance monitoring system and a means to recover costs. The Fire Commissioner's powers and duties have been reviewed/rewritten and they now include establishing a Provincial standard for investigators and inspectors, as well as for training.

The Act provides us with the means for "tactical" as well as "preventive" evacuations along with power to order these structures to be secured by the owner. And if the owner does not comply local governments will have the mechanism to secure the property with the owner saddled with the costs .

As you can appreciate I have only mentioned a few of the changes contained within the new Act. As the old Act is being totally replaced I'm sure there will be lots of questions. To that end the Fire Commissioner is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the FSLG group that has been working on this project to clarify any concerns/questions they may have.

I plan on attending this meeting and will reconnect with you as to what is discussed. As soon as I am allowed to I will communicate details of the new Fire Safety Act to the Association in order that you can share that information with our members and as soon as the Act it self is made public I will share that as well. In the meantime if you or the Board have questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks again.

Stephen Gamble, CFO, FIFireE | Fire Chief

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