



Okanagan Indian Band

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September 13, 2019

By hand

Dear Residents of Desert Cove,

This letter is to inform you of the difficult decision that the Okanagan Indian Band (“OKIB”) has taken to terminate fire protection services to residents in Desert Cove Estates. OKIB is not funded to provide these services and cannot provide these services free of charge. Despite considerable time and efforts, we have not been able to formalize an agreement that would address the payment necessary for us to provide fire protection services.

For some time, we have been trying to negotiate a fire services agreement to govern the provision of fire protection services by OKIB to the Desert Cove Estates. This fire services agreement would include a charge of roughly \$0.0015 per dollar of assessed value on each home. This is the same rate used by the Regional District of Northern Okanagan for residents in other areas that have service agreements in place, and is what has been agreed to by other developments on OKIB lands. This payment is integral to OKIB’s ability to deliver fire protection services.

On **December 14, 2018**, OKIB sent a letter Desert Cove Estates Ltd. providing formal written notice that we would be unable to provide fire services to the Desert Cove Estates unless a fire services agreement could be entered into. We have held meetings with Desert Cove including with members of OKIB Council, staff and the OKIB Fire Chief, where we have reiterated that if Desert Cove did not find a way to pay for the fire protection services then OKIB would have no choice but terminate these services. We explained how this would result in no responses from OKIB to residents of Desert Cove for medical or fire calls. At this time, despite our considerable time and efforts, we have not been able to formalize an agreement with the management of Desert Cove that would address the payment necessary for us to provide fire protection services.

Due to the fact that we have yet to enter into an agreement for fire protection services, OKIB has made the difficult decision to let you know that we will no longer be able to provide you with any degree of fire and medical responses as of **September 30, 2019**. OKIB remains open to signing a fire services agreement in the future, should Desert Cove Estates decide it is in its interest to do so.

Sincerely,

Victor Rumbolt
Executive Director, Okanagan Indian Band