

Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of <date>

То:	Committee of the Whole	Date:	November 04, 2024
From:	Daniel Atkinson, Fire Chief		
Subject:	Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator Designa	tions	

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve, by resolution, that any person employed by the Victoria Fire Department as a Fire Prevention Officer or a Company Officer and who possesses the appropriate training be designated to perform the duties of fire inspector in accordance with section 8 of the Fire Safety Act and as fire investigator in accordance with section 23 of the Fire Safety Act of British Columbia.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On August 1, 2024, the Fire Safety Act (FSA) came into force, replacing the Fire Services Act of 1979. The FSA meets the B.C. governments commitment to achieve a single standard of fire safety in the province and enables local authorities to designate personnel to carry out fire inspections and fire investigations among other improvements.

As a result of the FSA coming into force, the local authority (monitoring agent) must designate, in writing, a person or class of persons as fire inspectors and fire investigators. This obligation may be satisfied by council resolution until such time as the City of Victoria Fire Prevention and Regulation Bylaw can be updated to reflect the new legislation.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek a council resolution that fulfills our obligations as the Local Authority to designate, in writing, a person or class of persons to carry out specific duties in accordance with the Fire Safety Act of British Columbia.

BACKGROUND

The Victoria Fire Department completes over 4000 thousand fire inspections and over 200 fire investigations annually. Under the Fire Services Act, these duties were performed under the authority granted as a Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner (LAFC). With the Fire Safety Act replacing the Fire services Act, the LAFC program has been discontinued and the execution of these functions now requires formal written designation by the local authority.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

There are no issues which require further analysis.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

There are no options or impacts for consideration.

CONCLUSIONS

The Victoria Fire Department's current training and development program exceeds the minimum training requirements necessary for Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator as defined in the Fire Safety Act. This council resolution fulfills our obligations under the Act and allows us to continue performing these functions until the necessary updates can be made to the Fire Prevention and Regulation Bylaw.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Atkinson Fire Chief

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager