



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

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March 26, 2019

City of Victoria
#1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
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Dear Mayor Helps & Council,

In the interest of keeping our shareholders informed and up-to-date on the Capital Region's emergency communications system, the following is a brief highlight of February's board meeting.

As you know we are well underway on our technology renewal project. The "next generation" technology is replacing the existing 16-year old radio system that currently serves 50 emergency response agencies within the Capital Region. The new radio system is based on digital radio technology known as Project 25 (P25), which provides first responders with enhanced audio clarity and improved coverage among other operational and safety benefits.

Phase 1 build-out of sites in the core is complete and agency cutover onto the new system has been underway since January. The cut-over process is coordinated on an agency by agency basis, and typically takes place quite quickly. Presently Victoria police, Saanich police, Oak Bay police, Victoria bylaw, and University of Victoria security are operating on the new P25 network. We anticipate the transition for core fire departments to occur during the 2nd quarter of 2019.

Phase 2 (Westshore & Saanich Peninsula), Phase 3 (Gulf Islands & Pacific Rim) will follow the same pattern, with an expectation that the new system will be complete by end of 2019.

Site availability and build out are critical to the network timetable. Some of the sites in Phases 2 (Westshore) & 3 do not yet have final agreements in place. This is a priority over the coming months.

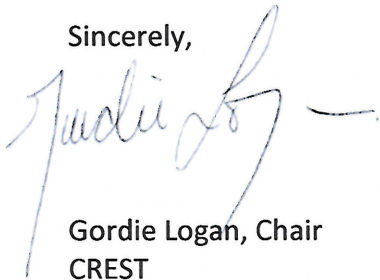
As the region grows, as density increases, and as buildings get taller, it is of utmost importance for the CREST Board that our region's emergency communications system continues to respond optimally in a rapidly changing physical landscape. To avoid unintended, costly and serious

public safety consequences, it would be prudent to have CREST work pro-actively with local government planning staff to help inform planning decisions thereby ensuring that new development allows for uninterrupted communications for emergency providers within new buildings. The process of engagement with municipal staff has consisted of sharing of information, education and coordination. CREST's general manager has discussed this issue at CAO regional forums to discuss ways of furthering this endeavor. Thank you in advance for your support.

I have also enclosed a small primer booklet on CREST that you might find worthwhile.

With new council members coming on board as a result of civic elections last fall, we are more than willing to provide a short CREST update in person to Council or your committee of the whole. Please feel free to let general manager Gord Horth at ghorth@crest.ca or myself know if you would like more information on the work of CREST.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gordie Logan", followed by a horizontal line.

Gordie Logan, Chair
CREST

Cc: CAO Jocelyn Jenkyns, CFO Susanne Thompson, Police Chief Del Manak, Fire Chief Paul Bruce