



# VILLAGE OF BELCARRA

*"Between Forest and Sea"*

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September 20, 2024

File No. 7200-02

Mayor and Council  
Village of Anmore  
2697 Sunnyside Road  
Anmore, BC V3H 5G9

Via email

Re: Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service Review

Dear Mayor and Council:

Thank you for your letter of September 6, 2024.

As you know, prior to giving notice initiating this service review, Belcarra Council attempted on a number of occasions to engage in meaningful discussions with Anmore Council in relation to the modernization of the governance, cost apportionment and recovery structures, and administration of the service. Unfortunately, it appeared to Belcarra Council that Anmore Council was not prepared to discuss those matters.

Belcarra Council did not take the decision to initiate this service review lightly. Like Anmore Council, Belcarra Council very much appreciates the significant efforts of the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department and in no way wishes to detract from those efforts and the services the Fire Department provides. That being said, Belcarra Council owes a duty to its residents to ensure that the governance, cost apportionment and recovery structures, and administration of the service reflect the best interests of its residents. Those issues have not been reviewed and discussed by Belcarra Council and Anmore Council since the letters patent establishing the service were issued in 1980. Much has changed in Belcarra and Anmore since then, and Belcarra Council believes strongly that a review is warranted.

At this time, Belcarra Council remains committed to proceeding with the service review process. Belcarra Council understands that the review may result in no change to the service or may result in changes that benefit both Belcarra residents and Anmore residents. For example, Belcarra Council appreciates that, to the extent that capital acquisitions for the service benefit Belcarra solely or Anmore solely, the review may recommend that those capital acquisitions be funded solely by the party benefited. Suffice it to say that Belcarra is not looking for a free ride; rather, it is looking for an equitable partnership.

With respect, Belcarra Council does not understand why a review of the service cannot be conducted while we move forward with the much needed replacement of the fire halls.

Finally, Belcarra Council wishes to reiterate that it has no desire for the service to be wound up and for Belcarra and Anmore to establish their own fire departments. Belcarra Council very much appreciates the significant efforts of the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department, and believes that a single department remains in the best interest of Belcarra residents and Anmore residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie Ross". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jamie Ross  
Mayor

cc: Belcarra Council  
Anmore Council  
Metro Vancouver