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June 19, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

The Board of Trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District is pleased to announce that the District has been accepted as a full member of the Greater Victoria Labour Relations Association (GVLRA) with immediate effect. The GVLRA was established in 1976 and is an employer's bargaining agency representing some thirteen Capital Regional District municipalities and public-sector entities.

As a member of the GVLRA, their professional negotiators will represent the District at the collective bargaining table with IAFF Local 4467. Trustees are confident the GVLRA will represent the taxpayers of Salt Spring Island extremely well and do so on a cost-effective basis. In addition to bargaining, the GVLRA also acts as a central service agency providing expertise that allows for consistent and cost-effective contract interpretations, arbitrations and other activities related to good labour relations.

Labour relations, dealing with grievances and planning for contract negotiations have been difficult issues for the current and past boards. Handing this responsibility over to outside professionals allows trustees to concentrate other business. It is the Board's expectation that this new arrangement will help both sides in bargaining come to an amicable agreement that will be more in-line with other fire service contracts in the region.

Trustees look forward to working with all our career staff and paid-on-call members to provide our community with an excellent first responder and fire protection service at an affordable cost. The District provides fire protection and first responder services to most of Salt Spring Island with eight career staff, thirty-five paid-on-call members and a budget of \$2,558,250.

Board of Trustees
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District