

March 23, 2015

Dear Volunteers

During the past few weeks your SIFPS Board has been the subject of severe criticism and false allegations about reckless spending and budgeting.

We've been accused of slashing our budget, compromising your ability to serve your community.

On the contrary! The Board is 100% committed to providing you with the what ever it takes to support your volunteer effort on Saturna. We have just purchased and delivered a \$50,000 rescue vehicle and put in place a \$20,000 health benefits plan in recognition of your commitment as a volunteer. The Board has also agreed to cost share with you the purchase of a new washer and dryer.

The operations part of our budget...the part that directly supports equipment and training has not been reduced; in fact it has been increased as we move into the future. There is also a Board approved plan to reserve \$250,000 over the next 9 years for vehicle replacement.

It is true that there has been some budget reduction as one of our "alert" community members has protested. The budget is being reduced to reflect the paying off of the ESB#1 and ESB#2 building mortgage.

Prior to construction of the subject buildings, the community supported by referendum the borrowing of funds to facilitate construction. This required that taxes be increased to support the financing of construction. We have been servicing a mortgage by making annual payments of \$50,000 and the mortgage will be paid in full by next spring.

It was the commitment of the previous Board to give this money back to Saturna ratepayer once the mortgage was paid off. This Board is honoring that commitment.

Thank you for your ongoing service and commitment as a fire service volunteer. Your Chief has endorsed the contents of this message.

Wayne Quinn, President  
Saturna Island Fire Protection Society