

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Malahat Fire Rescue Receives Delivery of New Tactical Water Tender

Malahat, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is pleased to announce the delivery of a 2023 2,000-gallon Tactical Water Tender to Malahat Fire Rescue, received on October 12, 2025. A tactical water tender plays a crucial support role in firefighting operations, especially in areas where water is limited or unavailable.

The tender was purchased from Lak'Was Wildfire Water Service Ltd., an Indigenous-owned and operated company based in Comox, BC that provides professional water services during wildfire season to BC Wildfire Service and provides services to local municipal fire departments.

The CVRD Board approved a contribution of \$100,000 to Malahat Fire Rescue for the acquisition of the tender. This funding was provided through the CVRD's allocation to Electoral Area A of the Community Works Fund, one of the funding streams of the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF), administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.

"The delivery of the new tactical water tender represents a major investment in the safety and resilience of the Cowichan Valley," said Will Greaves, Member of Parliament for Victoria. "The tender will allow water to be delivered to where it is needed most and help ensure reliable and effective firefighting operations. We will continue to support projects that protect communities and enhance public safety across Canada."

"When local fire crews have the right tools, everyone in the community benefits," said Brittney Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities. "Our government is committed to strengthening local capacity and building long-term resilience, so crews are ready to respond to today's and tomorrow's challenges and keep communities safe."

CVRD Chair Kate Segall, who also represents Area A (Mill Bay/Malahat) joined Frank and Catherine Assu from Lak'Was Wildfire Water Service, along with members of Malahat Fire Rescue including Fire Chief Tanya Patterson, to mark the delivery.

"This new Tactical Water Tender is a meaningful investment in the safety and resilience of the Area A community," said CVRD Chair Kate Segall. "Its ability to respond to rural fires, especially in areas with limited water access, will be critical during our increasingly dry and hot summer months. This tender not only strengthens Malahat Fire Rescue's capacity but also provides peace of mind to residents throughout wildfire season."

"We are greatly pleased to receive the new Tactical Water Tender, as it will significantly enhance the operational capabilities of CVRD Malahat Fire Rescue," said Fire Chief Tanya Patterson. "This custom-built unit is ideally suited to the geography and year-round weather conditions of the Malahat Fire Service Area. It is also fully equipped to support the Province of BC during wildfire season, should assistance be required."

Key Features of the Tactical Water Tender:

- Freightliner chassis custom-built by Fort Garry Fire Trucks in Winnipeg, MB
- Four-wheel drive (4x4)

- Darley Pump and Roll 500 USGPM pump (can spray water from turret and ground nozzles while driving)
- 2" front bumper turret, joystick-controlled from inside the cab
- Four 1" ground spray nozzles, one at each corner of the tender
- Includes all necessary equipment and hoses
- A children's book was published about the truck; "Adventures with "Bob": A wildfire journey with Kiara and Nova", and Malahat Fire Rescue has officially named and labeled the tender "BOB"

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CVRD Malahat Fire Rescue Tactical Water Tender with Area A Director Kate Segall, Frank and Catherine Assu from Lak'Was Wildfire Water Service, and members of Malahat Fire Rescue including Fire Chief Tanya Patterson.