



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010

To: The Media

From: Karen Lindsay, Nanaimo Fire Rescue

**Re: City of Nanaimo E911 Call Answer Levy Bylaw passes three readings**

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The E9-1-1 Call Answer Levy (CAL) Bylaw has passed through three readings at the City of Nanaimo Council meeting and will be moving forward to its final reading for consideration on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Essentially the CAL bylaw will obtain the participation of Wireless Services Providers (WSPs) to assist with the funding of 9-1-1 services by ensuring a User Pay System. The CVRD and RDN, who are partners in the 9-1-1 Operating System will be considering the same Bylaw in their jurisdiction.

On average CI 9-1-1 receives 53,000 calls annually of which 50% of these are from wireless (cell) phones. Approximately one-third of CI 9-1-1 operating costs are covered by a call answer levy on landlines. The remaining funding for the CI 9-1-1 system is from property taxation. Under existing CRTC regulations, Wireless Service Providers (WSP)s are not required to participate or provide funding to 911 service providers and thereby are accessing these services for free although they do collect a 911 fee from their customers.

The CAL is not an additional tax. The CAL bylaw allows for a 'universal' levy/rate covering the full cost of 911 operations by including WSPs thereby reducing the annual property tax levy for 911 services by approximately \$500,000. The impact on the homeowner with a landline and cell phone will be zero and those without a cell phone will experience some savings as a result of the CAL.

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For more information please contact Ron Lambert, Fire Chief 250-755-4555