



**FUNDRAISING EFFORTS ARE “ON FIRE” FOR
ADVANCED FIRE/RESCUE TRAINING FACILITY ON
PENDER ISLAND, B.C.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

October 17, 2014 (Pender Island, B.C.) – Thanks to the incredible support of Pender Island residents and community groups, \$100,750.00 was raised (far exceeding the goal of \$85,000.00) for the Pender Island advanced Fire/Rescue training facility. Added to this is a most generous endowment of \$110,000.00 from the Robert L. Conconi Foundation, which was presented to Chief Charlie Boyte by the foundation’s executive director, Sanja Simic, during a ceremony at the Pender Island Fire Rescue Open House on October 10th. The Robert L. Conconi Foundation is a private family foundation established in 2003 to inspire lasting change and better communities in BC. A total of \$210,750.00 will go towards the second phase upgrade of the training facilities at Fire Hall #1, with work to commence immediately.

“Local, affordable, training that ensures our firefighters can refresh all their skills and techniques regularly means when you call for help, someone will come that knows exactly what to do. That is what we all get out of this project. Effective training that challenges our firefighters to be the “best they can be” will improve the quality of service delivered in our communities, keep our firefighters much safer in their work, and is critical to the long term sustainability of our Fire/Rescue services,” stated Chief Charlie Boyte.

This new facility will ultimately provide realistic and complex training for multi-level live fires (including below grade attacks), equipment to train for confined space rescue, self-extrication, and forced entries. The exterior of the structure will

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improve training for roof ventilation techniques as well as ladder and rope rescue skills. It is a cost effective option that will supply excellent realistic training grounds and include environmental features to reduce gas emissions and water use. It will allow firefighters to train more often and more effectively, while keeping them close at hand when emergencies strike. Fire departments from the neighbouring Gulf Islands will also be able to utilize the training centre once completed.

Pender Island Fire/Rescue is a dynamic, rural volunteer fire department with 36 firefighters and 65 auxiliary members, who respond to approximately 240 emergency calls annually.

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