



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEPUTY CHIEF JEFF BECKWITH PROMOTED TO FIRE CHIEF

JANUARY 28th, 2022– PRINCE RUPERT, B.C. – The City has promoted Jeff Beckwith, former Deputy Fire Chief to the top position at the Department. Selected by City Council appointment, in his position as Fire Chief he will oversee a Department of 20 firefighters and 7 dispatchers, who provide both fire and ambulatory response services to the Prince Rupert area. Duties of the Chief include attending fires and overseeing fire suppression crews, overseeing fire inspections and investigations, directing public information regarding fire prevention, among other tasks.

“Chief Beckwith has given many years to the Department, and is well-qualified for the position,” said City Manager Rob Buchan. “These past two years have been especially challenging for emergency responders, and we are grateful for the dedication of both the leadership and staff of the Department for continuing to provide essential care to the community through the pandemic.”

Beckwith has been with the Department for 23 years and was promoted to Deputy in 2009. He moved to Prince Rupert in 1995, working in commercial fishing before taking a position with the City’s local Fire Department. Prior to that, he also worked as a volunteer firefighter in Pender Harbour for three years on the Sunshine Coast. He is married with two kids, and finds it rewarding to have a position that lets him give back to the community. He said he is looking forward to leading the team of Prince Rupert’s highly skilled staff.

“It’s a supportive team of firefighters and dispatchers that really makes the fire service work,” said Beckwith. “It’s the people that make the job worthwhile.”

City Council and staff would like to thank outgoing Chief Dave Mckenzie for his 13 years of service as Chief, and over 30 years at the local Department.

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