



COQUITLAM SEARCH AND RESCUE SOCIETY

For Immediate Release

NEW MOBILE COMMAND CENTRE BUILD UNDERWAY

November 12, 2015

Coquitlam Search and Rescue's new mobile command centre (MCC) will soon be on the road.

The MCC has been designed, from the ground up, to take into account the experience of search and rescue (SAR) teams throughout the province. "After more than two years of planning, we are excited to see the build of our new command centre underway," says Liz Clyne, MCC project manager. "Many people have been involved in planning and designing the command centre, it has taken a real team effort to bring our vision into reality and we are all looking forward to seeing it in service."

The MCC incorporates three components: the cab and chassis; the module, or the "box", mounted on the cab and chassis, which constitutes the functioning command centre; and technology, the electronics that support operations planning, implementation and monitoring.

Two years of planning began to take shape for Coquitlam Search and Rescue, an all-volunteer team located in Coquitlam, British Columbia, when the cab and chassis was purchased by the City of Coquitlam in partnership with Metro Motors Ltd, and delivered in late October.

The MCC module will be manufactured locally by Intercontinental Truck Body (ITB) of Surrey, with delivery scheduled for mid-April, 2016. This is the most complex part of the project and has absorbed many hours of time by the team, which collaborated with ITB to design and develop the build specifications. ITB is an experienced builder of command vehicles for SAR teams throughout BC.

The electronic technology – radios, computers, printers and video displays – will be ordered and installed to match the module manufacturing schedule. According to Mike Coyle, MCC technical lead, the command centre will have the latest communications and display technology, which will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the team's operations.

Funding for the MCC replacement project has come from many sources, explains Sandy Burpee, fundraising lead for the project. "I am pleased to say that we have achieved our fundraising goal and we are very grateful for the generosity of Tri-City and Burnaby businesses, service clubs, municipalities, individual donors, and the financial support of the Province of British Columbia." Platinum level donors include the BC Gaming Policy & Enforcement Branch, the city of Coquitlam, Canadian Tire Corporation and Wesbild Holdings, while Allard Contractors, Chevron Canada, the cities of Burnaby, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody, and Telus have contributed at the Gold level.

The new Mobile Command Centre is expected to be in service by April 30, 2016.

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For more information on Coquitlam Search & Rescue: www.coquitlam-sar.bc.ca

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Backgrounder

Coquitlam Search and Rescue (SAR) serving the communities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody Anmore, Belcarra, Burnaby and New Westminster, BC has been providing emergency services in both urban and wilderness settings since 1972. The team, based at Coquitlam's Town Centre Fire Hall, operates under the provincial Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and performs inland water, wilderness and urban search and rescue in an area bounded by Indian Arm on the west, Pitt Lake on the east, Garibaldi Park to the north, and the Fraser River to the south.

The team's current mobile command centre, in which search and rescue activities are planned, implemented and managed, is 20 years old and due for replacement. In addition to providing command centre capability for the next 20 years, a new mobile command centre will provide a more robust vehicle to meet the needs of one of the fastest growing areas of the Lower Mainland, with the capability to travel on more challenging roads and with greater fuel efficiency, transport additional field equipment, and enhance search and rescue management capability through new technology and additional floor space for work stations and briefings.

Donors to the Mobile Command Centre Replacement project include:

Platinum level:

- BC Gaming Policy & Enforcement Branch
- Canadian Tire Corporation
- Wesbild Holdings

Gold level:

- Allard Contractors
- Chevron
- City of Burnaby
- City of Port Coquitlam
- City of Port Moody
- Telus

Silver level:

- BC Hydro
- Coquitlam Foundation
- Coquitlam Sunrise Rotary
- Joyce Knight Memorial Golf Tournament
- Metro Vancouver

Bronze level:

- Burquitlam Lions Club
- Hard Rock Casino
- Village of Belcarra
- Village of Anmore

Coquitlam Search & Rescue expresses its sincere appreciation to the City of Coquitlam for its substantive ongoing support of the team, including the purchase of the cab & chassis component of the Mobile Command Centre Replacement project.