



## Fire Chiefs' Association of BC

### **BRITISH COLUMBIA SEARCH & RESCUE – FCABC AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE ANNUAL REPORT May 2019**

The British Columbia Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA) Board continues to work on their Search and Rescue Support Model. A multi year project led by BCSARA in its capacity as representatives of the search and rescue stakeholders in BC to the provincial government. Building on the work completed in the Levelling the Playing Field workshops, the project aims to secure long term stable funding for Search and Rescue in BC, and to replace the current high administrative cost system of applying for funds on a per-project basis.

On March 23, 2019 the Minister of Public Safety announced \$18.6 million in addition funding for Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) in British Columbia. The funding is being provided to the British Columbia Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA) for use over the next 3 years, while the details of future sustainable funding are worked out this year. The majority of the funding will be disbursed to GSAR Groups; some will be used to support provincial programs including core training, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and the prevention program AdventureSmart. There will also be supports added within BCSARA to assist with the administration and reporting requirements, to reduce pressures on GSAR Groups.

Additionally the province has committed to working with BCSARA to finalize details on a sustainable funding model this year, with implementation at the end of the current 3-year grant.

As our association's representative on the BCSARA board, we are able to be aware of and support topics of common interest and need for public safety in BC.

Respectfully submitted,

**Regional Fire Chief Dan Derby**  
FCABC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President