



April 30, 2021

News Release

## **Fire Chief Greg Van Tighem Takes Last Radio Call**

After 22 years at the head of the Jasper Fire Department, Director of Protective Services and Fire Chief Greg Van Tighem is retiring from his employment with the Municipality of Jasper. Chief Van Tighem took his last radio call from Jasper Dispatch on Friday, April 30 at 4:30pm.

Chief Van Tighem was instrumental in establishing the Jasper Fire Department as we know it today. Prior to municipal incorporation, the Jasper Fire Department consisted of a small group of volunteers who responded to fire calls in Jasper, while highway response fell under the jurisdiction of the national park warden service. It was Chief Van Tighem's planning, foresight and legwork that helped the Municipality of Jasper negotiate the transfer of fire services from Parks Canada, and put together the foundation for modern and professional structural firefighting and highway rescue services in Jasper National Park. This work became the base for the current Protective Services department, which also includes emergency management, disaster planning, and Bylaw Enforcement Services.

A new fire hall, several fire trucks and volunteer firefighter training sessions later, Chief Van Tighem leaves behind a legacy of continuous improvement, strong relationships with collaborating agencies, and active management of first responder mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"Greg's remarkable dedication to serving and protecting Jasper, his steadfast support of the Jasper Volunteer Fire Brigade, his relentless pursuit of fundraising opportunities for a variety of worthy causes – most notably MS, cancer, and mental health – his personal tenacity, resolve and endurance in achieving his goals, his clear and overwhelming commitment to community, and his calm, measured, modest, respectful demeanour, have deservedly elevated Greg to the status of local legend, creating a lasting legacy of selfless service," says Jasper Mayor Richard Ireland.

While we anticipate the Chief will be spending less time at the Fire Hall and more time outdoors in the near future, we wish him all the fishing, hunting, cycling, bike packing, Maligne Lake adventures, and time at the cabin with friends and family his heart desires. Thanks, Chief. We will take it from here.

– 30 –

For more information, contact:

Christine Nadon, Legislative Services Manager  
[cnadon@town.jasper.ab.ca](mailto:cnadon@town.jasper.ab.ca)

For media inquiries, contact:

Amanda Stevens, Communications Officer  
[astevens@town.jasper.ab.ca](mailto:astevens@town.jasper.ab.ca)