



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Deputy Fire Chief, Operations Appointed

The City of Vernon is very pleased to announce that Fire Officer M.J. (Jack) Blair has been appointed as the City's new Deputy Fire Chief, Operations.

Deputy Chief Blair brings with him a 33 year career with Fire Rescue Services which began in 1978 with the City of Vancouver. Blair started as a fire fighter and was promoted through the ranks, including ranks of Fire Investigator and Training Officer, up to and including the position of Fire Captain in 2005. Blair was a member of the Hazardous Materials Team which included training in Terrorism, Chemical, Biological, and Nuclear. (CBRN)

In 2005, DC Blair was awarded the position of Fire Services Coordinator for the Columbia Shuswap Regional District in Salmon Arm where he remained until his recent acceptance of the role of Deputy Chief with the City of Vernon.

In addition to regular duties Blair has provided extensive HazMat, Recruit and Fire Officer training programs through the Justice Institute and, in addition to having the opportunity to work in the Middle East, has provided training to local Vernon and North Okanagan Regional District fire fighters.

DC Blair's perspective is that "commonality is paramount in this industry. One of my goals is to build on what Chief Green has been doing which is to bring unanimity to the region". He further states "I look forward to working with a fine group of dedicated individuals and to another opportunity to do what I love the most."

Vernon Fire Chief Keith Green is excited to welcome Jack to the VFRS team. "We are fortunate to have someone with Jack's proven track record available to help us achieve our organizational goals. Jack has extensive experience helping both our career & volunteer fire fighters with training and this appointment solidifies our commitment to continuing that relationship."

Jack is recently married to wife, Wende. Together they have four sons – a golf pro, a marine mechanic, and two sons in middle school. Jack enjoys spending time with family and looks forward to enjoying all that the Okanagan has to offer.

DC Blair begins his duties on November 7, 2011.