

MUNICIPALITY OF
**EASTERN
CHARLOTTE**

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News Release

Announcement of New Fire Chief of Eastern Charlotte Fire Rescue

22 June 2023

ST. GEORGE - At Wednesday's Regular Monthly meeting of the Council of Eastern Charlotte, Council voted unanimously on two motions: the motion to create the full-time position of Fire Chief for the Eastern Charlotte Fire Rescue, and the motion to appoint Justin W. Johnston to the role.

Under January's Municipal Reform, the municipal of Eastern Charlotte brought together three separate fire departments: 1) St. George Fire Department (Town of St. George), 2) Eastern Charlotte Regional Fire Service (Village of Blacks Harbour), 3) Fundy Bay Fire Department (LSD Fundy Bay). In addition, there are five fire halls throughout the municipality. Since January, the three fire services, each with their own Fire Chief and leadership, have been moving towards an amalgamated service. In April, it was decided to call the combined departments "Eastern Charlotte Fire Rescue".

This position marks the first full-time fire chief position in Eastern Charlotte. Chief Johnston was selected through a candidate and interview process which saw a number of applicants from within Eastern Charlotte Fire Rescue as well as applicants from outside of the area. A four-member panel consisting of Councillor Darrell Tidd (Personnel Committee), Councillor Michael Thompson (Fire Services Committee), CAO Jason Gaudet, and Fire Chief Troy Gautreau (Grand Bay-Westfield), interviewed several potential finalists with the conclusion of the process coming with Council's decision on Wednesday night.

Chief Johnston previously served as Fire Chief for the St. George Fire Department from 2018 to 2020 and has 15 years experience in fire fighting. Chief Johnston will be assuming his position with an effective start date of July 4, 2023.

"We are excited to move forward in the next steps of an amalgamated fire department for all of Eastern Charlotte," said Mayor John Craig. "There are, no doubt, challenges ahead, but there will be benefits for both the department and its members, as well as for the residents of Eastern Charlotte. We look ahead with tremendous optimism and offer our support to Chief Johnston in the new role as the very first Fire Chief for Eastern Charlotte."

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Mayor John Craig with Fire Chief Justin Johnston, first full-time fire chief in Eastern Charlotte.