

## RM of Wheatlands No. 163 Satellite Fire Hall

### CONTACT

Municipalities: RM's of Caron No. 162, and Wheatlands No. 163, Villages of Caronport and Mortlach, and the Hamlet of Caron

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Year awarded: 2025

Project timeline: February 2024 - Present

Project video: <https://youtu.be/O-dx6Et3XMI>

### THE PRACTICE

*What was the issue?*

*The Caron/Caronport Fire Department provides emergency fire and extraction services to thousands of travelers and producers who use the over 50 kilometers of the Trans-Canada Highway that fall within the Caron/Caronport Fire Department's area. The department takes over 100 calls a year and is the primary grain rescue response between Regina and Swift Current, and recently the department's coverage area expanded to include an additional RM. The Caron/Caronport Fire Station is located 19.8 kilometers from the centre of the Village of Mortlach. When mobilized, the fire department's trucks take approximately 13 minutes to arrive, with longer waiting times for the areas west of the RM of Wheatlands No. 163. The station is not staffed, and personal mobilization times also need to be considered. Due to high costs and the large area covered, the Fire Department began searching for options to improve service delivery for everyone in their service area.*

*What was the project?*

*Establishing a smaller satellite fire hall, operated under the Caron/Caronport Fire Department, in the Village of Mortlach, to reduce wait times and eliminate the needs for fire department members to report to the main hall prior to responding.*

### THE PROCESS

*Who was involved:*

- *Municipal council*
- *Municipal administration*
- *Caron/Caronport Fire Department*

*Municipal council reviewed a proposal from the Fire Chief for a centralized satellite fire hall within the Village of Mortlach. Discussions began during council meetings, reviewing the benefits, cost restraints*

*and budget involved. Administration was tasked with researching similar projects, collecting quotes, and proposing a sample budget for the project. Council engaged in discussions with neighboring municipalities and members of the fire department to ensure that the project and process would be beneficial to all involved. The project's development began with Council and the Fire Chief, followed by several meetings between affiliated members of the fire department and the Village of Mortlach to discuss what each member was able to contribute.*

*The Caron/Caronport Fire Department played an important role in the success of the project. The fire department covers monthly expenses and station maintenance, and determines adequate levels of equipment, supplies, and training. All equipment, administration, and training will continue to operate under the Fire Department.*

*Resources came from a variety of sources:*

- The Village of Mortlach donated the land for the building and covered the expenses for building permits.*
- The RM of Wheatlands sustained the cost of the building and provided brand-new waterline infrastructure to allow water access to the new hall.*
- The RM of Caron No. 162 donated funds toward the bathroom.*
- A \$25,000 grant was received from TC Energy for the purchase of an ATV.*
- A \$5000 grant was received from Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) for miscellaneous costs.*

*Challenges Faced:*

*The biggest challenge for this project was the waterline infrastructure. The location that was selected for the satellite fire hall did not have a nearby water source. The building is located within the Village of Mortlach, however the village was unable to take on the costs of installing the waterline so the RM of Wheatlands took on the costs for construction. When the RM of Wheatlands reviewed the options, they found that the waterline could benefit RM rate payers as well by expanding the construction of the waterline to also incorporate the RM's shop. This meant added functionality for both buildings that service the RM. An agreement was made between the Village of Mortlach and the RM of Wheatlands to regulate a connection fee to help offset costs.*

*Evaluation:*

*An evaluation will be completed once the satellite hall has been in operation for 1-year.*

## **THE RESULTS**

*The satellite fire hall gives the fire department the ability to respond more quickly to the western end of its coverage area and can attract more volunteers to the centralized location. The satellite station supports a quick initial response from trained providers who are prepared with adequate equipment and transport. The initial response is then supported by a secondary response from the main station, offering tiered responses to all incidents within the serviced communities.*

*Once the project is complete there will be a positive benefit for the serviced communities, including reduced insurance costs for residents within the radius of the hall. The space will allow for more volunteer firefighters, provide adequate training space, and enhance response times.*

## LESSONS LEARNED

*The RM of Wheatlands learned that putting the work and effort into a project that makes sense and is well supported is a worthy endeavor. The RM also learnt that having a positive relationship with neighboring municipalities helps make large scale projects come to life.*