

**For immediate release
July 17, 2015**

**SQUAMISH-LILLOOET REGIONAL DISTRICT LAUNCHES ePACT EMERGENCY
NOTIFICATION SERVICE FOR ELECTORAL AREA RESIDENTS:**

SLRD ALERT service registration now open at www.slrd.bc.ca/SLRDAlert

Pemberton, BC – With wildfires currently burning in Electoral Areas C and D, the Emergency Management team at the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) accelerated the launch of its SLRD Alert service, developed using the ePACT Emergency Network, which is now live for residents. Initially slated for launch later this month, the SLRD Alert service was rolled out via social media channels last week, and close to 500 people have already registered for the free service.

Using the secure, online network, ePACT, the SLRD Alert service allows residents to sign up and receive important news and updates directly from the SLRD via telephone, text (SMS) or email. Alerts about emergency situations and public safety threats can include severe weather, wildfire, floods, debris flows, unexpected road closures or other impactful events, all relevant to a specific locale.

The SLRD Alert service has been developed for residents and property owners living or owning recreational property in the SLRD's four electoral areas A, B, C and D. While these rural and sometimes remote communities often have a robust word-of-mouth system in place, several hazards facing the SLRD require a reaction from the community in a short period of time.

"During emergencies, communication needs to be immediate, accurate and tracked," says Ryan Wainwright, the SLRD's Emergency Program Manager. "For the first time, with the SLRD Alert service in place, the SLRD Emergency Program will be able to contact residents directly during emergency events."

The SLRD Alert service will deliver clear instructions and event updates to all registered contacts in the impacted area, giving subscribers accurate information, immediate insight and as much preparation time as possible in the event of evacuation notices.

"These fires are a reminder of how important it is to be informed and prepared for emergencies," says SLRD Area A Director and Chair of the SLRD's Electoral Area Directors Committee, Debbie Demare. "The SLRD Alert service is a tool our residents can rely on for accurate and timely emergency information. We hope people will take advantage of this free service so they can be more empowered to take action to protect themselves, their families and properties in emergency situations."

This service is being offered for free to all households in any of the SLRD's four Electoral Areas. As each local government is responsible for its own emergency management program, SLRD

Alert is not currently available to people living in the District of Lillooet, District of Squamish, Village of Pemberton or the Resort Municipality of Whistler.

The SLRD adopted ePACT for its SLRD Alert service because of its ability to connect families to organizations, friends and relatives to share information and communicate in a crisis. With servers in Vancouver and Toronto, and multiple communication options available in case of disaster impacts to local infrastructure, ePACT is uniquely equipped to support families, organizations, and communities in emergencies.

Subscribers will own their personal account and information in the system. ePACT's security standards meet those of online banks, and information is never shared without a subscriber's permission.

Register or learn more at www.slrd.bc.ca/SLRDAlert. SLRD residents and businesses on Twitter are also encouraged to follow the SLRD two twitter feeds: @SLRD_BC and @SLRD_Emergency.

For more information, contact Ryan Wainwright, Emergency Program Manager at the SLRD at 604 698-6442 or RWainwright@slrd.bc.ca.

- 30 -

About the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Located in southwestern BC, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) is a local government federation consisting of four member municipalities (the District of Lillooet, the District of Squamish, the Village of Pemberton and the Resort Municipality of Whistler) and four unincorporated, rural electoral areas (A, B, C, and D). Headquartered in Pemberton, which is the approximate geographic centre of the region, the SLRD delivers a wide range of local, regional and sub-regional services to approximately 38,000 residents.

About ePACT Network Ltd.

ePACT is changing the way the world prepares for emergencies. As your emergency network, ePACT better connects and protects your family, organization and community through any crisis. ePACT was created in 2012 by Christine Sommers and Kirsten Koppang Telford after speaking with survivors of the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami. The ePACT team is made up of emergency management specialists and web technology experts, committed to helping North American communities better manage crises.

For more information, please contact:

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