



MEDIA STATEMENT

January 31, 2019

Three Electoral Area B matters deferred at SRD Board Meeting

Campbell River, BC – Fourteen residents of Cortes Island filed a petition to the Supreme Court of BC on January 2, 2019, seeking an order that Noba Anderson be disqualified from holding office citing issues related to conflict of interest.

This petition was recently brought to the attention of the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Board. At the regular meeting on January 24, 2019, the Board directed that three matters on the agenda pertaining to Electoral Area B be deferred until the implications of the legal petition filed by the Cortes Island residents is fully understood by the Board. These matters pertained to the proposed community hall service, first responder service and appointments to the Advisory Planning Commission.

Statement from the SRD Board Chair, Michele Babchuk: "The Board fully supports democratic process and recognizes the rights of citizens to challenge those processes in a court of law. The Board's mandate is to serve all Cortes Island constituents, regardless of their position. We also recognize that this issue is divisive and unsettling but would like to remind the public that this legal action is not initiated by the Strathcona Regional District and, consequently we have no ability or jurisdiction to comment any further on the legal action. We are, however, working expeditiously to ensure we act responsibly so as not to prejudice any Board decisions, Electoral Area B initiatives or legal proceedings underway."

The Strathcona Regional District is a partnership of four electoral areas and five municipalities providing services to approximately 43,000 residents.

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