

February 21, 2020

Board Adopts New Director Compensation Guidelines

Campbell River, B.C. – Annual director compensation continued to be discussed at the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Board table last Wednesday, February 12 and in particular, the rates paid to municipal directors in comparison to electoral area directors.

In 2018 the SRD went through a director remuneration review which aligned electoral area and municipal director compensation (stipend, meeting pay, travel allowance and compensable meetings) and as a result, Bylaw No. 349 was passed.

Following the adoption of Bylaw No. 349, the electoral area directors passed Bylaw No. 359 in 2019. This bylaw specifically provided additional electoral area director compensation which is funded from the electoral area administration budget. With the creation of Bylaw No. 359, inequities were once again recognized, prompting the Board to take another look at director compensation.

Last Wednesday, the Regional Board adopted Bylaw No. 376 – Director Compensation. Through Bylaw No. 376, electoral area and municipal directors once again have equivalent rates relating to meeting pay, travel allowance and compensable meetings. Despite this rate alignment, inequities concerning director compensation remains. Municipal director remuneration will not receive the 2019 electoral area directors' 27.6% increase of \$10,000 per year. Instead, the municipal directors will receive a 1.65% increase of \$235 per year starting January 1, 2020 to account for increased cost of living. Municipal directors are also remunerated by the municipalities they represent. The Chair's remuneration has been increased to reflect the base amount of an electoral area director.

"The adjustment to rates for municipal directors was broadly supported by the Board and recognizes the ever-evolving responsibilities associated with those positions," stated Strathcona Regional District Chair Michele Babchuk. "Director remuneration has historically been a difficult and contentious discussion for Directors, but it's important for future elected officials that we review our roles, duties and constituent expectations periodically to ensure we are compensating elected officials at a fair and equitable rate. I commend all Directors on their in-depth conversations and respect the process used to have Bylaw No. 376 now passed and adopted."

The Strathcona Regional District is a partnership of four electoral areas and five municipalities providing services to approximately 44,000 residents.

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