

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 19, 2026 **FILE:**0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: **BYLAW NO. 651 – PROPOSED SENIORS SUPPORT SERVICE (CORTES ISLAND)**

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider the ballot question to be asked of electors when voting on Bylaw No. 651 which proposes to establish a service for the support of senior citizens in Electoral Areas B.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its June 24, 2026 meeting the Board considered the attached report and gave Bylaw No. 651 first 3 readings. The Board also passed the following resolution:

Vonesch/Colborne: SRD 605/26

THAT approval of the electors for Bylaw No. 651 be sought through an assent voting process to be held concurrently with the 2026 local government elections.

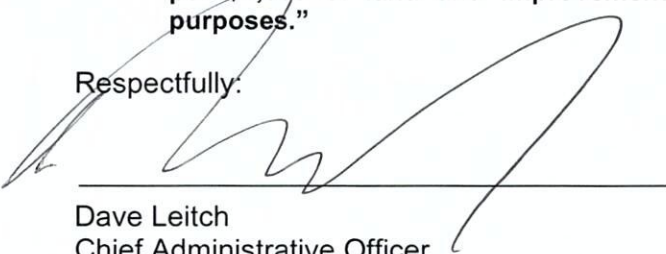
Bylaw No. 651 has now been approved by the Province and it is appropriate to determine the question to be decided by electors. Once that has been decided the printing of ballots and other voting arrangements can be finalized to ensure that the question can be the subject of voting by electors concurrently with the 2026 local government elections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the ballot question to be asked of electors when voting on Bylaw No. 651 be determined as follows:

“Are you in favour of Bylaw No. 651 which would establish a service to support senior citizen organizations within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island) provided that the maximum amount that can be requisitioned annually by property taxation is \$0.054 per \$1,000 of land and improvement assessments for regional hospital district purposes.”

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

Attachments: Bylaw No. 651
Copy of June 16, 2026 report to the Board



BYLAW NO. 651

A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE FOR SUPPORTING SENIOR CITIZENS WITHIN ELECTORAL AREA B (CORTES ISLAND)

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board wishes to establish a service to support programs and initiatives that serve the interests of seniors within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island);

AND WHEREAS the assent of the electors has been obtained in accordance with Division 4 of Part 10 of the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the senior citizen support service.

Definitions

2. In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

“senior” or “senior citizen” means a person who is a resident of Cortes Island and at least 65 years of age.

“organization” means a society, institute, foundation or other similar entity that is incorporated under the laws of British Columbia.

Service Described

3. The service hereby established includes the provision of financial support to organizations that provide services or programs to senior citizens including:
 - a) recreation, arts, cultural, and social connection activities;
 - b) wellness and healthy aging initiatives;
 - c) food security and meal support programs;
 - d) volunteer and peer support initiatives;
 - e) accessibility and aging-in-place supports;

- f) outreach, navigation, and community connection services;
- g) intergenerational and community-building activities;
- h) deathcare, end-of-life support, grieving support, and compassionate community initiatives;
- i) emergency preparedness and resilience initiatives;
- j) staffing, coordination, administration, training, and operational capacity related to senior citizen well-being;
- k) capacity building within organizations that support, engage, or provide services benefiting senior citizens, caregivers, families, or the broader community;
- l) collaborative community initiatives, pilot projects and emerging community needs related to senior citizens' well-being; and
- m) transportation and accessibility supports.

Participating Areas

4. The participating area for the service is Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Area Boundaries

5. The boundaries of the service area include the entirety of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Cost Recovery

6. The annual cost of the service shall be recovered by one or more of the following methods:
- (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 2 of Part 11 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (b) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise;
 - (c) revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Annual Limit on Requisition

7. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service is the equivalent of \$0.054 per 1,000 of the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

Citation

8. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. 651, being Seniors Support Service Establishing Bylaw 2026.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE 24TH DAY OF JUNE, 2026

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE 24TH DAY OF JUNE, 2026

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE 24TH DAY OF JUNE, 2026

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE DAY OF , 2026

APPROVAL OF THE ELECTORS RECEIVED ON THE DAY OF , 2026

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2026

Chair

Corporate Officer



STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 16, 2026

FILE: 0550-04

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: **BYLAW NO. 651 – CORTES ISLAND SENIORS SUPPORT SERVICE**

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider Bylaw No. 651 which would authorize funding to support organizations that provide services to senior citizens within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered at the June 10, 2026 meeting of the Electoral Areas Services Committee at which time the following resolution was passed:

Vonesch/Mawhinney: EASC 142/26

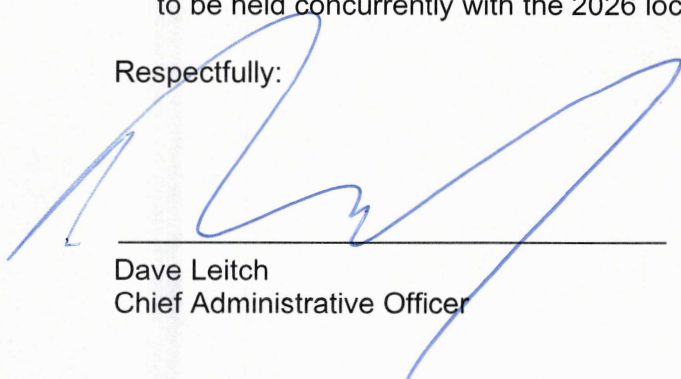
THAT the Committee recommend that Bylaw No. 651 be forwarded to the Board for its consideration.

Bylaw No. 651 has been prepared for the Board's consideration and proposes that a service be established which would provide funding for programs that are supportive of senior citizens residing on Cortes Island. If supported by the Board, it is proposed that Bylaw No. 651 be scheduled for assent of the electors in conjunction with the 2026 local government elections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT Bylaw No. 651, being a bylaw to establish a service for supporting senior citizens within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island), be now introduced and read a first time.
3. THAT the rules be suspended and Bylaw No. 651 be given second and third readings.
4. THAT approval of the electors for Bylaw No. 651 be sought through an assent voting process to be held concurrently with the 2026 local government elections.

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

Attachments: Bylaw No. 651
Copy of June 4, 2026 report to the EASC

COPY



BYLAW NO. 651

A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE FOR SUPPORTING SENIOR CITIZENS WITHIN ELECTORAL AREA B (CORTES ISLAND)

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board wishes to establish a service to support programs and initiatives that serve the interests of seniors within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island);

AND WHEREAS the assent of the electors has been obtained in accordance with Division 4 of Part 10 of the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the senior citizen support service.

Definitions

2. In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

“senior” or “senior citizen” means a person who is a resident of Cortes Island and at least 65 years of age.

“organization” means a society, institute, foundation or other similar entity that is incorporated under the laws of British Columbia.

Service Described

3. The service hereby established includes the provision of financial support to organizations that provide services or programs to senior citizens including:
 - a) recreation, arts, cultural, and social connection activities;
 - b) wellness and healthy aging initiatives;
 - c) food security and meal support programs;
 - d) volunteer and peer support initiatives;
 - e) accessibility and aging-in-place supports;

- f) outreach, navigation, and community connection services;
- g) intergenerational and community-building activities;
- h) deathcare, end-of-life support, grieving support, and compassionate community initiatives;
- i) emergency preparedness and resilience initiatives;
- j) staffing, coordination, administration, training, and operational capacity related to senior citizen well-being;
- k) capacity building within organizations that support, engage, or provide services benefiting senior citizens, caregivers, families, or the broader community;
- l) collaborative community initiatives, pilot projects and emerging community needs related to senior citizens' well-being; and
- m) transportation and accessibility supports.

Participating Areas

4. The participating area for the service is Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Area Boundaries

5. The boundaries of the service area include the entirety of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Cost Recovery

6. The annual cost of the service shall be recovered by one or more of the following methods:
- (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 2 of Part 11 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (b) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise;
 - (c) revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Annual Limit on Requisition

7. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service is the equivalent of \$0.054 per 1,000 of the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

Citation

8. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. 651, being Seniors Support Service Establishing Bylaw 2026.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2026

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2026

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2026

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE DAY OF , 2026

APPROVAL OF THE ELECTORS RECEIVED ON THE DAY OF , 2026

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2026

Chair

Corporate Officer

COPY



STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 4, 2026 **FILE:** 0550-04

TO: Chair and Directors,
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: **BYLAW NO. 651 – CORTES ISLAND SENIORS SUPPORT SERVICE**

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider Bylaw No. 651 which would authorize funding to support organizations that provide services to senior citizens within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report was considered at the May 27, 2026 meeting of the Board at which time the following resolution was passed:

Vonesch/Sinnott: SRD 400/26

THAT a draft bylaw to establish a seniors service within Electoral Area B be prepared for consideration at the June 24, 2026 Board meeting.

The attached bylaw has been prepared for the Committee's consideration in accordance with the Board's service initiative processing bylaw which states that new service proposals that affect electoral areas only must be considered by the Electoral Areas Services Committee before being presented to the Board.

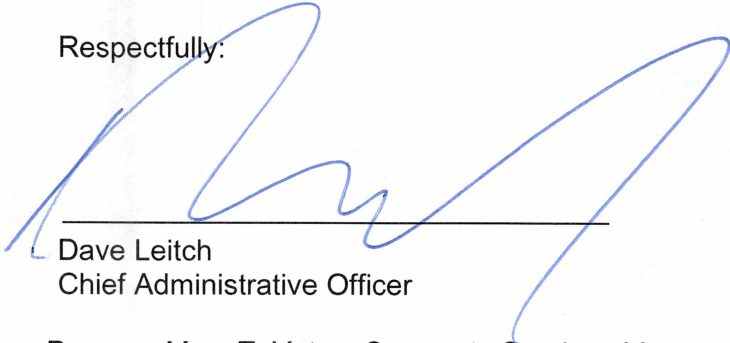
The intent of the senior citizen support service is to provide financial support to organizations that serve the interests of seniors on Cortes Island. Seniors are defined as residents of Cortes Island who are at least 65 years of age. Financial support would presumably be made by grants in aid whether awarded in response to requests from an eligible organization or under the terms of a contract for services.

Once the Committee is satisfied that Bylaw No. 651 is in order it will be presented for the Board's consideration. If the intent is to seek the assent of the electors for Bylaw No. 651 concurrent with the 2026 director elections, it would be prudent to schedule the Board's review as soon as possible so that it can be presented to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs without delay.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the Committee recommend that Bylaw No. 651 be forwarded to the Board for its consideration.

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: T. Yates, Corporate Services Manager

Attachments: Bylaw No. 651
Copy of May 21, 2026 report to the Board

COPY



BYLAW NO. 651

A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE FOR SUPPORTING SENIOR CITIZENS WITHIN ELECTORAL AREA B (CORTES ISLAND)

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board wishes to establish a service to support programs and initiatives that serve the interests of seniors within Electoral Area B (Cortes Island);

AND WHEREAS the assent of the electors has been obtained in accordance with Division 4 of Part 10 of the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the senior citizen support service.

Definitions

2. In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

“senior” or “senior citizen” means a person who is a resident of Cortes Island and at least 65 years of age.

“organization” means a society, institute, foundation or other similar entity that is incorporated under the laws of British Columbia.

Service Described

3. The service hereby established includes the provision of financial support to organizations that provide services or programs to senior citizens including:
 - a) recreation, arts, cultural, and social connection activities;
 - b) wellness and healthy aging initiatives;
 - c) food security and meal support programs;
 - d) volunteer and peer support initiatives;
 - e) accessibility and aging-in-place supports;

- f) outreach, navigation, and community connection services;
- g) intergenerational and community-building activities;
- h) deathcare, end-of-life support, grieving support, and compassionate community initiatives;
- i) emergency preparedness and resilience initiatives;
- j) staffing, coordination, administration, training, and operational capacity related to senior citizen well-being;
- k) capacity building within organizations that support, engage, or provide services benefiting senior citizens, caregivers, families, or the broader community;
- l) collaborative community initiatives, pilot projects and emerging community needs related to senior citizens' well-being; and
- m) transportation and accessibility supports.

Participating Areas

4. The participating area for the service is Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Area Boundaries

5. The boundaries of the service area include the entirety of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Cost Recovery

6. The annual cost of the service shall be recovered by one or more of the following methods:
 - (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 2 of Part 11 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (b) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise;
 - (c) revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another Act.

Annual Limit on Requisition

7. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service is the equivalent of \$0.054 per 1,000 of the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

Citation

8. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. 651, being Seniors Support Service Establishing Bylaw 2026.

READ A FIRST TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2026

READ A SECOND TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2026

READ A THIRD TIME ON THE DAY OF , 2026

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES ON THE DAY OF , 2026

APPROVAL OF THE ELECTORS RECEIVED ON THE DAY OF , 2026

RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE DAY OF , 2026

Chair

Corporate Officer

COPY

From: [Mark Vonesch](#)
To: [Tom Yates](#)
Cc: [David Leitch](#); [Mark Baker](#)
Subject: Cortes Island Seniors Service
Date: May 21, 2026 6:20:30 PM

Hi Tom,

Can you please add “Cortes Island Seniors Service” to next week’s board meeting agenda and include the details below?

Thanks,

Mark

Mark Vonesch
Regional Director - Cortes Island
Strathcona Regional District
250-202-4422

Cortes Seniors Service

Background

Cortes Island’s remote location creates unique challenges for seniors, including limited access to health and wellness supports, social connection, home-based assistance, recreation, transportation, and services that are more readily available in larger communities.

As residents age, these gaps can contribute to isolation, increased pressure on families and volunteers, and a greater likelihood that seniors may need to leave the island to access the support they require.

Establishing a dedicated Seniors Service would provide stable, locally accountable funding to help support programs, partnerships, equipment, transportation, outreach, and other services that allow seniors to remain connected, active, safe, and supported in their home community.

Rather than relying on one-time or discretionary funding, a dedicated service would recognize seniors’ supports as an ongoing community need and would make a modest but meaningful investment in the wellbeing, dignity, and resilience of older residents on Cortes Island.

Bylaw Details DRAFT:

BYLAW NO. XXX

A BYLAW TO AUTHORIZE THE PROVISION OF A SENIORS SERVICE WITHIN PART OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the Regional District may, pursuant to the Local Government Act, operate any service that it considers necessary or desirable for all or a part of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the Strathcona Regional District wishes to establish a youth service within Electoral Area B;

AND WHEREAS the approval of the electors has been obtained pursuant to Section 342 of the Local Government Act;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Directors of the Strathcona Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service Established

1. There is hereby established a service to be known as the Cortes Seniors Service.

Description of Service

2. The service authorized by this bylaw includes supporting organizations serving seniors on Cortes Island with funding for:

- a. recreation, arts, cultural, and social connection activities;
- b. wellness and healthy aging initiatives;
- c. food security and meal support programs;
- d. volunteer and peer support initiatives;
- e. accessibility and aging-in-place supports;
- f. outreach, navigation, and community connection services;
- g. intergenerational and community-building activities;
- h. deathcare, end-of-life support, grieving support, and compassionate community initiatives;
- i. emergency preparedness and resilience initiatives;
- j. staffing, coordination, administration, training, and operational capacity related to seniors well-being;
- k. capacity building within organizations that support, engage, or provide services benefiting seniors, caregivers, families, or the broader community;
- l. collaborative community initiatives, pilot projects, and emerging community needs related to seniors well-being;

- m. transportation and accessibility supports;

Participating Areas

- 3. The participating areas for the service are Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

Service Area Boundaries

- 4. The boundaries of the service area include the entirety of Electoral Areas B.

Cost Recovery

- 5. The annual net cost of the service shall be recovered by one or more of the following methods;
 - a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 2 of Part 11 of the Local Government Act;
 - b) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise;
 - c) revenues raised by other means authorized by the Local Government Act or another Act.

Limit on Requisition

- 6. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service is the equivalent of \$0.054 per \$1,000 of the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

Motion for SRD Board consideration:

That a draft bylaw to establish a seniors service within Electoral Area B be prepared for consideration at the June 24, 2026 Board meeting.