

## BYLAW NO. 514

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### A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF SERVICE INITIATIVES

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**WHEREAS** the Regional District may, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, operate any service that the Board considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District upon such terms as it deems appropriate;

**AND WHEREAS** the Regional Board wishes to establish a framework for the consideration of new service initiatives and amendments to existing services;

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

#### **Interpretation**

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

“**Board**” or “**Regional Board**” means Strathcona Regional District Board of Directors.

“**developer**” means a person or group of persons considering the development of property for which they can demonstrate ownership.

“**local service**” means a service intended to apply to a single electoral area, a single municipality or combination thereof.

“**municipality**” includes a Treaty First Nations that has voting entitlements on the Board.

“**regional service**” means a service intended to apply throughout the entire Strathcona Regional District.

“**service**” means a service as defined in the *Local Government Act* and includes a request to amend an existing service.

#### **Service Initiatives Generally**

2. The Regional Board will give due consideration to any service initiative where a request for service has been received, the request appears to be legitimate, and the service can be established and operated at the sole cost of the area or areas that would benefit from the service.

**Who May Submit Service Requests**

3. (1) Requests to establish a service may be considered from a community organization, a group of residents via petition, a developer, a Board director or the Board itself.  
  
(2) Except as provided in section 3, the Regional Board will not consider requests to establish a service from a single individual.

**Requests to be in Writing**

4. In order to be considered by the Board, requests for service establishment shall be made in writing by the entity initiating the request.

**Preliminary Evaluation of Service Initiatives**

5. (1) If a service request is applicable to one or more electoral areas and does not include a municipality, the request will be referred to the Electoral Areas Services Committee before being reviewed by the Board.  
  
(2) If a service request is applicable to one or more municipalities and does not include an electoral area, the request will be referred to the Municipal Services Committee before being reviewed by the Board.  
  
(3) If a service request is applicable to one or more Treaty First Nations, the request will be referred to the First Nations Relations Committee before being reviewed by the Board.  
  
(4) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (1) to (3), the Board may refer any service initiative to the Electoral Area Services Committee, Municipal Services Committee, First Nations Relations Committee or Strathcona Gardens Commission at its discretion.

**Where Additional Public Input Desired**

6. The Board may refer any service proposal for public input via survey, community consultation, opinion referendum or other method where it believes the initiative is controversial, where additional clarity is required, or if the Board believes that additional public input is appropriate.

**Prerequisites to Service Establishment**

7. Before proceeding with the preparation of a service establishing bylaw the Board will satisfy itself that the objectives of the proposed service are fair and reasonable, and that the costs associated with the service would be borne by those areas that would benefit from the service.

**Board to Determine Approval Method**

8. When a bylaw has been prepared to establish or amend a service, the Board will determine the most efficient and effective method for obtaining approval whether by assent voting, alternative approval process, consent on behalf of the electors or formal petition.

**Neutrality for Local Services**

9. The Regional Board will remain neutral with respect to local service initiatives that require approval of the electors, and will not publicly advocate for or against such initiatives while that approval process is under way.

**Reconsidering Failed Initiatives**

10. (1) For the purposes of this section, the term 'consider' means to make a final decision regarding the establishment of a service.

(2) Where a service initiative has been submitted for approval of the electors and has failed to receive that approval, the Board will not consider the same or similar proposal for the affected area for a period of one year.

**Citation**


11. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Bylaw No. 514, being Regional District Service Initiative Processing Bylaw 2023.

**READ A FIRST TIME ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023**


**READ A SECOND TIME ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023**

**READ A THIRD TIME ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023**

**RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023**



Chair



Corporate Officer