



Date: 03/04/2019

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

To: Chair and Directors, Policy Committee

And To: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO

Date of Meeting: Policy Committee_Apr17_2019

File: 340-50

Short Summary:

Amendments to Remuneration for Election Officers/Officials Policy

Voting:

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Memorandum:

The last Policy Committee recommended that the Remuneration for Election Officers/Officials Policy be updated to increase the meal allowance and update the policy generally as it had not been amended in several years.

Staff have reviewed the existing policy and propose the following two amendments:

- 1) Increase the meal allowance from \$35/day to \$60/day.
- 2) Allow kilometrage to be paid to election workers.

Meal allowance:

The meal allowance was increased from \$20/day to \$35/day in 2008. Eleven years later, we are proposing an increase to \$60 for the day. Election workers are required to remain at their polling station from 7:30 a.m. until after the ballots are counted; usually around 9:00 p.m., so they are present for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Often, they are stationed in a location where they must buy and bring their own food, but sometimes they are stationed where they may order meals delivered. In either case, \$60 does not seem extravagant for a work-day consisting of at least 13 hours plus travel time.

Kilometerage:

Although the basic remuneration amounts have not changed in eleven years, staff feel that they are sufficient and comparable with other jurisdictions. However, the fact that the CRD does not pay for the kilometers travelled has been an increasing barrier to attracting workers especially in remote areas such as Nazko, Nemiah and Dog Creek. Workers must travel to a central location (Quesnel, Williams Lake or 100 Mile House) for training and to obtain their supplies/ballots/etc. in addition to travelling to the polling station, and often must travel again to deliver the ballot boxes after the close of polls. This can amount to hundreds of kilometers travelled, which creates an unreasonable expense for election workers and is not in alignment with how the CRD handles

travelling for other business-related tasks. Staff propose that the policy be amended to provide the same rate per kilometer travelled as is used for other business travel.

Attachments:

Draft Policy with amendments to Travel Expenses and Meals sections.

Financial Implications:

These amendments will add costs to the expense of conducting an election or assent vote.

Policy Implications:

This item requests amendments to an existing policy.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- ☐ Ensuring Sufficient and Sustainable Funding
- ☐ Building on our Relationships
- ☐ Providing Cost Effective High Quality Services
- ☐ Focusing on Being Well Governed

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CAO Comments:

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Options:

- 1) Endorse recommendation;
- 2) Receipt and other action;
- 3) Deferral.

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO, dated April 3, 2019, requesting amendments (meal allowance and travel expenses) to the Remuneration for Election Officers/Officials Policy, be received. *Further action at the discretion of the Committee.*