



**Date:** 12/08/2020

**To:** Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

**And To:** John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

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

**Date of Meeting:** Cariboo Regional District Board\_Aug21\_2020

**File:** 6750-01

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## Short Summary:

Request from Director Forseth - Propose Merging Economic Development Services

## Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

## Memorandum:

Director Forseth has submitted the following background information for the Board's discussion and consideration with regard to merging the North, Central Cariboo/Chilcotin and South Economic Development Services as one CRD function:

*"The Cariboo Regional District currently has 3 sub-Regional Economic Development Services in North Cariboo (all of Areas A,B,C,I); Central Cariboo/Chilcotin (all of Areas D,E,F,J,K) and South Cariboo (all of Areas G,H,L)*

*By way of history – North Cariboo established their Economic Development Service in 1992, South Cariboo established their Economic Development Service originally in 2000 (modified in 2004 to remove Area H and modified again in 2007 to include Area H in this Service once again) and Central Cariboo/Chilcotin created their merged Economic Development Service just last year (2019). Central Cariboo/Chilcotin & South Cariboo Economic Development Services currently have no tax requisition limits whereas North Cariboo currently has a tax requisition limit of -- Greater of \$10,000 or applying a tax rate of \$0.0257 per \$1,000 of assessment on the basis of land/improvements.*

*As the Board is aware, the Board's Strategic Plan, does calls for like individual services, where appropriate, to be merged into a single RD Service. As well, progress to fund a Regional Broadband Strategy (CRD & Government of BC through NDIIT) has been hindered, in part, due to identifying a source of local funding. Normally, Economic Development would be a good fit for a Regional Broadband Strategy exercise except North Cariboo has a requisition limit and expenditures in North Cariboo Economic Development is very close to the requisition limit vs Central/South Cariboo Economic Development Services which has no requisition limits. 1 Merged Economic Development Service would be desirable for stable tax requisition for a similar*

*service across all Electoral Areas and help to reduce taxation levels across the Electoral Areas, both for this potentially combined Economic Development Service and all RD Services*

*The 3 Economic Development Services do have similar Business Plan Goals including support for local Visitor Information Centres in Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House as well as support for community development for the unincorporated communities within in the 12 Electoral Areas*

*I would request the Board authorize Staff time to bring back a report to outline options merging the sub-Regional Economic Development Services into 1 Regional Service and the pros/cons in doing so..."*

### **Attachments:**

None

### **Financial Implications:**

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### **Policy Implications:**

n/a

### **Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

- Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

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### **CAO Comments:**

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### **Options:**

- 1) Receipt;
- 2) Receipt and direct staff to report back on options to merge the North, Central Cariboo/Chilcotin and South Cariboo Economic Development Services into a single RD Service;
- 3) Defer.

**Recommendation:**

That the agenda item summary from Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO, dated August 12, 2020, regarding a request from Director Forseth proposing that the North, Central Cariboo/Chilcotin and South Cariboo Economic Development Services be merged into one CRD function, be received. *Further action at the discretion of the Board.*