



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE

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Cariboo Regional District
File No. 400-60-03

December 18, 2020

DEC 18 2020

File No. 0400-30 / 5400-03-10

Referred To ... CAO

BC Utilities Commission
Suite 410, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Commission Members:

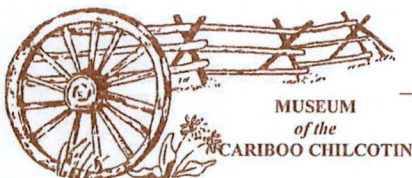
Re: Temporary Supplemental Charge – BC Hydro Application to Update Streetlight Rate

The City of Williams Lake is aware that, to comply with new federal regulations that require all ballasts containing PCB's to be removed by the end of 2025, BC Hydro has submitted an application to the BCUC to update its overhead streetlight rate.

It is our understanding that the temporary supplemental charge proposed to recover the undepreciated value of current streetlights being removed before their end of life is intended to be imposed on local governments.

The current charge to the City of Williams Lake is \$2.06 per month per streetlight, and the effective time frame of these charges is from May 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024 to be billed to their customers. Currently, the City of Williams Lake is being charged for a total of 865 streetlights. The proposed charges would cost the City a temporary charge of \$21,382.80 per year and \$64,148.40 for the total 3-year term. Of note is that, should the City be required to pay the costs of depreciation for three years, it would be paying at a higher rate (the existing rate) rather than the reduced rate that LED's incur.

While LED lights are more energy efficient, the City pays a flat rate for each streetlight per month because the streetlights are not metered. There is not a significant difference in rates between current lights and new LED lights. The City is currently working on numbers and lights input for BC Hydro's replacement; we estimate a savings of \$5000/year for a total of 865 streetlights with new LED's based on current billing. It is believed that BC Hydro will see most of the savings implemented by this change. Our understanding is that BC Hydro is being mandated to change their lights to LED for environmental reasons, and are looking to download the costs to local governments.

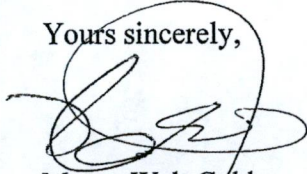


www.williamslake.ca



The City of Williams Lake has previously supported the transition to LED lights based on safety, aesthetic and environmental benefits. Although the City supports the transition to LEDs, it does not support absorbing the costs of disposal and depreciation costs of the existing lights.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Walt Cobb', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Mayor Walt Cobb

c: Premier John Horgan *Via email: premier@gov.bc.ca*
Hon. Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation
Via email: EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Hon. Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs *Via email: MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca*
Cariboo Regional District