



Date: 22/02/2024

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

And To: Murray Daly, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Gerald Pinchbeck, Manager of Communications

Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Mar01_2024

File: 0400-60/2024/NCLGA

Short Summary:

AIS – Joint NCLGA Resolution with City of Williams Lake supporting Legislative Changes to permit Alkaline Hydrolysis Process

Voting:

Corporate Vote – Unweighted

Memorandum:

The Council for the City of Williams Lake endorsed a resolution at their January 16, 2024 regular meeting which invited the Cariboo Regional District to co-sponsor a resolution concerning changes to provincial law to permit alkaline hydrolysis process funeral services. This information was reported verbally to the Board by Director Rathor (City of Williams Lake) at the February 9, 2024 Board Meeting, followed by formal notification received on February 21, 2024 (attached).

At the February 9, 2024 Board meeting, the Board received a delegation from Mr. Westie, who presented [information about the alkaline hydrolysis process for funeral services](#) along with the legal framework for such services. The Board was also advised that this service was not permitted by the [Cemetery, Interment and Funeral Services Act](#), and is permitted in Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Northwest Territories.

Following this presentation, the Board directed staff to prepare a joint resolution with the City of Williams Lake for consideration at the North Central Local Government Association's annual general meeting. This resolution was to encourage the Province to make amendments to the Act to permit the alkaline hydrolysis process.

A search of the UBCM Resolutions Database for similar resolutions indicated that no prior resolution has been considered by a UBCM convention, and as such there is no existing UBCM policy on this matter. The Board is advised that as a result, the UBCM Resolutions Committee would likely provide no recommendation on the matter as described on their [resolutions process webpage](#). This means the resolution would be considered individually at convention and may require additional preparation in advance of debate.

Mr. Westie provided several options for a resolution that could be submitted. In consultation with City staff and based on Mr. Westie’s draft resolutions, a draft joint resolution could read as follows:

WHEREAS Alkaline Hydrolysis Process funeral services present an opportunity to reduce the environmental impact of preparing and interring human remains by significantly reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from burials and land use requirements for storing human remains;

AND WHEREAS the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act does not permit Alkaline Hydrolysis as an acceptable process for preparing a deceased person’s remains;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and Union of B.C. Municipalities call on the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Deputy Premier to prepare and introduce a bill in the Legislative Assembly of B.C. to amend the Cemetery, Interment and Funeral Services Act to allow the alkaline hydrolysis process as a permitted funeral service.

Attachments:

February 21, 2024 – Letter from City of Williams Lake regarding a Joint Resolution supporting Legislative Changes to Permit Alkaline Hydrolysis Process

Financial Implications:

None.

Policy Implications:

None.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Infrastructure and Asset Management:** To establish a systematic, predictable approach to managing the regional district’s assets and infrastructure that builds on current asset management data and condition assessments.
- Enhanced Communications and Engagement:** To build trust and credibility of the regional district by enhancing our communications and engagement with citizens, stakeholders, and volunteers.
- Effective and Responsive Land Use Planning and Development:** To ensure our land use planning and development is responsive to future growth and housing needs, anticipates risks and hazards associated with climate change and provides efficient and consistent processes for landowners and developers.
- Relationships with First Nations:** To foster a healthy and inclusive region by building and strengthening our relationships with First Nations and embracing the principles of reconciliation.

This resolution neither advances nor conflicts with the Board’s strategic priorities.

CAO Comments:

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Options:

1. Endorse the recommended resolution.
2. Approve an alternate resolution.
3. Refer back to staff for further information.

Recommendation:

That the following resolution be co-sponsored with the City of Williams Lake, and be submitted for consideration at the North Central Local Government Association's 2024 annual general meeting:

WHEREAS Alkaline Hydrolysis Process funeral services present an opportunity to reduce the environmental impact of preparing and interring human remains by significantly reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from burials and land use requirements for storing human remains;

AND WHEREAS the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act does not permit Alkaline Hydrolysis as an acceptable process for preparing a deceased person's remains;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and Union of B.C. Municipalities call on the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Deputy Premier to prepare and introduce a bill in the Legislative Assembly of B.C. to amend the Cemetery, Interment and Funeral Services Act to allow the alkaline hydrolysis process as a permitted funeral service.