



ADDENDUM
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Monday, July 24, 2017, Directly following the Special Council Meeting
SHAW AUDITORIUM, 80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC

Pages

9. CORRESPONDENCE (not related to a Report to Council):

- a. Add - Correspondence from Nanaimo Recycling Exchange dated 2017-JUL-20* 2 - 3



July 20, 2017

Mr Bill McKay, Mayor
City of Nanaimo
455 Wallace Street
Nanaimo, BC
V9R 5J6

Dear Mayor McKay;

Nanaimo Recycling Exchange diverts more than 8,000 MT of material at low cost for the Regional District and the City of Nanaimo. March 31, 2018 may be the last day we can provide this service.

The NRE must re-locate. As there are no suitable existing facilities to rent or lease, this move requires construction of a new facility. New site and structure design is driven by strict requirements to conform to: environmental standards, Worksafe requirements, City of Nanaimo bylaws, and Waste Stream Management Licensing regulations, each of which is associated with significant cost.

From the time conversations about this issue began in 2012, with both the City of Nanaimo and RDN, the NRE has attempted to fund construction of a new facility in all possible ways including managing all debt, exploring partnerships with other local recycling organizations, and asking the City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo to contribute.

None of these options has produced a financially manageable result for the NRE. We have also explored less costly design options, but there are no options that comply with the strict regulations. Our latest construction budget, just received, is not manageable for us.

Over the years, meetings and delegations to the RDN Board of Directors and City of Nanaimo Council have achieved some progress in defining a role and funding model for the NRE, but conversations often stalled from uncertainty about jurisdiction and financial responsibility for solid waste services. It is fair to say that each entity has suggested the other pay; meanwhile, the NRE has been funding recycling services. The question remains whether the City and RDN choose to identify recyclable material as garbage for the landfill, or as diversion success.



The NRE would like to continue offering recycling and education services to the entire region, not just the City. Indeed, the model for community partnership should be further developed so people from Qualicum could have options other than travelling to the NRE. We share mutual goals: as regional partners we can achieve these goals.

Recycling makes sense. The provincial government's Zero Waste business case documents the importance of maintaining recycling facilities because reuse, remanufacturing, and recycling create more jobs than collection and landfilling. If the NRE closes, existing and potential employment opportunities end. If we have a new facility, employment opportunities increase.

The determination of the NRE's future cannot wait months, or even weeks. We are out of options. There doesn't seem to be a way for the depot to continue to operate without assistance at some level from local government.

We have been involved in discussions with both the City of Nanaimo and the RDN since 2012.

The Chair of the NRE Board of Directors, and the Executive Director of the NRE respectfully request your renewed attention to the future of Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, and we request a date and time to meet to discuss a solution.

Sincerely,

Jan Hastings,
Executive Director
Nanaimo Recycling Exchange