

DATE OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

AUTHORED BY KAREN ROBERTSON, DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER

SUBJECT BYLAW NOTICE ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENT BYLAW – TO AUTHORIZE THE COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISPUTE ADJUDICATION REGISTRY SYSTEM

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To amend Schedule B (The Registry Agreement) to formally authorize the Cowichan Valley Regional District to participate in the City's Dispute Adjudication Registry System (DARS)

Recommendation

1. That "Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2024 No. 7159.21" (to amend Schedules B and C – Registry Agreement to authorize the Cowichan Valley Regional District to participate in the City's Dispute Adjudication Registry System) pass first reading.
2. That "Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2024 No. 7159.21" pass second reading.
3. That "Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2024 No. 7159.21" pass third reading.

BACKGROUND

On June 19, 2024 the City of Nanaimo received an email from the Manager, Bylaw Enforcement for the Cowichan Valley Regional District expressing an interest in participating in the City's Dispute Adjudication Registry System (DARS). This is the system that the City, as well as other participating local governments, utilize to adjudicate disputed tickets that are under \$500.

Although the costs to run the program are shared amongst the participants, the City of Nanaimo oversees administration of the program. Therefore, both the City of Nanaimo, and the Cowichan Valley Regional District must adopt the Agreement to authorize the Regional District's participation, by bylaw. The Cowichan Valley Regional District gave their authorizing bylaw its first three readings on 2024-SEP-11 and it is recommended that Nanaimo Council now consider giving the bylaw attached to the staff report its first three readings.

DISCUSSION

Currently, there are 9 local governments that participate and share in the costs of running the DARS program. They are: the Regional District of Nanaimo, City of Port Alberni, the Regional District of Alberni Clayoquot, Village of Port Clements, City of Duncan, District of Tofino, City of Parksville, and the District of North Cowichan.

It is recommended that Council support inclusion of the Cowichan Valley Regional District as the more local governments that participate, the more timely adjudication hearings can be held as hearings are only booked when there are enough cases to warrant bringing in an adjudicator.

OPTIONS

Option 1:

That “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2024 No. 7159.21” (to amend Schedules B and C – Registry Agreement to authorize the Cowichan Valley Regional District to participate in the City’s Dispute Adjudication Registry System) pass first reading;

That “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2024 No. 7159.21” pass second reading;

That “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2021 No. 7159.21” pass third reading.

Implications:

By authorizing the Cowichan Valley Regional District’s inclusion into the DARS program, it will assist in off-setting the costs associated with administering the Adjudication Hearings for all local governments who participate in the program and also result in more timely hearings.

Option 2:

That Council decline the Cowichan Valley Regional District’s participation in the Dispute Adjudication Registry System.

Implications:

Should Council not be supportive of the Cowichan Valley Regional District’s participation in the program, the Cowichan Valley Regional District would continue to administer all of its ticket disputes through the Provincial Court system as it would be cost prohibitive for them to run a DARS program independently.

SUMMARY POINTS

- There are currently 9 local governments that participate and share in the costs of running the Dispute Adjudication Registry System program.
- By adding the Cowichan Valley Regional District into the DARS program, it will assist even further in off-setting the costs associated with administering the Adjudication Hearings for all local governments who participate.

Attachment 1 – BL 7159.21 – Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw Amendment

Attachment 2 – Certified Resolution from the C.V.R.D

Submitted by:

Karen Robertson
Deputy Corporate Officer

Concurrence by:

Sheila Gurrie, Director of Legislative Services
Dave Laberge, Director of Public Safety
Richard Harding, Gen. Mgr. Community Services &
Deputy CAO
Dale Lindsay, CAO