

DATE OF MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2024

AUTHORED BY ANA FRANCISCO, ASSISTANT MANAGER, REVENUE SERVICES

**SUBJECT AMENDMENT TO RATES AND CHARGES FOR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To introduce “Municipal Solid Waste Collection Amendment Bylaw 2024, No. 7128.16” for first, second and third reading.

### **Recommendation**

That:

1. “Municipal Solid Waste Collection Amendment Bylaw 2024, No. 7128.16” (a bylaw to set the solid waste collection rates for 2025) pass first reading;
2. “Municipal Solid Waste Collection Amendment Bylaw 2024, No. 7128.16” pass second reading; and
3. “Municipal Solid Waste Collection Amendment Bylaw 2024, No. 7128.16” pass third reading.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Nanaimo provides regular collection of solid waste, recyclables, and organics for disposal for residential properties throughout the City using automated curbside collections. This service is fully funded by user fees.

## **DISCUSSION**

User fees are calculated based on the projected cost to provide collection services which includes related activities such as public education for waste reduction and recycling and funding for the future replacement of the collection bins and refuse trucks.

For 2025, the rate for municipal curbside collection will increase to \$241 per annum. Cost pressures that are contributing to the increase include tipping fees increases, wages and benefits increases, and the ongoing maintenance and asset management of the sanitation fleet. Funding from the sanitation leveling reserve has been allocated to help offset some of the cost increases.

The annual cost for an average residential property would change as follows:

2024 Annual Cost	Proposed 2025 Annual Cost	% Annual Change	\$ Annual Change
\$228	\$241	5.70%	\$13.00

The additional fee for each garbage cart upsizes would also increase by 5.70% for a total annual cost of \$111.

Staff have also reviewed the following:

### **Fees and Penalties**

Currently, the collection fees take effect the earlier of a) the date of a City occupancy permit or b) the date of the actual occupancy of the premises. Staff are encountering challenges with this process because homeowners are not always aware that they must contact Public Works to request that the carts be dropped off and this results in adjustment requests to the User Rates department due to fees levied but no service provided.

Staff are recommending that the following be implemented instead:

- Upon issuance of a City occupancy permit the User Rates department will send a letter with a “Cart Request” form enclosed to the registered owner
- The registered owner will have one (1) month from the date the letter is mailed to contact Public Works and request delivery of the carts
- Basic collection fees will be applicable effective one (1) month after the ‘Cart Request’ letter and form are sent if the City is not contacted by the registered owner, but carts will not be delivered until contact is made
- If the City is contacted by the registered owner by the letter due date the fee will be applicable as of the date of the cart delivery

#### *Current Bylaw:*

#### 17. Fees for Municipal Solid Waste Collection System

- (3) Fees for the Municipal Solid Waste Collection System shall be levied from the earlier of:

- (a) the date of a City occupancy permit; or
- (b) the date of actual occupancy of a premises

#### *Suggested Amendment*

#### 17. Fees for Municipal Solid Waste Collection System

- (3) Fees for the Municipal Solid Waste Collection System shall be levied from the earlier of:

- (a) one month from the date of a City occupancy permit; or
- (b) the date the carts are delivered by the City; or
- (c) the date of actual occupancy of a premises

### **Damaged Cart Call Out Fee**

Staff are recommending adding a Call Out Fee equal to the Cart Exchange Fee (\$60) to allow for a mechanism to charge for calls to replace or repair carts when there is no damage to the cart. Staff have found that on several occasions they attend the property to repair or replace a damaged

cart when there is no actual damage, often times the call is made because the caller would like the cart cleaned. |

## **OPTIONS**

1. That

“Municipal Solid Waste Collection Amendment Bylaw 2024, No. 7128.16” (a bylaw to set the solid waste collection rates for 2025) pass first reading;

“Municipal Solid Waste Collection Amendment Bylaw 2024, No. 7128.16” pass second reading; and

“Municipal Solid Waste Collection Amendment Bylaw 2024, No. 7128.16” pass third reading.

### **Advantages:**

- The proposed rate was set based on a full cost recovery model for the provision of municipal solid waste collection services to the residents of Nanaimo.

### **Disadvantages:**

- The annual cost of municipal solid waste collection would increase by 5.70%, or \$13.

2. That Council provide alternative direction. |

## **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The municipal solid waste collection service is fully funded by user fees.
- The 2025 collection rates are proposed to increase to \$241 per annum.
- The increase would allow the City to maintain full cost recovery.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

Municipal Solid Waste Collection Amendment Bylaw 2024, No. 7128.16 |

**Submitted by:**

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