

To: Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2021-01-14

From: Jaime Van Nes, Director of Legislative Services

File No: 0530-01

Subject: Electoral Area Directors and Local Government Leadership Academy Forums: February 2-4, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board authorize Electoral Area Directors, as designated, to attend the 2021 Electoral Area Directors Forum and Local Government Leadership Academy Forum being held virtually between February 2 and 4, 2021;

AND THAT registration fees be approved from Budget 102, Electoral Area Administration.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

BACKGROUND

Each year, UBCM holds its Electoral Area Directors Forum in conjunction with the Local Government Leadership Academy Forum. In years past, both these events were held in person over a four-day period in Richmond, BC.

The Electoral Area Directors Forum focuses on issues of concern to Electoral Area Directors and provides an opportunity to discuss common problems and share potential solutions to the problems identified. The Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) aims to provide local government and First Nation officials with comprehensive, timely and dedicated leadership development opportunities.

DISCUSSION

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the forums are being held in a virtual format. The Electoral Area Directors Forum will begin at 1pm on February 2, and end at noon on February 3. The LGLA Forum will begin at 1pm on February 3 and end at 4:30pm on February 4.

The agenda for the Electoral Area Director Forum is still being finalized. To date, the following speakers and presentations have been confirmed on the UBCM website:

- Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs
- UBCM President, Brian Frenkel
- Rural Broadband, with staff from the Ministry of Citizens' Services
- Cannabis Odour, with Neal Carley, Metro Vancouver
- Future of BC's Food System, with staff from the Ministry of Agriculture
- Flood and Fires in Rural Areas, with staff from EMBC

The Agenda for the LGLA Forum, attached, focuses on how the events of 2020 have shaped local government, what changes are here to stay, and what skills, technology and resources will be need to navigate the uncharted waters.

COST

As both this year's Electoral Area Director and LGLA forums are held in virtual formats, the only cost associated with attendance is the registration cost of \$75, plus GST (Electoral Area Directors Forum) and \$200, plus GST (LGLA Forum).

COMMENTS BY:

Kelly Lownsbrough, Chief Financial Officer/ Director of Finance: Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.