

To: Fraser Valley Regional District Board  
From: Jaime Van Nes, Director of Legislative Services

Date: 2024-04-25  
File No: 0390-20

**Subject: Electoral Area Director Attendance at Keeping It Rural Conference: May 21 to 23, 2024**

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### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board authorize Directors Johnson and MacAhonic to attend the Keeping It Rural Conference in lieu of attending the 2024 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference and Trade Show;

**AND THAT** registration fees, accommodation and travel costs be approved from Budget 102 (Electoral Area Administration).

### BACKGROUND

Following the 2022 general local elections, the Board authorized the attendance of all Electoral Area Directors to attend the Local Government Leadership Academy Forum, Lower Mainland Local Government Association Annual General Meeting and Conference, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference and Trade Show, and Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention for the years 2023 through 2026. These four annual conferences are ones **most commonly attended by FVRD's Electoral Area Directors.**

### DISCUSSION

Directors Johnson and MacAhonic have advised that they will not attend the FCM Annual Conference and Trade Show being held in Calgary, Alberta in June 2024, and have instead requested substitution of attendance at FCM with attendance at the Keeping It Rural Conference.

**BC Rural Centre's** Keeping It Rural Conference: Sowing Seeds of Success and Cultivating Rural Economies is being hosted over three days in Kelowna, BC. The conference aims to focus on rural development, while spotlighting effective and innovative initiatives. The attached event agenda highlights themes of agriculture, water stewardship and rural innovation.

### COST

Registration for this event is \$450, plus taxes. The Conference offers a room rate of \$219, plus taxes, per night. Additional travel expenses will include mileage. These costs will be allocated within Electoral Area Administration (budget 102) **to the Director's individual Electoral Area travel budget.**

## CONCLUSION

In November 2022, the Board authorized the attendance of Electoral Area Directors at four local government conferences commonly attended by Directors, including the 2024 FCM Annual Conference and Trade Show. Directors Johnson and MacAhonic have requested that their attendance at FCM be substituted with the 2024 Keeping It Rural Conference, scheduled to take place in Kelowna between May 21 and 23, 2024.

## COMMENTS BY:

Kelly Lownsbrough, Director of Corporate Services/CFO: Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.