Fraser Valley Regional District

CORPORATE REPORT

To: Electoral Area Services Committee
Date: 2018-03-13

From: Jaime Schween, Manager of Corporate Administration
File No: 3920-20-1442, 2017

Subject: Fraser Valley Regional District Election Procedures Bylaw No. 1442, 2017

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board consider giving three reading and adoption to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Election Procedures Bylaw No. 1442, 2017*.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

BACKGROUND

General voting day for the upcoming general local elections is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 20, 2018.

The *Local Government Act* provides that the Board may determine various procedures with respect to the conduct of government local elections and assent voting ("referendum"). In some cases, the Act specifically requires that these procedures be put in place by bylaw.

DISCUSSION

In advance of the upcoming general local elections, this bylaw is being brought forward, and includes housekeeping amendments and changes to reflect recent legislative changes to the Act implemented since the 2014 general local election.

Additionally, the bylaw has been drafted with the inclusion of the ability to vote by mail ballot. As set out in the Act, the Board, by bylaw, may permit voting to be conducted by mail ballot. Specifically, for a regional district, the Act allows that the only electors who may be permitted to vote by mail ballot are:

(a) Persons who have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at another voting opportunity;

(b) Persons who expect to be absent from the regional district on general voting day and at the times of all advance voting opportunities; and
(c) Persons who live in an area that is remote from the voting place at which persons who reside in that area are entitled to vote (in this case, the bylaw authorizes people to vote by mail ballot if they live in rural areas located more than 25kms from the nearest voting place at which they are entitled to vote).

COST

No costs associated with this bylaw. Additional costs anticipated with the inclusion of mail ballot voting have been budgeted for as part of the general local elections budget. All General Local Election costs are borne by Service Area 102 (Electoral Area Administration).

CONCLUSION

In anticipation of the upcoming general local elections scheduled for October 2018, staff have prepared the attached bylaw for the Board's consideration.

COMMENTS BY:

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported