

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2018-09-05

From: Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Subject: Regional District Fire Inspection of Public Used Facilities

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Regional and Corporate Services Committee of information pertaining to the inspection of public used facilities within the Regional District. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

BACKGROUND

I was asked to participate on a UBCM committee this July to review a position paper around potential change in legislation for Regional Districts and fire inspections. Currently all municipalities are mandated with the responsibility of establishing and undertaking fire inspection of public used facilities. Until recently this did not apply to Regional Districts.

DISCUSSION

The Office of the Fire Commissioner recently notified UBCM that there has been a change in direction with this current government and they are considering requiring Regional Districts to initiate a Fire Inspection Service throughout the region.

The working group I sit on all agree that a program of Fire Inspection of all public buildings and uses is a good safety step that should be taken. We also fully agree that this is not something Regional Districts can consider doing lightly. We don't feel we are the right agency and significant costs and challenges would be placed on the Electoral Areas.

There will be a presentation at UBCM by the OFC about the change in responsibilities to Regional Districts and we are encouraging all regional district directors to attend and express their concerns.