

September 15, 2021

Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Municipal Affairs

VIA Email: MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister:

Re: Appointment of Directors to Regional District Board

The following resolution was passed by the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board at its July 30, 2021 meeting:

That the MVRD Board request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to amend the Local Government Act in section 198 [appointment and term of office for municipal directors], as necessary to require municipal councils to appoint the Mayor, or the Mayor's designate, as the municipal director to the regional district board

Metro Vancouver's background report to this motion, entitled "Municipal Director Appointment Process", is attached for reference.

At its September 13, 2021 Regular Council meeting, the Council for the City of Langley passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Local Government Act sets out the procedure for the appointment of directors to the regional district board;

WHEREAS section 198 of the Local Government Act states: After the first appointment under section 41 (2) (e) [first board for regional district], each municipal director is to be appointed at pleasure by the council from among its members and that the Local Government Act does not stipulate any criteria in making those appointment decisions;

WHEREAS the appointment of directors to the regional district board under the Municipal Act (now Local Government Act) was changed after 2000 to "at the pleasure of Council" and that there have been no criteria constraining municipal council's appointment decision since 1965;

WHEREAS the governance structure of regional districts has been lauded as a model structure that provides for "a regional federation of autonomous partners, representing both municipal and non-municipal territory and allows each Regional District to tailor most of its individual functions, both regionally and sub-regionally, to its own evolving needs. The Regional District legislation was designed to promote inter-municipal cooperation, to provide services to non-municipal urban fringe or rural communities, and to stimulate consensus-based planning and co-ordination across regions;"¹

WHEREAS regional districts are "part of the municipal system not separate from it. The regional district does not sit over the municipalities with the municipal units serving the region. Rather it is the reverse: the regional district exists to further the interests of its municipal members;"²

WHEREAS the current section 198 of the Local Government Act provides ability, accountability, autonomy, and a democratic process for each municipal council to appoint the director to the regional board that best represents the views of majority of council on regional-scale services matters;

WHEREAS the Metro Vancouver Regional District is a federation of 21 municipalities, one Electoral Area and one Treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services;

WHEREAS the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board, at its July 30, 2021 meeting, passed a resolution to request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to amend the Local Government Act in section 198 [appointment and term of office for municipal directors], as necessary to require municipal councils to appoint the Mayor, or the Mayor's designate, as the municipal director to the regional district board;

WHEREAS Metro Vancouver Regional District Board has not outlined the impetus and rationale for the proposed amendment to section 198 of the Local Government Act;

WHEREAS the proposed resolution passed by the Metro Vancouver Regional Board to amend the Local Government Act to require municipal councils to appoint the Mayor, or the Mayor's designate, as the municipal director to the regional district board would affect all regional district boards in BC and that a broad consultation with all local governments in BC is necessary and required to consider this amendment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Municipal Affairs conduct a broad consultative process in partnership with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, Lower Mainland Local Government Association, and all local governments in BC to solicit feedback with tangible and objective rationale to support the amendment to section 198 of the Local Government Act to require municipal councils to appoint the Mayor, or the Mayor's designate, as the municipal director to the regional district board; and that this motion be forwarded to Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and all municipal councils in BC.

Yours truly,
CITY OF LANGLEY



Kelly Kenney
Corporate Officer

Cc BC Municipalities

Enclosure

Footnotes in Resolution:

1 *40 Years: A Regional District Retrospective Summary of Proceedings, Local Government Knowledge Partnership, Ministry of Community & Rural Development, Local Government Management Association of British Columbia, 2009,*
<https://www.uvic.ca/hsd/publicadmin/assets/docs/LGI/RetrospectiveMar2009/Summary.pdf>

2 *A Primer on Regional Districts in British Columbia, Ministry of Community Services, 2006,*
https://www.regionaldistrict.com/media/28095/Primer_on_Regional_Districts_in_BC.pdf