



CITY OF LANGLEY

MOTION

STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY AND LOCAL INPUT IN REGIONAL REPRESENTATION - Councillor Leith White

WHEREAS Metro Vancouver decisions related to infrastructure, utility rates, development cost charges, and regional planning and other issues have direct financial, operational, and long-term planning impacts on Langley City and its residents; and

WHEREAS Council has a responsibility to understand and consider major regional decisions that materially affect the City; and

WHEREAS Langley City's Advisory Bodies Policy CO-79 provides only general expectations for periodic reporting from Council representatives on external boards and does not establish structured processes for advance sharing of public agendas, Council discussion prior to major regional decisions, or consistent reporting back to Council; and

WHEREAS as a result, Council's awareness of and engagement with major regional decisions relies largely on informal practices and individual discretion, rather than on a clear, shared, and transparent internal process; and

WHEREAS Council recognizes and respects that Metro Vancouver Directors act independently under provincial law and cannot be bound, directed, or instructed by municipal councils in how they vote or carry out their statutory duties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to develop a draft framework to:

1. **Improve Council awareness** of upcoming **public** Metro Vancouver Board and Committee items that may materially affect Langley City;
2. **Provide opportunities for Council discussion** and the expression of **non-binding, advisory positions in principle** on major regional issues prior to public meetings;
3. **Establish a clear, public reporting-back process** following meetings to summarize key decisions and implications for Langley City, while respecting all confidentiality requirements;
4. **Ensure all processes are advisory and procedural only**, and do not bind or direct the voting behaviour of the City's appointed Metro Vancouver representatives;
5. **Develop options for a Select Committee on Regional Affairs** to assist Council by:
 - reviewing public Metro Vancouver agendas for items of municipal significance;
 - tracking major regional initiatives, studies, capital plans, and regulatory changes affecting Langley City;
 - maintaining a record of regional decisions relevant to the City's financial plan, development framework, infrastructure obligations, and long-term strategy.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council with:

- proposed procedural options to implement the above objectives; and
- any recommended amendments to Advisory Bodies Policy CO-79 or other applicable policies needed to support a lawful, practical, and transparent internal process.

BACKGROUND:

Langley City appoints Council members each year to serve as Metro Vancouver Directors under provincial law. That appointment process is lawful and not in question.

However, our Advisory Bodies Policy (CO-79) does not set out a formal municipal process for reviewing upcoming public Metro Vancouver agendas, discussing high-impact regional issues before meetings, or ensuring consistent reporting back to Council afterward.

As a result, most information-sharing about Metro Vancouver matters happens informally rather than through a clear, structured process.

Metro Vancouver decisions now involve significant financial, infrastructure, regulatory, and long-term planning impacts on Langley City, including effects on utility rates, development costs, housing viability, and future taxes.

Relying on informal & discretionary processes makes it harder for Council to be fully aware, formulate an understanding of the impact of these issues ahead of time and to communicate clearly with residents about outcomes and impacts.

This motion is intended to be purely procedural. It is not intended to direct or bind Langley City's Metro Vancouver Directors, interfere with their independent statutory duties, require disclosure of confidential/in closed information, or undermine regional collaboration. Directors remain fully responsible for following their legal obligations.

The goal of this motion is to create a structured process that supports: advance awareness of important regional decisions, non-binding advisory discussion among Council, and consistent public reporting on outcomes that affect Langley City. This will improve transparency, strengthen internal alignment, and maintain continuity over time.