



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: February 23, 2021

From: Paul Gipps, CAO

Subject: **Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) Voting**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council consider and resolve to support the changing in voting composition of the Regional District of Central Okanagan to 1 vote per 5,000 population.

BACKGROUND

The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) has requested the City of West Kelowna comment on the organization's consideration around changing the voting unit composition of the Board of Directors.

Regional Districts have been around since 1967 and their voting compositions are very complex depending on which service is being considered and whether or not it has a weighted vote. However many of the votes are corporate votes and a simple majority is all that is required. Currently, there are 13 board members representing 4 local governments and 2 electoral areas; 7 representing the City of Kelowna, 2 representing the City of West Kelowna, 1 each representing Peachland and Lake Country and 1 each for the two electoral areas. Therefore on a corporate vote, the City of Kelowna would carry the majority each time.

DISCUSSION

Looking forward to the next census and beyond with the projected growth patterns for the RDCO a number of scenarios could quickly come together creating challenges around participation at the board table. For instance City of Kelowna will soon reach a population where they could have difficulty having full representation at the board for logistical reasons. With this in mind, the RDCO could request the Province of British Columbia to amend the composition of the Board with a change to the letters patent.

The City of Kelowna has indicated their support to change the representation to 1 vote per 5,000 population, from 1 in 4,000 population currently, reducing Kelowna's representation from 7 members to 6. This will ease the challenge of maintaining consistent representation at the board table as well as reduce the cost of the board

administration, at least for one census cycle. It does seem likely the growth in this region will continue at the same pace and as such, the RDCO might want to consider, in their discussions with the Province, requesting a “Sun Rise” clause that will automatically maintain the board voting composition at 12 members.

CONCLUSION

It is staff’s recommendation to support the initiative of changing the voting composition at the Regional District of Central Okanagan to 1 per 5,000 population.

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes ☐ No ☒