

## NOTICE OF MOTION TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2018

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### **SUBJECT** Improving Regional Governance and Transparency

### **ISSUE**

This report provides recommendations regarding improvements to regional governance and transparency, responding to requests received from members of the public.

### **BACKGROUND**

Members of the public including the Grumpy Taxpayers of Greater Victoria have called on the Capital Regional District to implement improvements to regional governance and transparency.

These recommendations include implementing a Directors' Voting Dashboard, publishing Directors' annual Financial Disclosure Statements, improving proactive disclosure of closed meeting business, publishing information on Directors' expenses, publishing a Board Highlights Report following each Board meeting, and providing clear summaries of financial information in the CRD's annual report and in budgeting documents.

Improving governance and transparency contributes to better decision making, and can also serve to strengthen public confidence in their regional government. Given the number of pressing regional issues requiring action, it is prudent to embrace measures that will strengthen the Capital Regional District and its connection with members of the public.

With a fresh mandate from the electorate, and in light of referenda results in the City of Victoria and District of Saanich indicating support for exploration of options to improve regional governance, it is recommended that the Board endorse the following actions to improve regional governance and transparency.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board:

1. Endorse in principle the following best practices in governance and transparency.
  - (1) Introduce a **Director Voting Dashboard**, to ensure transparency of the voting record of each director on each item of Board and Committee business, adopting the best practice from the City of Vancouver;
  - (2) Publish Directors' annual **Financial Disclosure Statements** (submitted according to the requirements of the BC Financial Disclosure Act) online and update these disclosure statements on an annual basis, adopting the best practice from the City of Vancouver;
  - (3) Improve **Proactive Disclosure of Closed Meeting Business**, including decisions and reports of the Board and Committees, as soon as the need for confidentiality has ceased to exist, adopting the best practice from the City of Vancouver;

- (4) Endeavour to publish information on **Directors' Expenses** on a quarterly basis, adopting the best practice from the City of North Vancouver;
  - (5) Publish a **Board Highlights Report** following Board meetings, to make information on key Board decisions accessible to the general public, adopting the best practice from the City of Victoria;
  - (6) Provide clear and accessible **Summaries of Financial Information** in the CRD's Annual Report and in annual financial planning documents, and provide prominent, easily accessible links to this information on the CRD website, focusing on clarity and transparency in the presentation of this information to the public.
2. Direct staff to report back to the Governance Committee with recommendations for the timely implementation of each of these items.
  3. Request that the Chair, on behalf of the Board, forward these recommendations to member local governments, encouraging favourable consideration and action.

Submitted by:	Director Ben Isitt, Victoria
Concurrence:	Director Jeremy Loveday, Victoria