



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

**RURAL/AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA
Thursday, March 5, 2020**

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2-4	John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Electoral Area Director Expenses	Direction

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

To: Rural/Agricultural Committee
From: John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Date: March 5, 2020
Re: Electoral Area Director Expenses

Recommendation (All/Directors/Majority):

Committee direction.

Discussion:

The current Remuneration Bylaw directs staff to allocate to each electoral director the following amounts in the Rural Legislative Budget (taxed to just the electoral areas):

- The appropriate amount for remuneration and expenses to attend NCLGA and UBCM
- An additional amount of \$2,000

In the 2020 draft budget these amounts are estimated at \$2,637 for remuneration and \$9,855 for travel expenses for each electoral director, for a total budget of \$87,444 (7 multiplied by \$12,492). The Electoral Directors, as a committee, may request the Board to increase these amounts as part of the budget process.

These amounts are used at the discretion of the Electoral Area Director. All Electoral Area Director's remuneration associated with travel and travel expenses, including travel within each director's electoral area, are allocated to this account except for the following items, which are allocated to the General Government Legislative budget as per policy:

- All the Chair's or the Vice Chair's (if replacing the chair) travel remuneration and expenses.
- One Municipal or Rural Director's travel remuneration and expenses to attend FCM.
- One Municipal or Rural Director's travel remuneration and expenses to attend Mineral's Roundup.
- Two Municipal or Rural Directors' travel remuneration and expenses to attend Minerals North.



- One Municipal or Rural Director's travel remuneration and expenses to attend Fraser Basin Council.
- All expenses to attend Resource Benefits Alliance meetings is also charged to the General Government Legislative budget (in the hopes that this amount may eventually be recoverable).

It is interesting to note that while municipalities pay for the option for their directors to attend FCM, Minerals' Roundup and Minerals North as one of the Regional District's representatives, municipal directors have never been sent by the Regional District to these events.

In the 2020 draft budget, the total amount for Board travel that has been estimated for remuneration and associated travel expenses in the General Government Legislative budget is \$45,951.

From an organizational perspective, the goal of the Rural Legislative and General Government Legislative travel budgets is to remain on budget as a whole, rather than for each director. Therefore, the costs associated with all travel and remuneration expenses in the budget can be like a "pooled fund" which will allow for the flexibility for when one director travels more than another director does. The Policy also states that if an Electoral Director chooses not to attend UBCM or NCLGA in a particular year, these funds in the budget can be added to the \$2,000 discretionary funds for each Electoral Director to utilize for events and professional development throughout the year. As part of the quarterly reporting to the Board, these expense funds can be reported out, and in the event that an Electoral Area Director exceeds the discretionary funds individually allocated, a request to access the pooled funds remaining in a particular year could be requested to the Board or Rural Committee.

To simplify the director travel expense policy, it may be best to update the current policy to clarify and/or state that:

- The Chair's or Vice Chair's (if replacing the Chair) travel remuneration and Expenses will be allocated to the General Legislative Budget.
- The travel remuneration and travel expenses of any Committee Chair when travelling for purposes of supporting that Committee will be allocated to the General Legislative Budget. For this purpose, the director chosen to represent the Regional District at the Fraser Basin Council would be deemed a Committee Chair and allocated to the General Legislative budget.
- All other travel remuneration or travel expenses for Electoral Area Directors will be allocated to the Rural Legislative Budget.



- Travel for municipal directors, except for their travel as the RDBN Chair, Vice Chair, or as a Committee Chair, would be at the expense of the particular municipality.