



REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORT

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Michelle Jones, Manager of Administrative Services

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

SUBJECT: 2022 Elections Appointment of Officers and Local Public Bodies

ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the Committee recommend the Board appoint Michelle Jones as Chief Election Officer and Christina Peake and Esme Sturton as Deputy Chief Election Officers for the 2022 Regional District elections and for other questions as may be put to the electorate at the time.
 2. THAT the Committee recommend the Board authorize Regional District administration of the 2022 elections for Lasqueti Island Local Trust on behalf of Island Trust, School District #69, School District #47 and the Sechelt Indian Government District, as requested and on a cost-recovery basis.
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PURPOSE/SUMMARY

To consider the appointment of election officials for the 2022 regional district elections and other voting (elector assent or approval).

BACKGROUND

The next general local elections in British Columbia are on October 15, 2022.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Regional District must appoint a Chief Election Officer (CEO) and Deputy Chief Election Officers to administer the October general election and any “other voting” that may be required.

The role of Michelle Jones, Manager of Administrative Services, will be to administer the 2022 elections and any “other voting” opportunities that arise throughout the year. Christina Peake, Assistant Manager of Administration and Esme Sturton, Records

Management Clerk shall be appointed Deputy CEOs to assist Ms. Jones in carrying out the elections and to act in her absence.

As in the past, the Board also appointed a Lasqueti Island resident as a deputy CEO for Lasqueti Island since Regional District staff located in Powell River cannot carry out all the CEO duties on the Island. Staff will search for a suitable candidate and will report back to the Committee when ready to move forward on this appointment.

The CEO has the authority to appoint other election officials – e.g., presiding election officials at each poll and poll clerks.

Other Elections Administration

Typically, the Regional District administers the Lasqueti Island elections for the Islands Trust and School District #69 (Qualicum Beach) and the Sechelt Indian Government District advisory councillor election for voters on the Cokqueneet Reserve (Palm Beach).

School District #47 will likely again have the City's CEO handle the School District election as the City's voting machines simplify the vote count. On request from the City, the Regional District CEO would then make arrangements for school trustee voting at the rural polling stations.

School District #69, Sechelt Indian Government District and Islands Trust pay their share of the election costs, including an administration charge. The School District provides the use of the schools for rural polling stations in exchange for their rural election expenses on Lasqueti Island. Sharing the general administrative and advertising costs reduces the overall election expenses as well as the cost to the individual jurisdictions, including the Regional District.

Board authorization is required for the Regional District to administer the 2022 elections for these jurisdictions as requested and on a cost recovery basis.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

\$60,000 has been included in the 2022 budget to cover election expenses. The Regional District is also compensated for election administration by local public bodies on a cost recovery basis.

Approved By:

Michelle Jones, Manager of Administrative Services
Al Radke, Chief Administrative Officer

Status:

Approved - 09 Feb 2022
Approved - 10 Feb 2022