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REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026

SUBJECT **2027-2030 CRD Board Remuneration and Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide the updated CRD Board Remuneration and Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy, effective the 2027-2030 CRD Board term.

BACKGROUND

The CRD Board has approved a CRD Board Remuneration and Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy ("Policy"). This Policy applies to CRD Board Directors, Commission members, First Nations Members, and certain Board appointees to external Boards. The Policy was initially established in 2016 and is derived from a remuneration philosophy that recognizes the significant commitment and expectations of a CRD Director, and gross remuneration which is comparable with other organizations. As a foundation of the Policy, the remuneration philosophy established by the CRD Board is as follows:

1. a base Director annual stipend as the average (applied as median) paid to CRD member councillors, which recognizes attendance at all CRD Board meetings and Committee of the Whole meetings plus two Standing Committee commitments;
2. an additional annual stipend to Electoral Area Directors to provide overall remuneration consistent with the average (median) paid to CRD member mayors, which recognizes all additional Electoral Area work including Electoral Area Commission commitments;
3. an additional annual stipend to the CRD Board Chair consistent with payments made by other Regional Districts, which recognizes all Board Chair responsibilities including all ex-officio responsibilities on Standing Committees;
4. additional annual stipends to recognize the additional commitments of the: CRD Board Vice-Chair; Capital Regional Hospital District Chair; Standing Committee Chairs; CRD Directors appointed as a Commission Chair, when such Commission Chair appointment is made directly by the CRD Board Chair; CRD Directors who are involved on more than two Standing Committees; and Commissioners of the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission;
5. per meeting payments to Alternate Directors consistent with payments made by other Regional Districts, and to CRD Directors appointed to local and sub-regional Commissions and external Boards except where remuneration is already paid and/or not eligible; and
6. that the annual cost of living adjustment based on the Victoria Consumer Price Index (CPI) continue to be applied, and that a regular review be undertaken every three (3) to five (5) years to ensure remuneration remains comparable.

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The regular review of the Policy was undertaken in early 2026 and the results of that review were presented to the CRD Board on May 13, 2026 (Appendix B). At that Board meeting, the Board moved:

That with the information and recommendations as provided by the consultants at the meeting of May 13, 2026, that staff be directed to update the CRD Board Remuneration and Travel Expense Policy for CRD Board consideration.

Staff have updated the Policy with the information from the consultants to be effective starting the 2027-2030 CRD Board term (Appendix A).

In the Policy update starting in January 2027, staff are recommending that the remuneration philosophy be amended to remove the additional stipend paid the CRD Directors appointed to local and sub-regional Commissions, and rather enable Commissions to consider payment to all Commissioners from service budgets at the per meeting rate should they elect to do so and where approved by the CRD Board.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

1. That the CRD Board remuneration philosophy be revised to remove the per meeting payments to CRD Directors appointed to local and sub-regional Commissions; and
2. That that the CRD Board remuneration philosophy be revised to authorize CRD Commissions to provide per meeting payments for all Commissioners as may be approved by the Commission and the CRD Board and paid at the per meeting rate from the Commission's service budget; and
3. That the CRD Board Remuneration and Travel Expense Policy be approved effective January 1, 2027, as attached.

Alternative 2

1. That that the CRD Board remuneration philosophy be revised to authorize CRD Commissions to provide per meeting payments for all Commissioners as may be approved by the Commission and the CRD Board and paid at the per meeting rate from the Commission's service budget; and
2. That the CRD Board Remuneration and Travel Expense Policy be approved effective January 1, 2027, as attached, amended to continue to include per meeting payments to CRD Directors appointed to local and sub-regional Commissions and external Boards except where remuneration is already paid and/or not eligible.

Alternative 3

The Capital Regional District Board approve that the CRD Board Remuneration and Travel Expense Policy be approved effective January 1, 2027, as attached, amended to continue to include per meeting payments to CRD Directors appointed to local and sub-regional Commissions and external Boards except where remuneration is already paid and/or not eligible.

Alternative 4

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

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IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

The CRD Board established a comprehensive remuneration Policy. The Policy ensures relative market consistency based on the overall remuneration philosophy. On May 13, 2026 the CRD Board approved the consultant's recommendations for remuneration effective January 1, 2027, requiring updates to the Policy.

Since the Policy was implemented, several CRD Commissions have expressed desire in considering per meeting payments recognizing the significant commitment and expectations of many Commissioners. Currently payments to commissions are permitted as follows: the Regional Water Supply Commissioners receive per meeting payments; CRD Board Directors appointed to a local or sub-regional Commission are eligible for per meeting payments; and the elected Salt Spring Island Local Community Commissioners receive annual stipends. Concern from some Commissions have been raised that this model of payment has created inconsistency.

Financial Implications

The approved implementation date for remuneration adjustments would be for the new Board term 2027-2030, starting in January 2027. Based on current level of effort, total 2027 remuneration aligned with Policy would be adjusted by approximately: \$140,000 for the Board expenditure service; \$50,000 for Electoral Areas; and \$25,000 for the Regional Water Supply. Remuneration for the calendar years 2028-2030 would be adjusted based on the year end Victoria Consumer Price Index in accordance with Policy. Mileage and related allowances are updated annually and will continue to be incorporated into the Policy once these are determined by the Government of Canada.

Should meeting payments for Commissioners be approved, the per meeting costs at the per meeting rate would be budgeted within service budgets, with actual costs subject to the numbers of Commissioners, the number of annual meetings, and attendance.

CONCLUSION

The CRD Board has established a CRD Board Remuneration and Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy. The Policy is derived from a remuneration philosophy that recognizes the significant commitment and expectations of a CRD Director, and gross remuneration which is comparable with other organizations. In a review of the comparable organizations, it has been determined that adjustments to remuneration are required and that the Policy be updated accordingly to be commensurate with the 2027-2030 Board term. Staff have updated the Policy based on the direction of the CRD Board.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the CRD Board remuneration philosophy be revised to remove the per meeting payments to CRD Directors appointed to local and sub-regional Commissions; and
2. That that the CRD Board remuneration philosophy be revised to authorize CRD Commissions to provide per meeting payments for all Commissioners as may be approved by the Commission and the CRD Board and paid at the per meeting rate from the Commission's service budget; and
3. That the CRD Board Remuneration and Travel Expense Policy be approved effective January 1, 2027, as attached.

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Submitted by:	Chris Neilson, MBA, CPHR, Senior Manager, People, Safety and Culture
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Appendix A: CRD Board Remuneration and Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy (effective January 1, 2027) (redlined)
- Appendix B: CRD Board Remuneration and Travel Expense Report, Western Compensation and Benefits Consultants, April 23, 2026