

NOTICE OF MOTION TO GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF September 2, 2020

SUBJECT

Youth engagement in the CRD

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governance and Finance Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That staff be directed to explore new youth engagement opportunities within the CRD, including consideration of collaboration with public secondary and post-secondary education institutions, and municipalities.

BACKGROUND

The CRD undertakes an enormous amount of work throughout the entire region that affects critical issues such as housing, transportation, parks, the environment, water, waste, etc. These issues, and the work that we do in this regard, have impacts now and well into the future. Young people in our region are not only currently being affected by many of the major issues, but will also inherit the impacts of the decisions that we make today. It's important to ensure that their voices are heard through the decision making processes.

It is also notable that education regarding local government is not part of any school curriculum within the Province of British Columbia. Therefore, opportunities for young people to learn about the important work of local government are very limited. However, we can, and should, create opportunities for youth to learn, and get involved in the work that we do.

Other municipalities within the CRD have made proactive efforts to engage youth. Examples include the 'City of Victoria Youth Council' (CVYC), which is, according to the City's website, a youth-driven, grassroots program that offers opportunities for young people to get involved and act as young leaders in their community. CVYC is a passionate group of youth who take action and raise awareness about important issues in the community and share youth perspectives and experiences with Victoria City Council, City staff, and citizens. They have 15+ council members, of ages 14-24. This youth council creates a place for young leaders to learn about local government and get involved in shaping their community.

Aside from the benefits to young people, this is also an opportunity for the CRD itself to be able to hear new ideas and perspectives on the work that we do and the issues we face. This has the potential to contribute positively towards innovation and growth within the organization.

New youth engagement opportunities within the CRD could prove to be mutually beneficial to both young people in our region, and the CRD as a corporation.

CONCLUSION

In summary, considering that:

- A) Young people in particular will inherit the effects of the decisions we make today
- B) Youth do not currently have opportunities within the school curriculum to learn about the important work of local government
- C) We as an organization could potentially benefit from new ideas and perspectives

We believe it would be worthwhile to ask staff to explore new youth engagement opportunities within the CRD.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governance and Finance Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

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Respectfully submitted,

Director Ned Taylor

Director Geoff Orr

Director Lisa Helps