



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 30th, 2025 *(time sensitive)*

To: Committee of the Whole

Date: January 23rd, 2025

From: Councillor Gardiner

Subject: CRD Budget and Alternate Approval Process initiatives

BACKGROUND:

Victoria's taxpayers, both residents and businesses, are concerned about property taxes. Surveys suggest that the general public prefers reduction in services rather than property tax increases.

Over the past two years, as this Council has considered property taxes, it has discussed the budgets for the City of Victoria, the Greater Victoria Library Board, and VicPD. Other components of property taxes including BC Transit, Capital Regional District (CRD), BC School and other levies, have been accepted without discussion.

Many municipal services fall under the CRD. Four members of Victoria Council sit on the CRD Board. The CRD has chosen the Alternate Approval Process for approval of several initiatives. With a population of about ¼ of the region, the City of Victoria is typically responsible for about ¼ of the funding for programs.

While CRD taxes make up about 7% of Victoria's property tax, it is growing. Recently the CRD hosted a "Provisional Financial Plan Information Session". During the session, the CRD presented a graph showing growth of requisition requests. The graph (see Appendix A) suggests that the growth would be significant if the new initiatives were approved.

Concerned citizens have written to Victoria Council indicating that the AAP has been flawed because impacted residents and businesses have not been notified or consulted.

TIME SENSITIVE:

There is only one remaining COTW meeting prior to the City of Victoria Budget discussions, namely February 6th, hence the need to forward this CMM to the January 30 Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct staff to report on increases to the CRD budget and impacts specific to Victoria and the number of recent CRD alternate approval processes and their purposes.

Further, that this Motion be considered at the Council meeting of January 30th, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a circular scribble followed by a horizontal line.

Councillor Gardiner

Attachments:

Appendix A - 2025 CRD Provisional Financial Plan Information Session