



NOTICE OF MOTION

TO: Council **MEETING DATE:** July 2, 2025
FROM: Councillor Toth
SUBJECT: Notice of Motion – Reclassification of District of Sechelt Post Office Postal Code
FILE NO: 0550

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS on April 19, 2024, Canada Post transitioned Sechelt’s neighbourhood delivery areas from rural to urban postal code designations but not the downtown post office, resulting in higher courier delivery costs and limited service options for businesses and residents (primarily downtown) who typically rely on post office box delivery;

NOW THEREFORE the District of Sechelt Council will send correspondence to Canada Post highlighting the discrepancy and costs between the current urban classification applied to neighbourhood delivery routes and the continued rural designation of post office boxes in Sechelt (V0N 3A0); and

THAT the letter formally request that Canada Post update the V0N 3A0 postal code for Sechelt post office boxes to reflect an urban delivery designation, in alignment with neighbourhood delivery areas, to ensure consistency and support fair access to shipping services for Sechelt area residents and businesses.

RATIONALE:

On April 19, 2021, Canada Post transitioned Sechelt’s neighbourhood delivery areas from rural to urban postal code designations. However, the post office serving the downtown core has retained its rural designation (V0N 3A0). This inconsistency has led to persistent cost disadvantages for PO box users, as many courier services apply rural area surcharges based on the outdated classification.

This issue is particularly impactful for businesses operating in Sechelt’s downtown core who rely on PO boxes for reliable mail service. Courier shipping from Toronto (M5V 3L9), for example, reveals stark differences in pricing based solely on rural versus urban postal code designation. This can result in businesses paying more to ship products to their businesses than to their homes, even if located in a more remote neighbourhood such as Tuwanek.

For comparison purposes, a representative 3 lb, 12" x 12" x 12" package costs significantly more to ship to V0N 3A0 (a downtown business with a postal box) than to V7Z 0V1 (an urban designated address in Sechelt):

Shipping Service	To V0N 3A0	To V7Z 0V1	Difference
UPS Express	\$129.42	\$100.39	+\$29.03
FedEx Priority	\$126.20	\$88.90	+\$37.30
UPS Expedited	\$122.58	\$84.77	+\$37.81
UPS Express Saver	\$121.41	\$83.19	+\$38.22
FedEx 2 Day	\$115.06	\$76.80	+\$38.26
FedEx Overnight	\$110.21	\$73.29	+\$36.92
UPS Standard	\$74.51	\$46.32	+\$28.19

Canada Post's regional Manager of Government and Community Affairs has previously advised that in order for this issue to be formally considered, a resolution of support from Council is required. While Canada Post is unable to control the market rates charged by private courier companies, those companies rely on the postal codes as published by Canada Post to determine delivery zones and whether an address is classified as rural or urban. As such, the continued rural designation of the Sechelt post office addresses directly influences the higher shipping rates applied by third-party couriers. By initiating the formal request, the District can help advance a practical solution that better reflects current delivery conditions and supports more equitable service access for Sechelt residents and businesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Alton Toth