



NOTICE OF MOTION

TO: Council **MEETING DATE:** July 16, 2025
FROM: Mayor Henderson
SUBJECT: Notice of Motion – Living Within Our Means in a Challenging Time
FILE NO: 0550

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS:

- Sechelt residents face a variety of challenges and need to be assured that they are receiving the best value for their tax dollars
- Council has a duty to decide what services are vital to the well being of our community. And we also decide what services are more discretionary assuming we can afford the costs
- Anticipating significant tax increases in future to fund routine operating costs is not appropriate, without a very careful and detailed analysis of the benefits to the taxpayers
- Council needs a variety of data to help understand where and why costs are being incurred.
- It is a commonly held view that governments and agencies are overstaffed. We have a duty to assure ourselves and hence the public that this is not the case.

AND WHEREAS:

- We spend a significant percentage of our annual budget providing services that are the responsibility of other governments and agencies (“downloaded services”):
 - Taxpayers of the District of Sechelt are effectively paying for costs associated with residents’ safety, mental health and drug addiction, derelict vessels, processing of approvals from regulators and other governments and more.
 - These costs are for a wide variety of things including policing, bylaw enforcement, cleanup and maintenance, staff and management time and more. (Of course, when we add the impacts on residents and businesses arising from crime and overall safety arising from homelessness and the services located within our downtown core, the costs to our community are even higher.)
 - Some months ago, I sought Council’s support for staff to provide options for us to reduce our spending by \$2 million. I proposed this because, I believe, we either find a way to reduce our other spending to be able to continue to pay the costs for these downloaded services or we ensure that other orders of government pay for the costs of their services that we are providing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL DIRECTS OUR CAO AND HIS STAFF TO:

- 1) Provide the following in writing not later than August 15th:
 - a) a breakdown by department identifying headcounts and total salaries, separately for exempt and non-exempt staff, for each of the last five years
 - b) A detailed explanation of senior management's methodology for
 - i) measuring productivity from year to year
 - ii) deciding when an FTE increase or decrease is warranted
 - iii) Determining which services are considered core, mandatory items and which are more discretionary and why?
 - iv) Any other information our CAO and his staff feel will be useful to Council in assessing the options for moving forward with early budget considerations.
- 2) Provide an itemized list of all services provided, including but not limited to policing, public works, parks, bylaw enforcement, and administration, for services which are the responsibility of another government or agency including
 - a) Details of the estimated hours spent in providing these services
 - b) Details of the costs for time and other resources (use of equipment, overheads and administration, etc.)

Respectfully submitted,

John R Henderson

Mayor

District of Sechelt