

## **Recommendation for Consideration Should an Electoral Area Governance Committee/Commission be Considered**

Should an Electoral Area Governance Committee/Commission be considered as an outcome of the North Westside Governance study done in 2022, I would offer this recommendation for consideration. Some background information of a type of successful Commission within the Regional District of Central Okanagan which occurred at least prior to 2014 is offered so the information can be utilized should this recommendation be considered. Full disclosure: from 2000 to 2007, the author of this recommendation was the Chair of the noted successful Commission; from 2007 to 2014 the author was the Inaugural Electoral Area Director of the Central Okanagan West Electoral Area of the RDCO.

### *Background*

From 2000 – 2007 the RDCO's Advisory Planning Commission (APC) for the area under study for the area being studied at this time was a very well considered entity which was used to not only do its job of planning advice to the RDCO Board for consideration, it was used to help educate the Chair of what needed to be considered through the APC. It was also used to encourage the Chair to communicate with not only the RDCO Board and staff (through the CAO's), but to reach out and determine how the various Provincial Governmental entity's operated and dealt with issues. Therefore, the APC Chair was able to not only establish contacts; he was able to understand what could and could not be done, and how – with well considered business cases – those "outside" entities could be worked with to the benefit of the Electoral Areas.

Those entities include, but are not limited to:

RDCO CAO

RDCO staff (through the CAO)

MLA's

MOTI (with encouragement of the MLA)

The APC was set up with rotating terms such that new members could be considered on a regular basis, and old members could retire. Indeed, members

who were not effective could be counselled by the Chair, and if needs be the Chair could recommend that others take their place.

The APC reported to the Board and was made up of capable community members. These members between 2000 – 2007 were very considered members who, coincidentally and outside of their RDCO affiliation, worked as members of the Westside Road Improvement Committee (WRIC)

On the APC side, it reported to the RDCO Board. On the WRIC side, they reported to the MLA.

The APC meetings always had an RDCO staff member present who took notes so the APC's recommendations could be forwarded to the RDCO Board for consideration. No Electoral Area Director was ever present at the APC meetings, which – in my very strong opinion – was a very positive thing. The APC was for Planning and could not be used for lobbying.

To be certain the reader understands it clearly: the APC and WRIC were independent of each other. One was Regional; one was Provincial.

Therefore:

### ***Recommendation***

***IF*** a consideration comes out of the North Westside Governance Committee meeting, the following recommendation is asked to be considered:

***“THAT a Regional District of Central Okanagan Advisory Electoral Area Governance Commission (AGC perhaps) be formed under the following directives:***

- 1) Both (all) RDCO Electoral Areas would be at the table. Equal members from both (all).***
- 2) The AGC would report to the RDCO Board. No AGC member would regularly report to the Board.***
- 3) The RDCO would provide staff member(s) to advise and take minutes at AGC meetings***
- 4) The noted minutes would be presented to the RDCO Board for recommendation and consideration, by RDCO staff who were present at the AGC meetings.***

- 5) *Members of the AGC – equal numbers from both (all) sides would be recommended first to the appropriate staff (CAO?) and appointed on a rotational basis, much like the APC.*
- 6) *No RDCO Directors would be present at AGC meetings under normal circumstances. RDCO staff would be there to assist and take notes/minutes. Similar to the APC. The purpose of the AGC is to “Advise”; not to hear lobbying.*
- 7) **Most importantly: a clear and definitive scope of issues would be laid out for the AGC!!**

*Plus any other consideration the RDCO Board deems appropriate should they consider this recommendation.”*

I respectfully offer these considerations to those parties who either have an interest in them, or related to them.



Jim Edgson

## **Local Government Ombudsperson for Governance Issues and Disputes**

### *Background*

“Occasionally” a local government dispute or concern becomes obvious in which it may appear that members of a local government are not serving their local government and/or it’s citizens in an appropriate manner. While there may be rules in place for this, it sometimes is not that obvious to the public at large. I therefore submit a recommendation that might be considered locally, or perhaps provincially (such as at the UBCM, if it has not already been offered there):

*That* a Provincial Local Government Ombudsperson office be established that guides BC Local Governments, provides advice, facilitates good governance, and mediates dispute resolution. This office would be neutral yet would have certain powers, provide education, not heavy handed, and would make appropriate recommendations. It would make public reports to local government Boards/Councils plus the Province.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. G. G. G.', located at the bottom left of the page.