

DATE: October 4, 2018**FILE:** 5380-03**TO:** Chair and Directors
Comox Valley Regional District
(Comox Strathcona Waste Management) BoardSupported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer**FROM:** Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer***R. Dyson*****RE: Tipping waiver outreach**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information requested by the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board (Board), regarding the communication strategy for updated tipping waiver policy.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

For information purposes only.

Executive Summary

At the September 6, 2018 Board meeting, the Board asked staff to address two issues related to the updated tipping waiver policy:

- Confirm that the changes would not discourage volunteer groups that currently seek to undertake environmental and community clean-up events;
- Ensure that communications are improved to create a greater awareness of the opportunity for non-profits to participate in tipping fee waiver activities.

Staff confirmed that current activities would not be impacted, and the desire to divert materials from the landfill would not discourage non-profits participation. Staff intends to work with these groups to divert as much as possible, while taking into consideration their individual circumstance. Staff will work with non-profits to ensure their good work is leveraged to improve diversion, and also use volunteer groups to create a mutually beneficial relationship between volunteer groups and non-profits.

One example is the Quadra Philippine Connection, who after 24 years of hosting their annual giant garage sale, has become effective at diverting materials, while providing a great example of a non-profit that diverts materials from landfill, while utilizing volunteers. The Quadra Philippine Connection utilized approximately 100 volunteers for the 24th annual Giant Garage Sale Event, raising almost \$9,000 for their cause, and the Quadra daycare, while donating residual household items left over from the sale to local residents and families in Campbell River, including the Women's Center, Men's Transition house and Radiant Life Church. This is a great example of a small community generating revenue while diverting tonnes of material from the landfill.

Staff reviewed tipping waivers provided since 2011. The number of waivers issued in the Strathcona Regional District compared to the Comox Valley Regional District is balanced within the service area, and the volume of waste through the waiver policy has seen greater amounts in the Strathcona

Regional District communities. Working with municipal partners and non-profits, staff will develop the following outreach efforts (some activity has already begun):

- Contact our municipal partners, providing the updated tipping waiver policy and advising that staff is prepared to assist;
- Contact non-profits in regular contact with the CSWM Service staff to advise of upcoming changes;
- Create awareness of the Tipping Fee Waiver Policy by working with both municipal partners and non-profits that may have contacted the CSWM service in the past;
- Identify events and organizations that may assist the service in diverting material from our landfills (including our remote municipalities that are often the hosts of these events);
- Create a package that municipalities can provide organizations seeking special events permits, which outlines the requirements for the tipping fee waiver, as well as the waiver form and a brief checklist;
- Review our website, update and improve the webpage related to the Tipping Fee Waiver Policy, and showcase the diversion rates of events that have taken place;
- Continue to work with interested parties to divert wastes collected as part of their groups activities (this includes organizations like Nootka Marine Adventures and First Nations communities);
- Update the Board next fall on the effectiveness of the changes and advise if there was any challenges created from the change.

Staff initially recommended the budget for the tipping fee waiver be set at \$10,000 in the 2019-2023 Financial Plan, the Board recommended this at \$16,000. The budget to be presented in November will reflect this request.

Prepared by:

Concurrence:

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