

NO: **R012**

COUNCIL DATE: **January 24, 2011**

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **January 20, 2011**

FROM: **Deputy City Manager**

FILE: **6600-02**

SUBJECT: **Director Positions and Voting Allocation on the Metro Vancouver Board**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager's Office recommends that Council authorize the City Clerk to advise Metro Vancouver (MV) that Surrey City Council:

1. strongly supports the recommendations contained in the report to the MV Intergovernmental Committee titled "Use of BC Stats Population Figures for Determining Number of Directors and Voting Allocation" and dated December 3, 2010, which is attached as Appendix "A" to this report;
2. does not support a limitation to a maximum of 5 in the total number of Directors on the MV Board from any single member municipality.

## BACKGROUND

At its Regular meeting on June 7, 2010, Council considered Corporate report no. R118; and approved the recommendations of that report as follows:

*"That Council:*

1. *Request that the Mayor on behalf of Council forward a letter to the Metro Vancouver Board that recommends that the Metro Vancouver Board approve and forward to the Ministry of Community & Rural Development a request that the Ministry make such adjustments to legislation and regulations as are necessary to allow for annual adjustments based on BC Stats population figures to the number of Director positions and the vote allocation that each member local government receives on the Metro Vancouver Board; and*
2. *That a copy of this report and the related Council resolution be forwarded to Metro Vancouver with the Mayor's letter."*

The Metro Vancouver Board of Directors considered the request from the City of Surrey at its Regular meeting on June 25, 2010 and directed Metro Vancouver staff to report on the implications for adjusting director positions and voting allocations annually using BC Stats population figures rather than Federal Census population figures.

At its meeting on September 2, 2010, the MV Intergovernmental Committee received a report from MV staff and subsequently appointed a subcommittee to further consider the matter and provide a report back to the Intergovernmental Committee with recommendations.

At its meeting on January 18, 2011, the Metro Vancouver Intergovernmental Committee approved the recommendations in the report attached as Appendix A, titled "Use of BC Stats Population Figures for Determining Number of Directors and Voting Allocation" and dated December 3, 2010. In effect, the Committee endorsed the use of BC Stats population figures to allow annual adjustments to the vote allocations and director positions on the MV Board but with some changes to the manner in which votes are allocated to member municipalities and their respective Directors on the MV Board. These changes are described in more detail below. The Committee also requested that comments be solicited from the City of Surrey and the City of Vancouver on the issue of limiting the number of directors from any member municipality on the Metro Vancouver Board to a maximum of 5 Directors so as to limit the overall size of the MV Board.

## **DISCUSSION**

The matter of representation on the Metro Vancouver Board for member municipalities has two components; these being, firstly, the number of votes that are allocated to the municipality for the purpose of voting on motions of the Board and, secondly, the number of individual Directors that the member municipality may appoint to sit on the MV Board. These are discussed separately in the following paragraphs.

### **Voting Strength**

The Intergovernmental Committee is recommending that votes be allocated to member municipalities at the rate of 1 vote for each 1,000 residents in the municipality (rounded up). Currently, votes are allocated on the basis of 1 vote for each 20,000 residents (rounded up). The proposed approach to allocating votes reduces the inequity in voting strength that currently exists between municipalities in the Region. The table attached as Appendix "2" documents the differences between the current approach and the proposed approach for allocating votes. Staff views the proposal related to the allocation of votes as being reasonable.

### **Director Positions**

The Intergovernmental Committee is recommending that each member municipality would be eligible to appoint one Director position on the MV Board for each 100 votes for which it is eligible (rounded up). This is in essence the same approach as is currently applied since under the current approach a municipality is eligible for a Director position on the MV Board for each 5 votes it receives (rounded up). In the case of the proposed approach 100 votes represents a population of 100,000 while under the current approach 5 votes represents a population of 100,000.

Metro Vancouver staff has estimated the number of votes and the number of Director positions for each member municipality through to 2020. These estimates are documented in the table attached as Appendix "2". The table indicates that the City of Surrey is currently entitled to five director positions with an increase to 6 director positions in 2013 when Surrey's population is expected to exceed 500,000 and to 7 director positions in 2019 when Surrey's population is expected to exceed 600,000.

The City of Vancouver would be currently entitled to 7 director positions increasing to 8 director positions in 2019.

The only other projected increases in director positions on the MV Board from 2010 to 2020 are Langley Township, which currently has 1 director position but would be eligible for 2 director positions in 2011, Delta which is currently eligible for 1 director position but would be eligible for 2 director positions by 2013 and Richmond, which is currently eligible for 2 director positions but would be eligible for 3 director positions in 2011.

There are currently a total of 37 Directors on the MV Board. If the above-referenced recommendations are implemented based on 2011 population projections the Board would grow by 4 Directors to a total of 41 Directors with each of Langley Township (1 to 2), Richmond (2 to 3), Vancouver (6 to 7) and Surrey (4 to 5) being eligible for an additional Director position on the Board.

**Limiting Member Municipalities to a Maximum of 5 Director Positions on the MV Board:**

The MV Intergovernmental Committee has requested that the City of Surrey and the City of Vancouver provide advice to the Committee on the matter of limiting a member municipality to no more than 5 director positions on the Board so as to limit the overall growth in numbers of Directors on the Board. If this limitation were to be adopted, the 5 director positions would share as equally as possible the number of votes for which the member municipality is eligible. This limitation would only affect the City of Surrey and the City of Vancouver for the foreseeable future. If this limitation were to be introduced the MV Board would grow from 37 director positions to 39 director positions in 2011 with each of Langley Township (1 to 2), Richmond (2 to 3) and Surrey (4 to 5) receiving an additional director position while Vancouver would lose one director position (6 to 5).

There are two ramifications to Surrey in relation to the suggested limitation; these being:

1. The number of directors that would be able to speak on behalf of Surrey in relation to any motion before the Board would not grow with population growth, which may have an effect on the outcome of votes at the Board but such an effect would likely be relatively marginal; and
2. For those votes of the MV Board that are not weighted votes, which staff understands is limited to the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the MV Board, both Surrey and Vancouver would be disadvantaged in comparison to the circumstance that would exist without the limitation on director positions.

There is some legitimacy to the argument that the MV Board already has a large number of Directors and that its further growth could act to impede its effective operation. Despite this potential outcome, the Board is already relatively large and its projected growth in Directors is relatively modest for the next 10 years. The matter could be revisited in light of experience with the continued operation of the Board over time.

Dan Bottrill  
Deputy City Manager

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Appendix "A" Report to the MV Intergovernmental Committee titled "Use of BC Stats Population Figures for Determining Number of Directors and Voting Allocation" dated December 3, 2010