



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-546

From: Corporate Administration

Date: November 21, 2024

Subject: Electoral Area B Resignation

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board acknowledge receipt of the written resignation of Jordan Kealy as Electoral Area B Director as delivered to the Corporate Officer on November 6, 2024.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Section 203 of the *Local Government Act* (LGA) specifies that an Electoral Area Director can resign only by submission of their written resignation to the local government Corporate Officer, and also requires the Corporate Officer to report the resignation to the Board at its next meeting. Mr. Kealy resigned from the Peace River Regional District Board in writing on November 6, 2024, and while the Board was verbally advised following the Regular Board meeting held the next day, November 7, this report was prepared to provide the official notification of Mr. Kealy's resignation as required by the LGA.

The LGA S. 201(5) authorizes that the Alternate Director holds the vacant office, if they are willing, until the resigned person's successor takes office following the next election for the office. In this case Alternate Director Reid has agreed to assume the responsibility of representing Electoral Area B as an Alternate Director in the absence of a Director until such time as a by-election can be held (February 22, 2025).

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The Remuneration and Expense Bylaw No. 2354, 2019 contains language that at least indirectly suggests that an Alternate Director is not eligible for remuneration other than meeting fees. While this is practical and appropriate when there is an Area Director receiving remuneration, staff does not believe that the situation where an Alternate is pressed into service for an extended period without a Director in place was contemplated or meant to be captured in the ineligibility for remuneration. Staff has drafted a minor amendment to Bylaw 2354 that authorizes payment of remuneration to an Alternate Director when there is no Electoral Area Director in place.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The *Local Government Act* S. 201(5) states that “if the office of an electoral area director becomes vacant through resignation, disqualification, or death

- a) The alternate director *holds the office* until that person’s successor takes office following the next election for the office” ...

Reid Graham is considered to *hold the office* and pursuant to the LGA S. 201(6) “may take the place of, vote and generally act in all matters for the absent electoral area director, including in relation to a matter delegated to that director by the board.”

Mr. Graham will still be referred to as Alternate Director until a by-election can be held.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The Board must appoint a Chief and Deputy Chief Election Officer to conduct a by-election. Once the appointment is made, the election must be held within 80 days. The earliest date election officials can be appointed to hold an election on February 22, 2025, is December 4, 2024. The Board will be asked to appoint election officials at its Regular Meeting on December 6, 2024.