



POLICY STATEMENT

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Municipal Act especially for a Regional District, is based on the philosophy of consulting the electorate in some way prior to establishing a new service, borrowing funds or changing what may be permitted as a development in the neighbourhood, sub-region or region.

A fundamental principle of our democracy is that we have representative government, not a direct participatory government. Elected representatives owe their electors their leadership and their judgement. Representatives do not owe their electors obedience to instructions, particularly instructions given on an issue by issue basis.

Local government electors who have approved the implementation or establishment of services should expect these services to be provided efficiently, effectively and professionally without the local government disturbing them on the day to day running of the service.

With these three concepts in mind, the following policy on consulting the public has been established:

- 1) As required by the Municipal Act, when contemplating the establishment of a new service.
- 2) As required by the Municipal Act, when contemplating changing what may be permitted as a development.
- 3) When contemplating major changes to established services including, but not limited to the following:
 - a) a proposed significant increase in the budget or a reduction in service
 - b) a proposed significant capital purchase which may or may not involve significant increase in costs, to explain financing
 - c) significant changes in how a service is provided (ie: converting a landfill site to a transfer site)
 - d) as may be required by the Municipal Act, for the establishment of a reserve fund for services.

Procedures for consulting the public should be as follows:

- 1) The Regional Board authorizes the process (meeting, mail-out, publication, petition, counter-petition or vote)
- 2) Any meeting is to be a duly authorized meeting by the Regional Board with authorized delegates from among the Directors
- 3) The Administrator (or staff person delegated by him) is to be responsible for preparation of information and presentation to the public
- 4) The public consultation is to be undertaken in a timely manner in a non-crisis environment.