



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-168

From: Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

Date: March 25, 2021

Subject: **Health Related Services Grant in Aid Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2445, 2021**

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## **RECOMMENDATION #1: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board give "Health Related Services Grant in Aid Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2445, 2021", first and second reading.

## **RECOMMENDATION #2: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board give "Health Related Services Grant in Aid Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2445, 2021", third reading.

## **RECOMMENDATION #3: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board appoint Tyra Henderson as Chief Election Officer and Tabatha Young as Deputy Chief Election Officer for the purpose of conducting assent voting (referendum) for the Health Related Services Grant in Aid Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2445, 2021.

## **RECOMMENDATION #4: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board authorize that assent voting (referendum) for the Health Related Services Grant in Aid Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2445, 2021 be held on Saturday, July 17, 2021, in accordance with the Local Government Act.

## **RECOMMENDATION #5: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board approve the Assent Voting Question for the Health Related Services Grant in Aid Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2445, 2021, as follows: "Are you in favour of the Peace River Regional District adopting "Health Related Services Grant in Aid Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2445, 2021", to establish a new service to provide grants in aid to not for profit societies to enhance the quality and availability of health related services, and to provide scholarships to students seeking post-secondary education in a health care or medical field, at a maximum annual tax requisition limit that is the greater of \$750,000 or \$0.05/\$1000 on the net taxable value of improvements only, in the service area"?

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

At the December 11, 2020 meeting, the Regional Board passed the following resolutions

*MOVED, SECONDED, AND CARRIED,*

That the Regional Board authorize the establishment of a Service Function for Health Services.

*MOVED, SECONDED, AND CARRIED,*

That the Regional Board approve the inclusion of Air Ambulance Services, Search and Rescue Association, Health Care Scholarships, North Peace Health Services, and South Peace Health Services in the proposed Health Services service function.

**Inspector of Municipalities and Elector Approval**

Before adoption of the bylaw, approval of the Inspector of Municipalities is required. After the attached bylaw receives three readings, the bylaw will be forwarded to the Inspector for approval.

After Inspector approval is obtained, but prior to adoption of the bylaw, the Regional District is required to obtain elector approval from eligible electors within the service area boundary (participating area). Assent voting is the recommended method of seeking elector assent for the new service.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

The property tax limit noted in the bylaw, and in the assent voting question, is \$0.05 per \$1,000. Section 339 of the *Local Government Act* (LGA) sets out the required content for service establishment bylaws, and LGA Sec.339 (e) (ii) states that the bylaw must “specify a property value tax rate that, when applied to the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area, will yield the maximum amount \$1.9M.

This is confusing for residents, as the rate is an average of all classes, not the residential class tax rate, which is what most residents want to know. The rate of \$.05/\$1,000 is an average of rates on all classes, on land and improvements to determine the maximum amount that may be raised in any one year based on that year’s net taxable assessment. The estimated residential tax rate for the first year is **\$0.0288 per \$1,000**. The tax rate is applicable to improvements only, as specified in the cost recovery section of the bylaw.

The financial impact of this service is illustrated below:

House Value (improvements only)	Estimated Cost for Health Related Services Grants in Aid
\$150,000	\$4.32
\$250,000	\$7.20
\$400,000	\$11.52

The proposed budget for the new service is based on amounts previously approved by the Board for these grants in aid, through economic development (Function 140), Grants to Community Organizations (Function 275) or through general administration (Function 100). As has been documented in previous staff reports to the Board, those functions do not provide the authority to provide grants for air ambulance, health care recruitment and retention (NP Division of Family Practice, SP Health Services Society).

The maximum requisition for the service included in the bylaw is \$750,000, which includes the following amounts based on prior grant approvals totaling \$595,000. The additional funding is included to allow for additional requisition should grant amounts increase or new grants be approved within the scope of the service:

Air Ambulance	\$170,000
Search and Rescue Services	\$60,000 (previously \$50,000, always over subscribed)
Health Care Scholarships	\$110,000 Additional programs not yet implemented \$30,000
NP Division of Family Practice	\$100,000
South Peace Health Services Society	\$75,000
Other Grants le: Canadian Cancer Society (Kordyban Lodge Peace of Mind Campaign)	\$50,000
	<b>TOTAL: \$595,000</b>

If approved, the budget for this new service to start January 1, 2022 will be presented to the Board for their approval to include the function budget in the DRAFT 2022 Annual Financial Plan Bylaw.

Funding for the service will be obtained via taxation in the benefitting area, which is the entire Regional District.

There are no capital investments anticipated for the implementation and operation of this service in the next five years.

### **COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

A communication plan will be developed to inform residents about the proposed service. As required, PRRD communications will be neutral and fact based. Residents will be provided information about the service being proposed, the financial impacts, and how to obtain a mail order ballot or attend a voting place to cast their vote.

### **OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

Attachments:

1. Health Related Services Grants in Aid Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2445, 2021
2. Health Related Services Bylaw Tax Rate Summary