

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Finance

Date: October 7, 2024

Subject: Permissive Tax Exemption Amendment – Mackenzie Autumn Lodge

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives this report for information.

BACKGROUND:

The District and its Grants Adjudication Committee recognize the significant value of volunteers, volunteer groups and agencies to the spiritual, educational, social, cultural and physical well-being of the community.

In accordance with Section 224 of the *Community Charter*, the District may, by bylaw, exempt certain land and/or improvements from property taxation. The purpose of these exemptions is to support community organizations that provide land and/or improvements for the public benefit. This support is in recognition of these groups as a valuable resource in helping the municipality provide a strong community focus and enhance residents' quality of life. In order to have an exemption in place for the upcoming fiscal year, a local government must have its permissive exemption bylaw adopted and in force by October 31 of the previous year.

At the October 23, 2023, Regular Meeting, Council adopted Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 1506, 2023 which allows land and improvements of charitable or philanthropic organizations to be exempt from taxation for the years 2024-2026. Due to the aging Ernie Bodin Centre and the upcoming demolition, all tenants were required to move out of the facility by August 1, 2024. The Mackenzie Autumn Lodge Society was able to secure another location at 298 Mackenzie Blvd. Since the property is owned by the Mackenzie Autumn Lodge, they are responsible for payment of property taxes, but the request for permissive tax exemption can provide some financial relief to Mackenzie Autumn Lodge.

As the request is in the middle of the bylaw period, the permissive tax exemption would only apply for the 2025-2026 taxation years. The estimated municipal taxation exemption for the two years is \$2,466.

NEXT STEPS:

If Council approves first three readings to amend Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 1506, 2023 the bylaw will be brought forward to the October 28, 2024 Regular Council meeting for adoption. Once adopted, a copy of the amended exemption bylaw will be provided to BC Assessment, who codes the exemptions into the annual property assessment rolls.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Community and Social Development

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

Strong Governance and Finances

- As the municipality's elected governing body, we serve all residents and businesses in the community. We engage residents and stakeholders on important issues and make our decisions through open and transparent processes. We are careful in our use of resources, mindful of the need to maintain programs and services, while also meeting the community's infrastructure needs.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Kerri Borne, Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed By: Corporate Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer