

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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DATE: August 28, 2019

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Dave Dyer, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to City of Prince George Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008

ATTACHMENT(S): Proposed Amendments to Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Council grant first three readings to "City of Prince George Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 9071, 2019".

PURPOSE:

This report provides City Council with information relating to various amendments to the Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The vision and management of the Memorial Park Cemetery aligns with Council's City Government Strategy of commitment to citizen centered service and sustainable fiscal management.

BACKGROUND:

In 2008, Council approved a large number of amendments to Cemetery Bylaw No. 8306. To reflect input received in subsequent years from public consultation, public and client inquiries and a comprehensive review of current practices and industry standards, Cemetery staff are recommending the changes identified in the attached "City of Prince George Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008, Amendment Bylaw No. 9071, 2019".

DISCUSSION:

The once common method of burying full caskets in ground plots has been on a steady decline since the late 1990's. Interment statistics in Prince George support this trend as Memorial Park Cemetery records show full interments have fallen over the last decade.

Interment and Rights Transfers Statistics 2009 to 2018										
Interments	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Full Interments	85	74	81	75	79	77	54	70	71	70
Cremated Interments	90	107	94	108	117	102	87	119	106	129
Niche Inurnments	30	29	24	25	28	43	31	25	17	41
Crypt Entombments			1	5	1	5	3	2		2
Total Interments	205	210	200	213	225	227	175	216	194	242

As the practice of cremation continues to trend upwards, it is important that the City of Prince George examine the interment services offered at Memorial Park Cemetery for cremated remains. In 2018, a number of additional interment options were added by Cemetery staff in an effort to provide families the opportunity to memorialize loved ones at Memorial Park, whose cremains may otherwise be scattered illegally or even retained at home. These additional interment options/fees form part of this proposed bylaw update. Other notable changes being proposed include an expanded Green Burial section with updated language consistent with other parts of Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008, and proposed housekeeping updates to language that would bring current definitions in line with the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act*. In British Columbia, the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act* has been established to protect consumers when it comes to end of life choices and places of interment. Cemeteries and funeral providers are required to follow legislation set out by the Act and are monitored by Consumer Protection British Columbia to ensure compliance.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This report includes new interment options that will generate additional revenue at Memorial Park Cemetery. The proposed fees and increases will reflect the actual cost of current practices in the Cemetery/Mausoleum and will work toward meeting the goal of being financially self-sustaining in the operation of the Cemetery and Mausoleum.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The attached documents outline proposed amendments to Cemetery Bylaw No. 8046, 2008 to ensure that administration and management of the Memorial Park Cemetery reflect current practice and industry standards. These amendments to the bylaw will assist staff in continuing to provide a suitable level of service to the public while meeting the goal of sustainable fiscal management.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Dave Dyer, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works

Report Prepared by Sean LeBrun, Manager, Parks and Solid Waste Services

APPROVED:



Kathleen Soltis, City Manager
Meeting date: September 9, 2019