

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: January 22, 2024

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Ethan Anderson, Manager of Legislative Services/Corporate Officer

SUBJECT: Council Remuneration Bylaw No. 8414, 2012 Amendment (Bylaw No. 9456, 2024)

ATTACHMENT(S): Appendix "A" – Excerpt from Council Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 9439, 2023
Appendix "B" - Council Code of Conduct Policy dated December 16, 2013

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council GIVES FIRST THREE READINGS to "City of Prince George Council Remuneration Bylaw No. 8414, 2012, Amendment Bylaw No. 9456, 2024."

That Council revoke Council Code of Conduct Policy dated December 16, 2013.

PURPOSE:

For council's consideration of an amendment to the Council Remuneration Bylaw to allow for a reduction of remuneration as per the Council Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 9439, 2023.

Council may also wish to revoke the Council Code of Conduct Policy dated December 16, 2013 as it is no longer the most current Code of Conduct for council.

BACKGROUND:

Council adopted City of Prince George Council Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 9439, 2023 on December 18, 2023.

The clause of the Code of Conduct Bylaw relevant to this discussion is s.31 reproduced here:

Remuneration

31. (1) *Where the Investigator finds that a Council Member:*
- (a) *breached this Bylaw; or*
 - (b) *submitted a complaint that was frivolous, vexatious, or made in bad faith, the remuneration to which that Council Member would otherwise have been entitled shall be reduced in accordance with the City of Prince George Council Remuneration Bylaw No. 8414, 2012, as amended or replaced from time to time.*
- (2) *Notwithstanding subsection (1), the remuneration of a Council Member shall not be reduced if the Investigator makes a finding that:*

(a) the Council Member took all reasonable steps to prevent the breach;

(b) the breach was trivial or inadvertent; or

(c) the breach was because of an error in judgment made in good faith.

Amendments to the Remuneration Bylaw No. 8414, 2012 are required in order to make this clause effective.

Research on other local governments show that the attached amendment is standard form among the following local governments:

- The District of Squamish (bylaw)
- Cowichan Valley Regional District (policy)
- The District of North Cowichan (bylaw)
- The City of Nanaimo (policy)
- Alberni–Clayoquot Regional District (bylaw)

This bylaw amendment will allow for the reduction of remuneration in accordance with the Code of Conduct. If the bylaw is not passed, section 31 of the Code of Conduct cannot be used to reduce remuneration.

Additionally, the policy that previously provides a code of conduct regulation for City of Prince George Council was not revoked as part of adopting Council Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 9439, 2023. This policy should be revoked as a housekeeping measure.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This report supports Council's Priorities of City Government and Infrastructure and Effective Governance.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

If approved, there would likely be no financial considerations.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The amendment to Bylaw 8414, 2012 is required if council wishes to be able to exercise S.31 of the Code of Conduct.

Council can either choose to:

1. Undertake three readings of the amendment bylaw.
2. Amend the proposed bylaw amendment and undertake readings to the amended bylaw.
3. Receive the amendment for information, effectively taking no action with the amendment.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Ethan Anderson, Manager of Legislative Services / Corporate Officer

APPROVED:

Andy Beesley, Acting City Manager

Meeting Date: 2024-02-26

Document Number: 698489