



NEWS RELEASE

Council Remuneration Working Group Releases Final Report

ABBOTSFORD – October 3, 2016 – The citizen-lead Council Remuneration Working Group committee presented their final report and recommendations to Abbotsford City Council this afternoon.

The City of Abbotsford has a *Council Remuneration and Expense Policy* that establishes the baseline for compensation of City Council members, as well as how Council expenses are managed. In-line with this policy, an external-to-Council review of compensation levels is intended to take place within the term of each City Council.

As such in February 2016, City Council approved the formation of a Citizen Working Committee to conduct a review of the current policy, and provide recommendations back to City Council on items including annual remuneration, annual and monthly expense allowance and indemnities, benefits as well as options to making periodic adjustments to establish compensation.

The Citizen Working Committee met four times between April and June 2016, presenting their [Final Report](#) today. The Committee developed a creative and innovative approach to the compensation framework that ties Council compensation to the average wage in Abbotsford verses the more traditional approach where compensation is benchmarked against what various politicians make in other municipalities.

City Council received the report and adopted a recommendation to accept adjustments to Council's base salary however to defer implementation of the new salary calculations until January 2019 when the next Council term has been elected.

Quote from Mayor Braun:

"The Council Remuneration Working Group volunteered their time functioning with autonomy and a high level of dedication and competency," said Braun. "They conducted their review objectively as citizens of the community and we thank them for their service."

Compensation for the public service duties provided by elected officials is intended to recognize the significant time commitment involved to serve the public interest. Elected officials attend multiple council, committee, liaison and community stakeholder meetings. Often these meetings occur throughout regular work days, involve significant preparation time, and sometimes travel. In addition, elected officials attend numerous functions, receive emails, phone calls, engage in social media, and interact with citizens and stakeholders on an ongoing basis. Elected official compensation provides an offset for potential lost employment income due to the duties related to public service, and can enable a broader cross section of citizens, from differing income levels and age categories, to run for office.

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