

DATE: June 16, 2021

FILE: 5360-01

TO: Chair and Directors
Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Statutory Holiday – Operational Considerations

Purpose

To provide information to the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Board regarding the Federal Government's adoption of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation statutory holiday on September 30, 2021. To seek approval to maintain regular operational hours at the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre (CVWMC) and Campbell River Waste Management Centre (CRWMC) on September 30, 2021 and consultation with member municipalities regarding possible closure for subsequent years.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre and Campbell River Waste Management Centre remain open to the public on September 30, 2021 in consideration of the limited time to adjust and the critical nature of the waste management service;

AND FURTHER THAT a consultative approach for future National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will be undertaken with the aim of either full facility closure or modification of service, in line with the statutory holiday closures that came into effect January 1, 2021.

Executive Summary

On June 3, 2021, Bill C-5 received royal assent, which establishes an official federal national statutory holiday on September 30 to commemorate the survivors, victims, their families and communities of residential schools. This statutory holiday will come into effect 2021. At this time, Canada's new National Day for Truth and Reconciliation only applies to federal government employees and there is no indication that a provincial holiday will be established in British Columbia.

However, Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) is required by its Collective Agreement with the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 556 (CUPE) to grant employees of those bargaining units a day off with pay on September 30 in observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation recently proclaimed by the Federal Government.

The CVWMC and CRWMC are currently scheduled to be open on Thursday, September 30, 2021. Given the swift passage of Bill C-5, the member municipalities have expressed concerns that a closure of the facilities on September 30 of this year will have a significant impact to their respective

residents and businesses as there is not enough time to provide notifications for accommodation of an updated schedule.

Specifically for the curbside collection services, member municipalities have recently adjusted their curbside collection programs to accommodate closing of the waste management centres on other provincially recognized stat holidays. The 2021 service collection calendars are already in circulation and used by residents across the CVRD, and municipalities are expecting significant service disruption if facilities are closed on September 30, 2021. Member municipalities have indicated that they can accommodate the closing of CVWMC and CRWMC on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation beginning in 2022, which will allow them sufficient time to plan for the new collection calendars.

Based on the aforementioned considerations and given the critical nature of the waste management service, staff are recommending that both the CVWMC and CRWMC remain open to the public on September 30, 2021. However, with recognition of the importance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the CVRD is committed to bringing the purpose of the day to the forefront for employees so they may reflect on the history and ongoing legacy of residential schools.

Future National Day for Truth and Reconciliation days, staff will undertake consultation with the member municipalities to determine the best path forward, with the aim of either full facility closure or modification of service, in line with the statutory holiday closures which came in effect January 1, 2021.

Prepared by:

V. Schau

Vivian Schau
Senior Manager of CSWM
Services

Concurrence:

E. Jackson

Ellen Jackson
Senior Manager of Human
Resources

Concurrence:

M. Rutten

Marc Rutten, P.Eng.
General Manager of
Engineering Services