



Corporate Report

NO: R157

COUNCIL DATE: July 14, 2003

REGULAR

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: July 10, 2003
FROM: Fire Chief FILE:
SUBJECT: Resolutions re Local Government Recovery of Costs
 caused by Provincial Government Legislation or
 Regulations or in the Fulfilment of Provincial
 Responsibilities

RECOMMENDATION

That Council pass the proposed resolutions to be forwarded to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities ("UBCM") and the Lower Mainland Municipal Association ("LMMA") regarding provincial reimbursement of costs to local government incurred due to provincial legislation or regulation or the fulfilment of Provincial responsibilities.

DISCUSSION

At a previous Council meeting, Council directed staff to bring forward resolutions expressing concern over the changes to provincial programs which cause direct costs to Surrey. To this end, the following resolutions are submitted.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Emergency Medical Assistant Licensing Board (EMALB) is to be replaced by the College of Emergency Medical Assistants of BC functioning under the Health Professions Act (HPA);
WHEREAS the powers and duties of the College appear to be identical to the EMALB, excepting that the College will require a criminal record check (\$20) and an annual fee (\$85) to license EMA First Responders;
WHEREAS all local governments that participate in the First Responder program will be required to pay this fee for all EMA First Responders in their employ in order to comply with Provincial regulations;
WHEREAS the provision of emergency medical services in BC is a provincial responsibility of the Emergency Health Services Commission and British Columbia Ambulance Service;
AND WHEREAS in contravention of Bill 14 -- 2003 Community Charter no method of compensating local governments for a new provincially imposed fee has been advanced;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide a mechanism for local governments to recover costs incurred in the fulfilment of a provincial responsibility.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS under the Emergency Vehicle Driving Regulation, the Director of Police Services in the Ministry of the Attorney General has the power to set training standards for Emergency Vehicle Drivers;
WHEREAS the Justice Institute of BC has been recognized by the Director of Police Services as the sole legitimate providers of this training, at a one-time cost of \$125 per Emergency Vehicle Driver;
WHEREAS local governments will be required to pay this fee for all Emergency Vehicle Drivers in their employ in order to comply with Provincial regulations;
AND WHEREAS in contravention of Bill 14 -- 2003 Community Charter no method of compensating local

governments for a new provincially imposed fee has been advanced;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide a mechanism for local governments to recover costs incurred in the fulfilment of a provincial responsibility.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the majority of local governments in BC deliver Emergency Medical Services (EMS) through their fire departments under the Emergency Medical Assistant First Responder (First Responder) program;

WHEREAS EMS delivery is the responsibility of the Provincial government through Emergency Health Services Commission and British Columbia Ambulance Service;

AND WHEREAS local government receives no compensation from the Province for their contribution to the EMS system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide a mechanism for local governments to recover costs incurred in the fulfilment of a provincial responsibility.

Len Garis
Fire Chief