



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: December 11, 2006
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RTS No.: 6451
VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-01
Meeting Date: January 16, 2007

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Director of Finance
SUBJECT: Indemnification for Property Tax Policy Review Commissioners

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council agree to indemnify the three Commissioners that have been appointed to the Vancouver Property Tax Policy Review Commission - Professor Stan Hamilton, Dr. Enid Slack and Mr. Peter Adams while acting in good faith as members of this Commission; the form and content of the indemnification commitment to be to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services and executed by her on behalf of the City.
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be given standing authority to execute documents, drawn to her satisfaction, evidencing the City's commitment to indemnify future new members of the Vancouver Property Tax Policy Review Commission on behalf of the City.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

This is a special resolution requiring the affirmative vote of at least 8 members of Council.

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

Under the Vancouver Charter, the City may indemnify members of a public service organization which is providing a public service for the City of Vancouver.

PURPOSE

This report asks Council to approve liability indemnification coverage for the three Commissioners recently appointed by Council to the Property Tax Policy Review Commission, with coverage to extend to the term of membership of each of the three Commissioners.

BACKGROUND

On September 28, 2006, Council approved the establishment of the Property Tax Policy Review Commission, as well as specific Terms of Reference to guide the work of this Commission (RTS 6160). Following this, on November 14, 2006, Council appointed the following three individuals to serve as Commissioners for this Commission: Professor Stan Hamilton, Dr. Enid Slack and Mr. Peter Adams, with Professor Hamilton appointed as the Chair.

As currently drafted, the City's *Liability Indemnification Bylaw* does not extend indemnification coverage to individuals belonging to Council-appointed advisory bodies; therefore Council must specifically approve coverage for these individuals.

DISCUSSION

The work to be undertaken by the Property Tax Policy Commission is outlined in the Commission's Terms of Reference that were approved by Council on September 28, 2006. This work involves:

- assessing the City's property tax policies currently in place,
- recommending to Council a target tax distribution, as well as an implementation strategy and long-term policy related to this target, and
- recommending to Council a strategy for enhancing stability and predictability of property taxes for taxpayers.

Council has largely left the design of this process, including the public consultation component, up to the Commissioners, and has asked for the Commission's final recommendations by June 1, 2007. It is anticipated that the Commission will be disbanded once it has made its final recommendations to Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report, however, agreeing to indemnify members of the Commission against claims brought against them in carrying out their functions has an inherent financial aspect attendant thereto for the City.

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