

NEWS RELEASE

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Inter-Community Business Licence Bylaw

Expanding partnership to include Greater Victoria area

Summary

On March 4, 2019, Council gave three readings to the Inter-Community Business Licence Amendment Bylaw which, if approved, will expand the existing program to include municipalities in the Greater Victoria area. Currently, the inter-community partnership includes 13 municipalities located between Campbell River and Duncan. It is anticipated that the expanded partnership will include an additional 12 municipalities in the Greater Victoria area. At present, Esquimalt and Sooke are the only Greater Victoria area municipalities that have adopted the Inter-Community Business Licence Bylaw, however, the other municipalities are in varying stages of preparing reports for their councils' consideration.

Inter-community agreements streamline and simplify the licensing process, making it easier and less costly for mobile businesses to do business in participating communities. An Inter-Community Business Licence permits businesses to operate in partnering jurisdictions without having to pay for or obtain multiple business licences.

The Inter-Community Business Licence fee will increase to \$170, however, for any new licence issued, the bylaw will permit the fee to be prorated, which is something that is not currently practised.

The amendment to the Inter-Community Business Licence Bylaw is expected to be adopted at the April 1, 2019 Regular Meeting of Council. Further information about inter-community licences can be viewed on the City's website at www.nanaimo.ca.

Strategic Link: The Inter-Community Business Licence Amendment Bylaw aligns with the Strategic Plan by supporting economic health.

Key Points

- Expanding municipal partnerships provides greater opportunity for Inter-Community Business Licence holders.
- Inter-community agreements streamline and simplify the licensing process.

Quotes

"The bylaw amendment is a positive step and one that will greatly benefit small businesses. Nanaimo mobile businesses can expand their territory significantly with less administrative red tape."

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