

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: July 3, 2025

RE: **Similkameen Visitor Information Centre Contribution Service**

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT Similkameen Visitor Information Centre Contribution Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2622.01, 2025, be read a first, second and third time.

Purpose:

To amend the service establishment bylaw to remove reference to Similkameen Country Development Association, add provision for annual audits, and remove the apportionment percentage provision.

Strategic Priorities:

3.2 Partner with Municipalities

Background & Analysis:

Similkameen Country Visitor Information Centre Contribution Service Bylaw No. 2622, 2013, was adopted December 19, 2013, after an alternative approval process obtained the assent of electors within Electoral Areas “B” and “G” and Village of Keremeos. The purpose of the bylaw as it currently reads is to provide funds to the Similkameen Country Development Association to provide visitor information services in accordance with a service agreement.

The Village of Keremeos advised the Regional District in January/February 2025, that they wished to initiate a Bylaw-based review of the service. A bylaw-based review meeting was held June 17, 2025, and was attended by staff and elected representatives from the Village of Keremeos and Electoral Area “B” and “G”.

The amendment provisions in Bylaw No. 2622.01 reflect matters agreed upon at the June 17, 2025, meeting. Specifically, the bylaw:

- Removes reference to “Country”;
- Removes reference to the specified contractor;
- Includes requirement for a yearly audit;
- Removes the apportionment percentage-based cost recovery.

Bylaw No. 2622.01 will require approval from the Inspector of Municipalities prior to adoption.

Financial Implications:

The amendment bylaw removes the apportionment percentages that are stated in the current service establishment bylaw. The cost of providing the service will be recovered by collecting money by property value taxes levied on the net tax value of land and improvements within the service area.

Based on current assessments for participants, it is expected that costs will decrease somewhat for Electoral Area "B" and Village of Keremeos and increase for Electoral Area "G".

The amendment bylaw does not propose increasing the requisition limit as currently stated in the bylaw. The maximum amount that may be requisitioned for the Similkameen Visitor Information Centre Contribution Service remains at \$33,000 or \$0.0543 per thousand dollars of net taxable value of land and improvements.

Communication Strategy:

A joint information release (RDOS and Village of Keremeos) is being prepared.

Alternatives:

THAT Bylaw No. 2622.01, 2025, not proceed.

Will a PowerPoint presentation be presented at the meeting? No

Respectfully submitted:

"Gillian Cramm"

G. Cramm, Deputy Corporate Officer

Endorsed by:

"Tracey Batten"

T. Batten, Corporate Officer