



Council Size Increase Open House

Welcome!

The Town of View Royal welcomes you to the **Open House** that explores the topic of increasing View Royal's council size from five to seven members.

This is an opportunity for everyone to view information and provide comment.

Town staff are here to answer questions you may have.

Thank you for coming!



Council Size Increase Open House

Background

In November 2020, View Royal's elected officials considered a report that described the impacts of increasing the council size from 5 to 7 members.

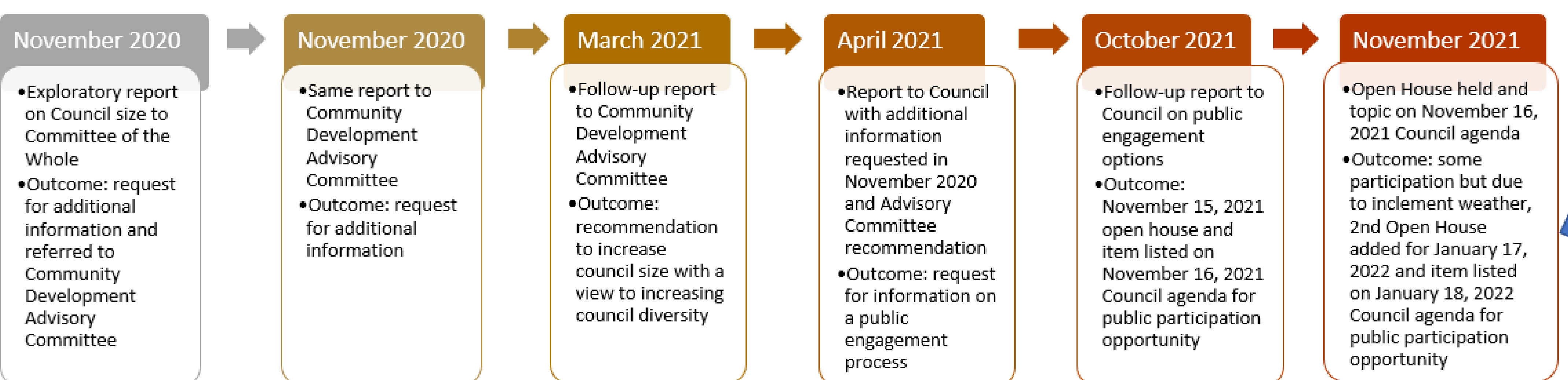
The report was sent to the Town's Community Development Advisory Committee for input later that month.

During 2021, additional reports were provided to the Community Development Advisory Committee and the Town's elected officials.

These reports are on-hand this evening and are also available on the Town's website if you want to read through them. The display boards at this Open House contain information from those reports.

View Royal Council now wishes to receive public input on the question of an increase to council size.

The Town is looking for the public's input on this initiative.



**WE ARE
HERE**



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How Council Size is Set in BC

In British Columbia, council size varies from 5 to 11 elected officials. This number is generally determined by the population of the municipality and is set out in provincial legislation—the *Community Charter*.

Section 118 of the *Community Charter* states:

Size of council

118 (1) Unless otherwise provided by letters patent or by a bylaw under this section, the council size for municipalities must be as follows:

- (a) for a city or district having a population of more than 50 000, the council is to consist of a mayor and 8 councillors;
- (b) for a city or district having population of 50 000 or less, the council is to consist of a mayor and 6 councillors;
- (c) for a town or village, the council is to consist of a mayor and 4 councillors.

(2) For the purposes of this section, any change to a council size under subsection (1) is to be based on the population of the municipality as at January 1 in a general local election year and the change takes effect for the purposes of that election.

(3) A council may, by bylaw, establish the number of council members as a mayor and 4, 6, 8 or 10 councillors.

(4) If a bylaw under subsection (3) would

- (a) reduce the number of council members, or
- (b) maintain the current number of council members, despite an increase that would otherwise result under subsection (2),

it may only be adopted if it receives the assent of the electors.

(5) A bylaw under subsection (3)

- (a) must be made at least 6 months before the next general local election, and
- (b) does not become effective until that general local election.

(6) The size of council as established under subsection (3) applies despite any provision of a municipality's letters patent.



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Classification of Municipalities

Municipalities in British Columbia are classified by population at the time they incorporate as a town, village, city, or—depending on population density—a district municipality.

Section 10 of the *Local Government Act* states:

Classification of municipalities

10(1) A municipality must be incorporated as follows:

- (a) as a village, if the population is not greater than 2 500;
- (b) as a town, if the population is greater than 2 500 but not greater than 5 000;
- (c) as a city, if the population is greater than 5 000;
- (d) despite paragraphs (a) and (c), as a district municipality, if the area to be incorporated is greater than 800 hectares and has an average population density of less than 5 persons per hectare.

(2) For the purpose of calculating the average population density, land continually covered by water must not be taken into account.

(3) Despite subsection (1), if the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers it to be in the public interest to do so, a municipality may be incorporated in another classification provided for in this Act.

View Royal's Population

When View Royal incorporated in 1988, it had just under 5,000 people, classifying it as a “Town”. As a “Town”, it was assigned to have a mayor and 4 councillors.

Census Canada lists View Royal's 2016 population as 10,408.

The Province estimates the Town's population to be 11,829 in 2020.

If incorporated today as a new municipality, View Royal's size would give it a “City” classification with a mayor and 6 councillors.

Council is only interested in exploring an increase in council size, NOT in reclassifying to become a city.

(For example, the Town of Sidney has a population of 11,672 (Census Canada 2016 information), a 7-member council, and a “town” classification“.)



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Others in BC with 5 on Council

It is interesting to consider the landscape of other 5-member councils in BC in relation to View Royal's population (10,408 in 2016 Census).

24 municipalities with a population < 1,000 have 5-member councils:



Name	Designation	Population (2016 Census data)
Alert Bay	Village	489
Cache Creek	Village	963
Canal Flats	Village	668
Clinton	Village	641
Fraser Lake	Village	988
Granisle	Village	303
Greenwood	City	665
Hazelton	Village	313
Kaslo	Village	968
Masset	Village	793
McBride	Village	616
Midway	Village	649
Montrose	Village	996
New Denver	Village	473
Port Clements	Village	282
Port Edward	District	467
Pouce Coupe	Village	792
Radium Hot Springs	Village	776
Silverton	Village	195
Slocan	Village	272
Sun Peaks	Mt. Resort	616
Tahsis	Village	248
Wells	District	217
Zeballos	Village	107



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Others in BC with 5 on Council

27 municipalities with a population between 1,000—5,000 have 5-member councils:



Name	Designation	Population (2016 Census data)
100 Mile House	District	1,980
Anmore	Village	2,210
Ashcroft	Village	1,558
Chase	Village	2,286
Cumberland	Village	3,753
Fort St. James	District	1,598
Fruitvale	Village	1,920
Gibsons	Town	4,605
Gold River	Village	1,212
Harrison Hot Springs	Village	1,468
Invermere	District	3,391
Keremeos	Village	1,502
Lake Cowichan	Town	3,226
Lantzville	District	3,605
Lillooet	District	2,275
Lions Bay	Village	1,334
Lumby	Village	1,833
Metchosin	District	4,708
Nakusp	Village	1,605
Pemberton	Village	2,574
Port McNeill	Town	2,337
Princeton	Town	2,828
Salmo	Village	1,141
Taylor	District	1,469
Ucluelet	District	1,717
Valemount	Village	1,021
Warfield	Village	1,680



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Others in BC with 5 on Council

2 municipalities with a population > 5,000 have 5-member councils:

Name	Designation	Population (2016 Census data)
Kent	District	6,067
Qualicum Beach	Town	8,943





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7-Member Councils in BC

It is also interesting to consider the landscape of 7-member councils in BC in relation to View Royal's population (10,408 in 2016 Census).

Municipalities with a smaller population size than the Town's that have 7-member councils include these 20 places:



Name	Designation	Population (2016 Census data)
Armstrong	City	5,114
Bowen Island	Island Mun.	3,680
Creston	Town	5,351
Duncan	City	4,944
Fernie	City	5,244
Golden	Town	3,708
Grand Forks	City	4,049
Hope	District	6,181
Houston	District	2,993
Kimberley	City	7,425
Mackenzie	District	3,714
Northern Rockies	Regional Mun.	4,831
Oliver	Town	4,928
Osoyoos	Town	5,085
Peachland	District	5,428
Rossland	City	3,729
Smithers	Town	5,401
Spallumcheen	Township	5,106
Sparwood	District	3,784
Vanderhoof	District	4,339



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7-Member Councils in BC

Still thinking about View Royal's population of 10,408 (in the 2016 Census), there are 11 municipalities of a comparable size—falling several thousand on either side of the Town's population—that have 7-member councils:



Name	Designation	Population (2016 Census data)
Castlegar	City	8,039
Comox	Town	14,028
Dawson Creek	City	12,178
Ladysmith	Town	8,537
Nelson	City	10,572
North Saanich	District	11,249
Parksville	City	12,514
Quesnel	City	9,879
Sechelt	District	10,216
Sidney	Town	11,672
Williams Lake	City	10,753



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Council Sizes in the CRD

Most municipalities in the Capital Regional District (CRD) have 7-member councils:



Name	Designation	Population (2016 Census data)
Central Saanich	District	16,814
Colwood	City	16,859
Esquimalt	District	17,655
Highlands	District	2,225
Langford	City	35,342
North Saanich	District	11,249
Oak Bay	District	18,094
Sidney	Town	11,672
Sooke	District	13,001

Only two municipalities have 5-member councils:



Name	Designation	Population (2016 Census data)
Metchosin	District	4,708
View Royal	Town	10,408

The largest municipalities (population-wise) have 9-member councils:



Name	Designation	Population (2016 Census data)
Saanich	District	114,148
Victoria	City	85,792



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Impacts of Status Quo & Change

5-Member Council:

- More concentrated representation as population grows
- Continuation of same financial impact—no new costs
- Deters unorthodox or alternative candidates from being elected—80.6% average incumbency rate in 2018 municipal elections)

7-Member Council:

- Representation of Town's growth and maturity since incorporation
- Diversity:
 - greater reflection of community's current demographics
 - broadened perspectives and skillsets
 - more choice for voters on the ballot
- Cost increase for remuneration and conferences/education. Estimate is \$44,300 (or \$22,150/council member/year)
- One-time reconfiguration to Council Chambers estimated at \$50,000
- Distributes the following 25 external appointments amongst more members, lessening the time commitment for elected officials or those with an interest in becoming an elected official who may be otherwise concerned by the external committee time required:
 - CRD Arts Commission
 - CRD Board
 - CRD Climate Action Steering Committee
 - CRD Hospital Board
 - CRD Housing Trust Fund Commission
 - CRD Regional Water Supply Commission
 - Capital Region Emerg. Service Telecom.
 - Colquitz/Gorge Watershed... Initiative
 - Esquimalt Harbour Advisory Committee
 - Friends of Cole Island Society
 - Gorge Waterway Initiative
 - Greater Victoria Public Library
 - Joint School District/Municipal Cte.
 - Juan de Fuca Water Distribution Commission
 - Municipal Insurance Association
 - Parents' Advisory Committee
 - Police Building Liaison Committee
 - South Island Prosperity Association
 - Te'Mexw Treaty Advisory Committee
 - Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Cte.
 - View Royal Reading Centre
 - Westshore Chamber of Commerce
 - Westshore Community Policing Adv. Cte.
 - Westshore Parks and Recreation Board
 - Westshore Parks and Recreation Owners



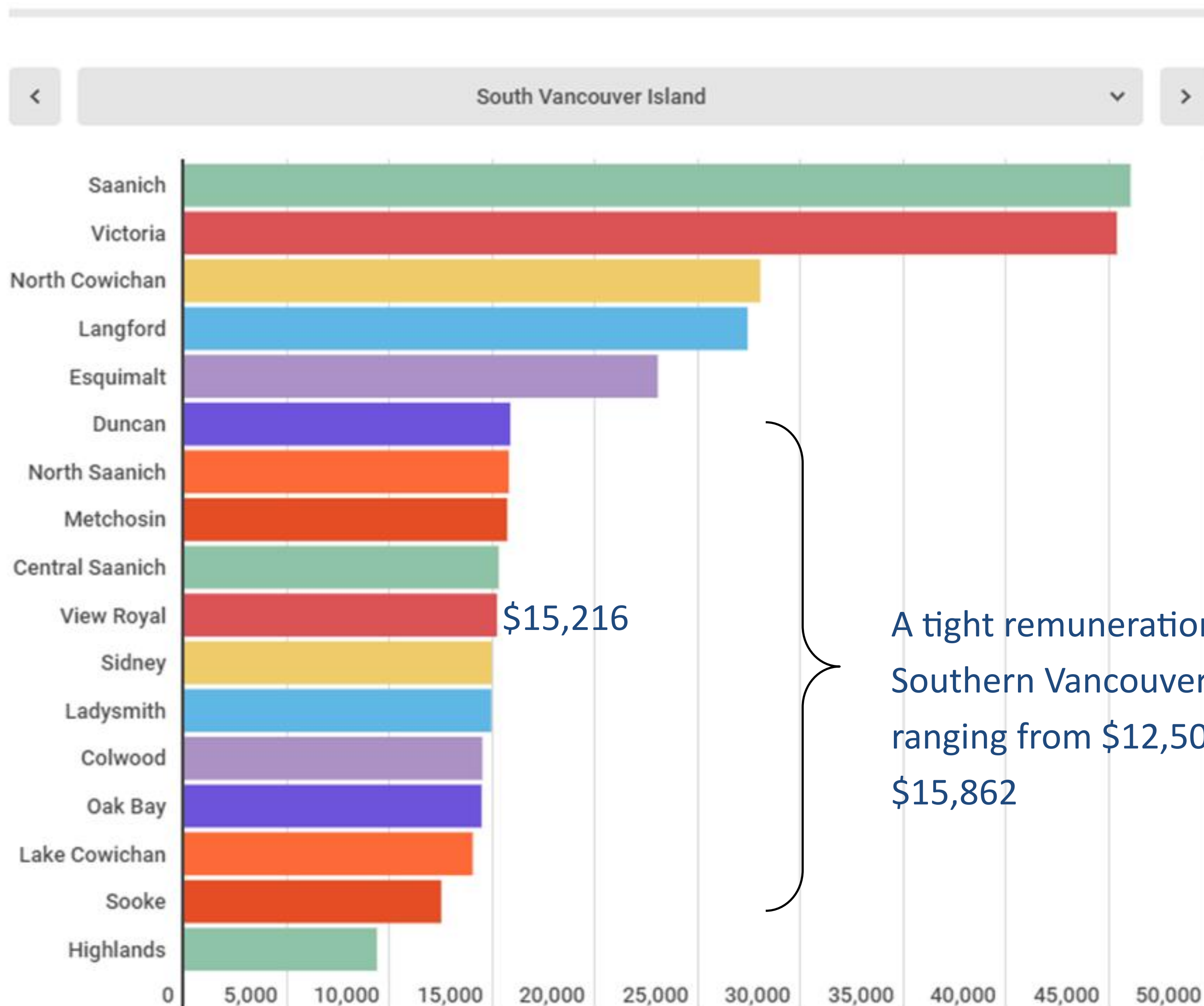
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Remuneration & Conferences/Education

The chart below is from a November 21, 2019 article by CBC News' Justin McElroy. Specific to Southern Vancouver Island, the chart points to a concentration of remuneration (or pay) within a tight band ranging from \$12,500 (Sooke, population 13,001) to \$15,862 (Duncan, population 4,944). View Royal is listed at \$15,216 on the chart below.

A current cost estimate for remuneration and conferences/education per year per councillor in View Royal is \$22,150.

Salaries for councillors in B.C.



Figures obtained through remuneration bylaws and Statement of Financial Information. In cases where councillor remuneration varied the mean figure among councillors was used. Most figures are for 2019, but an asterisk denotes 2018 salary.



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Next Steps

View Royal Council is looking for feedback from the public on the question of a potential council size increase. To assist in this, **please fill out a public comment form** and hand it in this evening or take it home with you so you can spend some time reflecting as you fill it out. Please return the completed public comment form to the contact below by **Monday, January 24, 2022** OR send an email or letter to the Town with your comments by **Monday, January 24, 2022**.

The contact at the Town is:

Sarah Jones, Corporate Officer

info@viewroyal.ca

(250) 479-6800

Council size is an item listed on the January 18, 2022 regular agenda under “Public Participation”. This will ensure those who were unable to attend this evening have an opportunity to provide their input to Council. You may wish to also call in to voice your perspective directly to Council. The Council meeting webcast begins at 7:00 p.m. and is available through the Town’s website (www.viewroyal.ca).

Staff will provide a report to the February 1 Council meeting summarizing feedback from both the November 2021 Open House as well as this Open House. The report will also ask Council whether they want to pursue a move to a seven-member council and outline next steps.

Your views are important to the Town.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this Open House.

Thank You!