

March 23, 2012

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### **Business licence fee increase in Campbell River**

Effective Mar. 21, 2012, City of Campbell River business licence fees will increase by \$30 to \$150 per year.

Fees were last increased (to \$120) in 2007. The fee increase to \$150 represents an annual increase of 4.5 per cent since 2007.

*“Council increased the fee to \$150 per year to cover inflationary cost increases since the adoption of the 2007 bylaw,”* explains Ron Neufeld, the City’s general manager of operations.

People with questions regarding zoning, the range of uses permitted in a business location, what’s required when planning business construction or renovations, are advised to contact the Land Use Services Department – the City’s one-stop resource.

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Contact: Ron Neufeld, General Manager Operations

250-286-5765

### **Business licence frequently asked questions**

#### **Why get a business licence?**

Businesses are legally required to obtain business licences in the City of Campbell River. In addition to making a business legal to operate, a business license increases credibility. When the entrepreneur displays the business licence, it helps reassure customers that they are dealing with a legitimate business. Other businesses the entrepreneur deals with also may need to see the business licence prior to doing business. To receive a business licence, a business must comply with all bylaw requirements that primarily address public health and safety and land use. Applying for a business licence ensures that the business owner's infrastructure, plans and policies are in line with City of Campbell River regulations.

#### **What are the benefits and costs to our community?**

**Benefit:** It clearly defines our communities' expectation on the steps a business owner must take to open a business within our city. This helps a business owner better understand how to begin a business operation.

**Cost:** It will require businesses to pay a nominal fee to support the operation of the program. This fee is not intended generate money for the general fund and is not a tax. The money generated will pay for the operating costs of business licensing and plays an indirect role in economic development.

**Benefit:** It enables economic planners to accurately track business trends and profiles within the community.

**Cost:** It will require a form to be completed annually. This can be processed quickly for existing businesses. New businesses may require more time to complete before the licence is issued.

**Benefit:** It ensures that the City Zoning bylaw updates reflect the evolving needs and requirements of business in terms of land use considerations such as building height, building setbacks, range of permitted used and more.

**Cost:** It will require the City to engage the business community to identify practical changes to the Zoning Bylaw.