



## Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

3400 – 30<sup>th</sup> Street

Vernon, BC

V1T 5E6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Monday, April 22, 2013

MEDIA CONTACT: Rob Sawatzky, City of Vernon Mayor

TELEPHONE: 250-545-1361

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### Draft Final Report For Core Services Review

On Monday, April 22, KPMG presented its Draft final report to Council at 8:40 a.m. during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Inquiry, observation, comparison, and analysis of City-provided information and publicly available data from other jurisdictions, plus interviews with City Councillors, a workshop with City Senior Management held on January 29, 2013, a public workshop held on January 29, 2013, emails received by KPMG from the community, and analysis conducted by KPMG formed the opportunities for Council's consideration outlined in the report.

The report is located on the city's website here:

[http://www.vernon.ca/core\\_review/docs/kpmg\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.vernon.ca/core_review/docs/kpmg_final_report.pdf)

Mayor Rob Sawatzky said, "This is the first step in a number of steps in the process of dealing with the content of the Core Service Review. This first step involves Council dialogue with, and information seeking from, KPMG about the analysis and opportunities they are presenting. Further steps will include input and analysis from administration and consideration and debate of the opportunities and choices by Council. This process should not be rushed or rash."

Some of the opportunities (to name just a few) for Council's consideration, as outlined in the report, include:

**5.1.1 – Infrastructure requirements** – Develop a thorough understanding of infrastructure requirements, funding options and ensure stakeholder agreement on the figures. Include asset age, condition, service levels and risk/priority in a long-term model.

**6.5 – Irrigation alternatives** – Consider other options for the irrigation of golf courses and other dependent recovered water users to determine if the spray irrigation program can be eliminated or substantially reduced economically by converting users to the water supply or other water sources.

**7.1 – handyDART registration process** – Tighten the application review process for handyDART registrants. Require proper documentation for all current registrants who have not already provided it as registrations are renewed, or within a three year period.

**8.1 – Predator Ridge fire hall** – Consider modest options for the Predator Ridge fire hall, such as integrating with other existing buildings and keeping it to a one bay facility.

**10.1 – Reduction of permissive tax exemptions** – Reduce permissive tax exemptions. At over 2% of tax revenue, the annual value of exemptions provided by Vernon is larger than many other municipalities. Many cities provide 1% or less.

#### **11.1 – Governance options**

- Promote an amalgamation of the GVA into a single municipality, or
- Seek to have the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO), acting for GV Water and Greater Vernon Parks Recreation and Culture take on full responsibility for the services and transfer the related staff to the RDNO or
- Seek to end the RDNO role in Recreation and Parks and have the City of Vernon operate the Recreation and parks program independently, and initiate an independent City of Vernon water utility.

**12.1 – Ice rental rates** – Increase ice rental rates to reduce the deficit and encourage some users to find other facilities. Part of the increased revenue from minor rate increases can be allocated to provide support for low income participants.