

Coquitlam

For Council

April 5, 2012

Our File: 11-5280-10/000/2012-1

Doc #: 1233550.v1

To: City Manager

From: General Manager, Engineering and Public Works

Subject: **2012 Coquitlam Vector Control Program**

For: **Council**

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Give first, second and third reading to the Vector Control Bylaw No. 4284, 2012; and,
2. Give first, second and third reading to Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment (Vector Control) Bylaw No. 4285, 2012

Report Purpose:

To provide information on the new pest management Vector Control Program, and to bring forward a Vector Control Bylaw and companion Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw for Council's consideration.

Strategic Goal:

The Bylaws recommended in this report support the corporate strategic goals of *Enhancing Sustainability of City Services and Infrastructure*, and *Achieving Excellence in City Governance*.

Executive Summary:

In late 2011, Council directed staff to withdraw from the Tri-Cities Vector Control Program, which was a jointly funded pest management program that had operated for many years in Coquitlam through services managed by the City of Port Coquitlam. Effective January 2012, Coquitlam staff implemented a year-round pest management program to provide information, education and advice with respect to pest problems on private properties and City owned lands and facilities. This report presents an update on the transition to the new Coquitlam vector control program and recommends that Council give consideration to Vector Control Bylaw No. 4284, 2012 along with the accompanying Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment (Vector Control) Bylaw No. 4285, 2012 to support the Vector Control Program.

Background:

Since the late 1960's, the City of Port Coquitlam managed a Tri-Cities Vector Control Program to provide year-round pest management information, education, advice and intervention programs for private properties and public lands and facilities on behalf of the cities of Coquitlam, Port Moody and Port Coquitlam. The program was jointly funded on a proportional basis by the three municipalities, but in late 2010 the City of Port Moody withdrew from the program. Subsequently, the City of Coquitlam reviewed its participation in the program in 2011.

Late last year, Council directed staff to withdraw from the Tri-Cities Vector Control Program and deliver a more cost-effective vector control program, effective January 2012. This new program focuses on education, outreach and problem identification as with the previous program, but it does not provide the same level of on-site services for pest control on private property as the previous program. To support the pest management objectives of the new program, Council also directed staff to bring forward a Vector Control Bylaw for their consideration.

With the creation of the Urban Wildlife Coordinator position last year to help address the on-going community needs associated with managing and minimizing bear conflicts and incidents, the development of the Vector Control Program is a good fit with the Bear Aware program. For example, in many cases, food sources that may attract bears to residential areas may also be contributing to problems involving pests such as rats and mice.

Discussion:

Coquitlam Vector Control Program – Implementation Update

In order to facilitate a smooth transition to the new Coquitlam pest management program, staff met with Port Coquitlam staff last December and provided contact information to enable them to redirect calls from Coquitlam residents to the Coquitlam Urban Wildlife office email address and telephone number (urbanwildlife@coquitlam.ca and 604-927-3500), which have been set up for this purpose.

Staff have created a Wildlife Management webpage, under the Environment section of the new Coquitlam website: <http://www.coquitlam.ca/city-services/environment/wildlife-management.aspx>). This webpage includes information on the Bear Aware Program and makes reference to pest related issues such as rodents, raccoons, mosquitoes and other insect pests and also provides a link to the Urban Wildlife office. Staff will continue to update and add new pest management information and resource links to increase the content on the webpage.

New outreach and education materials are being developed for upcoming environmentally-based public events and site visits to promote the services and advice available under the new program. For example, information brochures will describe how to minimize conflicts and coexist with a variety of urban wildlife species as well as offering tips on how residents can manage their properties to minimize food attractants to pests on their or adjacent properties.

Internally, Environmental Services staff have provided information to Engineering Counter Service staff and other Departmental staff on the program changes and the appropriate staff contacts. Staff have also created a records system to track the nature and type of pest inquiry and our responses, whether on private property, public lands or facilities. This system assists us in identifying new information needs or in recognising localized problem areas if they arise.

During the first three months of this year, the majority of pest related enquiries involved rodent problems. Most of these calls were resolved through telephone attendance or by email reply. However, if the enquiries were complicated or may involve adjacent properties, our Urban Wildlife Coordinator responded with on-site inspections and assessments of the reported problem and provided follow-up communications and education for the affected residents. Based on our experiences to date, residents generally seem to be satisfied with this level of response.

To date, the call volumes have been less than expected, based on the past records of the previous Tri-Cities program, and were readily managed with existing staff resources. However, the number of enquiries will likely vary according to the season and we expect most of the pest management enquiries will occur during the summer months, coinciding with increased bear activity.

In anticipation of a surge in pest related enquiries and reported bear incidents, and as provided for in our existing budget, staff will be hiring a technician position to assist the Urban Wildlife Coordinator from May through September. We hope to reduce the overall number of calls, in comparison to the previous program, especially with regard to repeat calls for service, through education and effective problem identification and resolution, using bylaw enforcement options if necessary.

In terms of on-going staff development, later in April two members of the Environmental Services Division will be attending a two day specialty conference on the subject of managing urban wildlife issues. Attendance at the conference

will improve the staff level of knowledge with respect to approaches and techniques for addressing urban wildlife conflicts and will also expand our network of contacts who have expertise in this emerging field.

Part of the previous Tri-Cities program also included the provision of mosquito control services to the City of Coquitlam. In February 2012, Council endorsed the recommendations in a staff report to join the Metro Vancouver mosquito control program. This regional program provides services to a number of other municipalities through a common mosquito control contractor. Staff are pleased to advise that on March 30, 2012, the Metro Vancouver Board approved the addition of Coquitlam to the participating areas included in this program. We understand the other participating municipalities have been very satisfied with the quality and performance of the contracted services provided through the Metro Vancouver program and so we look forward to becoming a participant in this program.

Bylaw Enforcement Options

Environmental Services and Legal Services staff have developed a new Vector Control Bylaw No. 4284, 2012 (Attachment 1). This bylaw is intended to support the Vector Control Program by defining the types of pest problems the City is wanting to control and it provides a clear incentive for owners and occupiers of property to take appropriate measures to prevent their property from becoming infested by vector organisms, such as rats or mice, that could spread diseases.

Coquitlam does have an Unsightly Premises Bylaw which prohibits owners and occupiers of property from permitting the accumulation of noxious, offensive or unwholesome matter on their property. However, many vector organisms, such as rodent populations, can easily survive and flourish if they can obtain food or shelter, even if it is on otherwise neat and tidy properties. In this respect, the Unsightly Premises Bylaw may not necessarily be an effective enforcement option.

The Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment (Vector Control) Bylaw No. 4285, 2012 (Attachment 2), has been drafted to complement the Vector Control Bylaw and enable fines to be assessed under the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw (BEN) system. This BEN bylaw offers a simpler and more efficient enforcement system than pursuing charges under the *Offence Act*. With respect to the proposed fine amounts for bylaw violations under this BEN bylaw amendment, staff have reviewed comparable vector and pest bylaws in a number of other Lower Mainland municipalities and found the average fine amount is \$100.

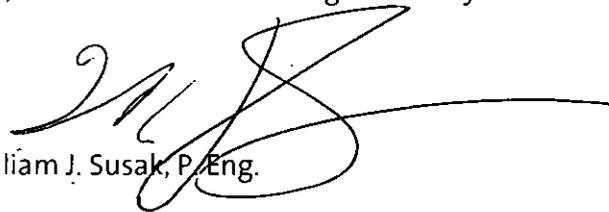
The maximum fine under the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw system is \$500, but staff support a fine amount of \$100 since the intent of the bylaw and is to gain compliance and achieve remediation of the problem. However, if a person allows on-going or persistent problems to continue, fines may be levied for each day the violation occurs. For serious bylaw infractions, charges under the proposed Vector Control Bylaw could result in a fine not exceeding the maximum set out in the Offence Act, which currently are set at a maximum of \$2000. Since these two bylaws offer alternative enforcement approaches, staff recommend Council give first, second and third reading to each bylaw.

Financial Implications:

There are no new financial implications related to this report. The existing budget for vector and pest control related costs of \$104,000 remains unchanged from the previous year's approved budget levels.

Conclusion:

This report provides a summary of the development and implementation of the Coquitlam Vector Control Program, which is intended to provide information, education and advice on a variety of pest related issues, as requested by Council. The report also provides an update on the Mosquito Control Program component of the overall program and includes two draft bylaws for Council's consideration. These bylaws directly support the goals of the Vector Control Program and, therefore, staff recommend Council give first, second and third reading to each bylaw.



William J. Susak, P.Eng.

Attachments:

1. Vector Control Bylaw No. 4284, 2012
2. Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment (Vector Control) Bylaw No. 4285, 2012

This report was prepared by Margaret Birch, Environmental Services Coordinator and Drake Stephens, Urban Wildlife Coordinator, and reviewed by Verne Kucy, Acting Manager of Environmental Services Division.

BYLAW NO. 4284, 2012

A Bylaw to provide for protection against the spread of contagious, infection, or communicable diseases by animals.

WHEREAS:

- A. Pursuant to section 8(3)(i) of the *Community Charter*, S.B.C. 2003, c. 26 (the "*Community Charter*"), Council for the City of Coquitlam has authority to regulate in relation to public health;
- B. Pursuant to section 8(3)(k) of the *Community Charter*, Council for the City of Coquitlam has authority to regulate in relation to animals; and
- C. Council for the City of Coquitlam considers that it is desirable to protect the health of the public by requiring owners and occupiers of property in the City to prevent their property from becoming infested by vectors that may spread disease,

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Coquitlam, in open meeting lawfully assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Name of Bylaw

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "Vector Control Bylaw No. 4284, 2012."

2. Definitions

In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words have the following meanings:

CITY means the City of Coquitlam;

PATHOGEN means an organism capable of causing disease in humans, animals or plants;

VECTOR means a carrier organism that is capable of transmitting a *pathogen* from one facility, waste source, product or organism to another facility, waste source, product or organism.

3. Prohibitions

- 3.1 No owner or occupier of property within the *City* shall cause, allow, or permit a nuisance to be caused by the presence of vectors on that property.

3.2 No owner or occupier of property within the *City* shall cause, allow, or permit:

- 3.2.1 any building or improvement;
- 3.2.2 any brush, trees, weeds or other growths;
- 3.2.3 any water, whether moving or standing; or
- 3.2.4 any other condition;

on that property to provide food, shelter, or breeding conditions that could attract a *vector*.

4. Offence

4.1 Every person who violates any provision of this Bylaw, or who causes, permits or allows any act or thing to be done in violation of this Bylaw, or who neglects to or refrains from doing anything required to be done by any provision of this Bylaw, is guilty of an offence against this Bylaw and each day that a violation continues is deemed to be a separate offence against this Bylaw.

4.2 Every person who violates a provision of this Bylaw, or who causes, permits, or allows an act or thing to be done in violation of a provision of this Bylaw, or who neglects or refrains from doing anything required by a provision of this Bylaw, is guilty of an offence and is liable, upon summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the maximum set out in the *Offence Act*, as amended.

5. Severance

The provisions of this Bylaw are intended to be severable and, should any part of this Bylaw be found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the finding of invalidity will not affect the validity of the remainder of this Bylaw.

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_____ MAYOR

_____ CLERK

BYLAW NO. 4285, 2012

A Bylaw to amend Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 3749, 2006

WHEREAS:

- A. Council of the City of Coquitlam enacted the *City of Coquitlam Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 3749, 2006* (the "Enforcement Bylaw"); and
- B. It is desirable to amend the Enforcement Bylaw to add to Schedule "A" offences under the newly adopted *Vector Control Bylaw No. 4284, 2012*;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Coquitlam, in open meeting lawfully assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Name of Bylaw

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment (Vector Control) Bylaw No. 4285, 2012."

2. Amendments to Schedule "A"

Schedule "A" (the "Schedule") of the Enforcement Bylaw is amended by inserting the following immediately after that section of the Schedule relating to the *City of Coquitlam Unightly Premises Bylaw No. 3213, 1998*:

COLUMN 1 DESCRIPTION	COLUMN 2 SECTION NO. IN BYLAW	COLUMN 3 DISCOUNTED PENALTY IN \$ (within 14 days)	COLUMN 4 FULL PENALTY IN \$ (after 14 days)	COLUMN 5 COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT DISCOUNT (where compliance agreement entered in accordance with section 8(a)(iii) of this bylaw)
Permit nuisance by vector	3.1	\$100.	\$100.	None

COLUMN 1 DESCRIPTION	COLUMN 2 SECTION NO. IN BYLAW	COLUMN 3 DISCOUNTED PENALTY IN \$ (within 14 days)	COLUMN 4 FULL PENALTY IN \$ (after 14 days)	COLUMN 5 COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT DISCOUNT (where compliance agreement entered in accordance with section 8(a)(iii) of this bylaw)
Attract vector onto property	3.2	\$100.	\$100.	None

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GIVEN FOURTH AND FINAL READING and the Seal of the Corporation affixed this " " day of " ",
[Click here and insert current year].

_____ MAYOR

_____ CLERK