

# **Business Licensing Summit Report**

Economic Development Committee

January 23, 2018

**BOWEN ISLAND**  
**🌲 Municipality 🌲**

# Why business licensing?

The *Community Charter* gives a municipal council the ability to adopt a bylaw that requires business licensing. Why?

- Public health and safety
- Businesses are accountable for their actions
- Understand the economy and businesses in a community
- Data for planning purposes
- Business networking and promotion

# Land Use Bylaw

“Each business and home occupation shall have a valid business licence issued by the Municipality prior to commencement.” – Section 3.40

# Direction from Council.

Council resolution #16-249 (July 25, 2016):

That Council direct the Economic Development Committee to include in its 2017 work plan the feasibility of implementing business licensing and report back to Council ...

Council resolution #17-450 (November 27, 2017):

- That Council direct staff to review the “Business Licensing Feasibility Report” presented at its meeting of November 27, 2017, and identify next steps and resources required for the implementation of a business licensing program; and
- That Council consider the implementation of a business licensing program as a priority under Strategic Pillar F – Robust and Resilient Local Economy in Island Plan 2018.

# Recommendations.

Include business licensing as a strategic priority in *Island Plan 2018*.

Require all businesses to obtain a business licence.

Keep the business categories few, the fee schedule simple, and the fees low, commensurate with the small scale of our community.

Give the local licensing program adequate time to establish, then pursue intermunicipal licensing.



Develop an education strategy and an enforcement strategy for business licensing.

# Next steps.

How municipal staff will respond to the council resolution.

**Thank you.**

Questions and discussion.