



# CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

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## NOTICE OF MOTION

From: Councillor Ken Armour

Introduced: Council Meeting – July 12, 2021

**Subject: Development Capacity Assessment**

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**WHEREAS:** It is important that Council and the residents of Esquimalt have access to a development capacity tool that can serve as a framework to guide both discussions and decision making about future development in Esquimalt;

**AND WHEREAS:** Staff developed a report for Council in June 2020 on conducting a development capacity assessment but a decision on this was deferred because the latest Census data would not start to become available until February 2022;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That Council direct staff to return to Council with an updated Development Capacity Assessment staff report so that Council can consider providing early budget approval to conduct this assessment as soon as possible in 2022 (as the latest Census data is released).

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### **STRATEGIC RELEVANCE:**

It is important that future residential development in Esquimalt not exceed our development capacity.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

It is anticipated that that hiring a firm to conduct a development capacity assessment for Esquimalt will cost approximately \$75,000.

### **BACKGROUND:**

No research has been done to determine which variables will limit growth and hence define the Township's development capacity – some key variables include: fiscal capacity of the Township to provide adequate services, social-psychological capacity of residents, capacity of arterial roads to handle traffic reached, parking capacity, carrying capacity of the parks system, carrying capacity of recreational facilities, carrying capacity of schools, capacity to dispose of solid waste, capacity to meet carbon emission/climate change targets, cost of financing development and capacity of public transportation.

Understanding which variables impact Esquimalt's development capacity is critical to ensuring that future development and the concomitant increase in population results in a vibrant and healthy community that is well serviced in a financially sustainable manner. It will also ensure a smooth transition from growth mode to equilibrium mode as and when development capacity is reached.