APRIL - MAY 2016 SURREY BUSINESS NEWS Page 19



B.C. Introduces a New Law to Govern Non-profit Societies



Nate Todd-Jones



Tom Boyd



Jag Shergill

There are over 27,000 non-profit organizations (or "societies") registered in British Columbia, operating for a variety of purposes: from sports teams to religious groups to charities. They're also big business. In 2013, for example, British Columbians donated an average of \$713/person and volunteered for an average of 145 hours for non-profit organizations (source: Statistics Canada).

Given their significance, it's important that the law governing societies ensures they are run efficiently and transparently. This was the driving force behind the passing of the new Societies Act (British Columbia), which will come into force on November 28, 2016, replacing the existing British Columbia Society Act.

Many of the changes under the new Societies Act are intended to provide greater flexibility with respect to governance of societies. As such, the Societies Act replicates many of the corporate governance provisions applicable to corporations in the B.C. Business Corpora-

tions Act. For example, to facilitate efficient operations of societies, members of a society will soon be able to pass written consent resolutions approving society actions without being required to hold a physical general meeting in person (which can be an arduous process), just as business corporations do.

Accountability of societies is also of significance, especially where a society receives public money. Under the new Societies Act, there is a differentiation between societies that are funded by the public (i.e., public donations and/or government funding) versus societies that are funded by their members. Those societies accepting more than \$20,000 or 10% of the society's gross income (whichever is greater) from public sources are subject to greater accountability and transparency measures. For example, the new Act requires publicly funded societies and charities to disclose their financial statements on request, and to disclose compensation of their highest paid

employees. Societies funded primarily by their members are exempt from these requirements.

The new Act also makes directors personally liable to a society where they have distributed money contrary to the society's bylaws or contrary to the Act.

Finally, all existing societies are required to file a transition application with the B.C. Corporate Registry, which is to include updated versions of the society's constitution and bylaws (modified to comply with the new Act). Societies have until November 28, 2018 to do so. Any new societies formed after November 28, 2016, will be required to register under the new Act.

Lawson Lundell LLP looks forward to assisting both existing clients and new clients with respect to the new regime, including advising existing societies on the transition of their organizations under the new legislation. Please feel free to contact Jag Shergill or Nate Todd-Jones at 604-685-3456 with respect to any inquiries or questions you may have.

Surrey Board of Trade Giving Bike Hub Award

To Kwantlen Student Association Surrey at Science World in March



SBOT CEO Anita Huberman gives award to Kwantlen Student Association President, Allison Gonzalez, and General Manager Jeremy McElroy.

The Kwantlen University Student Association has shown great leadership in supporting the growth of active transportation to their Surrey Campus. The organization has focused on increasing commuter cyclists to campus by conducting an assessment to improve end of trip facilities, offering workplace cycling workshops each semester and engaging students in bike mechanics during its annual Eco Days event. Students that cycle to Kwantlen can expect to find lockers and hooks to dry their

clothes along with secure bike parking. It is because of the hard work of organizations like the KSA that cycling grows in popularity and profile. KSA is also a longstanding HUB Organization Member. Receiving this award was the association's General Manager Jeremy McElroy and President Allison Gonzalez. Please join me in congratulating Kwantlen Campus and the Kwantlen Student Union Association for receiving the Silver Bike Friendly Business Certification.

Creating Value for Business

New Member Benefit Program Focus on Health

The Surrey Board of Trade with an exclusive arrangement with BikeHub will offer to SBOT members:

- 1. Bike Friendly Business Workshops
- 2. Discounts to over 30 cycling retailers
- 3. Bike Friendly Business award opportunities
- 4. Bike Friendly Business Solutions Survey
- 5. 10% off first Cycling Workshop

The program arrangement with BikeHub will

also enable the SBOT to actively focus on best practices and development of regional cycling infrastructure and policy best suited for Surrey.

For more information on this, please contact Sherese Johnson, Bike Friendly Business Specialist & Traction Toolkit Advisor at HUB Cycling, 1-828 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver BC, V5Z 1E2.

Website bikehub.ca | Phone 604.790.2678

SURREY BOARD OF TRADE 2016 AGM NOTICE

As a member of the Surrey Board of Trade, I invite you to attend the 52nd Annual General Meeting and Chair's Dinner on **Wednesday, June 15th** at Eaglequest Golf Course (7778 152 Street, Surrey) from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. The Surrey Board of Trade is your organization. It is your role, as a member, to participate in the Annual General Meeting process. Metro Vancouver Chair and Port Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore is the Keynote Speaker.

The purpose of an Annual General Meeting is for the Surrey Board of Trade to let you know about our activities and financial performance for 2015, leading into 2016. It is a mandatory requirement as the organization falls under the Industry Canada Act and is federally regulated. The AGM will also include short presentations announcing the winner of the Child and Family Friendly Workplace Award and the Surrey Board of Trade—Junior Achievement of BC Youth Leaders of Today Program, sponsored by Envision Financial.