Feedback on Role and Function of Alternate EA Directors

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the Ministry) is seeking feedback on the operational role and function of the Alternate Electoral Area (EA) Director. Alternate EA Directors is a multi-faceted, long standing topic within the regional district system, with many different perspectives on the role and function of the Alternate EA Director.

In 2018, a UBCM Ad-Hoc Committee released a discussion paper on the “Role and Implications of Alternate Unelected Electoral Area Directors” along with a number of recommendations that examined the role of Alternate EA Directors and focused on situations where EA directors are absent for an extended period, rather than occasional absences. In response to the Ad-Hoc Committee’s work, the Ministry committed to undertaking research and exploration by engaging directly with regional districts to gather evidence and build a stronger understanding of the topic.

The substantial effort that UBCM and the Ad-Hoc Committee undertook to explore the issue, develop the discussion paper, and provide recommendations provides an important starting point for further dialogue. Given the many perspectives and the Ministry’s commitment to undertake further work, this feedback opportunity is being undertaken to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the topic.

This feedback form should take no more than 15 minutes to complete and will allow the Ministry to better understand current regional practices, policies and challenges around the role and function of Alternate EA Directors.

This feedback form is voluntary, and a response is encouraged, not required. Please do not provide any personal information or third-party information &; talk about others by name in your responses to this survey. Every reasonable step will be taken to keep your responses confidential and to ensure that any personal or third-party information is not collected.

Personal information is collected for the purposes of receiving feedback on the role of alternate EA Directors by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing under s. 28 (6) and (8) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. For questions regarding the collection of personal information, please contact AIS &; Analytics, Research and Information Analyst at ais@bc当地政府 or 778-558-3407.
Feedback on Role and Function of Alternate EA Directors

What is your role within the regional district?

- Alternate Electoral Area Director
- Electoral Area Director
- Municipal Director
- Regional District Chief Administrative Officer
- Other

Please Specify:

Regional District of Nanaimo Board

18%

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Generally, what do you believe is the role of an Alternate EA Director in a regional district?

To fulfill the role of the Electoral Area Director in their absence and to assist the Electoral Area Director with their responsibilities as requested.

36%
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Which approach generally describes the roles and functions that Alternate EA Directors play in your regional district?

- [ ] EA Directors and Alternate EA Directors work as a team (e.g., they generally share the same perspectives on issues; they split the EA Director duties, even when the EA Director is present)
- [x] Alternate EA Directors take on the duties and roles of the EA Director only when the EA Director is absent (e.g., they rarely attend meetings with constituents or interact with the EA Director)
- [ ] Alternate EA Directors generally do not fill in for EA Directors (e.g., there are typically no EA Director absences)
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Not Sure

How often do Alternate EA Directors attend a regional district board meeting on behalf of the EA Directors?

- [ ] Frequently
- [ ] Sometimes
- [x] Rarely
- [ ] Never
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Not Sure

45%

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How important is it that the policies and perspectives of the Alternate align with the EA Director when the Alternate is voting in place of the EA Director?

- Very important
- Fairly Important
- Important
- Slightly Important
- Not at all important
- Unsure

Please Explain (optional):

If there is a misalignment between the alternate and the elected Electoral Area Director, it is confusing to the residents of the Electoral Area and causes problems with Board decisions.

55%

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A Leave Policy typically sets out the rules, policies and/or practices to be followed for the effective operation and function of the regional district board for occasions where a regional district Director is on leave of any kind (extended leave, long-term disability or vacation).

A Remuneration Policy typically sets out the amounts regional district board members are to be compensated for when carrying out their duties (e.g. annual stipend; attending board meetings; travel expenses).

To the best of your knowledge, does your regional district have a leave and/or remuneration policy for EA Directors?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

64%
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To the best of your knowledge, does your leave and/or remuneration policy provide guidance on how an EA Director’s remuneration/stipend, or other benefits are affected if they take a leave of absence?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No
- [ ] Not sure

73%

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What kinds of training and/or educational opportunities are available for Alternate EA Directors: (select all that apply)

☐ General board orientation package
☐ Alternate EA Director orientation package
☐ Information on roles and responsibilities of Alternate EA Director
☐ Policies and procedures specific to the regional district’s operations/administration
☐ Training courses/sessions
☐ Other
☐ Not sure
☐ No training is provided

Do you feel that Alternate EA Directors receive the necessary training and/or educational opportunities?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not Sure

Please explain:

We have not included the alternates in any of our training because they are rarely in attendance. If we identify a long term absence of an Electoral Area Director and the alternate is going to be in place for a lengthy period of time, we may then provide orientation and education. Otherwise, we would not.
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Are there any other experiences, challenges or other feedback you would like to provide about the role and function of Alternate EA Directors?