



Memo

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Director of Finance
DATE: May 4, 2023

SUBJECT: Chamber of Commerce Membership

At the April 25, 2023 Council requested that the Town review obtaining a membership in the local Chamber of Commerce.

A review of who are the members of a local Chamber of Commerce and what do they do:

- “A chamber of commerce is an association or network of businesspeople designed to promote and protect the interests of its members. It is often made up of a group of business owners that share a locale or interests. They will choose leadership, name representatives and debate which policies to espouse and promote.”
- “Chambers of commerce also play an important role in local municipalities in promoting business activity and representing chamber members.”
- “While chambers of commerce do not directly influence political outcomes, they may try to influence or lobby local community leaders to pro-business stances.

The Town of Lake Cowichan is not a business but a local government that is responsible to all residents within its jurisdiction, not just the business community.

There is no benefit to the Town to have Chamber membership and there is no value to be received by the taxpayers of Lake Cowichan for this expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Town refrain from being a paid member of the Cowichan Lake District Chamber of Commerce.

Ronnie Gill, CPA, CGA