

BACKGROUND
CLLR. ANDERSON – NOTICE OF MOTION
COMMITTEE MEETING STIPEND FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rationale:

For several years elected officials at the City of Vernon have had the option of drawing between \$130 and \$140 for each committee meeting he or she attends on behalf of the city. The origins of the policy are unknown, although it appears anecdotally that the policy was put in place many years ago to help a councillor of the era survive on council pay alone, at a time when council pay was relatively low and jobs scarce.

Councillors are now paid ~ \$30,000 per year and the mayor ~\$94,000 + regional compensation. These are not princely sums, but they are well over the median income in BC for part-time and full-time jobs respectively. They are certainly adequate for the amount of work reasonably expected, despite the fact that some members of council may do much more or less, by their own choice.

Citizen volunteers have been attending committee meetings with no compensation for decades. Only recently, on August 15, 2022, are we on Council belatedly offering committee volunteers a token gift certificate for their help. The \$250 gift certificate is slightly less than the amount a member of council is presently allowed to claim for attending two meetings. At a time when the economy is uncertain and inflation isn't, it is unfair and unreasonable for council members to be paid twice for attending the duties of a part- or full-time position they are already being compensated for.