



Request for EAD Meeting Item

SUBJECT:	Business licenses in electoral areas/regional districts
REQUEST BY:	Chair Demenok
DESCRIPTION/CONTEXT:	<p>A topic came up yesterday during the Economic Development meeting which the EA Directors would like to discuss further at the upcoming EAD Committee meeting, and that is, business licenses in electoral areas/regional districts.</p> <p>It was thought that there is some sort of restriction against regional districts in the LGA, or somewhere else, that prohibits RDs from implementing business licenses. Apparently CORD had to receive some sort of special approval from the province to do so. It was also noted that the CSRD had looked at this issue many years ago.</p> <p>The general feeling amongst the directors was that having business licenses would be beneficial in that it would provide for much more comprehensive data being available with respect to the demographics of businesses operating in the electoral areas. These data would be very helpful in developing and implementing regional economic development plans as currently we have to capture these data manually in a highly time-consuming manner. Business licensing could also be used to set up a funding stream for local business groups like the Chamber of Commerce, and/or local Economic Development societies.</p> <p>Could you kindly add this topic to the upcoming EAD meeting agenda, and could you kindly arrange to have a short report prepared on this topic, which addresses the issue of whether RDs are able to implement business licenses?</p>
DISCUSSION:	<p>Some specific questions to address are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can RDs implement business licensing without any special dispensations from the province...if so, what is the process....if not, what's required to get a special dispensation? - What are the pros and cons if implementing business licenses at regional districts/electoral areas? What is the CORD experience? - Did the CSRD previously address this topic, and what was the discussion at that time?
OTHER COMMENTS:	