



HIGHLIGHTS

At June's session of County Council, a resolution to discontinue the recitation of the non-denominational prayer was approved by Council. Council made the decision after careful consideration of a legal opinion that was provided by the County's solicitor, Mr. David A. Stewart of McNab, Stewart & Prince. At April's Session of County Council staff was directed to seek legal advice with regard to the recent Supreme Court of Canada decision and the County's Procedural By-law.

Council received a detailed legal opinion from Mr. Stewart, and he expressed the key points in person before Council yesterday. Although the County of Renfrew had a favourable decision from a previous challenge dating back to 2000, the recent decision by the Supreme Court of Canada in the City of Saguenay case has drastically changed the legal interpretation of what is considered exclusionary or discriminatory in terms of opening of council meetings with a prayer. Mr. Stewart summed it up to this point, *"I think a challenge would be successful...I would expect if a complainant sought damages, he or she would likely succeed... the bigger exposure (to the County) would not be the damages but the court costs."*

Warden Peter Emon said *"Today we are deciding to remove the non-denominational prayer, and I would note that as our traditions as does our interpretation of the law evolve through time. As our county, our community and our municipality changes, we are called upon to adjust and re-think how we conduct the business of our municipality. This is a natural evolution of time passing and I hope the community is reassured that County Council has had a good and healthy investigation of the issue. We are not turning our back on our community or their traditions; rather it is an opportunity for our community to embrace other beliefs, other ways of thinking, and welcoming all to our community."*

County Council will discuss changes related to the prayer at a future meeting, when they review the procedure By-law amendments.

Summer Students

A delegation of summer students employed by the County of Renfrew, each stepped to the podium and presented a brief overview of their education, experiences, and aspirations to County Council. Each year the County of Renfrew hires more than twenty summer students in various departments. Each student takes away a valuable workplace experience and the County gets a fresh look at the future of young minds and ideas.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES

County Council Adopted By-law 53-15 A By-Law to Amend By-Law 59-02 Corporate Policies and Procedures for the County of Renfrew.

County Council Adopted By-Law 54-15 A By-Law to Enter into a Road Access Agreement with Virginia Blemkie.

County Council Adopted By-law 55-15 A By-Law for the Execution of Contract No. PWC-2015-10 Rehabilitation of County Road 635 (Swisha Road).

County Council Adopted By-law 56-15 A By-Law for the Execution of Contract No. PWC-2015-12 Rehabilitation of County Road 21 (Beachburg Road).

County Council Adopted By-law 57-15 A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 56-14, Being a By-Law to Authorize the County of Renfrew to Enter into a Contract/Agreement with Child Care Service Providers for the Provision of Children's Recreation Programs.

County Council Adopted By-law 58-15 A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 14-15, Being a By-Law to Authorize Entering into Agreements with Child Care Agencies and Recreation Programs for Special Needs Resource Funding.

County Council Adopted By-law 59-15 A By-Law to Authorize Entering into an Agreement with Firstonsite Restoration LP And Firstonsite G.P. Inc. for Repair and Upgrades to the Renfrew County Housing Corporation Apartment Complex located at 41 Vimy Blvd., Renfrew.



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