

# Administrative Backgrounder

Councillor Notice of Motion

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Title</b>                                   | <b>Facilitating Tobogganing Activities on Municipal Lands (Councillor Toms)</b>   |
| <b>Purpose of Report</b>                       | To provide information in response to Councillor Toms' Notice of Motion made at the January 14, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.   |
| <b>Proposed Motion(s)</b>                      | That Council direct Administration to provide information, analysis, and options for tobogganing activities on municipal lands in Sturgeon County, including potential levels of service such as lighting.  |
| <b>Previous Council / Committee Direction</b>  | None.   |
| <b>Strategic Alignment</b>                     | Council's Strategic Plan community outcome statement includes <i>Thriving Communities: Engaging cultural, historic, and civic amenities.</i>  |
| <b>Statutory Requirement Considerations</b>    | The <i>Municipal Government Act</i> sets out the duty for municipalities to maintain public parks and responsibilities, as well as exceptions related to liability.   |
| <b>Alignment to Levels of Service Delivery</b> | Sturgeon County currently has no designated toboggan hills and no accompanying service levels for their maintenance and operation, including lighting provisions.   |
| <b>Anticipated Human Resource Requirements</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop a new level of service for the management and designation of toboggan hills, a comprehensive approach is essential. It is recommended that the process proceed in two phases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phase 1 would consist of a feasibility study, which would include: a legal risk and liability assessment; a review of best practices and safe sledding guidelines; and an inventory and site analysis of potential toboggan hill locations. The study would evaluate appropriate sites and determine service level options, including considerations for services (such as lighting), resourcing, and staffing costs.</li> <li>○ Study findings and recommended service level options would be presented to Council, and Administration would</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | seek direction on the next steps for implementation (Phase 2).  |
| <b>Anticipated Financial Resource Requirements</b> | The estimated cost to complete the work related to the Phase 1 feasibility study to fulfill the request is estimated between \$15,000 to \$20,000.  |
| <b>Additional Background Information</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tobogganing is a popular and accessible winter activity in Canada that is both family-friendly and cost-effective, requiring minimal investment from both providers and participants.</li> <li>• Numerous studies highlight the importance of physical activity for maintaining overall health and well-being.</li> <li>• To ensure public safety, risk management for high-risk recreational activities such as tobogganing on municipal land is crucial and involves identifying, assessing, prioritizing, and mitigating potential risks.</li> <li>• The provision of lighting on toboggan hills implies that the municipality has designated site(s) safe for this activity. It also requires the County to demonstrate that reasonable precautions have been taken to ensure the safe operation of this service. By assuming this responsibility, the County has an obligation to maintain the property in a safe condition suitable for its intended use.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Attachment(s)</b>                               | None.   |
| <b>Report Reviewed by:</b>                         | Karolina Drabik, Program Lead, Open Spaces<br>Angela Veenstra, Manager, Agriculture Services<br>Chris Wells, Director, Community Services<br>Travis Peter, Interim Chief Administrative Officer   |