

NORTH PEACE SERVICE AREA POLICY
Council Policy No. 75/00

POLICY:

It is the policy of City Council that the establishment of a cohesive North Peace Service Area as the basis for local service delivery is fundamental to the future economic and social well-being of the citizens of the City, Taylor and rural areas of the North Peace.

BACKGROUND:

City Council is obligated to ensure that rural residents and adjacent communities pay for City services and facilities they use to ensure that City residents and business are not expected to continue to subsidize industry; residents; or business whose use rely on City services and facilities. The principle involved is:

FAIRNESS PRINCIPLE:

This policy is predicated on the concepts that the tax base in the entire North Peace belongs to all citizens of the North Peace and that all North Peace Taxpayers should all pay fairly and equitably for all services provided.

GOAL:

It is the goal of the policy to outline the conditions and process for pursuing the establishment of the North Peace Service Area.

OBJECTIVES:

1. That the property tax base in the North Peace should support services and facilities required by all citizens of the North Peace collectively;
2. That access to the tax base should not be decided by any one jurisdiction or elected official but is a decision that should be made collectively by all jurisdictions and elected officials in a co-operative and planned basis;
3. That the current Regional District governance structure needs to be changed to enhance the capability of the Regional District to achieve its core function of facilitating rural, regional, sub regional and benefiting area service delivery;

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OBJECTIVES: (continued)

4. That the City will pursue the establishment of a suitable Governance Structure for the North Peace that provides a publicly accountable and transparent forum for unified and collective decision making for all service delivery issues affecting the North Peace;
5. That the City will diligently promote that the following services and facilities; as well as other similar services or facilities identified in the future, be funded by property taxation over all of the North Peace Services Area:
 - 1) Community Justice Program
 - 2) North Peace Gymnastics Facility
 - 3) Libraries
 - 4) Cultural Centre
 - 5) Kids Arena
 - 6) Curling Rinks
 - 7) North Peace Arena
 - 8) Policing
 - 9) Multi-Purpose Facility
 - 10) Other Recreation or Cultural Services
6. That the City acknowledges that certain specific services are provided primarily to property; such as fire protection, and will, therefore, not be supported by global taxation over the complete North Peace Services Taxation Area but will be provided on a specific benefiting area basis. Such services could include water, sewer, fire protection and other similar services.
7. In the absence of cooperation or success in establishing the North Peace Services Area as a means of equitably financing services, the City will pursue one or more of the following:
 - 1) boundary expansions
 - 2) satellite incorporation of industrial plants
 - 3) establishment of differential non-resident user rates.

(item 7 approved at the Regular Council Meeting of August 9, 1999)