

## **Incorporation**

We're hearing from many members of the community suggesting we revisit incorporating some or all of Area A into a municipality. The thinking is this would increase local representation and coordinate or enhance delivery of local government services. These services typically include, but are not limited to, the provision of drinking water, sewers, roads, fire protection, street lights, garbage/recycling collection, land use planning, building inspection, and parks.

As you may know, there was an effort in the late 1990s to incorporate. In that case, the vote for incorporation saw 51 percent voting in favour though that wasn't enough of a margin to pass. PHARA has recently acquired the files from the previous attempt. That study, the Pender Harbour Restructure Study is now posted on our website. It's an excellent document, though it is somewhat outdated. We'd like to hear from the community if incorporation is something we should be looking at. If the community wishes, the province will fund a new study looking at incorporation. Then it would be up to the community to weigh the pros and cons and decide whether to proceed. However, to do this, a local group would have to be formed to deal with the process, and it would likely require champions. At this point, it does not appear that anyone in our community is prepared to take a lead on this project, so until this happens, no further action is planned.