

Regional Districts and the *Community Charter*

A Pocket Guide – Update 2010

Ministry of Community and Rural Development
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
The local government system in British Columbia is comprised of municipalities, regional districts and other special purpose bodies such as improvement districts and the Islands Trust. The legislation that applies to the Province's largest municipality – the City of Vancouver – is contained in the *Vancouver Charter*. Prior to January 1, 2004, the primary legislation that applied to all other municipalities, regional districts and improvement districts was the *Local Government Act*.

On January 1, 2004, the Provincial Government (Province) fundamentally changed the legislation for municipalities and created a separate Act for them – the *Community Charter*. At the same time, most of the provisions that applied to municipalities were removed from the *Local Government Act*. However, in order that some of provisions in the *Community Charter* could apply equally to regional districts - such as conflict of interest provisions - cross references were built into the *Local Government Act*.

This Guide has been created as a convenient reference to show which of the provision in the *Community Charter* apply to regional districts.

The *Community Charter* is divided into 9 Parts. Each Part is divided into Divisions and each Division is divided into Sections. On the left-hand side of each page in the Guide the letters RD appear along with an arrow that points to either a Division, or to a Section.

Where the  points to a Division, the letters RD appear in **Boldface** type and all of the sections in that Division apply to regional districts.

Where the  points to a Section, that Section applies to regional districts. On the right-hand side of the page, the Section of the *Local Government Act* that cross-references the *Community Charter* provisions is notated along with the acronym - LGA.

This Guide is intended for convenience purposes only and is not a substitution for the legislation. The *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act* are free to the public and can be accessed through the Internet at <http://www.bclaws.ca/> The legislation is also available at most local libraries. Copies of the legislation can be ordered from:

Electronic Publishing
Queen's Printer for British Columbia
Phone: 604 927-2914
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Email: BC.Laws@gov.bc.ca

The Ministry of Community and Rural Development's website contains information about the local government system as well as a .pdf version of this Guide at: <http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/>

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