

February 20, 2024

To the LGD Council,

We appreciate the thoroughness of your recent letter outlining the framework for setting taxes and fees for businesses within the Local Government District of Pinawa. It is evident that significant effort has gone into establishing a clear structure, particularly with respect to provincial taxes that are based on the Provincial property assessment system.

At this time, we would like to establish that no further information on provincial taxes and fees is required by our board. However, we do seek more information on the local municipal business fees that are governed and set directly by the LGD Council.

The following are our specific follow up questions and comments on the answers provided to us.

1. Fee Structure and Schedule.

In the response letter, you mention that “The fee schedule can be found at www.pinawa.com”. We were able to find a link to the BizPal online service, which provides, “simplified access to information on permits, licences, approvals, certifications, registrations and other requirements needed to establish and run a business”. However, the service indicates that “Your local permits are not yet available”.

- Can you let us know specifically where a business would go to obtain this information, or when the LGD of Pinawa intends to publish this information on their website?

2. Seasonal Business fees.

In your response letter, you write that “The goal is to understand the impact on the demand for services provided by the LGD of Pinawa with the further goal of minimizing the financial impact of the business on the other ratepayers in the LGD of Pinawa”. The Pinawa Chamber of Commerce Board supports any financial analysis that will assist in a better understanding of the costs associated with supporting business.

- When does the LGD expect to complete an assessment or analysis of the costs generated by Pinawa business activities and specifically tourism business?
- Can you be more specific in how the LGD plans to achieve this goal and who within the LGD of Pinawa would be responsible for overseeing this type of financial analysis?

3. Business categories

In your response letter, you indicate that there are several different categories of businesses, each with corresponding fees and licences. For example, “Seasonal businesses” pay a “Seasonal Business Fee”. At the same time, there seem to be seasonal businesses, like “Seasonal



Campgrounds”, or “Seasonal Mobile Food truck vendors” that do not fit into the “Seasonal business” category.

- What criteria must be met for a business to be categorized as a “seasonal business”, and therefore eligible to pay a “seasonal business fee”?
- Are there written definitions available for the various categories and classifications of business types, as categorized by the LGD of Pinawa for legal or financial purposes?

Thank you in advance for your responses. We understand that Council has many priorities, but we hope these issues are prioritized for the benefit of local business owners and employees alike.

We also appreciate the offer for the Mayor to meet with our board in addition to the offer to accept us as a delegation at a council meeting. At this time, our board prefers written communication, and we appreciate the council’s willingness to respond. If there is something specific you wish to communicate to our board in person, that cannot be put into writing, please let us know.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we appreciate your ongoing efforts to support the local business community.

Sincerely,

Pinawa Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.