

Debbie Comis Appointed City's New Chief Administrative Officer

At a closed meeting on November 2, Parksville Council unanimously approved the appointment of Debbie Comis, director of administrative services, as the new chief administrative officer effective January 1, 2016. In October, the City announced the retirement of long-time chief administrative officer, Fred Manson, CPA, CGA effective December 31, 2015.

Mayor Marc Lefebvre stated, "Mrs. Comis brings many years of senior local government management experience and expertise to the position of chief administrative officer. At times, she has been the acting CAO, more than proving her capability to Council, staff and the community. Council is confident in her ability to provide continued good leadership."

Ms Comis joined the City of Parksville in July 2011 following 25 years local government experience with the City of Burnaby and eight years with the Town of MacKenzie.

"It is an honour to be appointed the City's next chief administrative officer and to follow in Fred Manson's footsteps, one of the most dedicated, professional and ethical CAO's in this province. I look forward to carrying on his legacy, working with Council, staff and the community as we continue to shape a vibrant, prosperous City for all to enjoy and prosper," said Ms Comis.

The CAO provides corporate leadership and direction in the overall management of City departments and also reviews and approves all recommendations made to Council. The CAO works closely with Mayor and Council and is Council's principal advisory on matters of policy. The CAO is responsible to Council for the efficient administration of all municipal activities and ensures Council's goals and objectives are achieved by providing strategic leadership. The CAO oversees the preparation of annual budgets, programs and policy initiatives and establishes standards and priorities to ensure the consistent delivery of high quality City services. A critical responsibility for the chief administrative officer is to ensure all operations are conducted within the framework of the City's values and goals. As well, the CAO liaises with other government agencies, provincial and municipal to provide Council with the information they require to develop plans and policies.

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