



The Corporation of the Village of New Denver

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Assent Voting (Alternative Approval Process)

Fire Engine Replacement Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 696, 2015

In accordance with provincial legislation, local governments can use the Alternative Approval Process (AAP) to meet the requirement for elector approval regarding Loan Authorization Bylaws. As part of the AAP, the local government must publish newspaper notices for two consecutive weeks, then allow at least 30 days for the submission of elector responses (on the designated Elector Response Form) objecting to the proposal. After the submission deadline, the Corporate Officer must determine and certify whether the valid elector responses submitted meet or exceed the threshold of 10% of the eligible electors. When 10% or more of the eligible electors sign and submit response forms, the local government is required to hold a formal assent vote (referendum) prior to proceeding with the proposal. The referendum must be held within 80 days of the AAP deadline.

In this particular situation, the electors in the Village of New Denver are being asked to approve the borrowing of \$255,000.00 for the purchase of a replacement fire engine (as outlined in Fire Engine Replacement Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 696, 2015).

Geographic Area:

The geographic area for the AAP for Fire Engine Replacement Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 696, 2015 will include all lands within the municipal boundaries of the Village of New Denver. All electors residing within this area are eligible to participate in the AAP, as are non-resident property owners.

Number of Eligible Electors:

The number of people eligible to be a *resident elector* or a *non-resident property elector* is determined based on those individuals who, when signing an elector response form:

- are 18 years of age or older;
- are a Canadian citizen;
- have lived in British Columbia for at least six months;
- have lived or owned property in the jurisdiction for at least 30 days;
- live, or own property in the area defined for the AAP; and,
- Are not disqualified under the Local Government Act or any other enactment from voting in a local election, or be otherwise disqualified by law.

The qualifications for participation in an AAP are identical to the eligibility requirements for voting in a local government election. Given the absence of more recent data, the 2014 voters lists will be used to determine the number of eligible electors for the AAP regarding Fire Engine Replacement Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 696, 2015. Some of these individuals may have moved away in the time since the list was created, and other eligible electors may have relocated to the community in the same period but since there have not been any

dramatic demographic shifts in New Denver, it is a fair estimate of the number. There were 401 individuals listed on the 2014 voters list, and 10% of this number is 40. As such, the submission of completed elector response forms from 40 or more eligible electors would meet the 10% threshold and trigger a referendum on the topic should the Village wish to proceed with the proposal.

Timeframe:

Village of New Denver Fire Engine Replacement Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 696, 2015 received three readings at the May 26, 2015 Council Meeting. The bylaw was subsequently forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities, and approval was granted in August. The AAP requires that public notices be placed in two consecutive issues of a local newspaper, with a minimum 30 day response period following the second notice. The Valley Voice is the most popular local paper but it only publishes on alternate weeks so advertising in the Arrow Lakes News is required in order to meet the notice requirements. Staff recommends that notices be placed as follows:

Valley Voice	Wednesday, September 23, 2015
Arrow Lakes News	Thursday, October 1, 2015
Valley Voice	Wednesday, October 7, 2015

This proposed advertising schedule would result in a 30 day elector response period beginning Thursday, October 8, 2015 and continuing through Friday, November 6, 2015. The deadline for receipt of completed elector response form will be 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6, 2015. Certification of results will take place Monday, November 9, 2015.

Should 10% of the eligible electors return completed response forms objecting to the proposed borrowing, the Village of New Denver will be required to hold a formal referendum on the topic by Monday, January 25, 2016, in order to proceed.

Response Regulations:

Elector objections must be submitted on the designated Elector Response Form. Forms are available in-person at the Village Office (115 Slocan Avenue) and on the Village’s website (www.newdenver.ca). Original signatures are required on the completed forms – faxed or emailed submissions will not be accepted.