

Loon Lake Fire Protection Service Area Establishment Referendum – June 23rd



The Region of BC's Best

Background

The Loon Lake volunteer fire department has been delivering a wonderful service to the community for many years but is facing difficult decisions due to changing legislation relating to the provision of fire protection. Funding has not been sufficient to meet the new legislative requirements (supply and maintenance of equipment, training, administrative support and WorkSafe BC to name a few). Due to the liability issues presented by society-operated fire departments, the TNRD will discontinue funding such departments as of December 31, 2022 but has agreed to pursue the establishment of a TNRD-administered fire protection service if that is what the community would like it to do.

A public information meeting was held on April 17th to provide details about the proposed service including the background, service area, costs and how the service would be delivered. The need to replace the fire hall that was destroyed during the 2017 Elephant Hill wildfire and the construction of a second fire hall was also discussed.

A straw poll was held at the April 17th meeting and attendees voted overwhelmingly in favour of moving forward with the TNRD carrying out a referendum to determine if there is support for service establishment and loan authorization of up to \$653,000 for the construction of new fire halls.

The referendum will be held at the Loon Lake Community Hall on June 23rd. Advance voting will be held on June 13th.

For more details, please visit the TNRD website at www.tnrd.ca or attend the next public information meeting on **May 22nd**

NEXT MEETING
May 22, 2018 at 6:30 PM
at the Loon Lake Fire Hall

When Can I Vote?

GENERAL VOTING will be held
SATURDAY JUNE 23, 2018 from 8 AM - 8 PM
Loon Lake Community Hall, 1705 Loon Lake Rd

ADVANCE VOTING OPPORTUNITIES
will be held **WEDNESDAY JUNE 13, 2018:**

8 AM – 8 PM
Thompson-Nicola Regional District Office
300-465 Victoria Street, Kamloops

9 AM – 12 Noon
Loon Lake Community Hall, 1705 Loon Lake Rd

Referendum Question

The TNRD Board of Directors has authorized a referendum on June 23, 2018 on the following question:

Are you in favour of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District adopting:

- ***Bylaw No. 2651 for the purpose of establishing the Loon Lake fire protection service area within a portion of Electoral Area "E" (Bonaparte Plateau) with a maximum annual tax requisition for operating costs of \$150,000 or \$1.546/\$1,000 of net taxable value of land and improvements, whichever is greater; AND***
- ***Bylaw No. 2652 that authorizes the Thompson-Nicola Regional District to borrow an amount not to exceed \$653,000 for the purpose of constructing two fire halls for the Loon Lake fire protection service?***

The bylaws are available on the TNRD website at www.tnrd.ca and will be posted at the voting station.

Determining Results

All votes will be counted at the close of voting on **Saturday June 23rd**. If there are more "YES" votes than "NO" votes, the fire protection service will commence on January 1, 2019. If there are more "NO" votes than "YES" votes, the service will not be established and it will be a decision of the Loon Lake fire department as to next steps (carrying on as is or disbanding).

Volunteer Scrutineers

Applications to volunteer as a scrutineer will be received by the TNRD from May 28 to June 8 at the Regional District office in Kamloops.

One scrutineer for and one scrutineer against the referendum question will be appointed if applications are received from persons who wish to volunteer for the positions (only eligible electors may be scrutineers).

Application forms are available at the TNRD office (visit, phone, fax or email your request) or may be downloaded from the TNRD website at www.tnrd.ca

Am I Eligible to Vote?

In order to vote, you must be eligible to vote as either a **Resident Elector** or a **Non-Resident Property Elector**. There is no corporate vote and no one may vote more than once.

RESIDENT ELECTORS must:

- be 18 years of age or older on voting day; and
- be a Canadian citizen; and
- be a resident of B.C. for at least 6 months immediately preceding voting day; and
- be a resident of the proposed Fire Protection Service Area for at least 30 days immediately preceding voting day; and
- not otherwise be disqualified by law from voting.

NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTORS must:

- not be eligible to vote as a resident elector; and
- be 18 years of age or older on voting day; and
- be a Canadian citizen; and
- be a resident of B.C. for at least 6 months immediately preceding voting day; and
- be a registered owner of real property in the proposed Fire Protection Service Area for at least 30 days immediately preceding voting day; and
- not otherwise be disqualified by law from voting.

Can I Vote by mail?

Are you unable to vote because you will be absent from the area? Do you have a physical disability? Do you live in a remote location? If so, you may be eligible to vote by mail.

Apply for a mail in ballot in writing and include your full name and mailing address; your birthdate or last 6 digits of Social Insurance Number; the address of your property, the reason for the request and the method of delivery. Applications are available on the TNRD website or by requesting a copy by mail, fax or email.

To be counted, your mail ballot must be received by the Chief Election Officer no later than 4 PM on Friday June 22, 2018.

What do I Bring on Voting Day?

Voters must bring **2 pieces** of identification (at least one with a signature) to prove their identity and where they live.

If you are registering as a NON-Resident Property Elector, you must also bring proof of ownership of your property and written consent from the majority of other owners (if the property is owned by more than one person).

Acceptable identification includes:

- B.C. driver's licence
- B.C. CareCard or Gold CareCard
- B.C. Identification Card
- Citizenship card
- Social Insurance card
- Credit card
- ICBC vehicle insurance documents
- Utility bill
- Property tax notice

Can I Advertise to Promote or Oppose the Proposed Service?

Yes. But before you sponsor any advertising you must register with Elections BC. Advertising sponsors must include sponsorship information on all advertisements including the sponsor's name, phone number, mailing address or email address, the words "authorized by" and the words "registered sponsor under LECFA". A disclosure statement must also be filed with Elections BC within 90 days of General Voting. For more information, visit Elections BC at www.elections.bc.ca

**Thompson-Nicola
Regional District**



For more information about the referendum, to apply as a scrutineer, or for a mail-in ballot, contact:
300-465 Victoria St. Kamloops, BC V2C 2A9
e: referendum@tnrd.ca
toll free in BC: 1.877.377.8673
w: www.tnrd.ca