



## Geopark Fails in Public Assent Process

**For Immediate Release (September 22/17):** A public assent process for the establishment of a geopark service area within Electoral Areas “A”, “B”, “O”, the District of Barriere and the District of Clearwater has failed. The results confirmed that there was not sufficient support for the establishment of the service without the TNRD first conducting a referendum.

The decision to proceed with a referendum was up to the Board of Directors, and the Board declined that option at its most recent meeting.

Consideration for requesting that UNESCO designate the North Thompson (Area “A”, “B”, “O”, the District of Barriere and the District of Clearwater) as a geopark has been an ongoing concern for a number of years. Earlier this year, the Board gave three readings to North Thompson Geopark Service Area Establishment Bylaw No. 2620, 2017, and the Inspector of Municipalities authorized adoption of the bylaw subject to public assent by way of the alternative approval process (AAP).

By the deadline for submissions of elector response forms, 1,042 duly completed elector response forms were received confirming that there was not sufficient support without a referendum.

The AAP was conducted in accordance with the regulations contained within the Local Government Act and the Community Charter. The number of eligible electors was determined to be 6,568 with 10 per cent being established as 657 – that being the number of elector response forms required to indicate that there is not sufficient support to adopt the service without first conducting a referendum.

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The TNRD covers 11 municipalities (Ashcroft, Barriere, Cache Creek, Chase, Clearwater, Clinton, Kamloops, Logan Lake, Lytton, Merritt and Sun Peaks) and 10 Electoral Areas - “A” (Wells Gray Country), “B” (Thompson Headwaters), “E” (Bonaparte Plateau), “I” (Blue Sky Country), “J” (Copper Desert Country), “L” (Grasslands), “M” (Beautiful Nicola Valley - North), “N” (Beautiful Nicola Valley - South), “O” (Lower North Thompson) and “P” (Rivers and the Peaks). The TNRD provides over 120 services including planning and building inspection, solid waste management, emergency preparedness, 9-1-1 services, recreation, utilities, television rebroadcasting, river buoys, transit, tourism, library services and operates a film commission.