

**Foothills Boulevard Landfill Gas Emission Reduction
Credits Transfer Contract Authorization Bylaw No. 2499, 2008**

**Determination of Total Number of
Electors for Purposes of an Alternate Approval Process**

- Purpose:** To make a fair determination of the total number of electors within the area affected by Foothills Boulevard Landfill Gas Emission Reduction Credits Transfer Contract Authorization Bylaw No. 2499, 2008. An elector is defined as a person who would qualify to vote on the matter of approving Bylaw No. 2499, if such a vote was to be held on the date this report is published.
- Area Affected:** The area affected by Bylaw No. 2499 is the entire Regional District.
- Authority:** Section 86 of the Community Charter
Section 797.5 of the *Local Government Act*
- Objective:** Once the Regional Board has made a fair determination of eligible electors, 10 percent of that number will be set as the threshold for determining whether the Regional Board may adopt the bylaw without the requirement for elector assent by voting.
- Methodology:** Of the 11 participating areas affected by Bylaw No. 2499 only one (District of Mackenzie) maintains a list of registered electors. That list has not been updated in several years. Both the Federal and Provincial election authorities maintain lists of registered voters but the databases are not aligned with local government jurisdictional boundaries and are therefore not useful for purposes of this report. Since there is no reliable information available using existing voter enumeration data, it is necessary to prepare an estimate using other data.

BC Stats, Elections BC and BC Assessment Authority are public agencies which maintain comprehensive databases of population, population distribution, voter eligibility, voter participation rates, property ownership and other demographic data. The following data is provided by those agencies:

Total population of BC (July/08)	4,381,603
Total eligible voters in BC (Oct/08)	3,172,995
Total population of RDFFG (July/07)	97,966
Total property owners in RDFFG (Aug/08)	78,611

Using the above data it is can be determined that 72.4% of the Provincial population currently qualify as electors. Notwithstanding minor variations in regional demographics it is believed that this ratio would be sufficiently accurate for determining eligible electors in the Fraser-Fort George Regional District. Applying this factor to the 2007 population estimate provided by BC Stats yields a total of 70,943 eligible Provincial electors in Fraser-Fort George as of July 1, 2007.

Since there are minor differences between Provincial voting eligibility and local voting eligibility it is necessary to further refine the voter estimate to:

- a) eliminate those persons who have not resided within the boundaries of the region for the past 30 days.
- b) include persons who qualify as electors by reason of real property ownership but who do not reside in the region.

Deduction from total due to residency ineligibility

Persons who qualify as electors for Provincial voting are disqualified from voting in local elections if they have not resided within the voting jurisdiction for at least 30 days. The current (July 1/07) population estimate for the Fraser-Fort George Regional District is 97,966 which includes in-migration of 5,208 for the previous 12 months. Assuming that in-migration occurs at a fairly constant rate throughout the year, an estimate of the number of persons failing to meet the 30 day residency requirement may be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r} 30 \text{ days} \\ \hline 365 \text{ days} \end{array} \times 5,208 = 428$$

Assuming also that the ratio of 72.4% Provincial electors to total residents applies also to new arrivals, it may be concluded that 310 residents would be disqualified from voting for failing to meet the 30 day residency requirement.

Additions to total due to property ownership

Unlike Provincial elections in BC, persons may qualify to vote in local elections solely on the basis of property ownership. These non-resident property electors (NRPEs) must be qualified in all other respects (ie. 18 years of age or older, Canadian citizen, resident of BC, etc.) before they may be considered eligible electors. It is important to note that persons who qualify as resident electors within a voting jurisdiction cannot also qualify as non-resident property electors for the same voting jurisdiction.

In order to establish the number of NRPEs within the boundaries of the Regional District the database of the BC Assessment Authority was queried, and it was determined that there are 78,611 owners of properties within the Regional District.

From this total all property owners resident outside of BC (2,559) were eliminated, leaving a total of 76,052. This list was then filtered to remove property owners resident within the Regional District leaving 10,214 owners. After removing duplicate entries and properties owned by other than individuals (ie. Crown, corporate, etc.) a total of 2,867 unique owners of 2,722 properties remained. Since not more than 1 vote may be cast on behalf of any property, it was concluded that the Non-Resident Property Elector total should be set at 2,722 for the Regional District.

Summary Calculation:

the number of eligible electors has been calculated as follows:

Step 1:	3,172,995	(Eligible Provincial electors)
	÷4,381,603	(Total Population of BC)
	=72.4%	(Provincial average % of electors)
Step 2:	97,966	(Regional population)
	<u>x 72.4%</u>	(Provincial average % of electors)
	= 70,943	(Regional District resident electors)
Step 3:	70,943	(Regional District resident electors)
	<u>-310</u>	(30 day residency disqualification)
	=70,633	(Net Regional District resident electors)
Step 4:	70,633	(Net Regional District resident electors)
	<u>+2,722</u>	(non-resident property electors)
	<u>73,355</u>	(total eligible electors)

Conclusion:

For the purpose of the Alternate Approval Process for Foothills Boulevard Landfill Gas Emission Reduction Credits Transfer Contract Authorization Bylaw No. 2499, 2008 the number of eligible electors has been fairly determined to be 73,355. The number of elector responses needed to prevent adoption of Bylaw No. 2499 without first obtaining elector assent by voting is therefore 7,336.

