



NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS

An **Alternative Approval Process (AAP)** is a cost-effective method to engage with the community to determine whether there is support for certain initiatives, such as long-term borrowing, or other service-related projects. If 10% or more of the eligible electors oppose the initiative, the SCRD cannot proceed with it and must consider other options including going to an assent vote (referendum).

The SCRD is proposing to utilize long-term borrowing to fund the Gibsons/West Howe Sound Fire Protection Service Pumper Apparatus replacement project described below. Eligible electors may submit an Elector Response Form to indicate their **opposition** to the SCRD utilizing long-term borrowing to fund this initiative.

The response must be in the form established by the SCRD or be an accurate copy of the elector response form. Forms are available at the SCRD Field Road Administration office or online at www.scrd.ca/aap.

Three Ways to Submit an Elector Response Form to Oppose the Proposed Loan Authorization Bylaw(s):

- ✓ **Email** legislative@scrd.ca (Emailed copies of elector response forms must be a legible hand-signed scanned copy).
- ✓ **Drop off at the SCRD in Person** at 1975 Field Road, Sechelt, BC from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, excluding statutory holidays, or drop off after hours in the mail drop slot located on the east side of the building.
- ✓ **Mail** to Sunshine Coast Regional District, 1975 Field Road, Sechelt, BC V7Z 0A8.

DEADLINE for receipt of Elector Response Forms at the SCRD is **Monday, July 15, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.**
Forms **MUST** be received by the deadline in order to be counted.

Bylaw No. 765

8,450 eligible electors with
10% threshold being **845**

Gibsons/West Howe Sound Fire Protection Service - Pumper Apparatus Replacement

Description: The existing Gibsons and District Fire Service fire engine is a 2001 Freightliner. This fire engine is now 23 years old and is insufficient to meet the fire service's current needs, partly due to its pump capacity and limited horsepower. Further, the Gibsons community has grown significantly since this truck was originally acquired, resulting in significant increase to the fire department's call volume. Many of the calls the department attends now involve larger and more complex buildings. A replacement fire engine is expected to offer operational and safety improvements while carrying more equipment and firefighters to emergency scenes quickly. It is also expected to maintain Fire Underwriter's Survey (FUS) grading for fire insurance purposes. To finance this project, the Sunshine Coast Regional District is proposing to borrow up to \$1,499,500 to be repaid over a 10-year term to replace the Gibsons/West Howe Sound Fire Protection Service Pumper Apparatus.

Taxpayer Impact: The portion of property tax allocated to debt repayment would amount to approximately \$3.35 per \$100,000 of assessed value on an annual basis until the debt is retired. The estimated annual principal and interest payments over a ten-year period would be approximately \$193,493 per year for the term of the debt based on the current indicative long-term lending rate. The costs of the debt have already been accounted for within the existing service funding for Gibsons/West Howe Sound Fire Protection Service therefore there will be no direct impact on taxation for properties within the service area. Borrowing requires approval of the electors since the loan term is for a period longer than 5 years.

Only eligible electors within the Gibsons/West Howe Sound Fire Protection Service Area (Town of Gibsons, and Electoral Areas E and F, excluding those parts within the Trust Area under the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust) are entitled to sign an elector response form. The SCRD may proceed with long-term borrowing to fund the Apparatus Replacement Project unless, by the deadline, at least 10% (**845**) of the eligible electors in the service indicate their opposition.

Copies of the loan authorization bylaw, the calculation of eligible electors, and other documents or reports related to this initiative may be obtained from the SCRD website at www.scrd.ca/aap, or from the SCRD Field Road Office between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

More information on the AAP may be obtained by contacting Sherry Reid, Corporate Officer at the SCRD office at 1975 Field Road, Sechelt, or by telephone at 604-885-6825.

Sherry Reid, Corporate Officer

