



Alternative Approval Process Information Sheet

About the Alternative Approval Process:

Under the Community Charter, local governments such as the District of Summerland may use an Alternative Approval Process (AAP) to directly engage citizens about a proposed bylaw or other matter requiring elector approval. An AAP can be used for various initiatives to undertake long-term borrowing, a boundary extension, to establish a new regional district service, or other matter requiring approval of the electorate.

The alternative approval process was formerly known as counter-petition. The alternative approval process requires that 10 percent or more of the eligible electors must sign and submit response forms in opposition to the proposed initiative to require the local government to obtain assent of the electors in order to proceed. When this happens the issue is considered significant and the local government has two choices. They may proceed to assent voting within 80 days, or they may put the matter on hold and consider alternatives to the proposed action.

Loan Authorization Wharton Street Upgrades Bylaw 2024-036:

The District of Summerland Council intends to adopt *Loan Authorization (Wharton Street Upgrades) Bylaw 2024-036*. The purpose of the bylaw is to borrow an amount not to exceed the sum of three million, three hundred sixty-five thousand, eighty dollars (\$3,365,080.00) to be repaid over a period not exceeding twenty-five (25) years.

The components of the Wharton Street Upgrades include:

The Wharton Street construction project includes road reconstruction of approximately 200m of road between Kelly Avenue and Victoria Road along Wharton Street. The construction will include two full travel lanes, sidewalk installation, stormwater upgrades and park enhancements along Wharton Street. Park enhancements include relocating the cenotaph, landscaping improvements and creation of a public gathering area along Henry Avenue between Main Street and Wharton Street. The project will also include pedestrian safety improvements at the intersection of Main Street and Victoria Road.

The project intends to borrow up to \$3,365,080.00 over a period of 25 years to finance upgrades to Wharton Street, including road reconstruction, storm water improvements, pedestrian connectivity and park enhancements between Kelly Avenue and Victoria Road. The total financial impact to the average household would be \$40.26 annually and would be recovered through property tax increase of 2.26% starting in 2026. The estimated cost to users will be approximately \$40.31 per year. A copy of *Bylaw 2024-036* and report summarizing the project is available at municipal hall Tuesday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, between 8:15 AM and 5:00 PM and on the District's website at <https://www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/elections/alternative-approval-process>.

How do you indicate your objection?

Eligible electors indicate their opposition to the proposal by submitting an Elector Response Form to the Director of Corporate Services of the District of Summerland. The response of the elector must be in the form established by the District of Summerland. Forms are available at District of Summerland Municipal Hall located at 13211 Henry Avenue. Forms are also available on the District of Summerland website at <https://www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/elections/alternative-approval-process>. Electors who are unable to access the forms by these means may contact the Corporate Services at 250-404-4037 or email corporateofficer@summerland.ca. Only Elector Response Forms with original signature are to be submitted and must be received by the District of Summerland Corporate Officer before the deadline.

AAP Schedule

The following schedule is proposed for the conduct of this Alternative Approval Process:

- Thursday, January 16, 2025 - Publication of First Notice in a newspaper
- Thursday, January 23, 2025 - Publication of Second Notice in a newspaper (AAP begins)
- Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 5:00 PM - Deadline for submitting Elector Response form
- Tuesday, March 4, 2025 - Corporate Officer report results of Alternative Approval Process at a Special Meeting

The AAP for *Loan Authorization (Wharton Street Upgrades) Bylaw 2024-036* will begin on January 23, 2025 with the publishing of the second notice in the newspaper. Council may proceed with the adoption of *Bylaw 2024-036* unless by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at least 10% of the electors submit a signed Elector Response Form for *Bylaw 2024-036* indicating that Council must obtain assent of the electors by a referendum vote before proceeding with the adoption of *Bylaw 2024-036*.

For the purpose of the Alternative Approval Process, Council has determined there are 10,029 electors in the District of Summerland. The municipal Council may therefore proceed with the adoption of *Bylaw 2024-036* on an individual basis unless at least 1,002 electors (10%) submit a completed copy of an Elector Response Form for the proposed Bylaw to the District of Summerland before the deadline of 5:00 PM on Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

Who is an Eligible Elector?

In order to sign an elector response form in relation to the alternative approval process, a person must either be a resident elector or a non-resident property elector.

A **resident elector** is an individual who is entitled to sign an elector response form during an AAP by virtue of living within the municipal boundary of the District of Summerland. When signing an elector response form, a resident elector must:

- be 18 years of age or older;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately before signing the Elector Response Form;
- have been a resident of the District of Summerland for at least 30 days before signing the Elector Response Form; and
- not be disqualified by any enactment from voting in an election or otherwise disqualified by law.

A **non-resident property elector** is an individual that does not live in a jurisdiction and who is entitled to sign an elector response form during an AAP by virtue of owning property in that jurisdiction. When signing an elector response form, a non-resident property elector must:

- not be entitled to register as a resident elector of the District of Summerland;
- be 18 years of age or older;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately before signing the Elector Response Form;
- have been a registered owner of real property within the District of Summerland for at least 30 days before signing the Elector Response Form;
- not be disqualified by any enactment from voting in an election or otherwise disqualified by law;
- be registered owners of the real property, either as joint tenants or tenants in common, and not be holding the property in trust for a corporation or another trust; and

Note: Only one non-resident property elector may sign an elector response form per property, regardless of how many people own the property; and that owner must have written consent of a majority of the other property owner(s) to sign the response form on their behalf. Property owned in whole or in part by a corporation does not qualify under non-resident elector provisions.

For more information, please contact:

Corporate Services

corporateofficer@summerland.ca

250-404-4037