

Strathcona Gardens Loan Authorization **Bylaw No. 607**

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 Bylaw No. 607, being Strathcona Gardens Loan Authorization Bylaw 2025. An elector is defined as a person who would qualify to vote on the question of approving Bylaw No. 607 if such a vote was to be held on the date this report was prepared.
- Area Affected:** The area affected by Bylaw No. 607 is the City of Campbell River and Electoral Area D which comprises the current service area for the Strathcona Gardens recreation complex.
- Approval Process:** The Regional District intends to proceed with an alternative approval process to determine whether Bylaw No. 607 may be adopted without first obtaining the assent of the electors by voting. Should it be determined that less than ten percent of the eligible electors within the affected area file a written objection to Bylaw No. 607 prior to the deadline for receipt of responses, the Regional Board may proceed to adoption without the requirement to obtain elector assent by voting, in accordance with the provisions¹ of the *Local Government Act*. In the event that ten percent or more of the eligible electors object to adoption of Bylaw No. 607 prior to the response deadline, the bylaw may only be adopted if approved through an assent voting process.
- Authority:** The use of an alternative approval process for obtaining the approval of the electors for Bylaw No. 607 is authorized by section 407 of the *Local Government Act*.
- Elector Eligibility:** For the purposes of this report the criteria used for determining the eligibility of persons to vote as electors is based on Part 4 *[Assent Voting]* of the *Local Government Act* of British Columbia. That statute defines electors to include persons who meet the following criteria:
- Canadian citizen
 - 18 years of age or older
 - resident of British Columbia for the last 6 months
 - resident of Campbell River or Electoral Area D (or owner of real property within Campbell River or Electoral Area D for the last 30 days)
 - not otherwise disqualified from voting

Corporate entities are not permitted to qualify as electors in British Columbia.

Methodology:

This report will attempt to make a fair determination of the total number of electors within the area affected by Bylaw No. 607. The number of electors will be the total of those persons who qualify to vote as resident electors and those who qualify to vote as non-resident property electors. Since the methodologies for determining the number of each type of elector differ significantly, they will need to be determined separately with the results of those calculations aggregated for the purposes of this report.

Resident Electors

Both the Federal and Provincial election authorities maintain lists of registered voters but the databases are not necessarily aligned with local government jurisdictional boundaries and are therefore not particularly useful for purposes of this report. Since there is no reliable information available from these sources, it is necessary to consider the use of other data for the purpose of preparing an estimate of eligible electors.

BC Stats, Elections BC and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs are public agencies that maintain comprehensive databases of population, population distribution, voter eligibility, voter participation rates and other demographics. The City of Campbell River also maintains data related to the number of electors within its boundaries. The following data are supplied by those agencies:

Demographic	Estimate	Source
Population of British Columbia	5,722,318	BC Stats (January 1, 2025)
Population of Strathcona Regional District	48,150	Municipal Affairs (November 1, 2022)
Population of Electoral Area D	4,153	Municipal Affairs (November 1, 2022)
Provincial electors in British Columbia	3,564,307	Elections BC (July 1, 2019)
Resident electors in City of Campbell River	29,600	Report to Campbell River Council (June 15, 2023)

Using the above data, it can be determined that approximately 62.3% of the population of British Columbia would likely qualify as provincial electors. Notwithstanding minor variations in regional demographics it is believed that this ratio would be sufficiently accurate for estimating the number of resident electors within Electoral Area D. Once this number has been determined, it can be added to the number of resident electors provided by the City of Campbell River and, since the majority of qualifications required for voting in provincial elections are the same as those required for voting as a resident in local elections, this total should provide a reasonable estimate of the number of resident electors within the current service area for the Strathcona Gardens recreation complex.

To summarize, the number of resident electors within the service area for the Strathcona Gardens may therefore be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Step 1:} \quad & 3,564,307 \text{ (eligible provincial electors)} \\
 & \div 5,722,318 \text{ (total population of B.C.)} \\
 & = 62.29\% \text{ (B.C. average \% of electors)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Step 2:} \quad & 4,153 \text{ (Electoral Area D population)} \\
 & \times 62.29\% \text{ (B.C. average \% of electors)} \\
 & = 2,587 \text{ (Electoral Area D resident electors)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Step 3:} \quad & 2,587 \text{ (Electoral Area D resident electors)} \\
 & + 29,600 \text{ (City of Campbell River resident electors)} \\
 & = 32,187 \text{ (total resident electors within service area)}
 \end{aligned}$$

It is concluded that a fair estimate of the number of resident electors within the area affected by Bylaw No. 607, based on the above data, is 32,187.

Non-Resident Property Electors

Unlike Provincial elections in British Columbia, persons who do not reside within the local voting jurisdiction may qualify to vote in local elections and assent voting opportunities solely on the basis of property ownership³. These non-resident property electors (NRPE's) must be qualified in all other respects (ie. Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older, resident of BC, etc.) before they may be considered eligible electors. It is important to reiterate that persons who qualify as resident electors within a voting jurisdiction cannot also qualify as non-resident property electors for the same voting jurisdiction.

The following data has been extracted from the sources noted and will provide a reasonable starting point for estimating the number of non-resident property electors within the service area for the Strathcona Gardens recreation facility.

Demographic	Count	Source
Total properties within Electoral Area D	2,316	BC Assessment Authority (April 2025)
Total registered owners within Electoral Area D	2,881	
Registered owners resident within Electoral Area D or City of Campbell River	1,980	
Electoral Area D owners resident outside of British Columbia	41	
Electoral Area D property owners being corporate entities	65	
Electoral Area D property owners being public entities	2	
Non-resident property electors in City of Campbell River	32	Staff report to Council (June 15, 2023)

In order to estimate the number of NRPE's within the boundaries of Electoral Area D, the database of the BC Assessment Authority was queried, and it was determined that there are 2,316 separate properties within Electoral Area D and 2,881 unique registered owners of those properties.

From this total of 2,881 unique owners of property the following were eliminated in order:

- 1,980 owners of property who are residents of Electoral Area D or Campbell River;
- 41 owners of property who non-residents of British Columbia;
- 65 owners of property who are corporate entities; and
- 2 owners of property who are public (federal, provincial or local).

It was therefore concluded that a reasonable estimate of the number of persons who could qualify to vote as non-resident property electors within the area affected by Bylaw No. 607 (including the City of Campbell River), based on the most recently available data, is 825. In arriving at this estimate it is worth noting that voting requirements related to age, citizenship or length of property ownership have not been addressed since there is no data available to the Regional District upon which to evaluate this demographic.

Summary:

The total number of eligible electors within the service area for the Strathcona Gardens recreation complex, being the City of Campbell River and Electoral Area D, has been fairly determined to include 32,187 resident electors and 825 non-resident property electors for a total of 33,012.

Conclusion:

For the purpose of the alternative approval process for Bylaw No. 607, being Strathcona Gardens Loan Authorization Bylaw 2025, the total number of eligible electors has been fairly determined to be 33,012. The number of valid elector responses that are required to withhold approval for the adoption of Bylaw No. 607 without first obtaining elector assent by voting is therefore 3302.

- References:
1. S.86 *Community Charter* and s.342 *Local Government Act*
 2. S.65(1)(d) *Local Government Act*
 3. S.66 *Local Government Act*