

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

- Purpose:** To make a fair determination of the total number of electors within the area affected by Foothills Boulevard Landfill Biogas Purchase Agreement Authorization Bylaw No. 3132, 2019. An elector is defined as a person who would qualify to vote on the matter of approving Bylaw No. 3132, if such a vote was to be held on the date this report is published.
- Area Affected:** The area affected by Bylaw No. 3132 is the entire Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.
- Authority:** Section 86 of the *Community Charter*
Section 269, 270 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:** 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.

In instances where the entire Regional District has been involved, statistics from BC Stats, Elections BC and BC Assessment Authority have been used. These are public agencies which maintain comprehensive databases of population, population distribution, voter eligibility, voter participation rates, property ownership and other demographic data.

Total population of BC (July/17)	4,817,160
Total eligible (registered) voters in BC (April/17)	3,156,991
Total population of RDFFG (February/17)	94,506
Total property owners in RDFFG (May/19)	58,939

Using the above data it can be determined that 65.5% 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 2016 population estimate provided by BC Stats yields a total of 61,901 eligible Provincial electors in Fraser-Fort George as of May 30, 2018, the latest update to the Census Profile.

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 population estimate for the Fraser-Fort George Regional District is 94,506 which includes in-migration of 4,330 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:

$$\frac{30 \text{ days}}{365 \text{ days}} \times 4,330 = 356$$

Assuming also that the ratio of 65.5% Provincial qualified electors to total residents applies also to new arrivals, it may be concluded that 233 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 58,939 owners of properties within the Regional District.

From this total all property owners resident outside of BC (1,482) were eliminated, leaving a total of 57,457. This list was then filtered to remove property owners resident within the Regional District leaving 10,753 owners. After removing duplicate entries and properties owned by other than individuals (ie. Crown, corporate, etc.) a total of 2,797 unique owners of properties remained. Note that not more than 1 vote may be cast on behalf of any property. Non-Resident Property Elector total should be set at 2,797 for the Regional District.

Summary Calculation:

The number of eligible electors has been calculated as follows:

Step 1:	3,156,991	(Eligible Provincial electors)
	÷4,817,160	(Total Population of BC)
	=65.5%	(Provincial average % of electors)
Step 2:	94,506	(Regional population)
	× 65.5%	(Provincial average % of electors)
	= 61,901	(Regional District resident electors)
Step 3:	61,901	(Regional District resident electors)
	-233	(30 day residency disqualification)
	=61,668	(Net Regional District resident electors)
Step 4:	61,668	(Net Regional District resident electors)
	+2,797	(non-resident property electors)
	<u>64,465</u>	(total eligible electors)

Conclusion:

For the purpose of the Alternative Approval Process for Foothills Boulevard Landfill Biogas Purchase Agreement Authorization Bylaw No. 3132, 2019 the number of eligible electors has been fairly determined to be 64,465. The number of elector responses needed to prevent adoption of Bylaw No. 3132 without first obtaining elector assent by voting is therefore 6,447.