

VILLAGE OF CHASE
Bylaw No. 797-2014

ELECTION BYLAW

A Bylaw to provide for the determination of various procedures for the conduct of local government elections and other voting requirements

WHEREAS under the *Local Government Act*, Council may, by bylaw, determine various procedures and requirements to be applied to the conduct of local government elections and other voting;

AND WHEREAS Council wishes to establish voting procedures and requirements under that authority;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Village of Chase, in open meeting assembled, **ENACTS** as follows:

1. **CITATION**

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as “Village of Chase Election Bylaw No. 797-2014.”

2. **REPEAL**

Village of Chase Local Government Election Bylaw No. 764-2011 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

3. **DEFINITIONS**

In this Bylaw the following terms have the following meanings:

“Acceptable mark” means a completed arrow which the **vote counting unit** is able to identify, which has been made by an elector in the space provided on the **ballot** opposite the name of any candidate or opposite either ‘yes’ or ‘no’ on any other voting question.

“Automated vote counting system” means a system that counts and records votes and processes and stores election or any voting results which comprises:

- (a) a number of **ballot scan vote counting units**, each of which rests on a two-compartment **ballot** box, one compartment of which is for:
 - (i) voted ballots; and
 - (ii) returned ballots which have been reinserted using the ballot override procedure;

and the other compartment is for the temporary storage of voted ballots during such time as the **vote counting unit** is not functioning; and

- (b) a number of **ballot storage compartments** into which voted **ballots** are deposited where a **vote counting unit** is not functioning or being used which will therefore be counted after the close of voting on general voting day.

“Ballot” means a single ballot card designed for use in an **automated vote counting system**, which shows:

- (a) the names of all of the candidates for each of the offices to be filled; and
- (b) all of the choices on all of the bylaws or other matters on which the opinion or assent of the electors is sought.

“Ballot return override procedure” means the use, by an election official, of a device on a **vote counting unit**, which causes the unit to accept a **returned ballot**.

“Election headquarters” means the Village of Chase Community Hall located at 547 Shuswap Avenue, Chase, BC.

“Memory pack” means a computer software cartridge which is inserted into the **vote counting unit** and into which is pre-programmed the names of all the candidates for each of the offices to be filled, and the alternatives of “yes” or “no” for each question on the **ballot**, and which records and retains information on the number of acceptable marks made for each.

“Storage ballot compartment” means a ballot box, for use in the election, where a **vote counting unit** is not being used at the time of voting.

“Results tape” means the printed record generated from a **vote counting unit** at the close of voting on general voting day, which shows the number of votes for each candidate for each of the offices to be filled, and the number of votes for and against each bylaw or other matter on which the opinion or assent of the electors is sought.

“Returned ballot” means a voted **ballot** which was inserted into the **vote counting unit**, but which was not accepted and which was returned to the elector with an explanation of the **ballot** marking error which caused the **ballot** not to be accepted.

“Secrecy sleeve” means an open-ended folder or envelope used to cover **ballots** to conceal the choices made by each elector.

“Vote counting unit” means the device into which voted **ballots** are inserted and which scans each **ballot** and records the number of votes for each candidate and for and against each question on which the opinion or assent of the electors is sought.

4. VOTING DAY REGISTRATION ONLY

For the purposes of all elections and assent voting under Parts 3 and 4 of the *Local Government Act*, a person may register as an elector only at the time of voting.

5. ADVANCE VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

In accordance with Section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act*, a second advance voting opportunity will not be held.

6. MAIL BALLOT VOTING

- (a) As authorized in the *Local Government Act*, voting [and registration] may be done by mail for those electors who meet the criteria in paragraph (b).
- (b) The following electors are permitted to vote by mail ballot [and to register to vote by mail]:
 - (i) those persons who have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at another voting opportunity;
 - (ii) persons who expect to be absent from the Village of Chase on general voting day and at the time of the advance voting opportunity;
- (c) The following procedures for voting and registration must apply:
 - (i) Sufficient record will be kept by the Chief Election Officer so that challenges of the elector's right to vote may be made in accordance with the intent of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (ii) a person exercising the right to vote by mail may be challenged in accordance with, and on the grounds specified in the *Local Government Act*, until 4:30 pm two days before general voting day.
- (d) The time limits in relation to voting by mail ballot will be determined by the Chief Election Officer.
- (e) As provided in the *Local Government Act*, a mail ballot must be received by the Chief Election Officer before the close of voting on general voting day in order to be counted for an election.

7. ORDER OF NAMES ON BALLOT

- (a) The order of names of candidates on the ballot will be determined by alphabetical order of the candidate's last name.

8. USE OF VOTING MACHINES

Council hereby provides for the use of an **automated vote counting system** for the conduct of elections and other voting on bylaws or other matters on which the opinion or assent of the electors is sought.

9. AUTOMATED VOTING PROCEDURES

- (a) The presiding election official for each voting place shall offer, and if requested, ensure that a demonstration of how to vote using a **vote counting** unit is provided to an elector, as soon as such elector enters the voting place and before a **ballot** is issued.
- (b) Upon completion of the voting demonstration, if any, the elector shall proceed as instructed, to the election official responsible for issuing **ballots**, who, upon fulfilment of the requirements of the *Local Government Act*, shall then provide a **ballot** to the elector, a **secrecy sleeve** if requested by the elector, the ballot marking instrument, and any further instructions the elector requests.
- (c) Upon receiving a **ballot** the elector shall immediately proceed to a voting compartment to vote.
- (d) The elector may vote only by making an **acceptable mark** on the **ballot**:
 - (i) beside the name of each candidate of choice, up to the maximum number of candidates to be elected for each of the offices to be filled; and
 - (ii) beside either 'yes' or 'no' in the case of each bylaw or other matter on which the assent or opinion of the electors is sought.
- (e) Once the elector has finished marking the **ballot**, the elector must either place the **ballot** into the **secrecy sleeve**, if one has been requested, or turn the ballot upside down and proceed to the **vote counting unit**, and under the supervision of the election official in attendance, insert the **ballot** directly from the **secrecy sleeve**, if applicable, into the **vote counting unit** without the **acceptable marks** on the **ballot** being exposed.
- (f) If, before inserting the **ballot** into the **vote counting unit**, an elector determines that a mistake has been made when marking the **ballot**, or if the **ballot** is returned by the **vote counting unit**, the elector may return to the voting compartment to correct the ballot or request a replacement **ballot** by informing the election official in attendance.
- (g) Upon being informed of the replacement **ballot** request, the presiding election official shall issue a replacement **ballot** to the elector and mark the **returned ballot** "spoiled" and shall retain all such spoiled **ballots** separately from all other **ballots**, and they shall not be counted.

- (h) If the elector declines the opportunity to obtain a replacement **ballot** and has not damaged the **ballot** to the extent that it cannot be reinserted into the **vote counting unit**, the election official shall, using the **ballot return override procedure**, reinsert the **returned ballot** into the **vote counting unit** to count any **acceptable marks** which have been made correctly.
- (i) Any **ballot** counted by the **vote counting unit** is valid and any acceptable marks contained on such **ballots** will be counted, subject to any determination made under a judicial recount.
- (j) Once the **ballot** has been inserted into the **vote counting unit** and the unit indicates that the **ballot** has been accepted, the elector must immediately leave the voting place.
- (k) During any period that a **vote counting unit** is not functioning, the election official supervising the unit shall insert all **ballots** delivered by the electors during this time, into the **ballot storage compartment**, on the understanding that if the **vote counting unit**:
 - (i) becomes operational, or
 - (ii) is replaced with another **vote counting unit**,the **ballots** in the **ballot storage compartment** shall, as soon as reasonably possible, be removed by an election official and, under the supervision of the presiding election official, shall be inserted into the **vote counting unit** to be counted.
- (l) Any **ballots** which were temporarily stored in the **ballot storage compartment** during a period when the **vote counting unit** was not functioning, which are returned by the **vote counting unit** when being counted shall, through the use of the **ballot return override procedure** and under the supervision of the presiding election official, be reinserted into the **vote counting unit** to ensure that any **acceptable marks** are counted.

12. ADVANCE VOTING OPPORTUNITY PROCEDURES

Vote counting units shall be used at the advance voting opportunity and voting procedures at the advance voting opportunities shall follow, as closely as possible, those described in Section 11 of this Bylaw.

- (a) At the close of voting at the advance voting opportunity, the presiding election official in each case shall ensure that:
 - (i) no additional **ballots** are inserted in the **vote counting unit**;

- (ii) the **ballot storage compartment** is locked to prevent insertion of any **ballots**;
 - (iii) the **results tapes** in the **vote counting unit** are not generated; and
 - (iv) the **memory pack** of the **vote counting unit** is secured.
- (b) At the close of voting at the advance voting opportunity, the presiding election official shall:
 - (i) ensure that any remaining **ballots** in the **ballot storage compartment** are inserted into the **vote counting unit**;
 - (ii) secure the **vote counting unit** so that no more **ballots** can be inserted; and
 - (iii) deliver the **vote counting unit** together with the **memory pack** and all other materials used in the election to the chief election officer at **election headquarters**.

13. PROCEDURES AFTER CLOSE OF VOTING ON GENERAL VOTING DAY

- (a) After the close of voting on general voting day, each presiding election official, shall undertake all of the following, generally in the order stipulated:
 - (i) ensure that any remaining **ballots** in the **ballot storage compartment** are inserted into the **vote counting unit**;
 - (ii) secure the **vote counting unit** so that no more **ballots** can be inserted;
 - (iii) generate three copies of the **results tape** from the **vote counting unit**;
 - (iv) account for the unused, spoiled and voted **ballots** and place them, packaged and sealed separately, together with the **memory pack** from the **vote counting unit** and one copy of the **results tape**, into the ballots and results box;
 - (v) complete the ballot account and place the duplicate copy in the ballots and results box;
 - (vi) seal the ballots and results box;
 - (vii) place the voting books, the original copy of the ballot account, one copy of the **results tape**, completed registration cards, keys and all completed forms into the election materials box.
- (b) At the close of voting on general voting day, the chief election officer shall direct the presiding election official for the advance voting opportunity and any special voting opportunities where **vote counting units** were used, to proceed in accordance with Section 13 (a) of this Bylaw.
- (c) All portable ballot boxes used in the election will be opened, under the direction of the chief election officer, at the close of voting on general voting day and all ballots shall be removed and inserted into a **vote counting unit** to be counted, after which the provision of Sections 13 (a) so far as applicable, shall apply.

- (d) Upon the fulfilment of the provisions of Section 13 (a) to 13 (d) inclusive, the chief election officer shall, to obtain the election results, direct an election official to place the results in a spreadsheet, which may be used for display on the front entrance to the Village office, indicating the total results.

14. **RECOUNT PROCEDURE**

- (a) If a recount is requested by a candidate after the preliminary election results are announced, it shall be conducted under the direction of the chief election officer using the **automated vote counting system** and generally in accordance with the following procedure:
 - (i) the **memory packs** of all **vote counting units** will be cleared;
 - (ii) a **vote counting unit** will be designated for each voting place;
 - (iii) all voted **ballots** will be removed from the sealed election materials boxes, except spoiled ballots, and reinserted in the appropriate **vote counting unit** under the supervision of the chief election officer;
 - (iv) any **ballots** returned by the **vote counting unit** during the recount process shall, through the use of the **ballot return override procedure**, be reinserted in the **vote counting unit** to ensure that any **acceptable marks** are counted; and
 - (v) to obtain election results, the chief or deputy chief election officer shall place the results of each voting place on spreadsheets so as to tally the total election results.

15. **RESOLUTION OF TIE VOTE AFTER JUDICIAL RECOUNT**

- (a) In the event of a tie vote after a judicial recount, the tie vote will be resolved by conducting a lot in accordance with the *Local Government Act*.

16. **GENERAL**

- (a) Any enactment referred to herein is a reference to an enactment of British Columbia and regulations thereto, as amended, revised, consolidated or replaced from time to time.

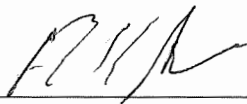
(b) If any part, section, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this Bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid portion shall be severed and the decision that it is invalid shall not affect the validity of the remainder which shall continue in full force and effect and be construed as if the Bylaw had been adopted without the invalid portion.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 8th DAY OF July, 2014

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 8th DAY OF July, 2014

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 8th DAY OF July, 2014

ADOPTED THIS 5th DAY OF August, 2014



Mayor R. Anderson



Deputy Corporate Officer, T. Pretty