

**Central Park Improvements – Upgrades
to the washrooms and construction of a
lacrosse box**

**City of Merritt Loan Authorization Bylaw
No. 2150, 2013**

Alternative Approval Process

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

Pursuant to Section 86 of the Community Charter, the City of Merritt is proposing to seek the assent of the electors of the City of Merritt by an alternative approval process. This alternative approval process applies to the entire City of Merritt. The question before the electors is whether they are opposed to Merritt City Council adopting Central Park Improvements – Upgrades to the washrooms and construction of a lacrosse box City of Merritt Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 2150, 2013 (a bylaw to pay for washroom upgrades and construct a lacrosse box at Central Park), without first obtaining the assent of the electors by voting.

Section 179 of the Community Charter requires approval from City Council and the Inspector of Municipalities for loan authorization bylaws funding projects capital in nature and section 180(1) of the *Community Charter* provides that such a bylaw may only be adopted with the approval of the electors, which approval may be obtained by way of an alternative approval process.

The number of eligible electors in the City of Merritt is estimated to be **5,000**. Council may proceed with adoption of the Bylaw No. 2150, 2013 unless, by the deadline set out below, at least 10% (**500**) of the estimated number of electors of the City of Merritt sign an alternative approval process elector response form indicating that Council may not proceed with adoption of the bylaw without first receiving the assent of the electors by voting.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- If you are **opposed** to the adoption of the bylaw without it first receiving assent of the electors by voting, you may sign an alternative approval process elector response form.
- If you are not opposed to the adoption of the bylaw, you need do nothing.
- Alternative approval process elector response forms will be accepted only if they are in the form established by the Council of the City of Merritt. The forms are available at the City Hall, 2185 Voght Street, Merritt or on the City's website www.merritt.ca.
- Alternative approval process elector response forms must be submitted to the Deputy Corporate Officer, City of Merritt, City Hall, 2185 Voght Street, Merritt, B.C. V1K 1B8. The deadline for submission of signed forms is on or before **4:30 p.m. Monday, November 25, 2013**.
- Accurate copies of the elector response form may be made and used for signing.
- A person may **not** sign an elector response form more than once.
- A person who is not an elector of the City of Merritt must not sign the elector response form.
- A person may not withdraw his or her name from an elector response form after **4:30 p.m. Monday, November 25, 2013**.

- The name and residential address of the person signing must be included in this elector response form, and if applicable, also the address of the property in relation to which the person is entitled to register as a non-resident property elector.
- For the purposes of signing the electoral response form, the term 'elector' means a person who, at the time of signing the form, meets all of the qualifications of the *Local Government Act* for registration as a resident elector or as a non-resident property elector of the City of Merritt as set out below:

Resident Electors:

- Must be eighteen years of age or older;
- Must be a Canadian citizen;
- Must have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before the day the response form is signed;
- Must have been a resident of the City of Merritt for at least 30 days immediately before the day the response form is signed; and
- Must not be disqualified by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or be otherwise disqualified by law.

Non - Resident Electors:

- Must NOT qualify as a Resident Elector of the City of Merritt;
- Must be eighteen years of age or older;
- Must be a Canadian citizen;
- Must have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before the day the response form is signed;
- Must have been the registered owner of real property in the City of Merritt for at least 30 days immediately before the day the response form is signed;
- Must not be disqualified by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or be otherwise disqualified by law;
- If there is more than one registered owner of the property, only one of those individuals may register as a non-resident property elector, and only with the written consent of the majority owners; and
- May only sign an alternative approval process elector response form once, no matter how many parcels the person may own within the City of Merritt.

Signed elector response forms must be delivered to the Deputy Corporate Officer's Office, City of Merritt, 2185 Voght Street, Merritt, B.C. V1K 1B8, by 4:30 p.m. Monday, November 25, 2013.

**NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL
PROCESS OPPORTUNITY REGARDING
“Central Park Improvements – Upgrades
to the washrooms and construction of a
lacrosse box City of Merritt Loan
Authorization Bylaw No. 2150, 2013”**

Elector response forms may be obtained at the Merritt City Hall, 2185 Voght Street, Merritt or on the City’s website www.merritt.ca. Completed forms must be dropped off at the City Hall or delivered to the Deputy Corporate Officer’s Office, City of Merritt, 2185 Voght Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, by 4:30 pm on Monday, November 25, 2013.

Pursuant to Section 86 of the *Community Charter*, the City of Merritt is proposing to seek the assent of the electors of the City of Merritt by an alternative approval process. This alternative approval process applies to the entire City of Merritt. The question before the electors is whether they are **opposed** to Merritt City Council adopting “Central Park Improvements – Upgrades to the washrooms and construction of a lacrosse box City of Merritt Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 2150, 2013” (a bylaw to pay for upgrades to the washrooms and construct a lacrosse box at Central Park), without first obtaining the assent of the electors by voting.

The proposed bylaw authorizes City Council to borrow for the stated purpose by way of debentures a sum not exceeding Six Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$698,000) repayable not later than twenty (20) years from the date of issue of such debentures.

The number of eligible electors in the City of Merritt is estimated to be **5,000**. Council may proceed with adoption of Bylaw No. 2150, 2013 unless, by the deadline set out below, at least 10% (**500**) of the estimated number of electors of the City of Merritt sign an alternative approval process elector response form indicating that Council may not proceed with adoption of the bylaw without first receiving the assent of the electors by voting.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- If you are **opposed** to the adoption of the bylaw without it first receiving assent of the electors by voting, you may sign an alternative approval process elector response form.
- If you are not opposed to the adoption of the bylaw, you need do nothing.
- Alternative approval process elector response forms will be accepted only if they are in the form established by the Council of the City of Merritt. The forms are available at the Merritt City Hall, 2185 Voght Street, Merritt or on the City’s website www.merritt.ca. Alternative approval process elector response forms must be submitted to the Deputy Corporate Officer, City of Merritt, 2185 Voght Street, Merritt, B.C. V1K 1B8. The deadline for submission of signed forms is on or before **4:30 p.m. Monday, November 25, 2013**.
- Accurate copies of the elector response form may be made and used for signing.
- A person may **not** sign an elector response form more than once.
- A person who is not an elector of the City of Merritt must not sign the elector response form.
- A person may not withdraw his or her name from an elector response form after **4:30 p.m. Monday, November 25, 2013**.
- The name and residential address of the person signing must be included in this elector response form, and if applicable, also the address of the property in relation to which the person is entitled to register as a non-resident property elector.
- To sign an alternative approval process elector response form you **MUST** meet the following criteria for either a Resident Elector OR a Non-resident (Property) Elector in the City of Merritt:

Resident Electors:

- Must be eighteen years of age or older;
- Must be a Canadian citizen;
- Must have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before the day the response form is signed;
- Must have been a resident of the City of Merritt for at least 30 days immediately before the day the response form is signed; and
- Must not be disqualified by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or be otherwise disqualified by law.

Non - Resident Electors:

- Must NOT qualify as a Resident Elector of the City of Merritt;
- Must be eighteen years of age or older;
- Must be a Canadian citizen;
- Must have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before the day the response form is signed;
- Must have been the registered owner of real property in the City of Merritt for at least 30 days immediately before the day the response form is signed;
- Must not be disqualified by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or be otherwise disqualified by law;
- If there is more than one registered owner of the property, only one of those individuals may register as a non-resident property elector and only with the written consent of the majority of the owners; and

NOTE: A person must not sign any alternative approval process elector response form more than once and may not withdraw his or her name from the alternative approval process elector response form after the deadline for submission of the elector response forms has passed.

The Bylaw and related material is available for public inspection at the Merritt City Hall, 2185 Voght Street, Merritt, B.C., during normal business hours being 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive (except Statutory Holidays) from October 8, 2013. The materials can also be found on the City's website www.merritt.ca.

The deadline for submitting a signed alternative approval process elector response form, opposing adoption of the bylaw without first receiving the assent of the electors by voting, for the "Central Park Improvements – Upgrades to the washrooms and construction of a lacrosse box City of Merritt Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 2150, 2013" is on or before **4:30 p.m. Monday, November 25, 2013.**

This is the first of two publications of this Notice.
Dated this day of , 2013.

This is the second of two publications of this Notice.
Dated this day of , 2013.

Carole Fraser
Deputy Corporate Officer, City of Merritt

City of Merritt
Elector Response Form
Alternative Approval Process
 (Community Charter, s. 86)

I, the undersigned, a qualified “**elector**” of the City of Merritt, **hereby petition the Council of the City of Merritt**, against the adoption of the proposed “Central Park Improvements – Upgrades to the washrooms and construction of a lacrosse box City of Merritt Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 2150, 2013”, which would authorize City Council to borrow for the stated purpose by way of debentures a sum not exceeding Six Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$698,000) repayable not later than twenty (20) years from the date of issue of such debentures.

- **An elector must not sign an elector response form more than once;**
- **Please read the important information on the reverse of this form.**

Please Note: Signed Elector Response Forms **must be delivered** to the Merritt City Hall by the deadline of **Monday, November 25, 2013 at 4:30 pm.**

Full Name (Please print)	Signature	Civic/Residential Address AND, if applicable, address of the property to which you are entitled to register as a NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ELECTOR

“Elector” means:

A resident elector who must:	A non-resident property elector who must:
1. be a Canadian citizen; 2. be an individual who is age 18 or over; 3. have been a resident of BC for at least the past 6 months; 4. have been a City of Merritt resident for at least the last 30 days; 5. not be disqualified by the Local Government Act of any other enactment from voting in an election of otherwise disqualified by law.	1. not be entitled to register as a resident elector; 2. be a Canadian citizen; 3. be an individual who is age 18 or over; 4. have been a resident of BC for at least the past 6 months; 5. have been a registered owner of property within the City of Merritt for at least 30 days; 6. not be disqualified by the Local Government Act of any other enactment from voting in an election of otherwise

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 2150, 2013 gives Council the authority to borrow \$698,000 to finance the upgrades to the washrooms and construction of the lacrosse box at Central Park with a debenture to be repaid over a period of twenty years.

The City intends to borrow \$698,000 as part of the financing of the upgrades to the washrooms and construction of a new lacrosse box at Central Park.

Please note that only original signatures are acceptable in determining the sufficiency of this petition. Fax copies will not be accepted. This form can be photocopied and used for individual signatures, or one form can be used for multiple signatures, but in no case will photocopied signatures be accepted.

Signed elector response forms must be delivered to the Merritt City Hall, 2185 Voght Street, Merritt, BC by **4:30 p.m. Monday, November 25, 2013**.

If you have any questions on the alternative approval process or require more information on the park closure bylaw, please call any of the following City staff at (250) 378-4224:

Ken Ostraat – Financial Services Manager
Carole Fraser – Deputy Corporate Officer
Larry Plotnikoff – Acting Chief Administrative Officer