

CITY OF PITT MEADOWS
ELECTION AND ASSENT VOTING AMENDMENT BYLAW
Bylaw No. 2924, 2022

A bylaw to amend a portion of Election & Assent Voting Bylaw 2922, 2022

The Council of the City of Pitt Meadows enacts as follows:

1. Part 11 [Mail Ballot Voting] of the Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 2922, 2022 is repealed and replaced with the following:

11. Mail Ballot Voting

- 11.1 Voting by mail ballot and elector registration by mail in conjunction with mail ballot voting are hereby authorized.
- 11.2 The Chief Election Officer is authorized to establish time limits associated with mail ballot voting.
- 11.3 An elector who wishes to vote by mail (the “applicant”) must apply in writing within the timeframe, and using the form, established by the Chief Election Officer.
- 11.4 The applicant will provide one piece of identification proving their identity and place of residence.
- 11.5 If, upon receiving a request for a mail ballot, the Chief Election Officer determines that another person has voted or has already been issued a mail ballot in the elector’s name, the Chief Election Officer will comply with section 127 of the *Local Government Act*.
- 11.6 Upon the applicant making a request for a mail ballot, the Chief Election Officer will, commencing as soon as practical after the printed ballots are available, make available to the *applicant*, a mail ballot package in accordance with section 110 of the *Local Government Act*.
- 11.7 As per the applicant’s direction, the Chief Election Officer may distribute the mail ballot package in any of the following ways:
 - (a) sending the mail ballot package by Canada Post;
 - (b) sending the mail ballot package by courier or other delivery at the expense of the applicant; or
 - (c) having the mail ballot package picked up by the applicant at a designated time and location.

- 11.8 The mail ballot applicant may authorize another person ("authorized person"), on the applicant's behalf, to pick up a mail ballot package.
- 11.9 The authorized person, when picking up a mail ballot package, will:
- (a) show one piece of identification proving their identity, and
 - (b) sign a form established by the Chief Election Officer confirming their name and address and declaring that they will not engage in voter fraud.
- 11.10 The Chief Election Officer will record in the Mail Ballot Register and, upon request, make available for inspection:
- (i) the names and addresses of the electors to whom the mail ballot packages were issued; and
 - (ii) any other information that the Chief Election Officer deems necessary to maintain the Mail Ballot Register.
- 11.11 To vote by mail ballot, the elector will mark the ballot in accordance with the instructions contained in the mail ballot package and return the marked ballot to the Chief Election Officer before the close of voting on general voting day.
- 11.12 The Chief Election Officer will, upon receipt of the return envelope and its contents:
- (a) record the date of receipt in the Mail Ballot Register as well as any other information deemed pertinent by the Chief Election Officer; and
 - (b) open the return envelope.
- 11.13 When the Chief Election Officer examines the certification envelope, the Chief Election Officer will:
- (a) confirm the identity of the elector as an applicant on the Mail Ballot Register;
 - (b) determine the fulfilment of the requirements in section 70 of the *Local Government Act* and the completeness of any application to register, if required; and
 - (c) determine the completeness of the certification envelope.
- 11.14 If the Chief Election Officer is satisfied that the elector has met the requirements in section 11.13, the Chief Election Officer will:

- (a) mark the certification envelope as “accepted”, and
- (b) place the accepted certification envelope with the other certification envelopes.

11.15 If the Chief Election Officer determines that:

- (a) they are not satisfied as to the identity or eligibility of the elector; or
- (b) the certification envelope is incomplete; or
- (c) the elector has not completed their registration as an elector in accordance with the *Local Government Act*; or
- (d) the return envelope is received by the Chief Election Officer after the close of voting on general voting day,

the Chief Election Officer will mark the certification envelope as “rejected”, indicate the reason for the rejection, set aside the rejected certification envelope unopened, and ensure the mail ballot therein is not counted in the election.

11.16 The Chief Election Officer will retain in their custody all accepted and rejected certification envelopes until the ballots are processed.

11.17 A person who qualifies under section 126 of the *Local Government Act* may challenge the right of a person to vote by mail ballot on the grounds set out in section 126 of the *Local Government Act*, up until 4:30 pm two days before general voting day.

11.18 After 4:30pm two days before general voting day, and at the specific dates and times established by the Chief Election Officer, and in the presence of at least one other person, including any candidate representatives, the Chief Election Officer will:

- (a) deal with any challenges to the electors in regards to the accepted certification envelopes;
- (b) open the accepted certification envelopes;
- (c) remove the secrecy envelopes containing the ballots;
- (d) open the secrecy envelopes; and
- (e) deposit the ballots into the designated ballot box through a vote tabulator.

- 11.19 Any ballots returned by the vote tabulator while being processed will, through the use of the ballot return override procedure, be reinserted in the vote tabulator to ensure that any acceptable marks are counted.
- 11.20 If the mail ballots are processed in batches and on different days, the Chief Election Officer will ensure at the end of each session that:
- (a) no additional ballots are inserted in the vote tabulator;
 - (b) the ballot box is sealed to prevent insertion of any ballots;
 - (c) the results tapes in the vote tabulator are not generated; and
 - (d) the memory pack of the vote tabulator is secured.
- 11.21 At the close of voting on general voting day, the provisions of Part 16 [Procedures after Close of Voting on General Voting Day – Automated Voting], as far as applicable, will apply.
- 11.22 The Chief Election Officer may delegate to other election officials the Chief Election Officer's duties and powers related to mail ballot voting, subject to any restrictions or conditions specified by the Chief Election Officer.

READ a FIRST, SECOND and THIRD time on [DATE].

ADOPTED on [DATE].

Bill Dingwall
Mayor

Kate Barchard
Corporate Officer