

A referendum on municipal status for Sun Peaks

Sun Peaks
Governance
January 2010

Sun Peaks Referendum Committee

The referendum on January 30th, 2010

There will be a referendum on January 30, 2010 in which Sun Peaks electors will decide whether or not their community will become a municipality. This newsletter explains some of the changes municipal status could mean. You can learn more on our website (www.SunPeaksGovernance.com).

We're holding public information meetings in January, so please plan on attending so you can get the answers you need before you vote. This newsletter and the meetings are being organized by the Sun Peaks Referendum Committee (see below), whose members express no opinion for or against municipal status.

Sun Peaks Referendum Committee

Member	Affiliations
Darcy Alexander	Owner; VP of Sun Peaks Resort Corporation
Colleen Hannigan	Owner; resident
Al Raine	Owner; resident

Who can vote in the referendum?

See the last page for details about voting, including the mail-in balloting process. If you need more information, please contact the Chief Election Officer, Lyle Huntley, at (250) 377-8673 or toll free at (877) 377-8673.

Authority and responsibilities

Creating a new municipality would consolidate policy decisions and service responsibilities – and service obligations too – into a single new municipal body.

These responsibilities and obligations are now spread over multiple bodies. The main ones are the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), the Sun Peaks Resort Improvement District, and the Province.

Municipalities have broader authority than regional districts and improvement districts.

Must shift

Could shift

Function	Currently	As a munic.
Administration	SPRID, TNRD, Province	Municipality
Fire dep't	SPRID	Municipality
Bylaw enforcement	TNRD	Municipality
Bldg permits	TNRD	Municipality
Roads + drainage	Province (contractor)	Municipality
Street lights	SPRID	Municipality
Zoning + develop.	TNRD	Municipality*
Subdivision approval	Province	Municipality
Non-ski rec'n facilities (rec'n centre, tennis, eg)	Resort Corp'n + Tourism Sun Peaks	Uncertain

SPRID = Sun Peaks Resort Improvement District

TNRD = Thompson-Nicola Regional District

* Zoning + community plan bylaws would need provincial approval

They are also more autonomous and need fewer approvals from outside bodies. The main decision makers – municipal council members – are accountable to voters within the municipality and not to voters outside the community.

In addition to expanded local authority, municipal status also means more service obligations. The municipal council must set budgets and resources for the following.

- General administration (now provided mainly by the Improvement District, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District, and the Province);
- Fire department (now an SPRID service);
- Building permits and inspection (done by TNRD now);
- Roads (a provincial responsibility now);
- Zoning (now a TNRD function);
- Subdivision approval (now a provincial function);
- Bylaw enforcement (now provided by the TNRD in a limited capacity).

Some services not affected

Sun Peaks would still participate in TNRD area-wide functions like 911 and solid waste management, and would have its own seat on the TNRD Board, filled by a member of municipal council. Policing would remain a provincial responsibility. Private utility providers like water, sewer, and TV cable would not be affected.

What about roads?

The 11.7 km of public roads would become a municipal responsibility, though for the first five years the Province would subsidize the costs. The tax estimates shown here include the full road costs after this phase-in period.

Are councillors paid?

Yes – as are the TNRD directors now. We estimate the mayor would likely get \$10-\$15,000 and the four other councillors \$6-\$9,000 each. This is built into the tax impacts.

See the schedule of public information meetings on page 3 and plan to attend!
Visit our website to learn more: www.SunPeaksGovernance.com

Provincial grants

Several types of provincial assistance would be available to the municipality.

- An ongoing grant estimated at \$226,000 each year;
- 5-Year transitional help worth about \$700,000;
- New Deal gas tax funding, estimated at \$65,000/yr, for environmental-based programs (like transit);
- A share of hotel tax revenues (\$300-\$400,000/yr) for tourism-based initiatives and programs;
- On-going infrastructure grants (these are not assured so haven't been assumed in the budget estimates).

The municipal budget

Setting budget levels and priorities would be up to the municipal council. Based on existing service budgets and spending in other municipalities in 2009, we've developed a fully-staffed municipal budget projection for a normal year (that is, after all cost phase-ins and grants) that allows not only for the full array of required municipal operations but also provides for both short-term and long-term capital funding for municipal infrastructure.

What would happen to taxes?

This would be up to the municipal council. If a fully-staffed municipality were operating today, it is projected that for an average residential property at Sun Peaks, taxes could be \$79 higher than the taxes under the current model (see chart at right). This is a 3% rise over the actual 2009 taxes.

Taxes on business, which is a much smaller part of the community's tax base, could see the same proportionate rise (3%).

Other points worth noting:

- Taxes vary with home values
- Police, school, TNRD, and hospital taxes would not be materially affected by municipal status.
- Water, sewer, and other private utility charges would not be affected

Are there risks?

Yes. Municipal taxes could be higher than projected due to higher spending levels, a lower annual grant, or new

downloaded costs. Some of these risks apply under the current system too, though not necessarily to the same extent as for municipal status.

The full report

We have a lot more information than we can show here. Please see the "2009 Technical Report Update" at www.SunPeaksGovernance.com for a full description of how the current system works and what municipal status could mean. You can also see the full report at the Improvement District office (#3 - 1130 Alpine Road; please call 250-819-0035 for details).

Why consider municipal status?

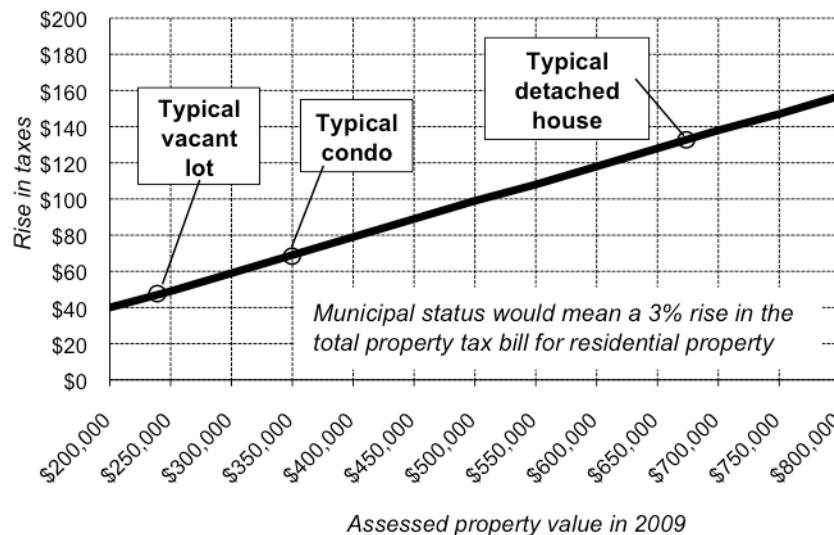
Becoming a municipality would provide the community with various opportunities, including more autonomy, increased local accountability of decision-makers, improved local services like bylaw enforcement and building inspection, increased flexibility to set service priorities based on Sun Peaks needs, and new funding for tourism-based initiatives, for environmental sustainability, and for general community purposes.

Why not be a municipality?

While a municipality *can* do more, it also has more obligations and *must* do more. The municipality would have to provide an array of local services, and finance them too. Roads, for example, would become a local responsibility (they are currently a provincial service).

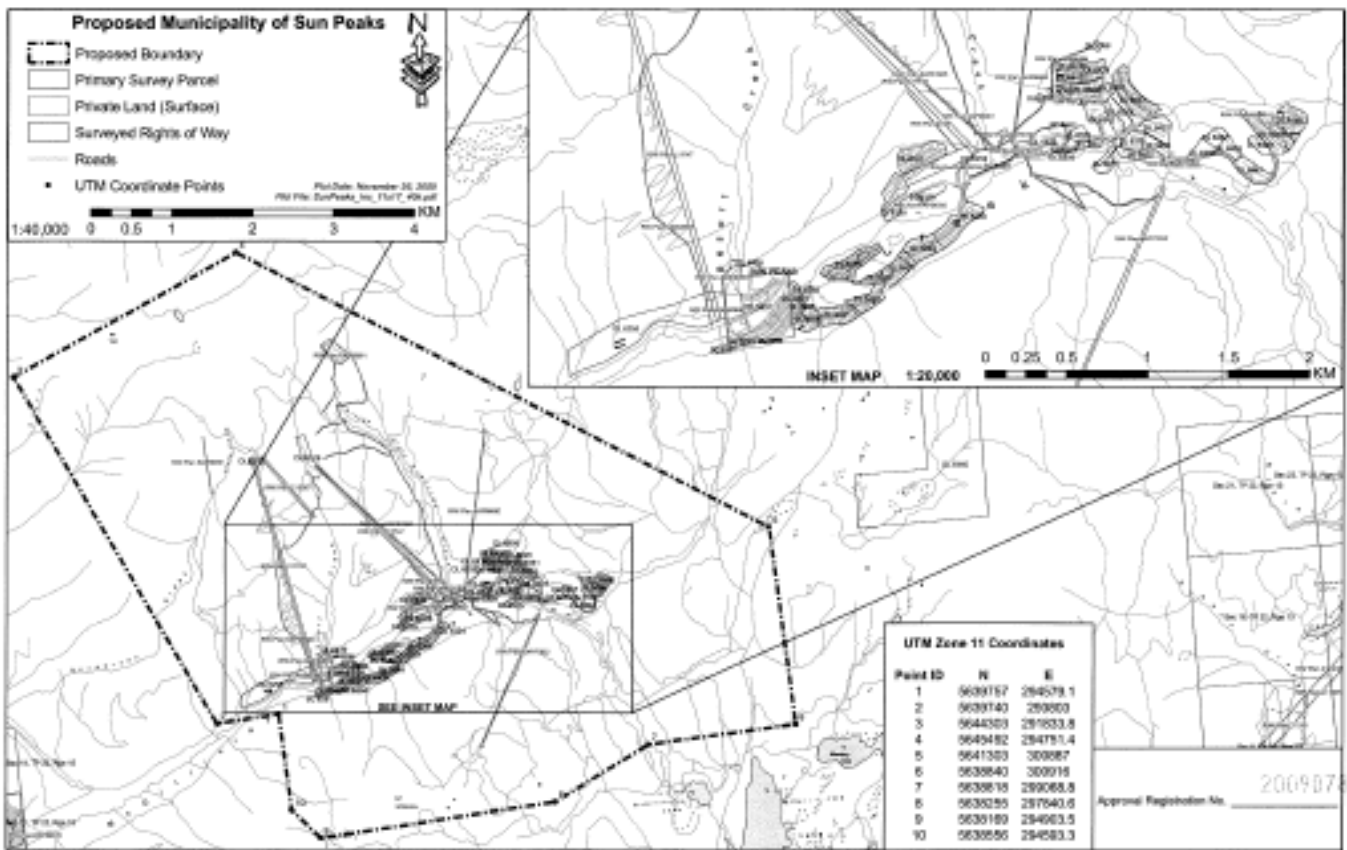
Some FAQs

1. What would the municipal boundary be?
It would follow the existing Controlled Recreation Area boundary (see map on next page). The CRA includes the Improvement District, the lifts, and the ski runs.
2. Who would run the municipality?
An elected body of 5 (a mayor and four councillors). One councillor could be a provincial appointee to help ensure harmony between the Resort Corp's development rights and local regulations.
3. What would it be called?
The Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality.



See the schedule of public information meetings on page 3 and plan to attend!

Visit our website to learn more: www.SunPeaksGovernance.com



4. Who gets to vote in municipal elections?
Municipal elections follow the same voter eligibility rules as for this referendum. Please see the last page for more information on eligibility.

Ways to vote in the referendum (see page 4)

- In an advance poll on Wednesday, January 20th
- In an advance poll on Saturday, January 23rd
- In an advance poll on Wednesday, January 27th
- On general voting day: Saturday, January 30th
- By mail-in ballot

Voting details will be part of our next newsletter
 Contact the Chief Election Officer, Lyle Huntley, for more information at (250) 377-8673 or toll free (877) 377-8673

example, bylaw enforcement efforts and road maintenance standards) would be up to the municipality. Our tax estimates assume more would be spent on these functions than now, but the spending priorities would be up to municipal council. Under the current model, most service levels are up to more remote or dispersed bodies like the Province and the TNRD.

5. When would all this happen?
If the referendum passes, the Province could create the municipality by the end of June 2010, with municipal elections prior to that.

8. What happens if the referendum fails?
The existing governance model will continue if the referendum fails. Under provincial law, a new municipality can't be created without an affirmative referendum.

6. As a municipality, would we still be in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District?
Yes. We would continue to participate in the TNRD's wide-area services like 911, landfill management, and regional library, but not local services like building permits, bylaw enforcement, and land use planning.

Learn more at the public information meetings!

Date	Time	Location
Sat., Jan. 9 th	3-5 PM	Delta Sun Peaks Resort
Tues., Jan 12 th	7-9 PM	Holiday Inn Express Metrotown* (Burnaby)
Fri., Jan. 22 rd	7-9 PM	Delta Sun Peaks Resort

4405 Central Blvd, at Metrotown in Burnaby (near Skytrain)

7. What would happen to our service levels?
Decisions about Sun Peaks service levels (for

Want to contact us or learn more?

- Email us from the website directly (click "Contact us")
- Email address: askus@SunPeaksGovernance.com
- Mail to: SPRC, c/o Sun Peaks Resort Improvement District, PO Box 1002, Sun Peaks, BC V0E 5N0

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Who can vote in the Sun Peaks referendum

You can qualify to vote in one of two ways: as a *resident elector* or as a *property elector*.

A resident elector	A property elector (ie, a non-resident)
<p>To qualify as a resident elector (basically, people whose principal residence is in Sun Peaks), you must:</p> <p>Be a Canadian citizen. Be age 18 or older on General Voting Day. Have been a resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately before voting. Have been a resident of the subject area (see map) for at least 30 days before voting.</p> <p>Not be disqualified by the Local Government Act or any other enactment from voting in an election or be otherwise disqualified by law.</p>	<p>To qualify as a property elector (basically, owners of property in the proposed municipal area whose principal residence is not in Sun Peaks), you must:</p> <p>Be a Canadian citizen. Be age 18 or older on General Voting Day. Have been a resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately before voting. Have been a registered owner of real property in the subject area (see map) for at least 30 days before voting.</p> <p>Not be disqualified by the Local Government Act or any other enactment from voting in an election or be otherwise disqualified by law. Not be entitled to register as a resident elector of the subject area (see map).</p>

- No one can vote twice, and businesses, organizations and corporations do not get a vote.
- There can be only one *property elector* in the case of a property with multiple owners (though another owner or owners might qualify as resident electors because they live there).
- Renters can qualify as *resident electors*.
- You need not register before voting day; you can do everything when you come to vote.
- Under the TNRD bylaw for this referendum, mail-in balloting will be allowed.

What do I need to bring when I come to vote?

All electors (Resident and Non-Resident) will be required to produce two documents providing evidence of their identity and place of residency. Any two of the following will be acceptable:

- A BC driver's license
- A BC Care Card or Gold Care Card
- A utility bill
- An Owner's Certificate of Insurance and Vehicle License issued by ICBC
- A Social Insurance Card
- A Citizenship Card issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- A real property tax notice

In addition, *non-resident electors* will also be required to provide evidence of ownership in the real property and written consent of the other property owners (if any) that they are entitled to register for the jointly owned property. *The required forms may be obtained by contacting the Chief Election Officer.* Evidence of ownership shall be any one of the following: state of title certificate, registered agreement for sale, property tax notice (last one), property assessment notice (last one)

Got questions about voting in the referendum?

Please contact the Chief Election Officer, Lyle Huntley, or the Deputy Election Officer, Liz Cornwell, at (250) 377-8673 or toll-free in BC at 1-877-377-8673. You can also ask a question by email to sunpeaksceo@tnrd.bc.ca

Where and when to vote

Advance poll	Wed., Jan. 20, 2010	8 AM–8 PM	Delta Sun Peaks Resort
Advance poll	Sat., Jan. 23, 2010	8 AM–8 PM	Delta Sun Peaks Resort
Advance poll	Wed., Jan. 27, 2010	8 AM–8 PM	TNRD office in Kamloops (#300 – 465 Victoria St.)
General Voting day	Sat., Jan. 30, 2010	8 AM–8 PM	Delta Sun Peaks Resort
Mail-in ballot	Please contact the Chief Election Officer for mail-in ballot information		