

Backgrounder:

About Alternative Approval Processes (AAPs)

An Alternative Approval Process (AAP) is a legislated process via the Community Charter that gives the District an alternate option to seek approval of the District's electors other than through a referendum (or assent vote). It is a tool often used by local governments to seek community approval for debt-financing for a capital project. It is an alternative process to a referendum and requires electors to formally submit their opposition via a signed form. If electors are in support, they do not have to do anything.

An AAP reduces the costs, time and resources associated with a referendum.

If the total opposition received is at least 10% of the estimated number of electors, Council is not permitted to proceed with the current bylaw unless it is approved by the electorate through an assent vote (referendum) within 80 days. Alternatively, a new bylaw could be developed and could undergo either a new AAP or referendum. If the total number of valid AAP responses received is below 10%, Council is permitted to proceed with the adoption of the bylaw(s).

The District runs AAPs annually to engage electors in approving borrowing related costs.

Borrowing is a valuable and effective financial tool that is taken on annually to spread the cost of large capital projects over the life of a project, allowing a project to be paid for by current and future taxpayers. Borrowing is used in addition to grants, cash from reserves, Development Cost Charges and property taxes.

Making informed decisions

Citizens are urged to obtain factual information directly from the District about the implications of supporting or opposing a bylaw. The District works to provide information through Squamish.ca, social media platforms, a weekly e-mail newsletter and weekly advertisements in the Squamish Chief. Staff are also available via telephone or email. The Municipal Hall reception phone number is 604-815-5217.

Additional resources

Find out more information on our website: [Squamish.ca/aap](https://www.squamish.ca/aap)

[View a Q&A](#) about the recent Alternative Approval Process for the Public Works loan authorization bylaw.