



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

To: Regional Board
From: Corporate Officer / Deputy CAO
Date: May 15, 2025

Subject: Okanagan Regional Library – Determination of Alternative Approval Results-Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1558

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority (LGA s. 208)*
All Directors – Weighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority (LGA s.210)

Purpose:

1. To receive the results of the Alternative Approval Process and,
2. To consider adoption of Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1558 on behalf of the Okanagan Regional Library.

Executive Summary:

At the October 24, 2024 Regular Board meeting, the Regional Board gave first, second and third reading to Bylaw No. 1558 (the “Bylaw”). The Bylaw enables the Okanagan Regional Library (ORL) to borrow funds for the purpose of constructing and renovating library building services owned and operated by the Okanagan Regional Library.

At the March 20, 2025 Regular Board meeting, staff advised the Regional Board that statutory approval of the Bylaw was received from the Inspector of Municipalities on November 29, 2024; therefore, the Regional Board directed staff to seek approval of eligible electors within the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) service area through an Alternative Approval Process (AAP).

The established deadline for elector approval through the AAP as determined by the Regional Board was May 1, 2025. The number of electoral responses opposed to the adoption of Bylaw No. 1558 was fourteen (14), which did not meet the required 10% threshold of the estimated number of eligible electors (20,835), thereby allowing the Bylaw to be considered for adoption.

Attached to this Report is the Determination of Results of the Alternative Approval Process document which verifies assent of the electors has been obtained and as such the Bylaw is included on the agenda for Board adoption consideration.

Recommendation #1: *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority (LGA s.208)*

THAT the Regional Board receives the Determination of Results from the Alternative Approval Process, Regional District of Central Okanagan, Okanagan Regional Library Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1558, 2024.

Recommendation #2: *All Directors – Weighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority (LGA s.210)*

THAT Regional District of Central Okanagan, Okanagan Regional Library Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1558, 2024 be adopted.

Respectfully submitted by: Sandi Horning, Deputy Corporate Officer

Report Approved by: Corie Griffiths, Corporate Officer / Deputy CAO

Approved for Agenda: Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Background:

At the Regular Board Meeting held October 24, 2024, the Regional Board was provided an overview of the new library branch in the City of West Kelowna along with a request for assistance from the RDCO to access Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) capital funding. Library Districts are not permitted to borrow directly from the MFA.

The Regional Board was provided information regarding the authority and practice of Regional Districts to enter into agreements with Library Districts to arrange financing for capital projects on their behalf through the MFA. The Okanagan Regional Library (ORL) has requested to borrow up to \$2.5 million dollars for the new West Kelowna branch and have agreed to pay all debt and costs associated with this process with no financial impact to the RDCO.

Approval of the electors under the *Local Government Act* or the *Community Charter* in relation to a proposed bylaw, agreement or other matter may be obtained directly by assent voting (elector assent) or by conducting an AAP. At the March 20, 2025, Regional Board meeting, the Regional Board directed staff to undertake an Alternative Approval Process for the Okanagan Regional Library Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1558 and set the necessary deadline and response forms for the Alternative Approval Process, which required 10% (20,835) of the estimated number of eligible electors to submit an elector response from against in order to defeat the Bylaw.

Public Notice in relation to the Alternative Approval Process webpage was provided by posting on www.rdco.com and on www.rdco.com/publicnotices on March 24, 2025 and by digitally advertising on social media from March 24, 2025 to May 1, 2025. In addition, advertisements were placed in local newspapers across the region including: Vernon Morningstar (April 17), Lake Country Calendar (April 17), Kelowna Capital News (April 17), Peachland Post (April 17) and West K News (April 17).

At the May 1, 2025, AAP deadline, the number of elector response forms received did not meet the required 10% as provided in the Determination of Results (Attachment 1). Approval of the electors has therefore been obtained, and the Regional Board is able to proceed with adoption consideration of Regional District of Central Okanagan, Okanagan Regional Library Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1558, 2024.

Considerations:

- Legal/Statutory Authority:

Local Government Act

Part 11, Division 6 – Expenditures and Liabilities

Community Charter

Part 4, Division 2, s.86(3) – Alternative Approval Process

Part 6, Division 3, s.179(1) – Loan Authorization bylaws for long term borrowing

Considerations not applicable:

- Financial
 - Alternate Recommendation
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Attachment(s):

1. Determination of Results of an Alternative Approval Process
2. RDCO, Okanagan Regional Library Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1558, 2024