



# DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE Community Update

November 2014 SPECIAL EDITION: 2014 General Local Election

## District of Lantzville Electors *VOTE* on November 5, 12, or 15, 2014

To elect, for a four-year term:

- one **Mayor**,
- six **Councillors**, AND, if you live in School District #68,
- nine **School Trustees**.

(The School District #69 Trustee was elected by acclamation.)

Electors will also be asked to answer YES or NO to the Assent Voting question:

“Are you in favour of the District of Lantzville Council adopting “Council Size Reduction Bylaw No. 110, 2014” that would reduce the size of Council from a mayor and six (6) councillors to a mayor and four (4) councillors effective for the 2018 General Local Election?”

### ADVANCE VOTING DAYS

Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am - 8:00 pm at the District Office, 2nd Floor, 7192 Lantzville Road  
Advance Voting is open to all electors and ballots are counted on Nov. 15th

### GENERAL VOTING DAY

Saturday, November 15, 2014

8:00 am - 8:00 pm at Costin Hall, 7232 Lantzville Road

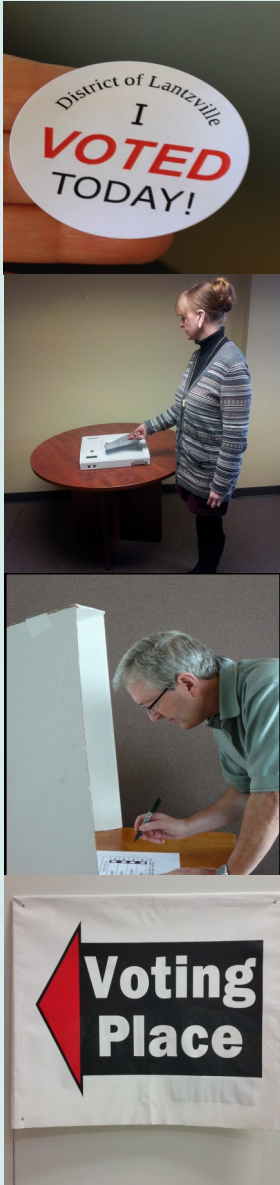
## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY...VOTE!

This November, in every municipality across BC, electors have an opportunity to make a difference in their community! Local government is responsible for a wide range of services that affect you in your everyday life: from land use and community planning, to the maintenance of roads, parks, and trails, to recreation, garbage pick-up and bylaw enforcement, and the provision of potable water. You have the opportunity to impact these everyday issues when you vote to elect your 2014–2018 Council.

Qualified *Resident* and *Non-Resident Property Electors* can choose from several voting opportunities for the 2014 General Local Election, including Advance Voting, voting on General Voting Day or Vote by Mail if you cannot attend.

On General Voting Day, registered electors can enter the Voting Place and go directly to the table that displays the first letter of your last name, to be issued your ballot. It only takes a short time to vote and make a difference in your community. Check to see if your neighbour needs a ride to the Voting Place. Let’s continue our community’s history of record-breaking voter turnout!

**Be sure to VOTE November 5, 12 or 15, 2014!**



DISTRICT OF  
LANTZVILLE

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# Your VOTE Counts— on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>

## Do you need assistance to vote?

**Accessible**— Both Voting Places (District Office, 2nd Floor, on November 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>) and (Costin Hall on November 15<sup>th</sup>) are wheelchair accessible.

**Curbside voting**— If you can make it to the Voting Place but have difficulty getting into or out of your car:

- call the Deputy Chief Election Officer at 250.619.6006; OR
- have someone come into the Voting Place; and ask for “curbside assistance”.

Election Officials will: bring a ballot to you in your vehicle in the parking lot, wait while you mark the ballot, and deposit the ballot into the vote counting unit in the Voting Place, on your behalf.

**Marking your ballot**— You can ask an election official, friend or relative to help you if you are unable to mark your own ballot. The *Local Government Act* requires the person assisting an elector to first sign a solemn declaration with the Chief Election Officer to

commit to: preserve the secrecy of the ballot, mark the ballot as instructed by the elector and not attempt to influence the elector as to how the elector should vote.

**Translation**— Bring someone to assist you if you need a translator. The translator will also need to sign a solemn declaration that they are able to make the translation and will do so to the best of their ability. **NOTE:** Candidates, their representatives and financial agents must not assist electors.

## Who is qualified to vote?

You can vote in the District of Lantzville General Local Election as a *Resident Elector* if you are:

- a Canadian citizen (landed immigrants and corporations are not eligible); AND
- 18 years of age or older on General Voting Day; AND
- a resident of BC for at least six months immediately before voting; AND
- a resident in the District of Lantzville for at least 30 days before voting; AND
- not disqualified by law from voting.

## Own property in Lantzville but do not live here?

If you do not live in Lantzville, but own property here, you can vote as a *Non-Resident Property Elector (NRPE)* if you:

- are eligible to vote as a *Resident Elector* in another municipality or regional district in BC and not in Lantzville; AND
- own property in the District of Lantzville for at least 30 days immediately before you register.

You may only register as a *NRPE* in relation to one piece of property. If you own property with a corporation, none of the property owners are eligible to vote. If more than one person owns the property, only one of the owners may register and that person must have the written consent of the majority of the owners. Call the District Office for *NRPE* Voter Registration and Consent Forms (250.390.4006).

**Is identification required?** ID is not required if your name is on the List of Registered Electors. If you are not on the list, qualified electors may register when voting. Bring at least two documents that prove who you are and where you live - one must have your signature. Acceptable ID includes: BC driver's licence or identification card, social insurance card, citizenship card, BC Care/Gold Care Card, bank credit card, utility bill, and property tax notice. *Non-Resident Property Electors* must also bring proof of ownership, and, if more than one property owner, a signed Consent Form. Call the District Office for a complete list of acceptable ID.

## Vote by Mail!

Eligible electors may vote by mail if they:

- have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at another voting opportunity; OR
- expect to be absent from the District of Lantzville on General Voting Day and at the times of all advance voting opportunities.

Electors who are eligible and wish to vote by mail should contact the Chief Election Officer **NOW** to obtain an application to receive a ballot package. On the form you will indicate if you or someone else will be picking up your mail ballot package at the District Office or if you want the package mailed to your residence or another address. Ballot packages are available now. It is your obligation to ensure that your mail ballot is received by the Chief Election Officer **before** the close of voting at 8:00 pm on Saturday, November 15, 2014.

# ...*VOTE to ELECT* your 2014 - 2018 Council!

## How do you mark the ballot?

After signing the voting book and receiving your ballot, immediately proceed to a voting booth to vote. Listed on the ballot will be the candidates for Mayor, Councillor and School Trustee, as well as the Assent Voting question. Candidate names are listed in alphabetical order by the last name.

The District uses an automated vote counting system. Votes marked on the ballot are 'read' by

an optical scanning device in the vote counting unit.

Do NOT mark your ballot with a (√) or (X). Instead, mark the ballot by completely filling in the oval next to the candidates of your choice, using only the special marking pen provided.

Under voting (voting for fewer candidates than seats available) or not voting at all in some races, is legal and votes will be counted.

If you inadvertently spoil your ballot, request a new ballot.

After marking your ballot, place it in a secrecy folder or hold it so it is not visible, and proceed to the vote counting unit. Place your ballot face down on the vote counting unit and wait to confirm the ballot was accepted. Simple!



## Voting rules and regulations!

The General Local Election and Assent Voting is regulated by the *Community Charter*, the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* and the *District of Lantzville Elections and Other Voting Opportunities Bylaw No. 90, 2011*. Some key rules to follow on Voting Days:

- No campaigning within 100 metres of the Voting Place, including no displaying signs, ads, bumper stickers, posters, buttons or flyers or other material that advocates for or against a candidate
- No influencing voters within 100 metres of the Voting Place
- Only eligible electors are permitted in the Voting Place—and they must leave immediately after voting
- Voting is by a secret ballot—no talking about how you or someone else votes, no displaying your ballot and only one person per voting booth
- No vote buying or intimidation
- No signing false statements
- No TV, radio or newspaper campaign ads on General Voting Day, Saturday, November 15, 2014.

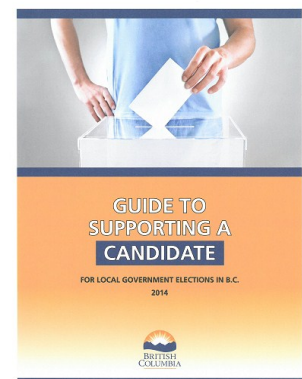
Election offences can result in a \$10,000 fine and up to two years in prison. Contact the local RCMP if you believe that someone has committed an election offence.

Elections BC now administers, investigates and enforces the campaign financing disclosure and election advertising rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

The rules are different than the rules for Provincial and Federal elections. To provide information, including examples, of how the *Local Government Act* and the new *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* apply, the Province and Elections BC have created several guides for reference, including:

- Candidate's Guide to Local Government Elections in BC
- Elector Organization Guide to Local Government Elections in BC
- Guide to Supporting a Candidate for Local Elections in BC;
- Local Elections in BC: What Every Candidate Needs to Know
- Voter's Guide to Local Elections in BC
- Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in BC

View guides on the websites of the Province, Elections BC, or the District of Lantzville, or at the District Office.





## Assent Voting – What are the implications of decreasing from 6 to 4 Councillors in 2018?

Council can change the size of Council by adopting a bylaw at least six months before the October 2018 Election. If the bylaw is adopted, there will be two less seats on Council to be filled in the 2018 election. The Provincial law requires Council, before considering adoption of such a bylaw, to obtain Elector Assent. If 51% or more of voters answer YES, Council may consider adoption of the “District of Lantzville Council Size Reduction Bylaw No. 110, 2014”, but is not required to adopt the bylaw.

### What would the cost savings be if there were 2 less Councillors?

Approximately \$12,500/year per Councillor for an approximate total annual budget reduction of \$25,000. (\$100,000 for each four-year term).

These figures are based on 2014 annual remuneration and expense rates.

The 2014 annual remuneration for one Councillor is \$9,194 (per “District of Lantzville Council Remuneration, Benefits and Expenses Bylaw No. 97, 2012”).

Some issues to consider regarding a change in Council size include:

- community representation
- effectiveness
- financial savings
- council member time commitment
- impact on attracting Council candidates to run for office
- future growth

### What happens after the polls close?

After the polls close at 8:00 pm on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, election officials will open the Vote by Mail envelopes and deposit the ballots into the vote counting unit. Then, with scrutineers and candidates observing if they wish, election officials will set the vote counting unit to print results tapes showing the number of votes for each candidate and the votes for and against the Assent Voting question.

These preliminary results are tallied and published on [www.election2014.civicinfo.bc.ca/2014](http://www.election2014.civicinfo.bc.ca/2014) and [www.lantzville.ca](http://www.lantzville.ca), posted at the District Office, and distributed through the media.

Final determination of election results starts Monday, November 17, 2014. Official results must be declared before 4:00 pm on Wednesday, November 19, 2014.

The last regular Council meeting of the 2011-2014 Council is on Monday, November 24, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

The elected Council’s four-year term of office starts when they are sworn in at the Inaugural Council meeting at the District Office on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7:00 pm. This is a public meeting and you are invited to attend!

**Why vote?** Our right to vote is a precious right – use it!

### Voter Turnout History

Year	Voter Turnout %
2011	44.1
2008	21.6
2005	51.4

## Do you have questions about voting or general local elections?

Visit our website or District Office or contact:  
Trudy Coates, Chief Election Officer  
P: 250.390.4006  
E: [trudy@lantzville.ca](mailto:trudy@lantzville.ca)

Twyla Graff, Deputy Chief Election Officer  
P: 250.390.4006 (250.619.6006 on Voting Days)  
E: [twyla@lantzville.ca](mailto:twyla@lantzville.ca)

Visit the Provincial Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development and Elections BC websites:

[www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/gov\\_structure/Elections](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/gov_structure/Elections)  
[www.elections.bc.ca/index.php/local-elections-campaign-financing/](http://www.elections.bc.ca/index.php/local-elections-campaign-financing/)

Election results will be posted at:

- [www.lantzville.ca](http://www.lantzville.ca)
- [www.election2014.civicinfo.bc.ca/2014](http://www.election2014.civicinfo.bc.ca/2014)