



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

AGENDA

FOR MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021 AT 5:00 PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

*“Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Nlaka’pamux people.”*

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented or as amended*

3. **MINUTES**

All COTW Minutes are adopted at a Regular Meeting of Council

4. **DELEGATIONS**

	NONE	
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5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

	NONE	
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6. **BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION**

	NONE	
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7. **STAFF REPORTS**

7.1	CAO Report – Burning Bylaw Survey Feedback	
7.2	CFO Report – Water/Sewer Fee Reassessment	

8. **CLOSED MEETING**

*Motion to move to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1*

	NONE	
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9. **TERMINATION**

## STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL – COTW

**DATE:** June 14, 2021  
**FROM:** Daniela Dyck, CAO  
**SUBJECT:** Outdoor Burning Bylaw Survey Results

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### Purpose

To provide Council with an opportunity to discuss the results of the Backyard Burning Bylaw survey and consider options.

### Discussion

The recently completed “Ashcroft Outdoor Burning Bylaw Survey” received 375 responses; however, not all respondents answered every question. Responses were received directly on the survey site online and paper copies were submitted at the Post Office and Village Office. Administrative staff entered all paper-based surveys on the online portal and attached to this report are the aggregate survey results, including all comments.

Survey summary of results:

1. 99.2% of all respondents are residents or property owners in Ashcroft;
2. 65.1% **Not allow** seasonal yard and open-air burning May – October;
3. 55% **Not allow** seasonal yard and open-air fires March – October;
4. 63.8% **Not allow** yard waste and open-air fires when conditions are favourable for a two-week window in the spring and fall;
5. 70.5% **Not allow** fires larger than 1 metre;
6. 50.4% **Not allow** yard waste fires smaller than 1 meter;
7. 61.6% **Not allow** open grass burning;
8. 58.4% **Not allow** grass burning for a 2-week window in April;
9. 68.6% **Allow** campfires;
10. 70.4% **Allow** regulated and permitted backyard campfires (half meter x half meter).

The above noted results indicate the majority of residents do not wish to allow yard waste burning or grass burning of any kind; however, the majority of respondents are in favour of allowing a regulated and permitted fire pit for a backyard campfire not to exceed 1/2m x 1/2m.

The comments received through the survey by majority support backyard campfires; in addition, many are in support of regulated campfires no larger than 1/2m x 1/2m requiring an annual permit from the Village. If the fire danger rating is deemed to be high, the BC Wildfire Service regulates all open burning

with the Provincial Open Fire Regulations (attached). The BC Wildfire Service supersedes Village bylaws and we must comply to any and all fire bans.

Upon Survey completion, Council tasked staff to develop a communication strategy for public engagement. As the Provinces restart plan is nearing stage 2 which allows indoor gatherings with COVID protocols for up to 50 people, staff suggests to host several public engagement sessions to present the survey results to the residents of Ashcroft and to discuss the potential amendment of Bylaw 811. If stage 3 of the restart plan moves forward as proposed, after July 1 participation at indoor gatherings may be increased with COVID protocols remaining in place. Staff suggests coordination 1 day time, 1 afternoon and 2 evening public engagement sessions and if required schedule additional meetings prior to Council making a decision whether to move forward with bylaw amendments or leave the bylaw status quo.

### **Risk**

Air quality affecting health, pollution and the possibility of negligent neighbours potentially causing a fire event is a huge concern for some residents, many of which are dealing with existing health issues, anxiety and PTSD from previous fire events, in particular 2017. Council must consider the needs of all residents during the discussion.

Climate Change has impacted weather patterns, they are not as predictable as in the past, unexpected sudden weather changes and severe wind can occur. This raises the concern of fires getting away from residents and putting private property and the community at risk. MIA confirms that the liability risk is with the property owner that has taken out the burning permit. It is the property owners fire insurance that will be responsible for any liability; however, a resident may attempt to deflect liability to the Village as the permit provider for the burning of yard waste.

### **Conclusion**

This report is intended for Council to consider all aspects of backyard burning prior to making a decision regarding the Notice of Motion. Backyard burning has been practiced for many years throughout British Columbia, and is considered by many rural residents as common practice; since the implementation to Bylaw 811, 2017 many residents have embraced other ways of disposing backyard waste.

A further consideration is the provinces environmental initiatives including the recently revised Open Burning Smoke Control Regulations (OBSCR) implemented under the Environmental Management Act which came into effect September 15, 2019, and classifies all municipalities in British Columbia to be in High Smoke Sensitivity Zones. The regulation does not prohibit burning but rather aims to ensure that open burning is conducted with minimal risk to air quality. While facilitating some necessary open burning practices, the new regulation also maintains air protection measures and alternatives to burning are strongly encouraged; however, the OBSCR allows for some backyard waste burning provided it is in compliance with the Weed Control Act and allows campfires.

The survey results clearly indicate the majority of residents are not in favour of backyard waste or grass burning, however, the majority of survey results do wish for Council to consider allowing backyard regulated and permit required campfires.

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**Respectfully Submitted by:**



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Daniela Dyck  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Attachments:**

Survey Results  
Smoke Factsheet  
Open Burning Poster

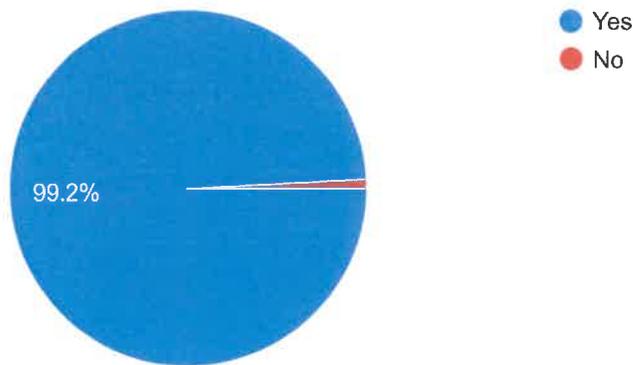
# Ashcroft's Outdoor Burning Bylaw Survey

375 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

Are you a resident or property owner in the Village of Ashcroft?

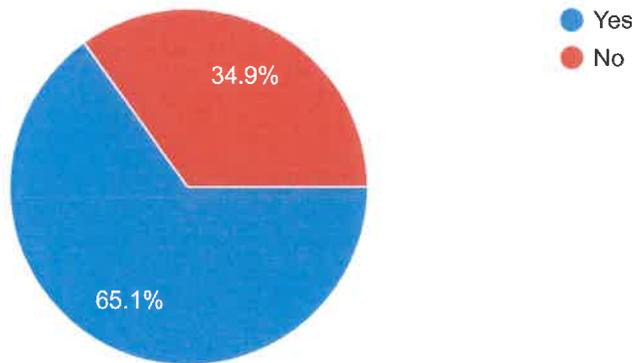
375 responses



## Yard Waste Fires

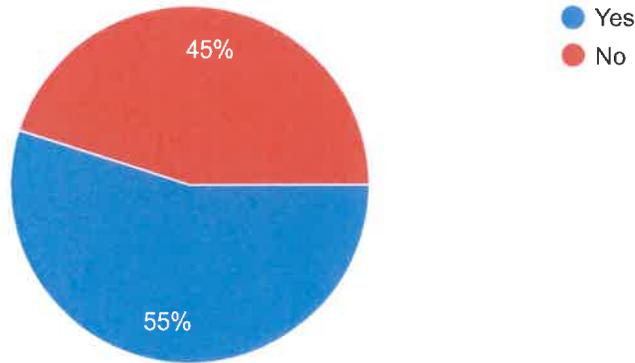
Seasonal ban on all "yard waste fires" and "open air fires" from May through October

361 responses



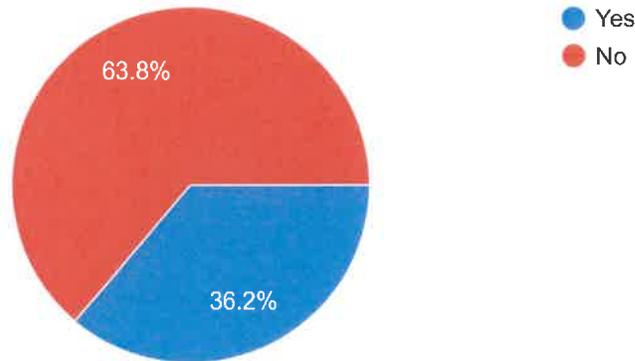
### Seasonal ban on all "yard waste fires" and "open air fires" from March through October

362 responses



### Allow "yard waste fires" and "open air fires" only on days when the conditions are most favorable for the dispersion of smoke (sunrise to set) for a two-week window in the spring and fall

365 responses

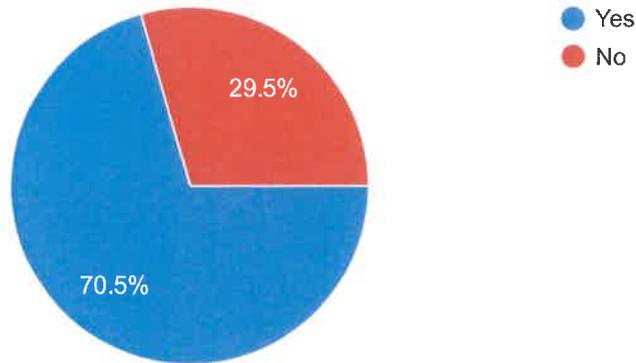


### Total Ban on Fires



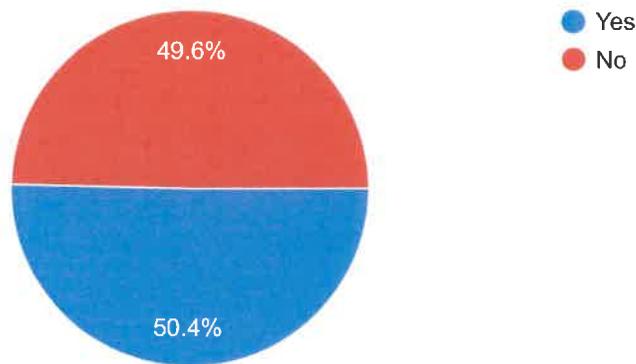
A total ban on any "open air fire" larger than 1 m (branches, leaves and other vegetation)

370 responses



A total ban on all "yard waste fire" (smaller than 1 m by 1m (branches, leaves and other vegetation)

373 responses

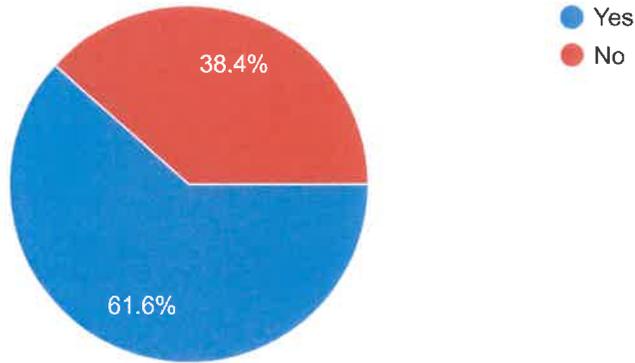


Grass Burning



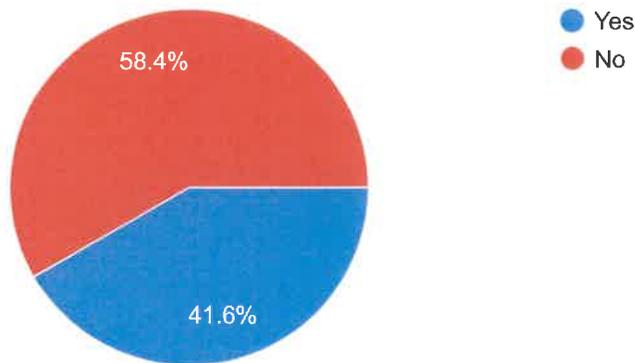
### A total ban on all open grass burning

367 responses



### Allow grass burning for 2 weeks in April

365 responses

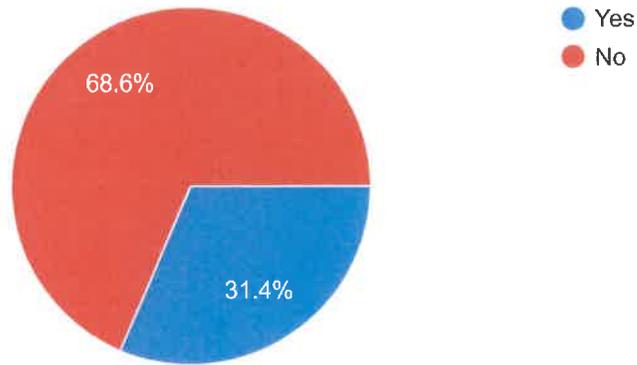


### Backyard Campfires



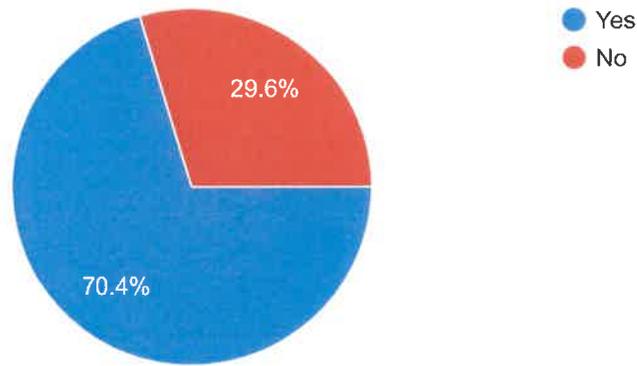
### A total ban on Campfires (excluding propane campfires)

373 responses



### Allow backyard campfires (half meter x half meter) in appropriate fire pit – requires permit

368 responses

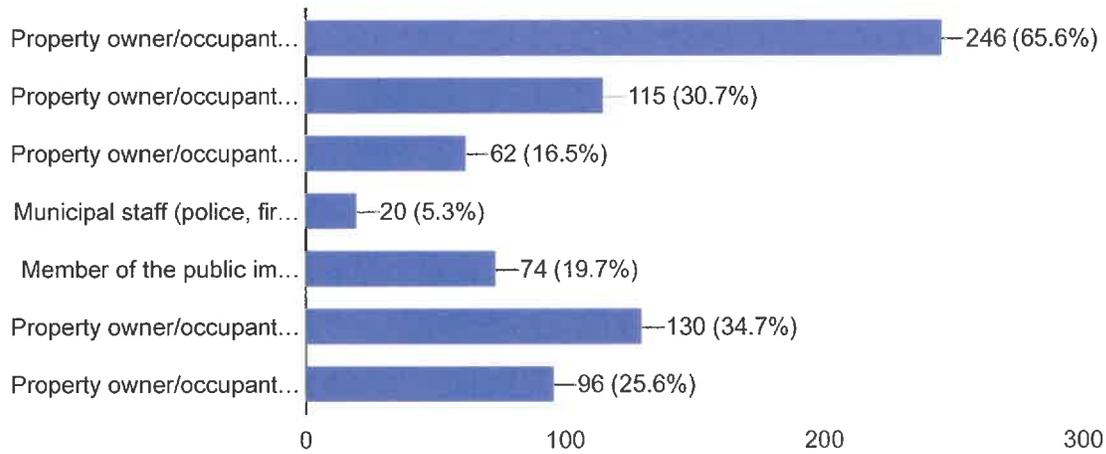


### Interest in Amending the Outdoor Burning Regulations Bylaw No. 811, 2017:



### Which best describes your interests in amending the Outdoor Burning Regulation Bylaw? (select all that apply)

375 responses



I don't understand why we are even considering this as we're supposed to be lowering our pollution levels. I don't know of many towns that allow open burning anymore and certainly don't want to see it here. We burn far too easily as you should know!

Leave the bylaw as is but amended to allow small and responsible camp fires with permit. With the villages special yard waste pickup in spring and fall we don't require to go backwards and allow yard waste burning

I believe open air backyard recreational campfires and yard waste disposal fires would be safe through proper licensing and regulation and public education.

There should be no reason why we cannot have these open burning or Campfires as long as they are being controlled by the homeowner who is doing it. Also if regulations need to be put in place as to how big they are this should be not a problem unless it's not reasonable burning size. Other places , even cities have reasonable backyard fires and permits for backyard burning , why Does Ashcroft not?

I am in favour of a quiet evening in the backyard enjoying a little campfire .

I would absolutely love to be able to have a campfire in my backyard when the conditions allow. It's a great way to socialize outside, which is our new norm in these covid times.

fires should be DRY yard waste only, no green grasses or vegetation causing smoke. Otrher option is for an incinerator installed where residents can drop off their yard waste for incineration with a high temperature incinerator thereby eliminating smoke from green vegetation. Many seniors and others in this area have COPD and can be at risk because of smoke / particulates

Backyard burning of any kind is NOT okay. It would be detrimental to the health of anyone regardless of their current medical condition. Breathing in smoke and fine particulates, having to stay inside with the windows closed, and not being able to hang laundry outside are just a few reasons to continue the ban on all open burning. We live in a very hot, dry and windy climate, and all it would take is one spark to ignite a fire that could quickly spread and cause catastrophic devastation. Who would be liable if this happened? Let us continue to be environmentally proactive as we move through the 21st century. Please do not allow backyard burning of any kind for any reason.

I am the lucky neighbour to a person who has a yard FULL of dried out yard waste.

I believe that you should not require a permit for a campfire.

Just let us have a campfire sized fire pit. If you want to have special burning bans for yard waste fine. Also you can say no fires past sunset that's some of the best times to have them. Give your head a shake.

This is silly! Let's get this bylaw overturned ASAP.

its nice to sit by a fire with my family .... we enjoyed it and with covid it helps keeps us sane with the no travel

I really really really want to have campfires in my backyard with my family just like they do in Cache Creek. Campfires are the most important part to me, yard waste would be a bonus but isn't necessary. In my opinion, campfires are- Please let us have campfires.

We would use due diligence with any fire burning, such as using appropriate wood for campfire, burning in a controlled fashion when appropriate (no winds etc), and being prepared for fire control. If it affects our dear neighbours we would listen to their concerns and stop.

Do not have a problem with small controlled/contained fire pit in a persons back yard for families to enjoy a gathering place of warmth and snacks. With some restrictions as to the size and placement of said fires, so that smoke is not going into your neighbours bedroom window or sparks near trees. With rules that not allowed if windy and to be completely extinguished when not attended.

We are legislated to death, leave well enough alone

Allow all smaller than 1m with no permit anything larger should have permit and fire department notified

It would be nice to have a properly constructed fire pit in our back yard to roast hotdogs and toast marshmallows for when our family visits. We don't camp anymore. Back yard burning of yard waste is not a priority for us. Thank you!

There are good (modern) alternatives to "campfires" and no reason to burn waste of any kind. It should all be disposed of in the landfill. Perhaps there could be a green waste disposal pick up more often?

As a resident of such a small rural town I feel we should be able to enjoy a campfire in our backyard like our neighbours in Clinton and Cache Creek.

Fire Department should be allowed to do prescribed burns

The permit thing sounds confusing. Maybe a permit once a year for the entire season to cover all of your recreational small fires. I know the village wont be able to keep up with a permit forever time so I hope that yes fires will be allowed and burning of yard waste in spring

There is no need for carbon and particulate producing open air fires. Keep the air clean.

In favour of fully supervised burning when supported by all safety precautions.

leave the bylaw ban as is , no need to burn rubbish inside village limits period , why go backwards.

It would be appreciated to be able to have campfires during the year and be able to burn leaves and yard waste in spring and fall

Allow yard waste wood and paper to be burnt in a properly screened fire pit to prevent ashes and cinders escaping the burn pit.

To be able to sit in my own backyard and roast a smokie or marshmallows over a smaller campfire is all I ask, real easy

No back yard fires. We do not want a repeat of the 2017 fire. To much combustible material in our area that will endanger our home.

I would like to be able to safely burn yard waste and have recreational fires in my yard.

With climate changes causing drier seasons, any type of outdoor fire should not occur or be limited with strict conditions. I don't want a fire caused by flying embers from a neighbors outdoor campfire. I do support gas fired tables, bbq's, etc. as these do not produce embers.

This is 2021, not 1921, and there is no need to dispose of yard waste by burning it; the village holds two free pick-up days each year and yard waste can be disposed of by residents for free all year round at TNRD transfer stations and eco-depots.

Debris fires smoke too much and are disrespectful to neighbours... however a small campfire is a great way to bond with family and friends (when covid allows) and produces little to no smoke. If we wanted big city rules we would move to big cities.

We are one of few municipalities that doesn't allow recreational fires. It would make sense to follow regional fire bans instead

We should be allowed to burn yard waste in the spring as long as appropriate measures are taken to prevent any incident (before May 1) and waste is burnt in a metal fire ring (smaller than 1 meter). As far as camp fires, they should only be allowed in a Village approved fire ring with a brick or concrete pad surrounding the fire ring. All burning must be done with a charged garden hose and shovel within 5 meters of the fire and must be attended at all times.

As long as the fires are contained/supervised I believe they should be allowed

I agree with campfires as this is a right Canadians should have if they live in an acceptable area. I dont agree that I should have to get a permit to allow me this right.

I lived in CC for years and enjoyed Campfires. Can't recall one single complaint ever of the smoke. Quite the opposite, campfire brought the neighborhood together. In this day and age where people don't really know their neighbours it's a great thing! Had I realized campfires weren't allowed in Ashcroft I'd have stayed in Cache Creek honestly.

Yard waste no, too smokey, but a small campfire does no harm. This needs to be changed.

allow small occasional fires if conditions are good

worst survey ever. what am i agreeing to or requesting? example question 10 - am i requesting fire pit fires with or without permit? or just fires period.

no permits

only have certified wood stoves - or no wood burning stoves. inspect all stoves as per fire chief

our main concern is that people will not be responsible or do it while drinking & it will get out of control. also who will be around after 4pm to manage the adhere of such bylaws?

with the air pollution caused by fires even after wildfires, we can't possibly consider outdoor burning. the outdoor/backyard fires could be blocks away and all it takes is change of wind direction and our homes become recipients of smoke etc. it's 2021 - clean air is precious and after all wellness awaits us. there does not seem to be any months when we can expect clean air

GOING BACK IN TIME - GROW UP AND DO YOUR JOB!!!

TOTAL BAN ON ALL

Keep it the way it is.

stupid idea to bring this back. leave as it

you people at the village are not weather people - leave it alone rain or shine. more than 2 weeks, all month as in the past. don't get into yrds/meters. we provide or you provide a barrel . not the job of municipal staff, BL officer who is going to paid good money (get a mask and stay inside )Do not provide any assistance to the north Ashcroft private project the are profitable group and should pay their way as other do in the village

grass burning weather permittable

yard waste burning in spring & fall 2 weeks window with proper safety conditions. controlled recreations fires with certain parameters for safety community

i don't feel that ALL people will be responsible for their actions with any kind of open fire. far too many people with bad judgment. i don't want us to live through 2017 fire scene over and over again. it will happen! do feel badly for the totally responsible people who would follow rules as well as enjoy their firepits. But it seems there are more irresponsible people than responsible people in today's society. it is just not worth it.

a lot of community members have breathing/lung issues

forget permits

keep up the good work. take your stuff to landfill.

long grass should be burned in order to act as fire break and eradicate ticks in spring. permits were always free for burning. the road to the dump is rough and dusty and congested with heavy trucks. i put every thing in black garbage bags and it goes into the garbage

those who burn waste in the indoor fireplaces are no different than allowing outdoor burning

no wood burning including indoor wood stoves

i do not see the difference between a small fire in a backyards smoke and wildfire smoke. people with breathing issues will have fire smoke in the air regardless if the by law is amended

yard waste burning only in am/damp/less wind etc. campfire with some rules as provincial campgrounds, 18" max only

yard waste burning - convenient but not crucial. campfire backyard absolutely necessary in my house 18" high etc as in provincial campsites.

recreational fires within a defines pit or device at our residence would be easy to manage and control. permitting these recreational fires would increase accountability and limit overall numbers of uncontrolled fires.

a compositng/mulching site in town would be more in keeping with the times.

the amount of yard waste that is being dumped on the surrounding bush areas is the only concern we have with a total yard waste burning ban.,

no fires when very hot season,okay late fall and through early spring

we need to think about the environment too

background burning for campfire of the property is of proper size or situation to allow for safe campfires

please state positions in positive sense

confusing questions. also concerns are: who will be making sure rules are followed. and what if a fire goes out of control in town can;t there be fire department members be 'on call' for this period in the spring/fall for burning? by on call i mean guaranteed 5 people available to fight a fire. is the fire department trained for grass fires?

inhalation of second hand smoke emissions from any source has been researched as canogenic. have we not learned from the wildfires as to the affects of smoke regardless of control? am i as a resident supposed to close my home to be air tight in order to prevent billowing smoke from entering my home and utilize filtering that requires containment? also where is the provision to accommodate medical attention for those who suffer from respiratory ailments as a direct result from open air burns?

town should clean up 'all' dead debris in and around 'town' use staff and fire department when conditions are safe. make landowners keep their yards and lots clean and fire safe,.

i have edited the form rather than made a lengthy comment to express my point of view

I don't see why responsible people can't have small fires. Obviously when it's dry and there are fire bans, fires can be prohibited. Issue permits for a small fee and if anyone doesn't stay within the guidelines pull their permit. Also it would be great to be able to burn some of the branches and grass at cleanup time.

Total ban on everything - With twice-yearly, FREE yard waste pick-up by the Village, there is no need for B/Y burning. Free Dumping @the landfill of yard waste further supports the NO BURNING mandate. If residents are unable to get to the landfill with yard waste, there are other residents willing to help. Propane "campfires" are an excellent option

We live in one of the driest most vulnerable to fire places in the country. the town has burnt twice. four years ago fire threatened to do this again. In 14 years I have watched water bombers working from my house 4 times. fire is ashcroft's biggest hazard and risk, why tempt fate?? yard waste can be disposed of at the waste transfer depot and if somebody wants a campfire they can go camping

there is no reason to burn -air quality. branches and such township picks up we don't need potential wildfire

there are 2 issues - air quality - social problems arising from campfires, late night partying. people who want fires, me included, should go to campsites or day use where they are allowed

no burning = better air quality :) follow the science!

i have some lung damage from the fires of 2017&2018. I don't any smoke weather recreational or not in my neighbourhood

yard waste can be composted if you mulch everything (shredder) a good community investment (better soil)

very difficult to discern what the questions are actually asking, particularly the 'yard waste' one, an easier method might have been are you in favor yes or no

permitting backyard campfires with a permit would be awesome

just bring back backyard burning , please

make sure fire is out before leaving scene. water or other retardant onsite is a must

campfires and cooking fires smaller or to one meter in size should be allowed

can you clarify 'recreational' as a firepit, chimenea, free standing woodstove, etc being allowed. as a campfire. thanks

only if they have a hose close by - need water

please do not change the current bylaw. do not allow open burning of any kind for the health and safety for all

small controlled fire in pit only (hose or fire suppression on hand + permit

if this a per person vote this will count as two votes

i would like to be able to enjoy a little campfire in my own backyard

I am in support of burning yard waste and small back yard fires

campfire's with permit

yard waste fire -appropriate approved fire pit with WORKING hose + hose hook up. Grass Burning - With hook up+hose in good working condition, tested water runs through and attend outside at all times. backyard campfire - Allow in appropriate/approved fire pit and with no permit required, just have fire pit approved. We're ok with yard waste burning if done in approved fire pit surrounded by 'cage wall' (like carpenters cloth) AND a hose and hose hook up in good condition AND reaching up to the fire pit, water tested that it runs through the hose. All fires attended by adult (over18) at all times.

I just want to have an impromptu wiener roast with wood in a fire pit; no other burning

There is nothing wrong with being to clean up your yard OR enjoy a fire in your backyard. love to have a wiener roast with grand kids! i feel like if permitted- a lot of people will do it at the beginning as a novelty and then it will wear off and it won't be a huge a issue.

propane campfire only! this property owner is greatly impacted by smoke. I wish i could do something about folks with home burners, especially when they burn their garbage in them. smokeless fire only! PS: no more cedar hedges (fire hazard)!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

no grass burning including ashcroft reserve

we enjoy time spend as a family around an evening campfire. it gives us time to connect with each other and our neighbors and friends

Thinking I need a councilor before more burning happens. PTSD.

not safe to be burning in April, way to windy

we are in favor of recreation fires no bigger than 1m. i believe the majority of people here are capable of handling the responsibility of a small back yard fire without government supervision or permits. When Elephant mountain fire was upon us, our officials were absent. the 15 years we have lived here there has not been a summer without smoke in the air. if worse comes to worse and descender win the it would be anal to ban propane fires.

What would be the cost of a permit? will annual pick up continue

allow yard waste fires only twice a year spring & fall. Campfires only with permits

it would be great to be able to have a backyard campfire

yard waste should be composted

The intention of the original burning bylaw was to control the burning of yard waste and household refuse. I was assured by individuals of the council of the day that it would not impact one - backyard campfires and two - my ability to run my wood fired, low temperature Raku kiln. When discussed with the administrator Alan Benson, I was told the same and that if I wanted, he would have the council write me a letter of comfort to that effect. I told him that would not be necessary because in my discussions with Councillors there was a consistent agreement about the intent of the Bylaw. In 2012 or 2013 after being told by CAO Michelle Allen that campfires nor wood fired kilns were never allowed, I sent two copies of my hard to read original notes to Council and to Councillor Alice Durksen. I don't know where the intention disconnect between 1998 and 2012 happened. I maintained a subscription to the Journal to watch for any discussion of the fire regulation bylaw in council news and never seen any. In 2015 I spent a day with a sledge hammer dismantling my kiln.

A number of years ago I attended a council sponsored community gathering where the fire bylaw among 4 other issues were discussed. As I recall there was a 100% agreement by attending taxpayers that backyard campfires should be allowed.

- Seriously, we are one of the hottest municipalities in Canada. You allow burning at one time of the year and people will "forget" and burn when they want. DO NOT PUT ME AT RISK

- What does Public Health say about the impacts of fires on the resident's h

Climate change awareness - Fires out of control around the world this area is not exempt

I like a fire as much as anyone but one thing I've learned since moving to BC is EVERYWHERE is a fire zone. Backyard fires by propane in an appropriate fire pit would be a good alternative to open fires which we all know can get out of control very quickly especially in a party environment.

There is someone in the industrial park that burns either garbage or oily rags on a regular basis. It smells disgusting. Black smoke.

There is No Need for burning yard waste. We have an excellent composting facility at our disposal. Why would we put more carbon in the air? We make approx. 75 cubic ft of compost each year using our neighbors bones, along with our own grass clippings & yard waste.

Like anything else it is the careless that ruin it for everyone. Being considerate and using common sense is key. We're semi rural.

If there are no yard fire wastes allowed the village should offer more days or yard waste pick up. Some of us don't have trucks and trailers to haul away.

Thank you!

Village to continue yard waste collection Spring and Fall.

Too much unburnt fuel in Ashcroft. I don't want a repeat of 2017.  
May 18/2021 fire on the hill. Are you insane for even asking this question (Q10 -allow backyard campfire) of Ashcroft residents. "Short Memory"

Perhaps an issue of equal concern is the use of wood stoves in winter months if they are inefficient and used when an inversion is present?

all around us can have fires. Why not us?

Ashcroft is always to tinder dry

- Have we not had enough fires?
- Have no room for a fire
- The winds come out of nowhere and can spread a fire.
- Have lung problems
- Neighbor has 6-7 trees next to the fence line - so am always cutting twigs that grow through fence.

maybe the recent fire on the railroad should be a wake up call and revisiting the present no burning bylaw is a no brainer. we live in a dry belt so do the right thing and say no

all properties must have safe area to have open burning and or campfire pits

i agree that we should be able to have a campfire (weather permitting) but i don't agree with having to get a permit as i see this as a right of all Canadians who live in areas that are acceptable to small campfires (like ashcroft). i used to live in savona and we did not require a permit and it was never an issue whatsoever.

- Ash and leaves on fire float away too easily so fires should not be allowed within Village area or in subdivisions. But on acreages or outside of village or subdivisions, with permit, to prove responsible campfire safety and wildfire knowledge (should h

Under the *Environmental Management Act*, a new **Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR)** came into effect on September 15, 2019. This factsheet summarizes the main requirements for burning under the OBSCR.

## Does OBSCR apply to your open burning?

- OBSCR applies to open-fire combustion of vegetative debris generated from a range of activities, such as:
  - ✓ Land clearing
  - ✓ Forestry operations
  - ✓ Agriculture and silviculture
  - ✓ Community wildfire risk reduction
  - ✓ Wildlife habitat enhancement
  - ✓ Utility right of ways
- OBSCR does not apply to:
  - ✗ Fires for training purposes under the *Fire Services Act*.
  - ✗ Resource management open fires or fire control (S.9) under the *Wildfire Act*.
  - ✗ Burning of leaves, foliage, weeds, crops or stubble for domestic or agricultural purposes or in compliance with the *Weed Control Act*.
  - ✗ Campfires.

## What other requirements apply to your open burning?

- Open burning must also meet any bylaw requirements set by local governments.
- Open burning may also require:
  - A permit from the local fire department.
  - A Burn Registration Number from the B.C. Wildfire Service: **1 888 797-1717**
- Open fires must comply with any:
  - Open burning prohibition issued by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.
  - Ban from a fire department, local government, or an improvement district.
- Burning is not authorized contrary to the *Wildfire Act*.

### Smoke Sensitivity Zones (SSZ)

Under OBSCR, the province is divided into three categories of Smoke Sensitivity Zones.

- **High:** areas in and around communities.
- **Medium:** areas around smallest communities, rural locations, transportation corridors.
- **Low:** areas distant from communities.

Burning requirements are strictest in high SSZ and are less strict in medium and low SSZ.

To find out the zone of your location, you can view the SSZ maps [online](#) or contact a Ministry office.

### Key Definitions for Open Burning

**Start Time:** when piles are first ignited.

**End Time:** when each pile has ceased flaming and is emitting smoke from no more than 10% of its burnt surface area.

**Seasoned Vegetative Debris:**

- Dry-basis moisture content within 30%, or
- piled for at least 4 months, or
- originated from standing dead timber.

### Ventilation Forecasts

- Required to determine if local atmospheric conditions are favourable for dispersing smoke.
- Can be obtained as a Ventilation Forecast or as a Custom Ventilation Forecast.
- Provide a Ventilation Index as *Good, Fair or Poor*.
- Ventilation Index requirements under OBSCR vary by smoke sensitivity zones and according to certain open burning purposes.

#### Ventilation Forecast

- Afternoon forecast issued by Environment Canada.
- Obtained on the same day, but before, burning starts.
- Available [online](#) for 40 venting index zones.

#### Custom Ventilation Forecast (CVF)

- Specific to local conditions in a geographic area.
- Obtained the day before or on the same day, but before, burning starts.
- Issued by an approved forecaster and submitted before burning to the Ministry by email:

[OBSCRCVF@gov.bc.ca](mailto:OBSCRCVF@gov.bc.ca)

## General Requirements for Open Burning

### Before open burning

- Every reasonable alternative must be used to minimize burning amounts by reducing, reusing or recycling vegetative debris.
- All reasonable efforts must be taken to minimize smoke by following best practices for open burning, such as:
  - Minimizing soil content, maximizing seasoned vegetative debris
  - Constructing any debris piles in a way that maximizes air flow
- Vegetative debris can be moved only within 5 km from its original location.
- No prohibited materials are allowed in any open burning. Prohibited materials are listed at the end of this factsheet.

### Starting or continuing an open burn

- Even if all OBSCR requirements are met and the *forecasted* venting conditions are favourable, open burning must not be started nor continued if the *actual* venting conditions are unfavourably causing or will likely cause smoke to:
- negatively impact a nearby population centre or a work camp,
  - be a navigation hazard for nearby airports or highways.

### Setbacks for open burning

All open burning that fall under OBSCR must meet the minimum setback distances away from specified properties.

- General setbacks apply for most open burning.
- Reduced setbacks apply for *one-day* open burning that:
  - starts not earlier than one hour after sunrise,
  - ends by the later of 4 p.m. or two hours before sunset,
  - meets all the **specific conditions for reduced setbacks**.

Property Type	General Setback	Reduced Setback
Residence or business buildings	500 metres	100 metres
Nearest property line of schools, hospitals & community care facilities	1000 metres	500 metres

#### Specific Conditions for Reduced Setbacks

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All vegetative debris is seasoned.</li> <li>▪ All vegetative debris is put in piles.</li> <li>▪ For each pile, the largest horizontal dimension is not greater than twice the vertical dimension.</li> <li>▪ No stumps are included, and diameter of the largest part of each separate debris portion is less than 50 centimetres.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If ventilation or custom ventilation forecasts are available, the forecast is <i>Good</i> for the open burning day.</li> <li>▪ Written record of when debris was piled is available.</li> <li>▪ No later than 24 hours before open burning starts, reasonable efforts are made to notify all residences, businesses, schools, hospitals and community care facilities within 500 metres of the open burning location.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

### Open burning requirements for domestic or agricultural purposes

OBSCR applies to open burning for domestic or agricultural purposes according to the following requirements:

- All of the vegetative debris is branches or other pieces of vegetative debris, with or without leaves.
- Open-burning requirements are based on the diameter of each branch or piece.

As with any other purpose, open burning for domestic or agricultural purposes must also follow any local, regional or other bylaws.

Diameter	Requirements
Less than 3 cm	Total exemption, OBSCR does not apply.
Between 3 cm and 10 cm	Three OBSCR provisions apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vegetative debris must not be moved more than 5 km from its original location.</li> <li>▪ Prohibited materials are not allowed.</li> <li>▪ Open burning must adhere to any burn ban.</li> </ul>
Greater than 10 cm	No exemptions, OBSCR fully applies.

## Specific Requirements Based on Smoke Sensitivity Zones

### Allowable number of periods for open burning

#### Within or partially within High Smoke Sensitivity Zone

For open burning on a **private parcel of land** that is **smaller than 64 hectares**, allowable number of burning days are:

- 12 days or portions of days in each calendar year, and
- 6 days in each calendar month.

#### Within Medium or Low Smoke Sensitivity Zone

There is no limit to the overall number of days for open burning.

<b>Private Parcel of Land Under OBSCR</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Parcel of land</i> means a lot, block or other area in which land is held or into which land is subdivided.</li> <li>▪ <i>Private land</i> means land in respect of which a person other than Her Majesty the Queen holds a fee simple or leasehold interest.</li> </ul>

### Open burning for less than one day

If ventilation conditions are favourable only for one day in a High or a Medium Smoke Sensitivity Zone, open burning can be conducted within one day subject to a number of requirements.

SSZ	Vegetative Debris	Ventilation Index	Start Time	End Time
High	Seasoned	<i>Good</i>	One hour after sunrise or later	Later of 4 p.m. or 2 hours before sunset
Medium	NA			

### Open burning for more than one day

If ventilation conditions are favourable for more than a day, burning requirements vary with Smoke Sensitivity Zones.

SSZ	Vegetative Debris	Consecutive Period	Ventilation Index	Start Time	End Time
High	Seasoned	Within 2 days	<i>Good</i> on 1 <sup>st</sup> day	One hour after sunrise or later on 1 <sup>st</sup> day	4 p.m. on last day
Medium	NA	Within 4 days	<i>Good or Fair</i> on 2 <sup>nd</sup> day		
Low	NA	Within 6 days	<i>Good or Fair</i> on 1 <sup>st</sup> day <i>Good or Fair</i> on 2 <sup>nd</sup> day	NA	

SSZ	Igniting Unlit Piles	Adding Unlit Debris to Ignited Piles
High	On 1 <sup>st</sup> day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Starting 1 hour after sunrise</li> <li>➤ Ending 4 hours before sunset</li> </ul>	
Medium	On 1 <sup>st</sup> day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Starting 1 hour after sunrise</li> <li>➤ Ending 2 hours before sunset</li> </ul>	On 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Starting 1 hour after sunrise</li> <li>➤ Ending 2 hours before sunset</li> <li>➤ Ventilation Forecast or CVF obtained on 2<sup>nd</sup> day, <i>Good</i> or <i>Fair</i></li> </ul>
Low	NA	

## Miscellaneous Requirements

### Prohibition on open burning

If the Ministry determines that pollution is occurring, or is likely to occur, from open burning in a geographic area, the Ministry may temporarily prohibit open burning in that area. A prohibition or “burn ban” may include the following:

- All open burning must be extinguished
- No vegetative debris may be ignited or added to ignited piles

If pollution in the area is no longer occurring, the Ministry may end the prohibition on open burning.

### Records and reporting

A record must be made if the open burning includes:

- One or more Category 3 open fires <sup>1</sup>
- One or more air curtain incinerators

A record must be kept, retained and submitted upon request as specified in the regulation. Based on that record, the Ministry may further require submission of a report with specific information. Details of record keeping and reporting requirements can be found in the regulation.

### Enforcement

Violations of the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation may result in fines of up to \$200,000.

The Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation is enforced by the BC Conservation Officer Service.

Open burning violations can be reported through the Ministry’s **Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP)** hotline:

<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>      **1 877-952-7277**

### Looking for more information?

This factsheet contains a summary of the main requirements for open burning under OBSCR. Additional specific requirements can be found in other factsheets and guidance documents. For complete regulatory requirements, please refer to the [Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation](#).

#### OBSCR Website:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air/air-pollution/smoke-burning/regulations/openburningregulation>

Contains further information on the regulation, links to [Smoke Sensitivity Zone Maps](#) and [Venting Index Interactive Map](#).

OBSCR Questions:      Ventilation Index online: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/venting/venting.html>

[OBSCR@gov.bc.ca](mailto:OBSCR@gov.bc.ca)      Fire Bans and Restrictions: <http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp>

Ventilation Index and burning bans: **1 888-281-2992**

### The following prohibited materials must not be burned

- |   |  |                                    |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| × Animal carcasses and waste from animal slaughtering | × Domestic waste                                 | × Plastics                         |
| × Asphalt or asphalt products                         | × Electrical wire                                | × Polystyrene foam                 |
| × Batteries   | × Fibreglass and other fibre-reinforced polymers | × Railway ties                     |
| × Biomedical waste                                    | × Fuel and lubricant containers                  | × Rubber                           |
| × Carpets   | × Furniture and appliances                       | × Tar paper                        |
| × Construction waste*                                 | × Hazardous waste                                | × Tires                            |
| × Demolition waste                                    | × Manure   | × Treated or painted wood products |
| × Drywall   | × Paint and varnish                              | × Used oil                         |

*\*Other than lumber not treated with wood preservatives or other chemicals and not coated with paint, varnish, oil or other finishing material*

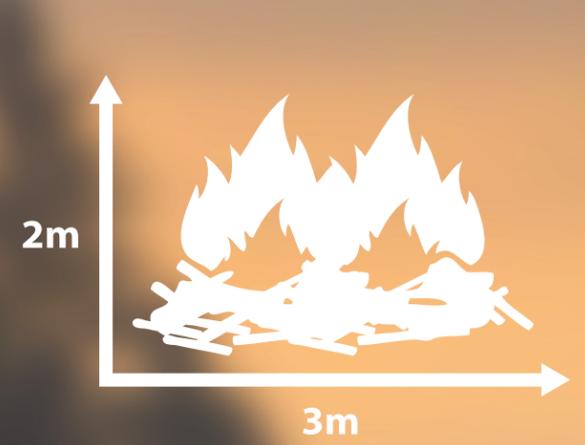
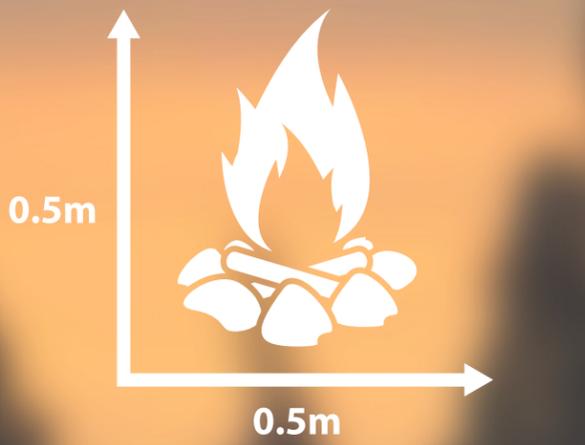
<sup>1</sup> Open fire that burns: material concurrently in three (3) or more piles each not exceeding 2m in height and 3m in width, or material in one or more piles each exceeding 2m in height or 3m in width, or one or more windrows.

# OPEN FIRE REGULATIONS



40% of B.C. wildfires are human-caused and therefore preventable

## CAMPFIRES, CATEGORY 2 FIRES AND CATEGORY 3 FIRES: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



### CAMPFIRE:

- Any fire no larger than 0.5 metres high by 0.5 metres wide

#### REGULATIONS:

- You must have ready access to 8 litres of water or a shovel for the entire time your campfire is lit.
- Your campfire must be completely extinguished and the ashes must be cool to the touch before leaving the area for any length of time. (Hot coals can reignite the fire.)
- During campfire prohibitions, only a CSA- or ULC-approved portable campfire apparatus may be used, and the flame height must not exceed 15 centimetres.
- You must build a fire guard around your campfire.

### CATEGORY 2 FIRE:

- 1 to 2 concurrently burning piles no larger than 2 metres high by 3 metres wide
- Stubble or grass burning over an area less than 0.2 hectares

#### REGULATIONS:

- A fuel break must be established around any Category 2 burn area.
- Fireworks are banned when a Category 2 fire prohibition is in effect.
- Burning barrels are banned when a Category 2 fire prohibition is in effect.
- At least one person equipped with a fire-fighting hand tool must monitor the fire at all times.

### CATEGORY 3 FIRE:

- Any fire larger than 2 metres high by 3 metres wide
- 3 or more concurrently burning piles no larger than 2 metres high by 3 metres wide
- 1 or more burning windrows
- Stubble or grass burning over an area greater than 0.2 hectares

#### REGULATIONS:

- A fuel break must be established around any Category 3 burn area.
- Monitor your open burn to ensure that the fire doesn't spread beyond its intended size.
- You must have a burn registration number to light a Category 3 open fire. Call the burn registration line 1 888 797-1717 to obtain one.
- Do not burn when venting conditions are "Poor" or "Fair". Always check here first: [www.bcairquality.ca/readings/ventilation-index.html](http://www.bcairquality.ca/readings/ventilation-index.html)

### GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- Never burn in strong wind conditions.
- Your fire must be extinguished before leaving the area.
- Always keep your fire a safe distance away from nearby branches, wood and other combustible materials.

\*Further bans and restrictions can be implemented at the Wildfire Management Branch's discretion.

Anyone found in contravention of an open fire prohibition may be fined up to \$1,150. If your fire escapes and results in a wildfire, you may be fined anywhere from \$100,000 to \$1 million and be sentenced to one year in prison. Please check with local government authorities for any other restrictions before lighting any open fire.

Please report wildfires by calling \*5555 or 1 800 663-5555.

## STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL – COTW

**MEETING DATE:** June 11, 2021  
**FROM:** Yogi Bhalla, Chief Financial Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Water & Sewer Fees Reassessment

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### Purpose

Discuss changes to align water and sewer fees for council goals and municipal benchmarks, as per Councillor Andersons Notice of Motion at the April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council.

### Background

Council directed staff to research how different municipalities set fees for water and sewer and only a couple of items were highlighted in our research. In addition, the cost of restaurant fees has been brought to council's attention earlier this year with a Notice of Motion made by Councillor Anderson.

### Discussion

Over the last 5 years our utilities fees increased gradually to match our expenses with incoming revenues. A side effect of this increase is that difference between fee classes have widened. A comparison with other municipal fee structures shows that we are well aligned except for a couple of classes that could be modified to improve our fee structure.

The two classes that could be changed are shown below in the table.

<b>Current Structure</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Sewer</b>	<b>New Proposed Structure</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Sewer</b>
Restaurant 1-10 seats	\$ 790	\$ 787	Restaurant 1-29 seats	\$ 790	\$ 787
Restaurant 11 +seats	\$ 1,773	\$ 1,825	Restaurant 30 +seats	\$ 1,773	\$ 1,825
Car Wash - 2 Bay	\$ 1,929	\$ 1,766	Car Wash per bay including external bay	\$ 650	\$ 600

**Prepared by:**



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Yogi Bhalla,  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved for submission to Council:**



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Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer