

THE VILLAGE OF CUMBERLAND



The proposed new fire hall facility at 4382 Cumberland Road.

CUMBERLAND FIRE HALL PROJECT UPDATE

The Village of Cumberland's fire hall needs replacement. The current building doesn't meet modern building standards and is at risk of collapse in a seismic event.

With the security of Cumberland residents in mind, the replacement of the fire hall has been identified as a high priority for the Village of Cumberland. A design has been drafted, and property is purchased – now, council needs approval from electors to borrow \$4.2 million to build the new fire hall at 4382 Cumberland Road. Beginning Nov. 5, Council is seeking that approval from electors through an alternative approval process (AAP) – or counter-petition.

The new fire hall is designed to resolve longstanding operational issues with the aging current facility. This efficient, structurally sound facility will meet the safety needs of our growing community and of the firefighters committed to emergency response within the Village.

WHAT IS AN ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS (AAP)

To borrow money, local government must receive approval from its electors, who are ultimately responsible for the cost. To achieve that approval, they can either hold a referendum, or an alternative approval process (AAP) – also known by some as a counter-petition.

In an AAP process, electors who do not support the borrowing may sign and submit an 'elector response form' in confidence, indicating their opposition. If 10 per cent of the electorate returns a form, the borrowing cannot be approved.

The AAP form submission period for the Cumberland Fire Hall Project runs from Nov. 5 - Dec. 13, 2019 (4:30 PM). Forms are available at the Village office or by searching "Fire Hall AAP" at the Cumberland.ca website. The only persons entitled to sign the forms are the qualified electors of the Village of Cumberland.

FIRE HALL AAP OPEN HOUSE NOV. 18, 2019

Village of Cumberland residents are invited to attend an open house to learn more about the Fire Hall Project and alternative approval process on Nov. 18, 2019.

Times and Location

Fire Hall Project & AAP Open House
Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, 10AM-12 PM + 5-7 PM
Village Council Chambers, 2675 Dunsmuir Ave.

Information displays and project team members will be on hand to answer questions. The existing fire hall at 2679 Dunsmuir Ave will also be open during these times for anyone who wants to stop in to see the challenges of the current facility.



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CURRENT & FUTURE NEEDS

The current Cumberland fire hall on Dunsmuir Ave is undersized and failing – making it a significant challenge to continue to meet the needs of the community.

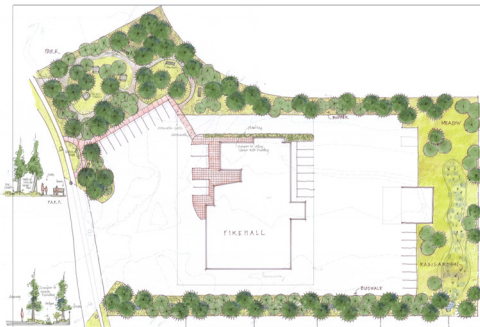
Some engineered stability work was completed in 2005 and 2018 as an interim safety solution, but it does not resolve outstanding structural issues, clearance for modern equipment and lack of space for personnel and truck preparation during an emergency response. This leaves poor conditions for local firefighters, whose critical work helps protect Cumberland residents and their property.

The condition of the existing fire hall influences private insurance premiums. Rates are calculated from an inspection score given to Cumberland's fire service every five years by the Fire Underwriters Survey. In 2018, Cumberland's fire services received a reduced score due to the lack of suitability and reliability of the existing facility. A lower score for the fire service increases the perceived risk for insurance.

A new fire hall on Cumberland Road will address all outstanding structural and space restrictions, while housing fire protection operations under one roof with option to expand in the future. The post-disaster building will also serve as Cumberland's main Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in the event of a major emergency, while the layout of the new building will be designed to withstand higher seismic forces than non-post disaster buildings.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?

If approved, the \$4.2 million borrowed will result in an increase in taxes for capital debt repayment and operating costs for the fire protection service. Borrowed for 20-years at 4 per cent interest, it's estimated this will result in a \$142/year increase on Cumberland's average-priced home (\$431,847). The amount will increase/decrease based on home value and interest rates. On the average commercial property (median assessment of \$306,150) this will result in a \$294 increase/year.



The proposed landscape design for the new fire hall.



The current fire hall does not meet the space requirements for modern equipment. The room above is required for communication, storage and office space: Showing the lack of room in the current hall.

NEXT STEPS IF "YES"

Much preparation work for the Cumberland Fire Hall Project has been done over the last six years. Should the AAP result in support for borrowing; tender procurement will close before the end of December with construction to begin in 2020.

NEXT STEPS IF "NO"

If 10% or more of eligible electors submit an elector response form, then the Council would not receive approval from electors to borrow funds to construct the fire hall. Council would then need to consider next steps, which could include proceeding to a referendum or revisiting the proposed approach for a new fire hall. Either way, the fire hall could not be constructed on the current timeline by borrowing funds.

For more information about the Cumberland Fire Hall Project and the AAP, please call the Village office at 250-336-2291 or search "Fire Hall AAP" at the Village website: Cumberland.ca.



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