

Subject: Input on Community Charter - the 5% counter-petition rule

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To: FONVCA Members

FONVCA has commented on the inappropriateness of 10% requirement proposed in the Draft Community Charter with respect to counter-petition.

The following comment was recently made by the Government Finance Officers' Association / Local Government Management Association of BC/ Bulding Officilas Association of BC

-see http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/Local_Content/Reports/3878.PDF

Section 73: The former counter petition process has been replaced with an Alternate Approval Process with the threshold of five per cent of the number of electors now proposed to be 10 per cent. For large municipalities, the figure of five or 10 per cent is not really a concern because it is still extremely difficult to get five per cent of 100,000 signatures let alone 10 per cent. However in a small village, 10 per cent is still too small a number. It would be more appropriate to develop a percentage based on population and the smaller the population the larger the percentage of electors required as a means to address proportional fairness.

RECOMMENDATION

It would be more appropriate to develop a percentage based on population and the smaller the population the larger the percentage of electors required as a means to address proportional fairness.