

*Sun Peaks Municipal
Incorporation Study*
Community Survey

Sussex
Consultants Ltd

May 2007

Overview

The Technical Report on municipal status for Sun Peaks was released and presented to the public in early April 2007. In order to help guide the Sun Peaks Incorporation Study Committee in its deliberations about whether or not to request a referendum, the Committee decided to conduct an informal survey of residents and owners, asking for their views on a number of issues and options related to municipal status. This is a summary of the survey results.

The survey was not intended to gauge the community's support for municipal status; only a referendum can determine that. Nor was it designed to be a statistically rigorous process. Instead, the goal was to produce informal commentary that could assist the Committee in formulating recommendations about any next steps in the process.

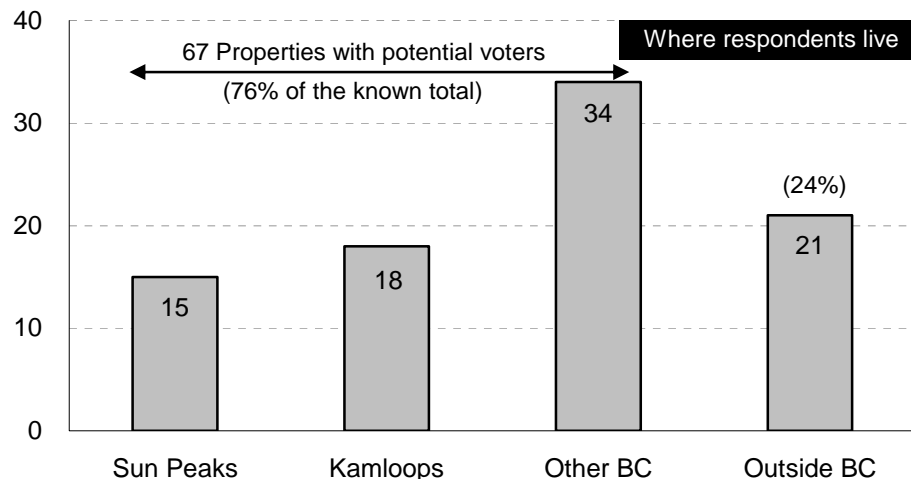
No matter what the Committee's recommendations, in the end municipal status could only come about if voters approve.

The Committee mailed the survey form to every address on the 2007 assessment roll; handed them out at the public information meeting on April 7, 2007; and made them available on the website (www.SunPeaksGovernance.com). Respondents could return them via mail, via fax, or directly through the website. The cut-off date for replies was April 30, 2007. A total of 91 responses were received: 6 were submitted by hand; 27 were mailed in; 29 were faxed in; and 29 were submitted directly from the website.

Please see Appendix 1 for the results in table form.

Who responded

Of the 88 who identified their year-round residence location, 76% are BC residents, including the 17% who list Sun Peaks as their year-round residence.



Q.3 Appointed seat on municipal council?

This question basically asked, “Are you in favour of the Province appointing a Resort Corporation representative to one of the five seats on municipal council?” Of those expressing a preference, 94% support this idea.

Q.4 Consult with a business group?

This question basically asked, “Do you support a requirement that the municipality would have to consult with a business-focused group like Tourism Sun Peaks?” Of those expressing a preference, 89% support this idea.

Q.5 Consult with another group?

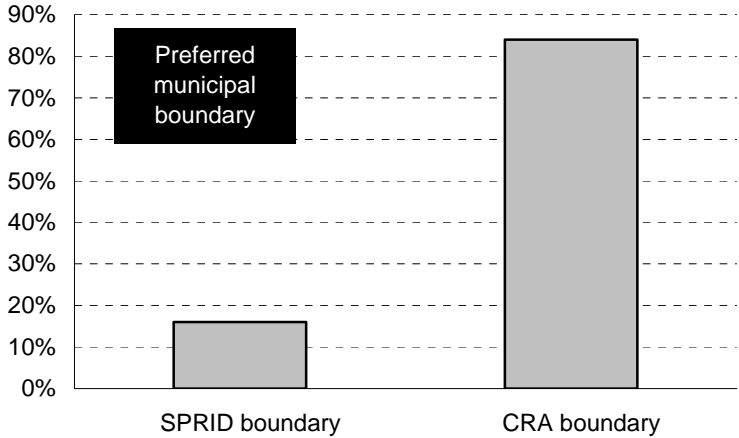
This question basically asked, “Do you support a requirement that the municipality must consult with some other stakeholder group, like non-voting, non-resident owners?” Of those expressing a preference, 61% support this idea. The overwhelming choice for such a group is the non-resident, non-voting owners. Other mentions include property owners; a residents association; First Nations; and an Advisory Planning Commission.

Q.6 What should such consultations include?

There were a total of 197 responses to this question (multiple answers were allowed), split more or less evenly between budgets and taxes (29% of all citations), land use (32%), and tourism initiatives (32%). The other suggestions for consultations included bylaw enforcement (4 citations); policing (2); and seven others with one citation each.

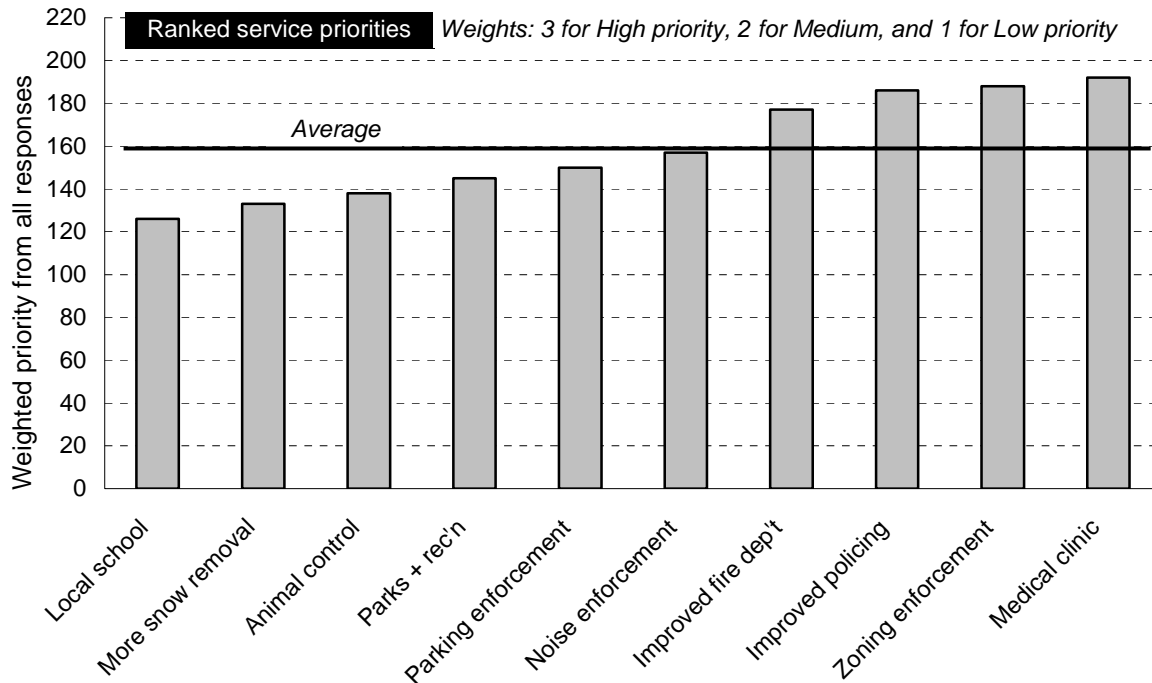
Q.7 Which boundary?

Of those expressing a preference, about 84% of respondents prefer the larger Controlled Recreation Area boundary to the smaller Improvement District boundary.



Q.8 Service priorities

This question asked people to rank their priorities for particular services with a Low, Medium, or High priority. These have been weighted here using 3 for High priority, 2 for Medium, and 1 for Low priority. Note that two of the four highest ranked (policing and medical clinic) lie outside the direct responsibilities of a municipality.



Other recreation: Respondents suggested a total of 55 other recreation facilities or services they would like to see at Sun Peaks, as listed below.

- 6 Parks
- 5 Rec'n / community center
- 5 Rink
- 4 Tennis
- 3 Gym/fitness center
- 3 Playground
- 2 Bike trails
- 2 Band shell
- 2 Water park
- 7 Other (1 mention each)

Other services in general: Respondents listed a total of 15 other, non-recreational services or amenities they would like to see at Sun Peaks. Half of these (7) specifically identified a need for larger or more grocery stores; two listed the need for sidewalks; and six others were single-mention items.

Q. 9 General comments

Of the total responses received, included free-form comments. The individual comments are listed in the Appendix. They have been grouped into several categories as follows.

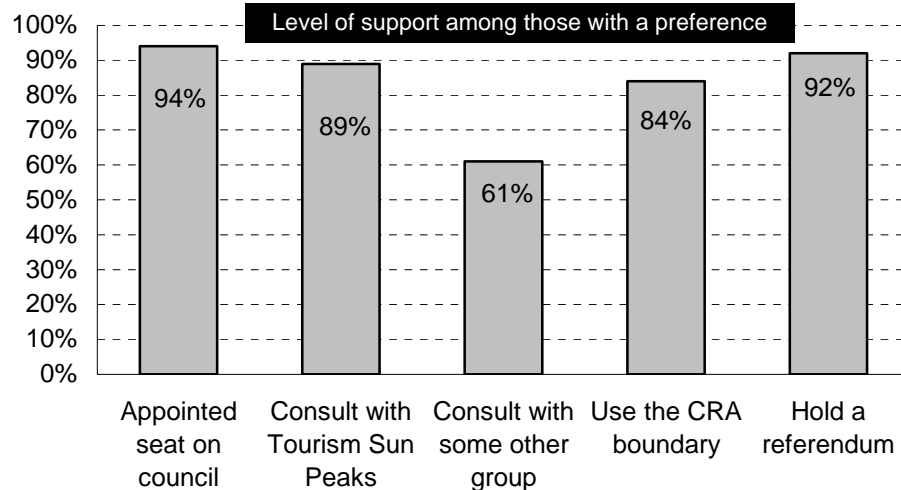
- 13 generally support municipal status.
- 5 generally reject municipal status.
- 8 express concern about finances and taxes.
- 5 reference the need for more control over local services.
- 4 express concern over undue influence on municipal council by the Resort Corporation and/or business.
- 3 want the Tourism Sun Peaks levy eliminated under municipal status.
- 3 ask for more information.
- 3 want First Nations issues resolved.

Q.10 Request a referendum?

Of those with a preference, the vast majority of respondents – 92% – support a request for a referendum.

Summary

The chart below summarizes the responses to five of the important options and choices that could be involved in the creation of a municipality for Sun Peaks if things get that far.



Appendix 1: Detailed Results

Q.2 Residency

Sun Peaks	15	17%
Kamloops	18	20%
Subtotal	33	38%
Other BC	34	39%
BC total	67	76%
Rest of Canada	6	7%
USA	15	17%
Other international	0	0%
Total identified locations	88	100%

Q.3 Appointed seat on council

	Those with a preference		
Generally support this	79	89%	94%
Do not support this	5	6%	6%
No opinion/ preference	5	6%	
Total responses	89	100%	

Q.4 Consult with Tourism Sun Peaks

	Those with a preference		
Generally support this	72	83%	89%
Do not support this	9	10%	11%
No opinion/ preference	6	7%	
Total responses	87	100%	

Q.5 Consult with another group

	Those with a preference		
Generally support this	38	44%	61%
Do not support this	24	28%	39%
No opinion/ preference	24	28%	
Total responses	86	100%	

Name of other group:

Non-resident owners	18
First Nations	1
Resident ass'n	1
Property owners	3
Tourism Sun Peaks	1
APC	1
Renters	1
Total suggestions	26

Q.6 Consultation topics

	No.	Pct	Rank
Municipal budgets	57	29%	3
Land use	64	32%	1
Tourism initiatives	63	32%	2
Other	13	7%	4
	197	100%	

Q.7 Boundary preference

	Those with a preference		
SPRID boundary	13	15%	16%
CRA boundary	67	75%	84%
No opinion/ preference	9	10%	
Total responses	89	100%	

Q.8 Service priorities

	#1	#2	#3	Points	Rank
Response weight =	3	2	1		
Zoning enforcement	42	25	12	188	2
Improved policing	42	26	8	186	3
Medical clinic	38	36	6	192	1
Improved fire dep't	29	40	10	177	4
Parking enforcement	18	36	24	150	6
Animal control	19	22	37	138	8
Parks + rec'n	20	28	29	145	7
More snow removal	10	39	25	133	9
Local school	15	18	45	126	10
Noise enforcement	21	38	18	157	5

Other recreation:

(no. of citations)	8 Sports field
	8 Pool
	6 Parks
	5 Rec'n / community center
	5 Rink
	4 Tennis
	3 Gym/fitness center
	3 Playground
	2 Bike trails
	2 Band shell
	2 Water park
	7 Other (1 mention each)

Other services/facilities:

(no. of citations)	7 Grocery
	1 Pharmacy
	1 Street lights
	2 Sidewalks
	1 Bus service
	1 Bank
	1 Other
	1 Planning + MDA

Q.10 Should there be a referendum?

	Those with a preference		
Generally support this	67	85%	92%
Do not support this	6	8%	8%
No opinion/ preference	6	8%	
Total responses	79	100%	
No response	12		

Free-form comments from respondents

- What about liability insurance (municipal vs TNRD)?
- Referendum only after First Nations consultation completed; resolve First Nations issues
- Key reason for municipal status is more control over our affairs
- Municipal status is a positive idea
- Reasonable idea, if taxes don't get out of hand
- Unsure at this time
- I am for a municipality if taxes don't increase
- Particulars of the MDA should be made available
- Go for municipal status
- The sooner, the better for municipal status
- Would help define Sun Peaks identity and status; better media presence and status
- Appointment of Resort Corp'n to council is flawed and dangerous; but resort development must be continued; like to hear some opposition views
- Too small to take on municipal status; don't need another layer; object to Tourism Sun Peaks levy now
- We need more bylaw enforcement (parking, dogs, speeding, unsightly yards, etc)
- Council input into Resort Corp'n development should be limited
- Added rec'n facilities will enhance life at Sun Peaks and help attract more year-round visitors; we need dog leash control and poop-and-scoop regulations
- Biggest concern is over budget - need durable income sources and realistic spending projections
- Deal with basic services like water and sewer and how they are administered through SP Utilities
- I support municipal status as long as taxes will not rise; municipal status will improve local services and provide better accountability
- I recommend clearing up any unresolved First Nations issues
- Resort Corp'n acts like rulers; they are part of the community but not all of it; referendum questions are unfair and biased
- Road maintenance would require staff and vehicles; infrastructure seems disproportionate to population
- Need financial information
- Too small and too seasonal for municipal status; we do not need to be a municipality; municipal status would mean a rise in taxes and decrease in service efficiency
- We support municipal status; more money and more local control will enhance Sun Peaks; we need a security presence at Sun Peaks
- More information, please
- Timing may be premature but it is probably wise for taxpayers to have more direct control
- I wish to see a control of taxes and the monies used for the betterment of Sun Peaks and surrounding areas
- I don't want to see government control unduly influenced by business interests
- Municipal status is a good idea
- Residential population is too small; voices of non-residents would never be heard; the development would be for the benefit of a few people who live here
- I'm concerned non-resident owners will pay for services they will never use; few permanent residents now; is there more concern over money than ski hill improvements?; if a municipality is formed, the Tourism Sun Peaks charge should be dropped; if there is a referendum, it should be done via the internet.
- If a municipality is created, drop the Tourism Sun Peaks charges; need more detailed information about municipal status
- Need more activities for youth; possibly have night skiing
- As a part-time resident it is hard to assess service priorities; medical facilities are important; policing is and will be a need; parks and recreation benefit both visitors and residents

Appendix 2: The Survey Form

Sun Peaks Municipal Incorporation Study

Sun Peaks
Governance
April 2007

Introduction

The Sun Peaks Incorporation Study Committee has now assembled some preliminary findings about creating a mountain resort municipality for Sun Peaks. You can see them at www.SunPeaksGovernance.com.

The Committee would like to hear from you on several important matters. Please take a moment to complete this brief survey. You can fax it to (604) 801-5201; or mail it to Sussex Consultants Ltd., #330 – 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2M4 (Sussex is doing the technical work for the Committee); or submit it via the web (go to www.SunPeaksGovernance.com). Please submit only one survey each.

Please reply by April 30th, 2007.

Remember that if there is a referendum, there will be updated information and discussions. *The survey is not asking you to say whether or not you support municipal status. That question must be answered by a referendum, not a survey.*

(A) About you

- 1 Your Sun Peaks property address:

- 2 Your principal residence (city and province/state):

Confidentiality: Responses will be kept confidential and all surveys will be destroyed after tabulation.

(B) Two transitional governance provisions

Sun Peaks is being developed in accordance with a Master Development Agreement between the Resort Corporation and the Province. This MDA gives the Corporation important, long term development rights.

Municipal status would mean the election of a municipal council of five people – a mayor and four councillors. Without a customized governance structure in place, municipal council could adopt policies and regulations that might impede the attainment of the goals and plans set out in the MDA. In essence, a customized governance structure could help harmonize the relationship between the Resort Corporation, the provincial government, and local government. Two special provisions are being considered.

- 3 All the Improvement District trustees are appointed by the Province now (though it chooses to appoint four people elected at the annual general meeting). Recognizing the need to respect the long term vision for Sun Peaks as a resort, there may be merit in having a representative of the Resort Corporation appointed to municipal council. This could improve the coordination between local government regulations and the Resort Corporation's MDA rights. With only one vote out of five on council, the appointee couldn't block or pass a bylaw, but the appointee would ensure a voice at the table and coordination of the development plan already approved by the Province. This would be a transitional measure. What do you think of this idea?

- I generally support this
 I generally do not support this
 I have no opinion or preference at this time

The Province could require the municipal council to consult with a community group on matters of resort business. One candidate would be Tourism Sun Peaks (the community's marketing association), or the Province could require the creation of a new group and require consultation with it. What do you think of this idea?

- 4 Consult with Tourism Sun Peaks or some other business-oriented group (if other, name it below):
- I generally support this
 I generally do not support this
 I have no opinion or preference at this time

- 5 Consult with another group (like one representing non-voting, non-resident owners) :
- I generally support this (name below)
 I generally do not support this
 I have no opinion or preference at this time

Name/description of group: _____

- 6 What should such consultations deal with?
- Municipal budgets and taxes
 Land use development (zoning, etc)
 Tourism initiatives, programs and amenities
 Other: _____

(C) Boundary

The municipal boundary could be limited to the Improvement District (SPRID) area (basically, the developed area) or the larger Controlled Recreation Area (the SPRID plus the mountain ski areas). There is no meaningful financial difference between them based on today's information. The larger CRA boundary would mean more local control over a number of activities and policies and avoid a two-tiered geographic tax system. However, it could also mean some extra, as-yet unidentified municipal responsibilities in the future.

7 Please check one:

- I generally prefer the smaller SPRID boundary
- I generally prefer the larger CRA boundary
- I have no opinion or preference at this time

A map of these two boundaries can be seen on the website (www.SunPeaksGovernance.com).

(D) Service priorities

8 What priority should these services have? Use 1 for high priority; 2 for medium; and 3 for low priority.

1. Zoning enforcement ____	6. Improved policing ____	10b. What types of rec'n facilities:
2. Noise enforcement ____	7. More snow removal ____	
3. Parking enforcement ____	8. Local school ____	11. Other services/facilities
4. Animal control ____	9. Health/medical clinic ____	
5. Improved fire dep't ____	10a. Parks + rec'n ____	

(E) Your comments

9 Any comments about municipal status? Thanks.

(F) Should the Committee recommend that a referendum be held?

The Committee will decide whether or not to make a recommendation to the Province about holding a referendum. *Note:* A municipality can't be created without a referendum, and voter approval is required.

The survey is not asking you whether you would like to see a municipality. You would need to see the whole package being voted on in a referendum to decide if municipal status appeals to you (if there is a referendum, you will see the full updated package before voting day). Instead, the question asks whether you would like to see a referendum held so the voters themselves can approve or reject municipal status.

10 Please check one of the following:

- I think a referendum should be held
- I think a referendum should not be held
- I have no opinion or preference at this time

How to contact the Committee askus@SunPeaksGovernance.com	Please reply by April 30 th , 2007.
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