

Teslin Boundary Adjustment Survey

Introduction

The Teslin Boundary Adjustment survey went “live” online on June 19, 2022. The results presented here reflect the surveys collected (paper or online) up to October 8, 2022.

Distribution of the paper copies of the survey began on June 29, 2022, at the scheduled meeting and open house. Paper copies were distributed within the community as well, with follow up visits to collect the paper surveys. The paper surveys were then input into the SurveyMonkey.com data collectors. The results were used to prepare these reports.

The public was notified about the surveys through newsletters, and an online link from the Village website.

Please note that the survey was supported with a 4-page graphic “explainer”, which is attached as an Appendix to this report.

Summary

The survey was designed, in part, to test levels of support for boundary expansion, as well as to identify questions that people who would be affected might have about the process or the outcomes of boundary expansion.

In total 51 surveys were completed, with 43% of the responses from people living inside the current boundaries, and 45% of the responses from people living within the proposed boundaries, while 11% of the responses were from people outside the current or proposed boundary area. This is a good representation of the views of the people most directly affected by the proposed boundary expansion.

People see boundary expansion as being important because of the opportunity to vote, accommodate a growing community, and have better access to services. Additionally, the property taxes would then come to the jurisdiction that provides the services. Some people are concerned about the potential for an increase in taxes on their properties.

In total 78% of the people who responded are in support of the idea of boundary expansion, with 14% expressing some reservations about doing so, based on feeling that they did not have enough information, did not understand how it would improve the quality of life for people already living in Teslin, or concern about how it will affect the First Nation. Only 8% were opposed to the idea.

Q5 addressed concerns about potential tax increases. The survey presented a sliding scale with “not concerned” on one end of the spectrum, and “very concerned” on the other end. These statements were converted by SurveyMonkey into numbers, with “not concerned” = 0 and “very concerned” = 100. In total 9 people reported being “very concerned”, while 10 people identified at the mid-point, and 16 people reported as being “not concerned” or minimally concerned. The average of all responses, as presented in this report, is 42, which is somewhat less than the mid-point between the two extremes.

The responses to Question 6, “What change in services would you like to see?,” will provide the Village of Teslin with good material for a future, updated Official Community Plan, which will be a required task, should boundary expansion move ahead.

The survey was also designed to identify if any of the residents in the boundary expansion area would be negatively affected, in terms of eligibility for specific Yukon Government rural programs. Although a number of people identified that they are accessing certain programs, it has been determined that these are likely errors, based on a misunderstanding of the question. The people who responded that they were benefiting from these programs were identified as living within the Village already, and therefore would not be eligible for these programs.

The writers of this report are reasonably confident that very few people, if any, would be negatively affected by boundary expansion due to their use of Yukon Government rural programs. This could potentially be checked by the Village of Teslin’s Municipal Advisor, who could check the Territorial Government records as to whether people living in the boundary expansion area are accessing these programs.

Conclusion

The survey was able to access the views of a good cross-section of the Teslin population, living both within the current boundaries and within the proposed boundary expansion area. In general, the people who responded to the survey are in support of moving forward, while wanting to know more. This points to the need to maintain communications with the people of Teslin throughout the process, should the decision be taken to move forward with boundary expansion.