

November 27th, 2020

TO ALL ID9 RESIDENTS,

Over the past few weeks, as we have witnessed the climbing Covid-19 cases our small community, I have had a number of locals reach out to me asking what is being done. There is significant confusion surrounding jurisdiction and I can appreciate the frustration many of you are feeling, wondering who is working to support the locals. I want you to all know that my “virtual” door is always open. If you still have questions after reading this, please just call or email me.

WHO IS ID9 AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

Improvement District No. 9 (ID9) is the municipal government for the region that encompasses the area of Banff National Park outside of the corporate limits of the Town of Banff. Our population and business centre is the Hamlet of Lake Louise, however we have various resorts, businesses and residents spread throughout our beautiful region. Many people don't realize where the Town of Banff limits are, and many businesses that you think are located in “Banff” are actually within ID9 (think all 3 ski hills, the gondola and many hotels)!

ID9 was originally formed as Improvement District No. 51 on April 1, 1945 and was renumbered to ID9 on January 1, 1969. Formerly part of ID9, the Town of Banff separated from the improvement district and incorporated as a town on January 1, 1990. Improvement Districts are municipal regions governed directly by the Province of Alberta and generally encompass areas of either national or provincial parks.

ID9 has an appointed Council of 5 people and 1 CAO. ID9 has no other staff, which makes it difficult to do direct service delivery. For that reason, ID9 focuses on supporting agencies who provide services to our residents. Some examples are: the Lake Louise Sport & Recreation Centre (1369058 Alberta Society), the Lake Louise Fire Department (Lake Louise Banff Municipal Services Society), Roam Transit (Bow Valley Regional Transit Services Commission) and many more. ID9 collects municipal taxes to ensure residents and visitors have access to these vital services as well as education, food security, RCMP services, libraries, social services and seniors housing.

Things like roads, water, sewer, business licenses and permits are all the responsibility of Parks Canada.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT THEN?

Parks Canada. They are the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and are responsible for emergency management within ID9. ID9 has many of the same powers as any other Municipality, including the ability to create bylaws. The main difference though is that those bylaws cannot impact things like public spaces or business operations. That is why ID9 cannot implement mask bylaws or alter business hours. It is also due to the fact that we cannot declare a State of Local Emergency (SOLE).

In addition, because ID9 is a separate municipality, the bylaws and regulations imposed within the Town of Banff do not apply to us. Currently, Lake Louise has no additional restrictions other than those from the Provincial and Federal Governments.

This does not mean that people are not working very hard at the local level to support residents. Here are just some of the things being done by ID9 during this pandemic:

1. Daily meetings with Parks Canada, law enforcement, fire rescue, health officials and local business owners to determine the current needs of the community and address gaps
2. Ongoing communication with our friends in the Town of Banff to better understand what supports they have implemented for their residents that they have also opened up to people within ID9
3. Weekly updates from the Province on regulations and information that is specific to Municipalities
4. Compilation of information you need to ensure you have access to services should you be struggling financially, mentally or in isolation
5. Reduction of the municipal budget and tax deferrals to support businesses during this difficult time
6. Implementation of food security programs

THEN WHO ARE THE LAKE LOUISE ADVISORY BOARD?

The LLAB is responsible for providing advice to Parks Canada on how to run the townsite of Lake Louise. This board was formed by Parks Canada and has no relationship to ID9, nor are they affiliated with Municipal Government in this area. They make recommendations on topics like utilities, infrastructure projects and general items related to all aspect of life in Lake Louise. This board is made up of 4 businesses and 3 residents.

In summary, please know that we are here to support you. If we are unable to directly assist you, we will do our best to support and connect you to local agencies who can. You are also more than welcome to virtually attend Council meetings to learn more. Feel free to visit our website www.improvementdistrict9.ca for more information and contact details.

Sincerely,

Danielle Morine

DANIELLE MORINE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Improvement District No. 9, Banff National Park
daniellemorine@improvementdistrict9.ca | 403-522-2606
PO Box 58, Lake Louise AB | TOL 1E0