



# MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2016

## 89% of Deep River Residents Support Strong Mandate at Arbitration

DEEP RIVER, ON – The people spoke and we listened. Following a month of public consultation on the future of the Deep River Fire Service model, residents have given an overwhelming mandate for how they expect the Town to move forward.

Council provided residents with two clear options: Accept an earlier Arbitrator's award and reduce full-time firefighters from 9 to 8 and add 24 volunteer firefighters, or attempt to negotiate (including interest arbitration if necessary) a reduction in the number of full-time firefighters from 8 to 2 (through attrition) and add 24 volunteers.

“Our residents have spoken and **given us a clear mandate** on how they want us to move forward,” said Joan Lougheed, Mayor of Deep River. “We appreciate the time and effort everyone has invested to study and understand the issues. **Survey results and comments received will all be taken into consideration as we prepare for the next step. We will** respect the wishes of our residents and will direct the Town's resources toward the successful pursuit of Option 2.”

A survey conducted by Simply Voting saw more than 89 percent of residents who completed the survey select Option 2.

“This is an overwhelming **directive** from **our** residents,” said Mayor Lougheed. “When this Council was elected 18 months ago we were given a responsibility to represent our residents and a mandate to make difficult decisions in the best financial interests of the community. We also committed to being open and transparent and making residents part of the decision-making process.”

Staff will now begin the process to present a compelling position at arbitration with a strong mandate from residents to reduce the number of full-time firefighters from 8 to 2, through attrition, while adding 24 volunteers, creating an effective and affordable Fire Department.

“I would like to thank all of our staff and Council and especially the residents,” said Mayor Lougheed. “This is an unbelievably difficult and complex issue that **past and present** Councils have struggled with for years. Now, with **a clear sanction from the survey and with the** support of our residents,, I am confident, **that together** we are **moving forward in a direction that continues our duty to serve residents of Deep River..**”

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For more information, please contact:  
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June 20, 2016

The Town of Deep River  
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To Whom It May Concern:

The following election results are certified by Simply Voting to have been securely processed and accurately tabulated by our independently managed service.

Respectfully yours,



Brian Lack  
President  
Simply Voting Inc.

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## Deep River Fire Service Survey

**Start:** 2016-06-13 08:00:00 Canada/Eastern

**End:** 2016-06-20 20:00:00 Canada/Eastern

**Turnout:** 1255 (35.6%) of 3522 electors voted in this ballot.

**Please select the option below you would like the Town of Deep River to implement to rectify the issues identified with the current Fire Service model?**

Option	Votes
Option 2	1114 (89.1%)
Option 1	136 (10.9%)

### VOTER SUMMARY

<b>Total</b>	1256
<b>Abstain</b>	6 (0.5%)

