

September 15, 2010

Sustainable Campbell River invites everyone to Sept. 25 community forum

What do you love about Campbell River? What would you change? How can we preserve the best aspects of our community for future generations? And how can we make our community even better?

Campbell River's Sustainable Official Community Plan process kicks off from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 25 at the North Island College Cafeteria – and everyone's invited to help shape the future.

"Now's the time to undertake this very important project," says Mayor Charlie Cornfield. "The community is in transition, and framing all our plans with sustainability in mind will help us chart a course for enhanced quality of life, with long-term stability in all our pursuits."

Campbell River's Sustainable Official Community Plan (SOCP) will be grounded on the three pillars of sustainability: the environment, the economy and social needs. The SOCP will set the community's long-term direction in areas such as preservation of the environment, economic development, energy use, housing, land-use planning, infrastructure, transportation, growth management and key social aspects of our community like healthy living, arts and culture.

"The Sustainable Official Community Plan builds environmental protection right into the planning process because the health of the planet is the vital foundation for all our social and economic activity," Mayor Cornfield explains.

The SOCP process will take place over 10 months, through a number of community meetings. *"The outcome will be the City's most comprehensive policy document, designed to help Campbell River meet community goals. It's up to the community to tell us what they want,"* he concludes.

SOCP development is being guided by a steering committee, in conjunction with community partners from the Campbell River Indian Band, the Cape Mudge Indian Band and the Homalco First Nation. Funding partners include: The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, The Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia, Comox Strathcona Waste Management, BC Hydro, The British Columbia Real Estate Foundation and the City of Campbell River.

The Sept. 25 community forum is the first in a series of opportunities for public input.

To keep community members informed, Sustainable Campbell River has launched a website (www.sustainablecampbellriver.ca). Posted online, people will find background information on the many topics to be discussed during stakeholder meetings, a calendar of events people can attend to provide feedback, a comprehensive survey (coming in October) to measure how people envision Campbell River's potential and a promotional video to encourage everyone to be part of the process.

Planning efforts happening in the same timeframe include the development of: a planning and governance strategy with the three local First Nations communities; an Agricultural Plan and Strategy; a Community Energy and Emissions Plan and a Master Transportation Plan.

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