

March 6, 2013

Council approves in principle communications tower at Willow Point Park – Summary of public consultation requested prior to final agreement

At its Mar. 5 meeting, Campbell River City Council agreed in principle to support a license agreement to install a communications tower in Willow Point Park – pending the outcome of public consultation.

To boost poor cellular coverage in the Willow Point area, TELUS proposed the installation of a free-standing 30-metre tower in the southeast corner of Willow Point Park, north of Parkway Road. TELUS requires a fully-fenced, 300-square-metre area to house an enclosed auxiliary generator on the ground next to the tower. The available power and road access would reduce installation costs, and trees surrounding the site would minimize the tower's appearance. The location is approximately 95 metres from the nearest residence and approximately 220 metres from the Splashpark.

Council's final approval of the proposal will be determined after TELUS has completed a public consultation process. Public consultation for telecommunications towers and wireless antennas is mandated by Industry Canada and can take up to three months.

The public consultation required by Industry Canada includes TELUS advertising its proposal in local media, to begin later this month. Members of the public will have 30 days to share suggestions, questions or concerns with TELUS, by telephone or in writing. TELUS then has 60 days to respond to public concerns, followed by another 20 days for members of the public to reply to TELUS' response. Contact information for TELUS will appear in the advertising.

Council confirmed that a summary of the public consultation results must be presented at a public meeting and must meet Council approval before the proposed license agreement would be finalized. Council anticipates a summary presentation will occur in late May 2013.

“Council wants to ensure Campbell River meets the growing demand for mobile phone and wireless access so our community can benefit from digital technology – and they want to make sure all community questions and concerns about the proposed tower location are addressed,” says Laura Ciarniello, the City's general manager of corporate services. *“Council also wants to encourage people to share feedback with TELUS during the public consultation process.”*

Highlights from the proposed agreement:

- TELUS would lease the land from the City of Campbell River and pay an annual license fee of \$15,000 plus applicable taxes.
- The agreement would be for five years with three consecutive automatic five-year extensions. The license fee would be adjusted at the end of each five-year term to reflect increases in the Canadian Consumer Price Index.
- TELUS would paint the tower to have it blend in with nearby coniferous trees.

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