

July 17, 2012

City receives BC Hydro funding for community water supply

The City of Campbell River has received a significant funding boost to build an independent drinking water supply system thanks to BC Hydro.

BC Hydro's contribution of 75 per cent of costs (up to \$12.5 million) of the projected costs for construction of a new dedicated domestic water intake for Campbell River will help the City plan for an alternative system for future community water needs.

Currently, the City draws its water supply from the BC Hydro penstocks, which will be removed as part of the John Hart upgrade project.

"This agreement between the City and BC Hydro is very important to the citizens of Campbell River and our neighbouring community partners," says Councillor Andy Adams, City Council liaison to BC Hydro. *"The funding provides a solid foundation for us to build on as we work toward the best long-term solution for our water supply."*

The City aims to finalize options, costs and timelines for construction of a new water intake from John Hart Lake this fall.

"BC Hydro's funding support is vital for this project to proceed," Adams adds. *"The City is not in a position to pay for the water intake construction, whether it be from savings or future debt, and Council intends to continue to work with BC Hydro to vigorously pursue alternative sources of provincial and federal or other funding for the balance of the infrastructure costs. City Council supports this agreement for funding support and appreciates BC Hydro's contribution and continued assistance."*

BC Hydro and the City have been working together to develop a solution for continued City water supply since early 2011.

"The City has always been a strong supporter of the John Hart project and the significant economic opportunities, investment and job creation this will bring. We are very pleased BC Hydro has chosen to make this investment in Campbell River. BC Hydro is to be commended for their community engagement and participation in bringing this project to fruition that benefit all aspects of our community," Adams concludes.

Points to note

- The City of Campbell River's water license permits water from John Hart Lake to be delivered to approximately 35,000 people (including three First Nations reserves and some areas within the Strathcona Regional District).
- Raw water has been delivered to the City's water system directly from BC Hydro's pipelines since 1947.
- BC Hydro is replacing its pipelines with a tunnel from the dam to the replacement generating station.
- The tunnel will not be suitable as a primary supply route for City water because it will be scheduled for regular draining and maintenance.
- A new intake system will continue to route raw water directly from John Hart Lake to the existing water treatment centre prior to distribution to the community.
- Campbell River's high quality drinking water is treated with ultra-violet and chlorine disinfection. The raw water from John Hart Lake does not currently require filtration.

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