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**Council supports next steps to investigate southern boundary adjustment*****Will invite Area D and City residents to share their opinion this year on providing sewer service in wider area***

Campbell River Council is moving forward in 2013 with a plan to ask residents in the northern portion of Area D whether they support having their property become part of the City to connect to municipal sewer services.

*“Council has endorsed a process that will invite people who live closest to the City’s southern boundary to tell us whether they’re interested in having the municipal boundary extended to include their property and to have those properties serviced with the City sewer system,”* says Mayor Walter Jakeway.

Council confirmed its decision to proceed with the offer after reviewing a report by an independent consultant that outlines the steps required to extend the existing southern boundary as a way to provide cost-effective sewer services to the most populated portion of Area D.

*“Our first step would be to explain the City’s rationale for a boundary extension and related sewer service initiative to the Strathcona Regional District, the regional director, Area D residents and City taxpayers. Then, we’d begin community-wide consultation,”* Mayor Jakeway explains.

*“We anticipate that residents in both the City and Area D will have a number of questions about the proposal, and we are committed to a public consultation process later this year,”* the Mayor says. *“We are now in the process of doing the fact finding around technical requirements and cost estimates to narrow down where it would be most cost-effective to adjust the southern boundary and offer sewer service,”* he adds.

*“Once that’s complete, we’ll provide information to City and Area D residents about service improvements and property tax changes to help people decide whether they support extending the City boundary and sewer service. Feedback from both groups would make up part of a submission that we’d send to the Province for approval,”* the Mayor concludes.

After considerable efforts over the past few years to negotiate a full cost-recovery service contract for Area D sewer were unsuccessful, Council affirmed in July 2012 that future sewer services would only be provided within City boundaries. A preliminary assessment in September indicated that a boundary adjustment could provide a cost-effective and practical solution to the public health and environmental concerns created by failing septic fields in parts of Area D.

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