

December 12, 2018

City looking for feedback from public on sea level rise planning

Campbell River residents are invited to review new information available on sea level rise and the range of options the community can take to prepare.

The City's website now includes two new documents that provide an overview of sea level rise and potential impacts for Campbell River as well as an introduction to adaptation options for coastal communities.

The site also includes an online feedback form with questions about community values related to sea level rise. Find the information and the form at <http://campbellriver.ca/planning-building-development/sea-level-rise/get-involved>. The deadline to send feedback is Tuesday, Dec. 18.

This new information was shared and public feedback was gathered at two workshops in November. More events are planned for 2019 as the *Campbell River Rising Seas* planning initiative progresses.

"With sea level rise planning well underway, the workshops gave participants an opportunity to learn about the expected impacts of sea level rise in Campbell River, and the range of potential options generally available to coastal communities," says Amber Zirnhelt, the City's manager of long range planning and sustainability. *"We heard great questions and received thoughtful feedback from community members about the wide range of values people hold for our waterfront – ranging from recreation, habitat, the importance of infrastructure such as roads, the seawalk, sewer and water to private property and development interests. We've posted the information and feedback form on the City website so that people who weren't able to attend one of the workshops are still able to share their thoughts."*

Approximately thirty people attended each 2.5-hour long session, which included an overview of the coastal engineering work and planning efforts undertaken to date.

The next stage in the City's sea level rise planning efforts will be informed by technical studies produced by Lanarc and Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, along with input from the community.

"The City will continue to seek input from residents to help Campbell River build resilience through awareness about climate change and sea level rise, and we encourage community members to attend future workshops to be held in the new year," Zirnhelt adds.

Questions? Contact the Long Range Planning Department by emailing policy@campbellriver.ca or by calling 250-286-5726.

For more on *Campbell River Rising Seas*, and to register for email updates on the project, visit campbellriver.ca/rising-seas.

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Background:

Given Campbell River's history of flooding in low-lying areas and anticipated climate change, if no action was taken to adapt to rising sea levels, temporary flooding events would become more regular and more severe as higher seas push damaging storm surges farther inland, weather events become more destructive, and the community experiences heavier rainfall.

The City of Campbell River is preparing to respond to future sea level rise through its multi-year planning initiative *Campbell River Rising Seas*, which will culminate in with production of a long term sea level rise strategy. This work is funded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Union of BC Municipalities, the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions and the City to evaluate the effects of sea level rise on the community and develop long-term adaptation strategies.

The City has engaged Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Ltd. to carry out technical assessments of the marine and river shores and determine risks to the city from sea level rise in combination with extreme weather events, and to identify potential adaptation measures.

The Province of British Columbia advises communities to plan for one metre of sea level rise by the year 2100. The City of Campbell River's planning approach follows similar work by other low-lying coastal communities such as the City of Surrey, Town of Qualicum Beach, District of Sannich.

By 2019 Campbell River is set to produce its own adaptation strategy to guide land use and infrastructure decision-making.
