



MEDIA RELEASE

March 9, 2018

Development of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan for Area C Moving Forward Thanks to Funding From the Federal Gas Tax Fund

Campbell River, BC – Strathcona Regional District (SRD) has received \$70,000 from the federal Gas Tax Fund to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan for Electoral Area C – Discovery Islands and Mainland Inlets.

The Area C Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) will provide a broad and long-term vision to help support sustainable development over the coming decades.

“Right now in Area C, we have an excellent Official Community Plan for Quadra Island, but that is about it. There is a Rural Land Use Plan from the early 90s that covers a large portion of the Discovery Islands and parts of coastal Area C, but only blanket zoning that covers the rest of the area.” says Area C Director Jim Abram. “The creation and implementation of this Area C ICSP will be the first plan to focus on the entirety of the area. This living plan will focus on the community’s values, identify specific community goals and guide future activities to sustain social, economic, and environmental values.”

The first step in the development of the plan will be to engage with Area C residents.

“We will be engaging with residents and community associations across Electoral Area C to ensure we are developing a plan that is right for the region now, and well into the future,” says Ralda Hansen, SRD Community Services Manager. “The plan will not only identify and set goals and provide strategies to achieve these goals, it will set measurable targets and methods for tracking results to celebrate progress and identify opportunities for improvement.”

The development of this ICSP may result in the need for minor amendments to the existing Quadra Island Official Community Plan and or revision of sections of the current Rural Land Use Bylaw governing the outer islands and inlets. Information regarding planned community consultation will be posted in local media, and on the SRD website at Strathconard.ca.

Each year, the Government of Canada provides over \$278 million in funding for local government infrastructure projects across British Columbia through the Federal Gas Tax Fund. The Union of BC Municipalities administers the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

Quotes

Claire Trevena, MLA for the North Island

“This is a great example of how all levels of government can work together to make a positive difference,” said Claire Trevena, MLA for North Island. “I’m impressed by the work at the Strathcona Regional District to move this project forward, making life even better for people in the community.”

Director Wendy Booth, President, Union of BC Municipalities:

“Communities across BC are looking for funding to replace, upgrade and expand local infrastructure. The federal Gas Tax Fund is accelerating the pace of infrastructure renewal through the transfer of

close to \$3 billion since 2005 for projects in our province. I appreciate the Government of Canada's long-term commitment to fund priorities identified by BC local governments.”

Links

- To see the full list of projects funded through this intake, visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/16553>
- To learn more about the federal Gas Tax Fund visit: <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/gtf-ft-eng.html>.
- To learn more about the Strathcona Regional District, please visit www.srd.ca.

The Strathcona Regional District is a partnership of four electoral areas and five municipalities providing services to approximately 43,000 residents.

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