

RDN SEEKS FURTHER INPUT FROM COMMUNITY IN AREA A OCP REVIEW

Electoral Area A residents are working toward a shared community vision through the Electoral Area A Official Community Plan Review. Recently, the Citizens' Committee Speaker Series component of the review offered residents the chance to provide suggestions on topics such as growth management, agriculture, environmental protection, transit, recreation, and community diversity and affordability.

At each segment of the Speaker Series, residents received workbooks containing background information and a series of questions to answer. By studying the responses to these questions, the Citizens' Committee and RDN staff will be able to assess community priorities with respect to the OCP Review.

"The responses to each segment of the Speaker Series will be extremely valuable in shaping the future of our community," said Electoral Area A Director Joe Burnett. "I encourage residents to read through the Citizens' Committee Speaker Series workbooks and submit their responses to the RDN Planning Department. The more information there is to work with, the better equipped we are to create positive change in our community."

Residents who could not attend the Speaker Series may still participate by visiting www.asharedcommunityvision.ca and downloading one or all of the workshop exercise books. Hard copies of each exercise book are available upon request by contacting the RDN at (250) 390-6510, emailing to areaaocpreview@rdn.bc.ca, or by visiting our office located at 6300 Hammond Bay Road. Participants may complete all of the workbooks, or choose one or more topics to focus on.

The deadline to submit completed workbooks is May 22.

"The Citizens' Committee Speaker Series builds upon the previous Community Workshops held in January 2009, which identified goals and objectives for consideration in the new Official Community Plan. The workbooks take this one step further by presenting a number of policy options for the community to consider which are consistent with the Sustainability Principles and Community Vision developed earlier in the review process. The community's response to these policy options will help determine what gets included in the Plan," said Regional District of Nanaimo Senior Planner Greg Keller.

The next step in the process will be a Community Development Forum where members of the development community will be invited to present and discuss their ideas with the Official Community Plan Review Citizens' Committee. More information about the forum will be available at a later date.

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