REGIONAL DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

February 8, 2022

RDN to Conduct Electoral Area F Governance and Services Study

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has received approval from the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Municipal Affairs to undertake a Governance and Services Study for Electoral Area F (Area F). A request to undertake the study was submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs by the RDN Board in November 2020. The purpose of this study is to gather information about current governance and service delivery in Area F, to get feedback from the community about their interests, priorities and challenges, and to identify opportunities for improvement. The Province has provided a grant of \$60,000 towards the cost of the study.

The study will encompass all of Area F which includes the communities of Coombs, Hilliers, Errington, Whiskey Creek and Meadowood and surrounding areas. A local governance and services study committee will be appointed by the RDN in the spring of 2022. The study committee will be comprised of seven to 11 residents representing various backgrounds, interests and localities in Area F to ensure a wide variety of perspectives are represented. Area F residents who are interested in sitting on the committee, may now apply. As an objective, fact-finding body, the study committee will assist in the study process, advise on and participate in public engagement and help develop recommendations for the final report, anticipated to be presented to the RDN Board in the spring of 2023. Electoral Area F Director Leanne Salter will be a non-voting member of the study committee.

A study consultant selected by the RDN will lead the study and work closely with the study committee to ensure a balanced and inclusive community engagement process. The study will take approximately twelve months and will begin in the spring of 2022. The community engagement phase, planned for November 2022 to February 2023, will include opportunities for Area F residents, First Nations and stakeholders to learn more about governance and services in Area F and provide feedback.

For information about the study, engagement process timeline and how to submit an application for a committee member position, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/eaf-gsstudy. Additional resources will be added once the study is underway in the spring of 2022. Area F residents are encouraged to register at getinvolved.rdn.ca and subscribe to the Governance and Services Study project page to receive project updates.

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