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City of Campbell River partners with Vancouver Island Construction Association

With the continuing construction surge in Campbell River, the City has teamed up with the Vancouver Island Construction Association to make the best of the new and growing opportunities.

Community growth periods present challenges and opportunities, and working with knowledgeable industry partners to share expertise helps both parties.

“Working cooperatively together with the construction industry is particularly important during strong economic growth periods if we want to avoid potential growing pains that can be associated with growing gains,” says Ron Neufeld, deputy city manager and general manager of operations. *“One of the challenges during strong growth periods is the competition for skilled trades workers. Another is ensuring the City has competitive responses to bids on tenders from potential contractors.”*

“Campbell River is one of many island communities that will be subject to a surge in public and privately funded construction and infrastructure over the next 10 years. The opportunity to communicate openly and come up with solutions that focus on mutual benefits is good for the construction community and the community at large,” says Greg Baynton, chief executive officer of the Vancouver Island Construction Association. *“In fact it’s critical as we enter a new market reality of sustained growth and skills shortages.”*

Neufeld adds that the improved processes can be shared across the province. *“The construction industry and communities throughout BC are interested in making more out of growth opportunities, and what we learn and develop through this partnership will be valuable to others as well,”* he says.

In 2013, the value of residential and commercial construction in Campbell River topped \$101 million – nearly double the \$59 million in 2012.

“We’ve been preparing to make the most of opportunities so that we can help deliver the community’s vision for growth and prosperity,” says Ron Neufeld, Deputy City Manager and General Manager of Operations for the City of Campbell River. *“We’ve streamlined the City’s development application processes and completed important upgrades at the airport and to water, sewer and roads. Downtown revitalization is underway, and all this, combined with the attractive quality of life in Campbell River helps attract newcomers. We’re already seeing the increase in residential and commercial constructions that indicates a strong investment climate. That helps attract even more interest – and brings an opportunity to develop in a way that reflects what local people have said they want to see happen in our community.”*

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