

September 28, 2010

Sustainable Campbell River invites everyone to October Stakeholder Workshops

More than 140 people shared their ideas for the future of Campbell River at the City's first public forum for the Sustainable Official Community Plan – and a number of additional opportunities to help create Campbell River's principal planning document will take place in October.

At the Sept. 25 public forum, people shared ideas ranging from increasing walkability and cycling opportunities downtown, further celebrating and developing local arts and culture and the importance of community gardens to addressing affordable housing needs and developing a green economy, including renewable energy.

Mayor Charlie Cornfield expressed his appreciation at the success of the forum. *"It was very rewarding to see the public actively shaping a community owned vision for Campbell River."*

The success of Saturday's event has set a platform for dialogue. *"We can now discuss in detail the goals of our community for the future,"* Mayor Cornfield explained.

To build on the ideas generated at the forum, the City of Campbell River is inviting everyone to take part in a series of interactive workshops for Sustainable Campbell River. Key topics will include: agriculture and food systems, urban design and development, economic development, waste systems, the environment and community energy and emissions. Workshops are set to take place throughout October at the Sportsplex.

At the upcoming Sustainable Campbell River workshops, the community is invited to continue to identify key concerns and opportunities, which will be summarized for recommended policy directions for the Sustainable Official Community Plan (SOCP). *"This is an opportunity to be actively engaged; we want the community to co-create policies that reflect the priorities of the public,"* the Mayor concluded.

For community members interested in Campbell River's food production, processing and distribution, the Agriculture & Food Systems Workshop will take place on Oct. 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. On Oct. 14, people interested in land use and the layout of the community may want to attend the Urban Design & Development Workshop at 6 p.m. Strategies to strengthen the local economy will be discussed on Oct. 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Economic Development Workshop. The Waste Workshop at 6 p.m. on Oct. 20 will address waste management through recovery, recycling, reuse and reduction. A workshop based on parks, ecosystems and the environment will be held on Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. The first part of the Sustainable Campbell River workshop series will wrap up with discussions on energy conservation and opportunities for renewable energy sources at the Community Energy and Emissions Workshop on Oct. 28 at 6 p.m. All workshops will take place at the Sportsplex.

To participate, community members are asked to register in advance by emailing: workshop-registration@sustainablecampbellriver.ca and to include the name of the workshop they plan to attend. For the latest news and information about upcoming public events, visit: www.sustainablecampbellriver.ca

SOCP development is guided by a steering committee, with community partners from the Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai and Homalco First Nations. Funding partners include: The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, The Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia, Comox Strathcona Waste Management, BC Hydro, The British Columbia Real Estate Foundation and the City of Campbell River.

– 30 –

Contact: Ron Neufeld, General Manager, Operations

250-286-5765