

November 26, 2019

City cancels event over public safety concerns

The City of Campbell River cancelled a Nov. 25 event scheduled for the downtown community centre over public safety concerns.

“We recognize that many people had good intentions for the event last night and are upset that it was cancelled,” says Ron Bowles, the City’s general manager of community development. *“For them, this was an unpopular decision, but our first duty is public safety.”*

After consultation with the RCMP, the City of Campbell River made the decision to cancel a Sierra Club Wilderness Committee event called: Forests: A Climate for Change.

“We found out the same day that a large number of people were planning to attend and rally. After talking with the RCMP, we determined that, on such short notice, we could not provide appropriate security to ensure a safe and respectful event,” Bowles says.

“Forestry jobs and environmental protection are urgent concerns for our community, supporting livelihoods and local quality of life,” he adds. *“City facilities can provide a public space where people can gather, share information and have important discussions. And, for every event in City facilities, our top priority is to ensure safe and respectful behaviour.”*

Based on the number of people anticipated, the strong potential for highly-charged emotion, and lack of time to establish a security plan for this booking, the City cancelled this event.

“We understand that the organizers hoped to host a peaceful discussion, and we are sorry for the disappointment,” Bowles adds. *“We will work with them to book a future event with appropriate security plans for large numbers of people.”*

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