

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

November 1, 2017

Electoral Area “F” Official Community Plan Update Community Survey – Round 2!

The Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS) is updating the Okanagan Lake West / West Bench Official Community Plan (OCP) for Electoral Area “F”. Electoral Area “F” includes communities and areas of West Bench, Sage Mesa, Faulder, Meadow Valley, North Beach, etc. The second round of community survey questions is now available, both on line and hard copy, and form part of the update process. The survey will be available until November 27, 2017.

The first Community Survey asked three, open ended key questions:

- What are the issues facing your neighbourhood?
- What are the opportunities in your neighbourhood?
- What is your vision for the future of Area “F”?

Some of the results from the Round 1 survey include that the majority of respondents lived in the West Bench area and that over 90% of people who responded were permanent year round residents. The top three community issues that were mentioned most frequently included concerns with the use of residential properties for home industry or commercial uses; sanitary sewer service in the West Bench area was mentioned frequently, although responses were split between positive (those supporting potential sewer) and negative (those not supporting potential sewer service); and water supply and quality.

The existing OCP for Area “F” was developed in 2008, but based largely on a Rural Land Use Plan (RLUB) that was adopted for the Plan Area in 1988 and last updated in 1997. The OCP needs updating to better reflect current community issues and priorities.

“I encourage every resident to get involved” says Michael Brydon, Electoral Area Director for Area “F”, “the OCP is one of our most important local planning documents, not only does it establish policies around development and land use, it will also give direction to other plans, including capital plans, transportation strategies and the like.”

What’s an Official Community Plan (OCP)?

An Official Community Plan (OCP) is a planning document that provides policies on a broad range of topics including land-use, transportation, housing, parks and infrastructure. It is developed through public consultation and the objectives and policy statements within reflect the collective desires of the people within the planning area.

An Advisory Group made up of residents from across the Electoral Area has been established and they will help review materials, provide input, and reach out to area residents. Their time and energy was invaluable for the first round of community questions so please watch for them in your neighbourhood!

To access the survey on line, go to www.rdos.bc.ca, and watch for the banner to come across the top of the screen.

ROUND 2 WILL RUN UNTIL NOVEMBER 27TH

For more information please contact Michael Brydon, Director, Electoral Area "F" at mbrydon@rdos.bc.ca. You can also visit the RDOS website at www.rdos.bc.ca, or contact Evelyn Riechert, Planner, at the RDOS at eriechert@rdos.cb.ca, 250.492.0237.

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Karla Kozakevich, Chair
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

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