

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **City's Retaining Wall Guidelines to be adopted as Provincial standard by APEGBC**

#### **Summary**

During its Committee of the Whole meeting held November 3, Council approved a request by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (APEGBC) to use the City of Nanaimo's draft Retaining Wall Guideline as part of their Provincial Professional Practice Guidelines.

The guideline, currently in a final draft state, was initiated by City of Nanaimo staff who, following the failure of a large retaining wall and, after reviewing the failure, determined that few guidelines for retaining wall construction existed. Having completed a review of known concerns and issues surrounding retaining wall construction, the City of Nanaimo retained a local engineering firm to assist it in establishing a series of desired building practices and methods when constructing retaining walls. These building practices and methods will now form the basis of a professional set of guidelines for all APEGBC members and licensees operating in BC.

*Strategic Link:* Taking responsibility to be an excellent municipal government.

#### **Key Points**

- Council has approved a request from APEGBC to use the City's draft retaining wall guideline as the basis for a new provincial professional practice guideline for all of its members and licensees.
- The City's draft Retaining Wall Guideline was developed over the past two years and involved input from City staff, local engineering consultants and consultants retained by APEGBC.

#### **Quotes**

"The draft Retaining Wall Guideline that the City of Nanaimo developed, and which APEGBC has requested to use, have their origin in a need to resolve a challenging construction problem which is experienced across BC. That APEGBC is using the guidelines that Nanaimo created is a fantastic acknowledgement of the problem solving and commitment being demonstrated by staff who are working to create effective solutions that lead to quality infrastructure and safer communities."

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