

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed May 9, 2017

### Public encouraged to attend waterfront walkway open houses

#### Summary

The City of Nanaimo is seeking public input as work gets underway to create an implementation plan detailing how the vision of a continuous walkway from Departure Bay to the Estuary can be achieved.

City staff are reaching out to the public to better understand the community's goals for this project and to identify any issues that need to be resolved before a consultant team starts to develop a plan. The open houses are designed to provide background information on current conditions and the existing walkway gaps that have yet to be built. Staff will be on hand to answer questions and record comments.

The open houses will be held at the Kin Hut in Departure Bay and at Maffeo Sutton Park so users of the walkway can 'pop-in' as they are outside enjoying Nanaimo's waterfront. If people are unable to attend an open house, the City project website has an interactive 'Story Map' which provides considerable background information and there is an on-line survey to capture people's comments and ideas.

*Strategic Link:* The Waterfront Walkway is identified as one of Council's five key capital projects and initiatives in the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan.

#### Key Points

- Three dates are available for members of the public wishing to attend this open house: (Kin Hut) Wednesday, May 17 10:00am to 6:00pm and (Maffeo Sutton Park) Thursday, May 18 10:00am to 6:00pm; (Kin Hut) Saturday, May 20 10:00am to 4:00pm.
- Members of the community who have ideas to share on the future of a connected walkway along the length of Nanaimo's waterfront are encouraged to attend.
- For additional information, see the linked resources attached to the online version of this news release, including an interactive story map and associated project website.

#### Quotes

"The vision for a continuous walkway from Departure Bay to the Nanaimo River Estuary has strong support from the public. I'm excited to see this project moving forward and encourage the public to attend an open house or visit the project website to learn more."

Ian Thorpe  
Councillor  
City of Nanaimo

Continued... Public encouraged to attend waterfront walkway open houses

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