

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Committee members sought to form engagement program

### Summary

Nanaimo residents are being sought to participate in a committee that will assist in the formation of a new public engagement program. In July, the committee will work together to determine a selection of format and structure options which will then be taken to the public for their feedback.

After reviewing the results of the feedback, the committee will finalize the structure of the pilot program. Staff will report back to Council with the results of the public feedback and recommended structure of the program before launching it in the fall of 2017.

Individuals wishing to participate in the committee are invited to attend the inaugural meeting on Tuesday, July 11 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the City Hall Training Room.

*Strategic Link:* Taking Responsibility to be an excellent municipal government includes reaching out to the public for engagement and feedback.

### Key Points

- The program is a result of a motion passed by Council in the fall of 2016 to establish informal, open topic community engagement and public conversation sessions to be held quarterly over one year.
- Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, July 11 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the City Hall training room (entrance located off Dunsmuir Street parking lot) and July 31 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Service and Resource Centre boardroom (411 Dunsmuir Street). A survey will be available on the City website for those unable to attend the feedback sessions.
- Public feedback sessions will be held on Monday, July 17 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Beban Park Social Lounge and on Tuesday, July 18 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in Room 1 of the Bowen Park complex.

### Quotes

"Public engagement is a critical part of the work we do. The City is anxious to explore all possibilities to have deep and meaningful dialogue with our community and to that end, hope to create a suite of diverse tools to engage the broadest range of citizens possible."

Bill McKay  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

"We want to get this right the first time and community involvement to establish protocols is paramount. The new engagement program will in no way eliminate use of item-specific e-Town Halls."

Gordon Fuller  
Councillor  
City of Nanaimo

"I am pleased that we are reaching out to all the corners of our beautiful city for engagement. Nanaimo is a very diverse community which will bring much wisdom to the committee and program."

Bill Yoachim  
Councillor  
City of Nanaimo

Continued... Committee members sought to form engagement program

"Hearing from the public about how they wish to be engaged is key in developing a program such as this. We encourage interested residents to work with staff and members of Council on the committee or attend a feedback session."

Philip Cooper  
Director of Communication and Community Engagement  
City of Nanaimo

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