

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed October 3, 2017

### **Have your say about how the Region manages its Solid Waste**

*Public meeting on Wednesday, October 4 in Beban Social Centre - 6-8pm*

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is hosting a Public meeting on Wednesday, October 4 at Beban Social Centre from 6-8pm. All residents in the City of Nanaimo will have received a postcard in the mail inviting them to learn about what the RDN has achieved so far through solid waste planning and to have a say in the future direction and priorities for the Region.

The Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is a document that is drawn up by the RDN in consultation with key stakeholders every 10 years. The plan sets out how the region manages its solid waste and is currently in a draft format. The RDN is hoping to receive feedback on that draft from a series of public meetings that are being held throughout October. Representatives from the City of Nanaimo have assisted in the preparation of the plan so far and the City would now like to echo the invitation from the RDN and ask all residents with an interest in Solid Waste to attend the meeting.

"It is important that the residents of Nanaimo have their voice heard on such an important topic" says Charlotte Davis, City manager of Sanitation and Recycling "I am interested to hear what services residents would like to receive".

The draft SWMP has an ambitious target of diverting 90% of the regions waste from landfill. This would mean a big increase in recycling activities in the region as at present round 68% of the regions waste is diverted.

Amongst other things the draft plan includes taking steps to make recycling and composting easier for commercial enterprises and also residents living in multi-family buildings such as stratas and apartment buildings.

Charlotte Davis says "I am excited about the contents of the plan as regards to making composting and recycling services more widely available, this is something that we hear from residents about regularly. I also think this is a good time for us to discuss depot services in the region. I hope that this meeting is well attended".

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