

For immediate release
Month May 3, 2022

**REGIONAL DISTRICT LAUNCHES OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW FOR
ELECTORAL AREA A**

Community engagement opportunities begin with survey and in-person events

Pemberton, BC – The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) is seeking public input into the review of the Official Community Plan (OCP) for Electoral Area A.

Electoral Area A encompasses the Upper Bridge River Valley, including the small, rural communities of Bralorne, Gold Bridge, Gun Lake, Tyaughton Lake, Gun Creek Road and Marshall Valley. The area is found within the traditional territory of the St'at'imc Nation. It is the northwestern-most area of the SLRD and is bounded by the Cariboo Regional District to the north and west, Electoral Area B of the SLRD, to the east and Electoral Area C of the SLRD, to the south.

The population of Electoral Area A, according to the 2021 Canada Census is 305, an increase of 63.1 per cent over the 2016 Canada Census, which reported the population at 187.

The [Upper Bridge River Valley Official Community Plan](#) was last reviewed in 2006, before being adopted in 2008. While minor updates have been made since that time, a comprehensive review is planned for 2022, beginning with the launch of an online survey, and in-person engagement events.

“The OCP review for Electoral Area A is timely,” said Sal DeMare, Electoral Area A Director. “We have seen a significant increase in population since the 2016 Census,” he said. “Not only are we seeing more people relocating to the area, but the communities are changing. The demographics are shifting toward younger community members residing fulltime, and some of them supported by remote work opportunities, along with younger families purchasing recreational property.”

DeMare is encouraging Electoral Area A residents to participate in the online [SLRD survey](#) from May 3-June 2, 2022 and upcoming in-person community engagement events.

“This OCP review is important, but it will only be successful if we have strong community input,” he added.

The purpose of an OCP is to provide direction for land use and development. An OCP is based on the community’s economic, social and environmental values.

An update to the existing OCP for Electoral Area A will incorporate current best practices as well as reflect the changing demographics and needs for the region.

Information from the survey will be used to help set the overall direction for the OCP update, and will identify the vision, goals and objectives that will form the basis for the updated plan.

Through the engagement process, residents are encouraged to think about the following questions:

What is important to the SLRD Area A community in 2022, and what do you want Electoral Area A to look like in the years to come?

Community engagement events include the following:

- May 21, 2022: OCP Pop-Up at the Gold Bridge Community Centre/ Trade Show 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- May 22, 2022: OCP Pop-Up at the Gold Bridge Community Centre/ Garage Sale 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

More information about the Electoral Area A OCP review is available on the SLRD website:

www.slrd.bc.ca/AreaAOCPUpdate

Residents with questions about the OCP review process can email: AreaAOCP@slrd.bc.ca or contact:

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About the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Located in southwestern BC, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) is a local government federation consisting of four member municipalities (the District of Lillooet, the District of Squamish, the Village of Pemberton and the Resort Municipality of Whistler) and four unincorporated, rural electoral areas (A, B, C, and D). Headquartered in Pemberton, which is the approximate geographic centre of the region, the SLRD delivers a wide range of local, regional and sub-regional services to approximately 42,665 residents (2016 Census).

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