SQUAMISH - LILLOOET REGIONAL DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
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Regional District Board elects chair and vice-chair

Pemberton and Lillooet mayors elected to Board leadership roles

Pemberton, BC – The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Board of Directors elected the chair and vice-chair for the coming year at the November 26 Board meeting.

Village of Pemberton Mayor and SLRD Board Director, Mike Richman, will serve as SLRD Board chair. District of Lillooet Mayor and SLRD Board Director, Laurie Hopfl, will serve as SLRD Board vice-chair. Both were elected by acclamation.

While they are new to the chair and vice-chair positions, Richman and Hopfl have previously served on the SLRD Board as directors appointed by their respective municipalities.

“I am honoured by the confidence my colleagues have placed in me to serve as chair of the Regional District Board,” said Richman.

Previously, the position of chair was held by Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) Councillor, Jen Ford, while the vice-chair position was held by Electoral Area C Director, Russell Mack.

Richman acknowledged Ford and Mack for their leadership and service, noting the significant commitment required to serve in local government.

“As we begin this new term, which also marks some significant change following the recent municipal elections, I want to sincerely thank our outgoing chair and vice-chair for their leadership and dedication, and all Board members who are not returning,” added Richman.

“Local government requires a tremendous commitment of time, energy and dedication and our communities have benefited greatly from their service.”

The SLRD is governed by an 11-member board of directors consisting of four electoral area directors and seven municipal directors (one director from the District of Lillooet, one director from the Village of Pemberton, two directors from the Resort Municipality of Whistler and three directors from the District of Squamish).

Regional district board composition and voting strength are determined by the formula set out in section 196(2) of the Local Government Act (LGA).

While municipal directors are appointed to the SLRD Board by their respective municipal councils, electoral area directors are elected in each electoral area during the General Local Election.

In 2026, Electoral Area A Director John Courchesne was elected by voting, Electoral Area B Director Vivian Birch-Jones (incumbent) was elected by acclamation, Electoral Area C Director Veronica Woodruff was elected by acclamation and Electoral Area D Director Paula de Jong was elected by voting.

In addition to Richman and Hopfl, municipal directors, appointed by their respective municipal councils, include: Jack Crompton and Claire Ruddy from the Resort Municipality of Whistler and Eric Andersen, Sean Easton and Sarah Ellis, from the District of Squamish.

The positions of chair and vice-chair are elected annually by the SLRD Board of Directors.

The current SLRD Board of Directors:

- John Courchesne, Electoral Area A
- Vivian Birch-Jones, Electoral Area B
- Veronica Woodruff, Electoral Area C
- Paula de Jong, Electoral Area D
- Laurie Hopfl, District of Lillooet (Vice-chair)
- Mike Richman, Village of Pemberton (Chair)
- Jack Crompton, Resort Municipality of Whistler
- Claire Ruddy, Resort Municipality of Whistler
- Eric Andersen, District of Squamish
- Sean Easton, District of Squamish
- Sarah Ellis, District of Squamish

In addition to serving on the SLRD Board, directors also serve on standing and select committees as well as on external boards, committees and commissions representing a broad range of issues. The full list of these appointments for the coming year will be available on the SLRD website.

Positions of chair and vice-chair for the Electoral Area Directors (EAD) Committee and the Pemberton Valley Utilities and Services (PVUS) Committee will be elected at the December committee meetings.

“This term sees several new Board members joining local government. There is always a learning curve when stepping into these roles and it is important that we create space for questions, learning and growth,” Richman said.

“I look forward to supporting our newest members as we continue building strong relationships and making thoughtful decisions together. I am excited to work alongside my colleagues to continue the important work of the SLRD. Regional districts are at their best when diverse communities come together to find common ground and share solutions. Every electoral area and municipality brings a unique perspective to the table, and I am committed to ensuring these voices are heard and respected as we continue to work collaboratively on behalf of residents across the region.”

SLRD Board meetings are generally held in the SLRD boardroom at 1350 Aster Street in Pemberton on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings can be attended in person and viewed via livestream or recording. The meeting schedule, location details, agendas and minutes are available on the SLRD website.

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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 50,496 residents (2021 Census as certified by the Minister of Municipal Affairs).

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District is found within the traditional territories of several First Nations, including the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), St'át'imc and Lil'wat. Small parts of the SLRD also overlap with the traditional territories of the Stó: lō, Tsleil-Waututh, Nlaka'pamux, Tsilhqot'in, and Secwepemc Nations. While the SLRD does not provide direct services to the residents of the First Nations communities located within the region, the organization is committed to enhancing relations with the Indigenous communities and First Nations within whose territories the SLRD operates.

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