

**For immediate release
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NEWS RELEASE

**SQUAMISH-LILLOOET REGIONAL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES
NEW CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Melany Helmer to move into role as of September 8, 2020

Pemberton, BC – Following a thorough nation-wide search, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Melany Helmer has been named as the organization's new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), effective September 8, 2020.

Helmer's previous experience includes being Chief Administrative Officer at the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, where she worked on significant projects such as the implementation of the Highway 16 Transit Service providing access to safe, reliable and affordable transportation, and serving as EOC Director during the 2018 wildfire season. Helmer holds a Certificate in Local Government Statutory Administration from the Province of British Columbia Board of Examiners and a Professional Specialization Certificate in Local Government Management from the University of Victoria.

"We are delighted to welcome Melany to the SLRD and the Board is thrilled that she will be leading our team," said SLRD Board Chair, Tony Rainbow.

"I am excited to join the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District team and look forward to getting to know my colleagues and becoming part of the SLRD team," Helmer said. "It is an honour and a pleasure to serve the SLRD in collaboration with the dedicated Board and staff. My family and I are looking forward to enjoying the amazing year-round recreational activities in the region recognized as a world class destination for residents and tourists alike."

Rainbow said the response to the CAO posting for this position was strong, and he acknowledged the work of SLRD staff during the transition period, and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We were fortunate to have a number of excellent candidates come forward for this position, and Melany is a great fit for the organization, and our region," Rainbow said.

"We have a team of dedicated, talented professionals at the SLRD and Melany will complement that nicely. This is a challenging time to be taking on the leadership of an organization like the SLRD, and the Board is confident in the team that we have in place."

Helmer replaces Lynda Flynn, the SLRD's long-time CAO who resigned from the SLRD in February, 2020 to move to the Okanagan. Director of Legislative and Corporate Services Kristen Clark has served as Interim CAO during this transitional period.

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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