

For immediate release  
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**Electoral Area A Official Community Plan Review and Update project moves into next phase with new engagement opportunities in 2024**

***Public encouraged to participate in online survey and virtual open house***

**Pemberton, BC** – The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) is looking to the communities in Electoral Area A to help set the future course for the region with the development of a new Official Community Plan (OCP).

The purpose of the OCP is to provide long-term direction for land use and development. An OCP is based on a community's economic, social and environmental values. The draft update to the Electoral Area A OCP incorporates current best practices and reflects the changing demographics and needs of the region. The Electoral Area A OCP addresses key issues such as housing, heritage and park land and trail designation, and will shape planning in the area through 2040.

The SLRD's Electoral Area A OCP review and update project was launched in 2022, but was delayed in 2023 due to the wildfire season that impacted the area. The project is back on track, with final opportunities for public input in 2024.

Previous engagement opportunities have included community visioning exercises with stakeholder interviews and pop-up events, a survey and the completion of community workbooks. A Community Advisory Committee was also formed at the project outset, representing each of the neighbourhoods in Area A. The Committee provided important input at key project stages to ensure community priorities were accurately reflected in the draft document.

Information gleaned from the initial engagement activities was used to develop the first draft of the Electoral Area A OCP which received first reading at the July 26, 2023 SLRD Board meeting. Summaries of the engagement efforts, and the draft Electoral Area A OCP, are available on the SLRD website: [www.slrd.bc.ca/AreaAOCPUpdate](http://www.slrd.bc.ca/AreaAOCPUpdate)

Phase four of the project includes an online survey and virtual open house planned for February, 2024. The **virtual open house** will take place on Tuesday, February 6 from 6-7 p.m. and the **survey** will be available from February 6-20. The survey, and details about the virtual open house, will be available on the SLRD's online engagement platform: <https://getinvolved.slrd.bc.ca/draftareaaocp>

Input received from these engagement opportunities will be used to inform final updates to the Electoral Area A OCP, and a public hearing will be scheduled following second reading of the bylaw, which will provide one final opportunity for public input.

Electoral Area A encompasses the Upper Bridge River Valley, including the small, rural communities of Bralorne and Gold Bridge and the neighbourhoods of 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 northwesternmost 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. From 2006 to 2016, the area saw relatively flat population growth. The 2021 Statistics Canada Census, however, revealed a 63.1 per cent increase in population, from 187 to 305, between 2016 and 2021.

The [Upper Bridge River Valley Official Community Plan](#) was last reviewed in 2006 before being adopted in 2008. While minor updates were made since that time, this is the first time a comprehensive review has been undertaken since adoption.

“Our communities are growing and changing, and this is important work as we plan for the future of the Bridge River Valley,” said Electoral Area A Director, Sal DeMare. “We are grateful to everyone who has participated in the OCP review and update process so far, and encourage everyone who has an interest to make sure they provide their input.”

Members of the public with questions about the OCP review process can email: [AreaAOCP@slrd.bc.ca](mailto:AreaAOCP@slrd.bc.ca) or contact:

Alix MacKay  
Planner  
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District  
Telephone: (604) 894-6371 ext. 224  
Email: [amackay@slrd.bc.ca](mailto:amackay@slrd.bc.ca)

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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 Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh 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.

### **Media Contact:**

Patricia Westerholm  
Communications and Engagement Manager  
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District  
Phone: 604-894-6371 x 244  
Email: [pwesterholm@slrd.bc.ca](mailto:pwesterholm@slrd.bc.ca)