



Southern Regional District Official Community Plan Review NEWSLETTER #2

THANK-YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE
RURAL SUSTAINABILITY PRESENTATION & THE
FIRST INFORMATION GATHERING WORKSHOP

What is an OCP?

The Southern Regional District Official Community Plan (OCP) sets out a vision of how your community wishes to evolve by establishing community goals, objectives and policies. The OCP provides direction to the local government, provincial agencies, businesses and landowners for making land use decisions. For example, the OCP includes parcel size policies which provide direction to the Regional Board when reviewing and making recommendation on subdivision applications.

The Southern Regional District OCP, which was adopted in 1994, needs to be updated due to changing demographics, land uses and provincial legislation. To ensure that the OCP accurately reflects the local community, a comprehensive but flexible public consultation program has been initiated which includes three Information Gathering Workshops.

Next Workshop: “Getting Back to Basics”

Saturday, December 6, 2008, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Kelly Creek Community School - 2345 Zilinski Road

The feedback from the first Information Gathering Workshop indicated that participants clearly want additional information about what an OCP is, how it is to be reviewed and adopted and more importantly how it will affect residents. These questions will be answered at a session scheduled for December 6, 2008 at the Kelly Creek Community School. Representatives from the Ministry of Community Development, Landworks Consultants and your Planning Committee Directors will be there to provide the information you need and to answer any questions you may have on the Southern Regional District OCP review planning process.

This workshop will also include:

1. **A summary of the highlights from the first Information Gathering Workshop.**
2. **A presentation on the Southern Regional District OCP review process.**
3. **A discussion of the current OCP and required and desired changes.**
4. **An opportunity for you to grade the current OCP by completing an OCP “report card”.**

What happened to Area B?

Between 50 and 75 people attended the Rural Sustainability Presentation and the Information Gathering Workshop held on November 7th and 8th. **Unfortunately very few participants came from Electoral Area B.** If this trend continues, Area C issues and concerns will dominate the review process and the new OCP will not address the very real concerns of Area B residents. It is still early in the process and there is still time to get involved. **Area B residents are encouraged to join their Area C counterparts and do their part. Please join us at the upcoming Dec 6th meeting.**

OCP Review – Available Information

The November 7th Rural Sustainability Presentation was videotaped and the Regional District has copies on DVD to loan out to anyone interested in viewing this very informative session. To borrow a copy, drop by our office at 5776 Marine Avenue in the townsite, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Find the following information on the Regional District's website:
www.powellriverrd.bc.ca**

1. *Newsletters*
2. *Community Survey Responses – Summary and Compilations*
3. *Proposed New OCP Boundary Map*
4. *Existing Southern Regional District OCP*
5. *Community Profile*

Focus Groups- Participants Wanted

Four focus groups, one each on **Housing & Residential Development; Resources, Environment & Agriculture; Economic Development; and Community Services & Infrastructure**, will be formed from a cross-section of the community to help guide the preparation of the revised OCP. A focus group consists of a small number of individuals who provide information during directed and moderated interactive group discussions. Participants are chosen based on their interest in the issue under study and their ability to provide specialized knowledge or insight.

Membership in the focus groups will be made up of members appointed by the Powell River Regional District from a list of interested residents and land owners.

The focus group meetings will be open to the public. Sessions will be used to:

- ✓ discuss survey questionnaire results;
- ✓ discuss feedback and comment sheets from information gathering sessions;
- ✓ present information gathered by focus group members from the community; and
- ✓ to help prepare, review and comment on draft policies for the revised OCP.

Individuals are encouraged to participate in one of the focus groups to share your expertise. If you wish to put your name forward, please e-mail the Regional District at planning@powellriverrd.bc.ca; drop us a line at Powell River Regional District, 5776 Marine Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 2M4; or give us a call at 604 483-3231.

Thank you for your interest. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Kelly Creek Community School from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 6th.