

# Directors Report July 2023

## New Advisory Panel Committee

Since “Day One” I have been committed to greater transparency.

For the first time in “Three Decades” Area D has a “New Advisory Panel Committee Bylaw” and a transparent process of advertising and selecting people for the “Advisory Panel Committee”.

No longer will the “Area Director” have any influence over the recommendations that come from this committee.

Thank you, to those that put their names forward for this important committee which is strictly voluntary.

It is not always easy to put your names forward and to volunteer your time.

## Cedar Creek and Upper Campbell River Residents and BC hydro

Time goes fast and its been a decade since any advocating to BC Hydro has been done from the Area Director to possibly bring hydro to the residents of Cedar Creek and Upper Campbell River lake.

While this is still in the early stages SRD staff are looking into what possibilities exist if any that could finally bring hydro to this community.

## Fire Smart Grant

The SRD was successful in obtaining a grant for Fire Smart services.

The SRD intends to hire a regional Wildfire Risk Coordinator that is fully funded by this grant.

Some of the key responsibilities this position will hold include:

- Coordinating FireSmart and wildfire risk reduction public education.

- Providing FireSmart recommendations to homeowners to reduce the wildfire hazards on their properties by conducting site visits upon request from the homeowner.

## Housing Service

Earlier this year I brought a motion to the SRD Board asking staff to prepare a report on ways that the Strathcona Regional District could play a more active role in housing.

Before any meaningful reports and recommended actions could be brought to the Board there needs to be a service created just for housing.

To be honest - services almost always cost tax payers, however this service will strive to be cost neutral.

Even though good things can come from this service the “Three Electoral Directors from Area A, B, and C over the last two board meetings have done everything they can to derail the creation of this service.

Now that this service is in place Area D will be applying for the Housing Accelerator Grant

This Grant encourages initiatives that increase housing supply and promote the development of affordable, inclusive and diverse communities that are low-carbon and climate-resilient.

The Housing Accelerator Fund provides incentive funding to local governments encouraging initiatives aimed at increasing housing supply. It also supports the development of complete, low-carbon and climate-resilient communities that are affordable, inclusive, equitable and diverse

The Strathcona Regional District is also looking into the possibility of creating “Work Force Housing”.

This would be a cost neutral initiative if it was approved by the Board.

Work Force housing could play a key role in attracting

- Young Families
- level entry employee’s
- Medical professionals in training
- Skilled tradesman and apprentices

More to come over the next few months on this new service.