

November 1, 2017

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**Task Force presents report to Council for 3.5-acre waterfront site**

Campbell River's Waterfront Task Force will present its final report to Council Nov. 6. The report presents a concept for future development of the City-owned 3.5-acre portion of vacant land at the corner of Highway 19A and Roberts Reach following six months of reviewing opportunities, options and community suggestions.

*"The task force was given a mandate to develop, through extensive consultation, a community-endorsed vision and strategy for the future of this property," says Mayor Andy Adams. "Thanks to outstanding community participation and suggestions, the task force will present Council with a plan that incorporates community values and many of the suggestions for the 3.5-acre site, focusing on highlighting this unique location's natural features with public ownership, access and amenities."*

The Waterfront Task Force's vision was inspired through public consultation that included 27 ideas pitched by community members at two open house events, public review of the conceptual plan through a third open house and a public survey seeking feedback on the concept. Results of public survey will be included in the final report to Council.

The conceptual plan maintains the 3.5-acre site as public property, with more than 60 per cent of the space as an urban park – blending green areas with tree cover, benches and views along the waterfront, a new structured walkway to the beach at Roberts Reach, and areas for entertainment, food shops and shopping for local products.

The concept also includes a mixed-use building that would house a range of public services and amenities, such as an aquarium, exhibition areas, a market for local small-scale products, a world-class Salmon Centre of Excellence, a 220-seat venue for cultural events and conferences, meeting rooms, 110 indoor parking stalls and a mid-scale restaurant overlooking the ocean, islands and mountains.

*"The City followed the open house review of this concept with an online survey. A large majority of people support the proposed plans for site development, and many people made suggestions about the concept building. We have noted these to be considered and incorporated during future detailed design work for a building," says city manager Deborah Sargent, adding: "The task force's report will also include a full socio-economic analysis of community benefits to demonstrate the overall and long-term financial impact of this project, which will be key for grant applications."*

The overall project cost is estimated at up to \$30 million, and timing for development of the site would depend on funding, which could come through senior government grants, corporate and private sector partners as well as lease payments by building tenants.

Council could also consider funding early stages of the site improvement that complement the project during 2018 budget deliberations in December.

People unable to attend the Nov. 6 Council meeting can watch the live webcast, or view archived video after the meeting, from the link on the homepage of the City's website ([campbellriver.ca](http://campbellriver.ca)). See [campbellriver.ca/refresh](http://campbellriver.ca/refresh) for a summary of the process and community suggestions for the 3.5-acre site.

Council extends sincere thanks to community members who shared ideas, the Cohlmeier Architecture team and to task force members Dale Bradley, Kenneth Cooper, Dennis Fitzgerald, Gerrit Keizer, Kris Mailman, Bill Matthews, Amanda Raleigh and John Sorenson. Mayor Andy Adams chaired the task force, and Councillors Colleen Evans and Marlene Wright also participated.

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