



MEDIA RELEASE

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SRD Board Adopts Revised Concept Plan for Strathcona Gardens Revitalization

Campbell River, BC – An important next step in the revitalization of a key community facility was taken this week, with the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) board adopting an expanded concept plan for the REC-REATE Strathcona Gardens project at their April 11 meeting.

The expanded concept plan is for a partial new build option, which would include a new aquatic centre, improved fitness centre adjacent to the new wellness centre on the first floor, improvements and upgrades to the ice facilities, and new storage and public spaces. Initial drafts were adapted to include feedback from the community.

“Over the last two years, we’ve has been planning and saving for repairs and renovations required for the Gardens facility because we know the community is eager to see major improvements here,” said SRD board chair Michele Babchuk. “We undertook technical studies and extensive consultation and engagement with facility user groups and the public, and we clearly heard that this is a well-loved facility in our growing community, but there are significant issues that we need to address. We’re glad to have a clear plan for moving forward.”

Information gathered in 2017 through multiple meetings with the public, open houses and an online survey showed that the residents strongly supported a major redevelopment of Strathcona Gardens. The goal of REC-REATE is to renew Strathcona Gardens to address aging components and deliver recreation services the community desires in an exciting, modern, safe and inclusive environment.

The SRD recently received \$4.6 million from the federal Gas Tax Fund to install new energy-efficient heating and cooling systems at Strathcona Gardens, which will tie into the renovations proposed through the REC-REATE project, and may help reduce the project cost, currently estimated at \$47 million. Funding for the renovation will come from \$7 million in dedicated reserve funds already being set aside, and by pursuing anticipated provincial and federal grants.

With the preferred plan adopted, the next step is to proceed to schematic design. That step is to be completed this year. Subject to funding, construction could begin in 2020.

For information about the REC-REATE project, including the proposed facility design, visit www.recreatesg.ca or email recreate@srld.ca

The Strathcona Regional District is a partnership of four electoral areas and five municipalities providing services to approximately 43,000 residents.

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Strathcona Gardens Recreation Complex Feasibility Study



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