

**PROPOSED CONSULTATION PLAN  
LAND ACQUISITION FUND  
November 15, 2017**

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In 2016, the Capital Regional District (CRD) conducted a resident survey regarding regional parks and trails that asked respondents whether they supported the extension of the Land Acquisition Fund for another 10 years. Of the 1,256 respondents to the survey, 73% (n=923) supported the proposed action, with only 4% (n=43) of participants opposed to it and 23% (n=290) having no opinion. Based on established statistical approaches, 400 completed surveys are needed to be able to generalize the outcome of a survey to a broader population with an accuracy of 95%. Based on this rationale, the data obtained through the survey allow the survey results to be generalized to the CRD population.

Given this evidence of public support for the continuation of the Land Acquisition Fund for another 10 years, public consultation will focus on opinion about the future uses of the Land Acquisition Fund. This information will be collected primarily through an online survey. To ensure that a representative sample of the CRD's residents respond to the survey, postcards will be mailed to a random sample of residents inviting them to complete the online survey. This will be followed up with reminder postcards later in the process to encourage responses.

The survey sample will be selected randomly by using postal codes and mailing addresses. For the purposes of the survey, the region will be divided in four sub-regions. This approach respects CRD Regional Planning approaches that take into account the different geographic areas, land use patterns and municipal and resident interests. The four sub-regions are:

- 1) Gulf Islands (Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, Penders, Saturna)
- 2) Peninsula (North Saanich, Central Saanich, Sidney)
- 3) Core (Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, Esquimalt, View Royal)
- 4) Westshore (Colwood, Langford, Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke, Juan de Fuca)

The initial mail out will be sent in March 2018. Follow-up reminders will be mailed to residents in June and August 2018.

As the recent resident survey had a response rate of 27%, 5,900 postcards will be mailed out to allow the collection of at least 1,600 surveys (400 surveys \*4 subareas=1,600 surveys). If results demonstrate that not enough responses are being received to meet statistical requirements, funds will be held in reserve to conduct a targeted survey to obtain additional responses where necessary.

To assist survey respondents, the online survey instrument will include background information about the existing regional park system, park classifications, the history of the Land Acquisition Fund, investing in facilities for visitors and guidance found in the Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-2021.

### **Proposed Topics for Survey**

Respondents to the survey will be asked questions on the following issues regarding the use of the Land Acquisition Fund:

- Land purchases and associated costs, such as appraisals, surveys or environmental assessments only;
- New capital facilities (trails, parking lots, etc.) for opening newly-acquired lands to accommodate visitors only;
- Building new capital facilities anywhere in the parks and trails system; and
- Building new and maintaining existing capital facilities anywhere in the parks and trails system.

### **Municipalities and Electoral Areas**

The consultation process with municipal governments and electoral areas will be similar to that employed in 2009 for the most recent renewal of the Land Acquisition Fund. This will consist of a letter from the Chair of the Regional Parks Committee to the Mayor and Council of each municipality and electoral area directors accompanied by a brief questionnaire requesting their views on the topics above. Staff would be available to make presentations as requested.