

# COMMUNITY CIRCLES PRIMER

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Cowichan region is changing. Population growth, an evolving economy and a changing climate require regional coordination and local action. To support this coordinated effort the CVRD is updating its Official Community Plan (OCP) for the Electoral Areas, the main tool guiding how we use land and shape our communities. The CVRD is in the process of “harmonizing” the existing electoral area OCPs into one OCP for the electoral areas and is now moving towards modernizing it to address regional trends. The result of this process will be an OCP for the electoral areas that will set the foundation for the Cowichan Valley to be an attractive place to live, work, play and learn for years to come. Now is where you come in. We need a plan that reflects the lived experience of our community members. To do this, we need your voice.

## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY CIRCLE?

A community circle is a small group of people talking about the CVRD's future guided by a discussion toolkit. This is a way for you to gather with other CVRD community members on your own time to explore topics relating to the OCP, exchange ideas and record and submit them to the CVRD.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Do you live, work, play or learn here? Then we want to hear what you have to say. This work includes considerations for the following areas:

- Area A - Mill Bay / Malahat
- Area B - Shawnigan Lake
- Area C - Cobble Hill
- Area D - Cowichan Bay
- Area E - Cowichan Station / Sahtlam / Glenora
- Area F - Cowichan Lake South / Skutz Fall
- Area G - Saltair
- Area H - North Oyster / Diamond
- Area I - Youbou / Meade Creek

## HOW WILL THE CIRCLES CONTRIBUTE TO CVRD WORK?

The ideas from the community circles will be published in an ‘Ideas Book’. This book will directly influence the policy areas as well as the corresponding goals and objectives of the MOCP.

## WHEN IS THIS HAPPENING?



## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

### Step 1: Gather a group

This could be an existing group you are already meeting with, or you can bring together a group of family members, friends or colleagues. You can come together because of shared geography or a common interest in a policy area. Don't have a group? We will post information on our website about sessions being hosted by staff and instructions on how to sign up.

### Step 2: Pick a topic

The Modernized OCP will be organized around the following draft goals. We encourage you to pick one or more of the topics below. If we have missed an area to consider please choose "other":

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Manage Infrastructure responsibly   | 5. Strengthen local food systems       |
| 2. Make distinct, complete communities | 6. Enhance regional prosperity         |
| 3. Expand mobility options             | 7. Mitigate & adapt to climate crisis  |
| 4. Protect & enhance natural assets    | 8. Improve governance & implementation |

In addition, you are welcome to convene a community circle on your local area plan.

### Step 3: Attend a facilitation training workshop

The project team will run a series of facilitation training workshops to support you in hosting your own community circle. A facilitators guide book will be made available.

### Step 4: Assemble and review materials

Community Circle Toolkits will be available to all circles and will include for your reference:

- MOCP policy papers and Q&As
- Local area plans from the Harmonized OCP
- Draft growth containment boundaries for the MOCP
- A workbook to record your group's discussion and ideas

### Step 5: Get your group together and assign roles

**Community Circle facilitator:** to ensure the group stays on track and is inclusive of all members

**Recorder:** to record the results of the discussion

**Timekeeper:** to keep you on time

### Step 6: Submit your group's workbook

**By mail or drop-off with attention to 'Community Circles':** 175 Ingram Street, Duncan BC V9L 1N8

**Online:** [cvrd.bc.ca](http://cvrd.bc.ca) (preferred)

If you have any questions or need support hosting a session please contact:

[communitycircles@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:communitycircles@cvrd.bc.ca)

