

**RDN BOARD APPROVES SOUTHERN COMMUNITY SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH  
NANAIMO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

A 10-year agreement struck Tuesday between the Regional District of Nanaimo and the Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation will formalize the partnership between the RDN and the NEDC to include Electoral Areas A, B and C in its development of a broad regional economic development service.

Under the terms of the Southern Community Economic Development Service Agreement, the NEDC will promote economic development opportunities through methods including website development, , data collection and analysis, targeted marketing, tourism and business assistance. The NEDC will present an annual report to the RDN Board and provide quarterly updates during each year of the term.

“The NEDC Board of Directors and staff are excited to be granted this opportunity to expand our product offering as we work to market Nanaimo and our surrounding areas globally to investors, entrepreneurs, visitors and students as the preferred travel destination and business location.”, said Susan Cudahy, CEO of the Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation.

“We have entered into this agreement in order to promote economic development within our southern Electoral Areas, and to meet many of the RDN Board’s strategic objectives around sustainable economic development and economic resilience,” said RDN Chairperson Joe Stanhope. “We look forward to a positive and productive working relationship with the NEDC.”

The approval of this agreement forms part of a larger commitment between the Regional District and its municipal partners on not only economic development but also the Regional Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program. The City of Nanaimo has also entered into a partnering agreement with the NEDC to promote economic development opportunities for Nanaimo and the surrounding region.

“I am pleased to be working with the NEDC and I am very pleased that the RDN is now partnering in economic development as this is a function that benefits the entire region,” said Nanaimo Mayor John Ruttan.

The RDN Board has approved a separate economic development function in its northern communities, to provide support for economic development initiatives in the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach and Electoral Areas ‘E’, ‘F’, ‘G’, and ‘H’.

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