

City Receives Feedback on Public Engagement

From May 7 to June 8, the City of Parksville conducted a survey to gauge resident feedback on public engagement about City projects and programs now that it is not possible to meet in person because of physical distancing measures. These new measures have changed how we connect with our residents. Of the 305 surveys completed (268 Parksville residents), responses received included:

- 77% indicated an interest in the City engaging on projects and initiatives not related to COVID-19.
- 31% are comfortable with online tools for public engagement and 37% are still learning and becoming comfortable with available tools.
- 93% follow news about COVID-19 every day or almost every day.
- Preferred method to receive info about the pandemic is daily announcements by public health leaders (59%), local/national news outlets (55%), social media (43%), online newsfeeds (40%) and directly from public health agencies (39%).
- Information about COVID-19 that respondents wish to receive includes current info on restrictions and guidelines to stay safe (57%) and what to do should someone in household show signs of the virus (24%) while 39% indicated they already receive sufficient information.

Listening to provincial and federal health officers, it has become clear that working and meeting virtually while maintaining physical distance will be our new normal for some time as we move the business of the City forward. We continue to adjust to doing business during the pandemic and will continue to explore how we can conduct meaningful public engagement, being respectful of COVID-19 restrictions and the safety of our residents and staff.

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