

## Community invited to learn more about the Skaha Bluff Area Boundary Extension

### *Electoral approval process underway*

September 20, 2017

**Penticton** – Residents are invited to learn more about the Skaha Bluff Area Boundary Extension application at a series of community engagement events in the next few weeks. The events provide residents with the opportunity to speak with staff and the developers about the plan to bring a 300-acre parcel on the south end of Penticton into city limits.

“The boundary extension is the first step towards an exciting proposal to expand the Skaha Bluffs Provincial Park within Penticton’s City limits and add 180 homes to our housing inventory,” says Ben Johnson, Manager of Special Projects. “We hope residents will come out to the events to see what it means for our community.”

Residents are encouraged to attend the following events:

Date	Description
September 27	<b>Penticton Seniors Centre</b> Staff will be at the Penticton Seniors Centre between 2 pm and 5 pm. Residents are invited to drop in for donuts and coffee and discuss the vision for the area.
September 30	<b>Community Market</b> Staff will be at the Community Market between 9 am and 12 pm to review maps and discuss the vision for the area.
October 5	<b>Open House – Family Friendly</b> The developers are hosting an Open House in the playground at Wiltse School from 3 pm to 7 pm. The Wild Sheep Society of BC will have a display at the Open House and there will be a rock climbing wall for the kids.

The events are being held in support of the electoral approval process required for boundary extension applications. Electoral approval is required before the application can proceed and the City is undertaking an Alternative Approval Process to measure support. Through an Alternative Approval Process, electors are given the opportunity to petition against the annexation. If at least 10% of the electors are opposed, a

traditional referendum must be held to consider the boundary extension. Ten percent of Penticton's electors is about 2,680 people. Residents who support the application do not need to complete the petition.

"The Alternative Approval Process is a cost-effective way to measure support and is commonly used for applications to annex land," says Johnson. "It is important to understand that you do not complete the petition if you support the application to extend the boundaries." The Alternative Approval Process begins immediately and closes October 31st. Forms are available at City Hall, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on weekdays, excluding holidays as well as online on [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca)

If the boundary extension application has the support of the community and is approved by the Provincial Cabinet, the next step is to subdivide and zone the land. BC Parks will work closely with the City and the landowners on the proposed expansion to the park and plans for the residential development will move forward subject to Council approval and community input. More information about the proposal is available at [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca).

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