



NORTH COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

PROPOSED OONA RIVER COMMUNITY HALL SERVICE

In 2008, the North Coast Regional District (NCRD) and the Oona River Community Association (ORCA) undertook a capital upgrade project at the Oona River community gymnasium, located at #3 Schoolhouse Road in Oona River, B.C., to retrofit the facility into a multi-use facility for the community. Shortly thereafter, in 2011, the NCRD acquired the Oona River Community Hall through a property transfer from the local School District No. 52, which ensured that the community hall would remain a valuable community asset for years to come.

The volunteer ORCA has been instrumental in ensuring the operations of the community hall are sustainable. Year over year, this has required careful consideration to be given to community donation and fundraising efforts required to support the community hall's operations. Each year, the NCRD provides a \$2,500 grant to the ORCA to assist with operation of the community hall. Additional revenues needed to support the community hall's operation are secured through community donations, fundraising, grant funds, and rental income. For reference, between 2012 and 2019, annual ORCA expenses related to the community hall have ranged from a low of \$3,851 to a high of \$25,135.

Most recently, through the NCRD, ORCA has sought grant funding from the Province of B.C. and the Government of Canada, in the amount of \$204,360, to replace the exterior siding and insulation, improve safety and accessibility, and drill a local well at the community hall. As of today, the status of this grant application is still pending approval. In early 2019, the NCRD was granted \$1.712 million as part of the Province of B.C.'s Northern Capital and Planning Grant. The NCRD is currently considering allocating a portion of these funds toward capital and planning projects for the community hall, however, to do so, must first establish a regional district service for the Oona River community hall. In the event that the current grant application is not approved, the NCRD could, conceivably, allocate Northern Capital and Planning Grant funds to cover the shortfall in project costs.

The NCRD recognizes that volunteer and community contributions toward the community hall may not be sustainable over the long term. As such, the NCRD is proposing to establish a regional district service to provide consistent, annual support to the community hall's maintenance, operational and capital needs.

SYNOPSIS OF BYLAW

The [*Oona River Community Hall Service Establishing Bylaw No. 632, 2019*](#) will allow the NCRD to annually requisition up to \$15,000 to fund the operation, maintenance and capital improvement of the Oona River Community Hall and its associated properties. Ultimately, the NCRD's intent is to have the ORCA continue to manage the community hall and ensure sustainability of the community hall's operations.

The NCRD anticipates allocating a portion of Northern Capital and Planning Grant funds received toward an established reserve fund for the Oona River community hall. To do so, a regional district service, approved by the electors and enacted through bylaw, must first be established. The proposed service would also provide sustainable, long-term funding toward the maintenance, operation and capital improvements to the hall, thereby reducing the burden on community donations and volunteerism.

The Bylaw includes an annual tax requisition limit of \$15,000. For a typical residential property this equates to an estimated annual tax increase of \$279.24 per average assessed value, or \$448.39 per \$100,000 of assessed value. While an annual requisition limit of \$15,000 is being contemplated for the service, through its annual budgeting process, the NCRD intends to work with the ORCA to set annual requisition limits consistent with the annual operational and capital needs of the community hall. It may be that annual requisitions for the service do not require the full allocation of \$15,000 to cover annual community hall expenditures in any given year.

NOTICE OF ASSENT VOTING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the electors within the proposed Oona River Community Hall Service Area, in Electoral Area “C” of the North Coast Regional District (NCRD) as identified on the map shown, that assent voting (referendum) will be held on the following question:

“Are you in favour of the Board of the North Coast Regional District adopting the Oona River Community Hall Service Establishment Bylaw No. 632, 2019, which will permit the North Coast Regional District to establish a service within the community of Oona River to fund, annually, \$15,000 toward the operation, maintenance and capital improvement of the Oona River Community Hall and its associated properties?”

GENERAL VOTING

GENERAL VOTING will be open on Saturday, October 19, 2019, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Oona River Community Hall, #3 Schoolhouse Road, Oona River, B.C.

ADVANCE VOTING

ADVANCE VOTING will be open on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Oona River Community Hall, #3 Schoolhouse Road, Oona River, B.C.

