



December 14, 2020

New Cowichan Community Policing Services agency selected

DUNCAN, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) has selected the South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society to deliver the Cowichan Community Policing Services following a public Request for Expressions of Interest process.

The Expressions of Interest submissions for the provision of this financial contribution service were reviewed by an inter-agency evaluation panel, comprised of the designated staff members from the Municipality of North Cowichan, the City of Duncan, the CVRD and the North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP detachment as the participating areas in this service.

“We welcome the opportunity to provide a working model of community support to Duncan/North Cowichan and Cowichan Bay,” said Bob Collins, President of South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society. “We look forward to expanding a strong and mutually rewarding partnership with North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP Detachment and stakeholders, most of all providing a clear and effective community engagement and policing model.”

Historically the Cowichan Community Policing Services was delivered by the Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Services Society (CPAC). The service has an annual budget of nearly \$123,000 to fund the delivery of community policing services in the participating core areas of the Municipality of North Cowichan, the City of Duncan, and the CVRD Area D - Cowichan Bay.

“We recognize that CPAC has had a difficult time in recent years, ” said Al Siebring, Mayor of North Cowichan. “They were having trouble with volunteer recruitment and retention as far back as 2010, when I sat on their Advisory Board. I'm hoping this new structure will inject fresh enthusiasm and new energy into this function, which provides a valuable service to our community.”

This annual contribution service is funded through property taxation revenues from those participating communities, and delivered at arms length by a third-party agency. The funding is strictly for community policing services such as educational programs, events and activities to reduce crime in communities and build awareness through collaboration with individuals, groups, businesses and the North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP Detachment.

“The absence of this service has been evident in the City while the process of selecting a new service provider was underway,” said Michelle Staples, Mayor of the City of Duncan. “We are happy to welcome the South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society and looking forward to all of the funding and community partners meeting and working together to develop the important roles we know this organization can provide for both residents and businesses. This service is vital as it has the potential to build connection, create community and increase safety in neighbourhoods for everyone in the City and participating areas.”

To learn more about the South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society please visit www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca



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