



November 26, 2016

Dear Resident,

This letter is a special invitation to volunteer to serve on the Duncan-North Cowichan Citizens' Assembly on Municipal Amalgamation. The Assembly is a unique exercise in local democracy and as a member you will have an important opportunity to learn more about our community and shape its future.

Over the past decade, new growth has blurred the boundaries between Duncan and North Cowichan. Residents routinely drive between the two jurisdictions several times in the course of a normal day. Some municipal services are already jointly administered and others could be combined. This has prompted both councils to ask whether the time is right to consider amalgamation.

The creation of the Citizens' Assembly is a first step towards examining this issue.

With the assistance of senior staff, independent experts, as well as other advisors and stakeholders, the Assembly will examine the case for and against amalgamation before making a recommendation to both councils before May 31, 2017.

Before any amalgamation could proceed, it would need to be endorsed by both local councils as well as by a clear majority of voters in both municipalities during a referendum.

You do not need to be an expert to participate. It's your perspective as a local resident that matters most.

From among the pool of applicants who have registered as volunteers, thirty-six members will be randomly selected to ensure broad representation from across both communities.

Working together, Assembly members will learn about the area's history, the people who live here, and the needs of local businesses. They will also learn about how both municipalities are governed and financed, and the services they currently provide.

The Assembly will meet for six full-day sessions, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To serve on the Assembly you must be able to attend each of the following sessions:

1. January 21, 2017
2. February 4, 2017
3. February 25, 2017
4. April 1, 2017
5. April 8, 2017
6. April 22, 2017

Members of the Assembly will also be asked to attend two public meetings open to all local residents on Thursday, February 2, 2017 and Thursday, April 6, 2017, between 6:00 p.m and 8:00 p.m.

To volunteer to serve on the Duncan-North Cowichan Citizens' Assembly on Municipal Amalgamation, please phone [1-844-610-5672](tel:1-844-610-5672), mail the enclosed form, or register online at dnc-cama.ca by January 9, 2017.

Every Duncan and North Cowichan resident who is 18 years of age or older is eligible to volunteer to serve on the Citizens' Assembly. You do not need to be a Canadian citizen and there is no cost to participate.

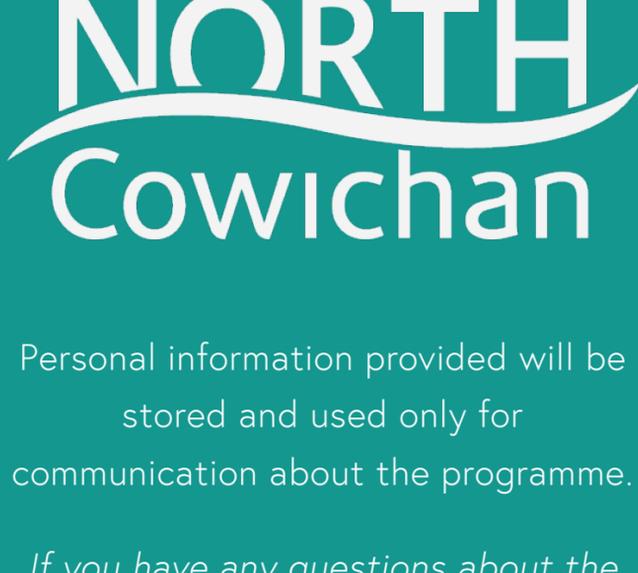
This is an opportunity to serve your community and shape the future of Duncan and North Cowichan. We sincerely hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

Mayor Phil Kent
City of Duncan

Mayor Jon Lefebure
Municipality of North Cowichan

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Personal information provided will be stored and used only for communication about the programme.

If you have any questions about the collection, use, and disclosure of your personal information, please call [1-844-610-5672](tel:1-844-610-5672).