

## 2020 FORESTRY REVIEW & ENGAGEMENT FAQs

### 1. How were members of the Working Group Selected?

Approximately 70 applications were received either through Simple Survey or as PDFs downloaded from our website and emailed directly to Lees +Associates. There were a few duplicates, which were consolidated. There were also a few incomplete applications, but all of those were rectified or resubmitted, so as not to exclude anyone as a result of technical difficulties.

The selection process was completely *independent* and *separate* from North Cowichan staff and Council who had no input into Working Group Selection. Applications were each reviewed separately by Erik Lees, Megan Turnock, and Eileen Finn of LEES + Associates and Dr. Stephen Sheppard of the UBC Partnership Group. To help create a balanced working group, they noted the applicants' interest and background as:

- general
- recreation
- environmental/conservation
- economy
- industry/forestry

They also noted those who indicated they had experience in communication or engagement and land use planning. Many people had overlapping interests, so applicants were not limited to interest in only one category. Lees was sure to consider gender and strove to reach a gender balance in the group.

Connections to community groups or networks that will help to improve the public engagement process were also considered assets.

Applicants who live outside of the Municipality of North Cowichan were not eligible; however, non-residents will have the opportunity to participate through the online survey and can attend in-person events.

Although Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) members were considered, Lees + Associates concluded that the FAC members will have other opportunities for participation and wanted to make an effort to avoid the Working Group becoming a second technical group.

## **2. What is the primary role of the Working Group?**

The working group will help influence the public engagement process, and help determine if any key stakeholders have been missed through a stakeholder mapping exercise. While the group will not be a decision-making body, they will provide key input to Lees + Associates on the future of the Municipal Forest Reserve. Input from any one group or person does not carry more weight than input from the general public, or the next person. All feedback is extremely valuable and we hope to engage as many residents as possible throughout this process. It is important to North Cowichan that residents feel heard and valued.

## **3. How was the larger list of Stakeholders identified**

An initial list of approximately 50 stakeholders were compiled by North Cowichan staff, this list was given to Lees + Associates to determine who should be included in the stakeholder calls. This list is a draft, and a living document, to be continually updated throughout the project. Stakeholders will continue to be informed of all opportunities to engage throughout the project.

## **4. How were 16 stakeholders selected for an interview with Lees + Associates?**

Lees + Associates, in collaboration with the UBC Partnership Group, chose the stakeholders who would participate in the stakeholder interviews.

## **5. What is the primary role of stakeholders in the engagement process?**

Stakeholders interviews were intended to help Lees + Associates better understand the range of perspectives in the community.

## **6. What will Lees + Associates be asking?**

Interviewees will be asked about:

- Themselves and their roles at any organizations that may be relevant to the MFR;
- their familiarity with the MFR,
- what they value about the MFR,
- their sense of whether others share those values,
- what they see as the future for the MFR,
- feedback on how to what a fair and robust engagement process would look like for them,
- others that should be notified and involved.

## **7. How will answers be used?**

Answers will be used to help Lees + Associates make sure they identify key topics of interest so they can create a process that is inclusive of the variety of perspectives within the community.

## **8. Who are the stakeholders selected for interviews representing?**

Lees + Associates is interviewing people from a range of organizations including neighbourhood associations, conservation and environmental groups, forest industry and workers representatives, recreation organizations, and economic organizations (i.e. chambers of commerce, for example). The key points from these interviews will be compiled and summarized and will be included in the engagement summary report. Stakeholders who were interviewed will be included in this report, excluding any who wish to remain anonymous.

## **9. Why is the stakeholder list for interviews not being released before the interviews take place?**

Out of respect for the interviewee's privacy, those included in the interviews will not be announced publicly. Some stakeholders who have been contacted have already expressed concern over being able to freely share information, and as a result, some may want to remain anonymous.