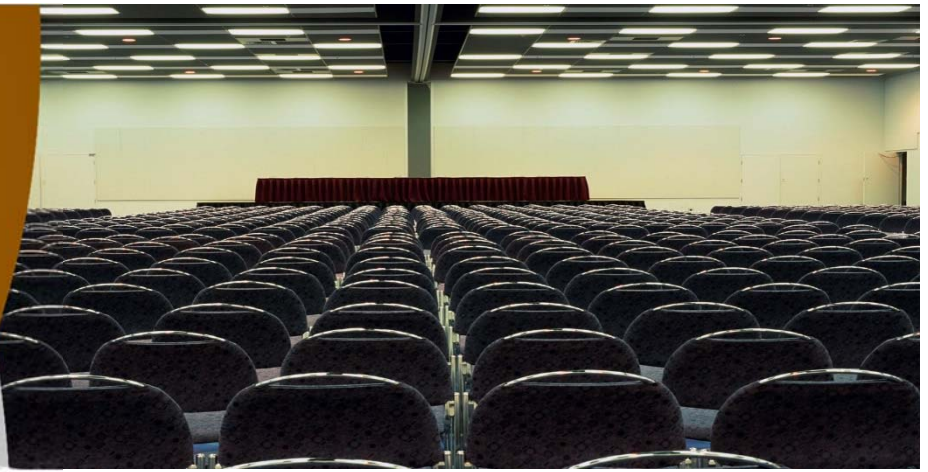




REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George

Development Services



PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

WHAT IS A PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING?

A public consultation meeting is a forum to gain public input prior to consideration of the land use application by the Regional District Board. Any person(s) who believe that their interest in a property may be affected by a land use proposal may speak or present a written submission expressing their opinion.

WHAT TRIGGERS A PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING?

Public consultation opportunities may be required prior to a formal public hearing, and for the following applications, at the discretion of Development Services and the Regional District Board.

Land use applications that include the following:

- **A Temporary Use Permit**
These permits can allow a use (usually commercial or industrial), which is not normally permitted by zoning, for up to three years.
- **The Introduction or Amendment of an Official Community Plan Bylaw or Zoning Bylaw.**
A bylaw amendment may change the density or land use of a property.
- **Agricultural Land Reserve Application**
Applications for subdivision or non-farm use within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

HOW ARE PEOPLE NOTIFIED ABOUT A PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING?

- **Newspaper:** Public consultation meetings may be advertised in a local newspaper. The advertisement gives a brief description of the bylaw, the subject property, the date, time and place of the public consultation meeting, and where to find further information. There may be other media coverage as well, depending on the scale of the proposal.

- **Mail:** Property owners adjacent to the subject property may be mailed a copy of the public consultation meeting notice. However, when bylaws affect a large number of properties the notice may only be advertised in the local newspaper.
- **Notification of Application Signs:** The applicant may be responsible for erecting a sign, identifying the land is subject to an application, on the parcel a minimum of 14 days before the start of a public consultation phase. The sign provides a summary of the proposed development.
- **Public Posting:** Public consultation meeting notices are posted at the Regional District office at 155 George Street, Prince George and on the website: www.rdffg.bc.ca.

WHO CAN ATTEND AND SPEAK AT A PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING?

Public consultation meetings are open to the public. Anyone who feels their interest is affected may attend. If you cannot attend, you may submit a written comment by fax, mail, email or hand delivery, by the required deadline, that will be read into the public consultation meeting and attached to the minutes. **Please note:** all submissions must include the author's name.

At a public consultation meeting, speakers are to state their name and direct their comments to the Chair. The Chair will restrict comments to the topic at hand.

All information that has been gathered as part of the processing of a land use change application is available to the public, subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

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WHAT HAPPENS AT A PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING?

1. The Chair of the public consultation meeting, a Regional District Board Director, opens the public consultation meeting and provides introductions and instruction.
2. Development Services from the Regional District makes a presentation explaining the application.
3. Letters received are submitted into the public consultation meeting.
4. Comments are heard from the applicant.
5. Presentations are received from the public.
6. The Chair closes the public consultation meeting or states the time and place where it shall reconvene.

CAN A VOTE BE TAKEN AT A PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING?

The purpose of a public consultation meeting is to give everyone an opportunity to be heard without being discouraged or prevented from making their views known. It is also not the function of the Regional District to debate the merits of the proposal at the public consultation meeting. No vote is held so that all views may be expressed in a fair and unbiased setting.

WILL MY OPINION BE HEARD BY THE BOARD?

Each land use application is considered on its own merits. Reports are submitted to the Board and are available for viewing on the Regional District's website as part of the monthly meeting agenda.

Reports include:

- background information about the property and surrounding land use, such as the Official Community Plan designation and policies, current zoning, and known past history of the property and neighbourhood
- comments received from referral agencies such as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the Ministry of Environment and First Nations
- minutes of the public consultation meeting
- summary from Development Services

The Board makes their decision based on all information received, together with the collective knowledge and experience of the fourteen Board Directors.



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING?

The Regional District Board cannot receive additional comments from the public after the Chair has closed the public consultation meeting. The minutes of the public consultation meeting are presented in a report submitted to the Board. After receiving the report regarding the public consultation meeting, the Board may advance, defeat or further review the proposal.

This information has been prepared to provide convenient information only. It is neither a bylaw nor a legal document. If any contradiction between this information and the relevant bylaws and/or applicable codes arises, such bylaws and/or codes shall be the legal authority.