

For Immediate Release

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO GIVES THIRD READING TO SCHOONER COVE
AND LAKES DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS**

Nanoose Bay, British Columbia – May 27, 2011: The \$2.3 billion* Schooner Cove and Lakes District Neighbourhood Plans for Fairwinds at Nanoose Bay have passed a major milestone on their way to becoming a reality.

At their regular board meeting on May 24, 2011, the Electoral Area Directors of the Regional District of Nanaimo gave third reading to bylaws incorporating both Schooner Cove and the Lakes District Neighbourhood Plans into the Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan.

In both instances, the vote by the electoral area members of the RDN Board in favour of the plans was unanimous, 6-0.

The RDN will now submit the bylaws to the BC Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development for review. Once that review is complete, the bylaws will go to the RDN board for fourth reading and adoption.

The vote came after the RDN held two public hearings at Nanoose Place, the first on May 3 for Schooner Cove, and the second on May 9 for the Lakes District. Both hearings were well attended, with more than 90 community residents speaking to the Schooner Cove plan at the first meeting, and more than 130 speaking to the Lakes District plan at the second, which lasted until midnight.

Russell Tibbles, Vice-President, Development and Operations – Fairwinds of Bentall Kennedy LP, the plans' proponent, said he was impressed by the number of community residents who signed up to speak at the meetings.

“Although there will always be numerous voices, opinion and positions within any community, it was clear that a high level of support for the plans exists,” he said. “This was demonstrated by the many well informed and thoughtful presentations from local residents who are clearly passionate about their community.”

Perhaps the most compelling evidence of support for both projects, other than the preponderance of “Yes” stickers attached to many of those attending the hearings,

came in a report from Bob Popple, President of the Fairwinds Community Association (FCA), representing Fairwinds residents. The organization presented a petition of 300 names of residents supporting the plans and Popple also tabled an FCA survey: of the 220 responses received, 218 expressed support for both Schooner Cove and Lakes District Neighbourhood Plans.

The public hearings were the culmination of an extensive, three-year process of public consultation and input, with more than 50 public meetings held on various aspects of the plans.

Highlights of the two plans include the revitalization of Schooner Cove as an oceanside marina-oriented residential village, with the addition of a public waterfront boardwalk, shops, cafés, neighborhood services, parks and walkways. The plan for the Lakes District calls for a 300-acre public park, referred to as “a park the size of Rath Trevor” by one speaker at the May 9 hearing, as well as a range of single and multi-family homes, all connected by hiking trails and pathways.

** \$2.3 billion represents the estimated direct capital investment and related economic benefits.*

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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