

# North Cedar Improvement District

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For Immediate Release:

## **North Cedar Moves Forward With Water System Improvements**

*Cedar, British Columbia – October 11, 2016* - In 2015, North Cedar Improvement District ("NCID") Board of Trustees requested British Columbia's Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development initiate the process of expropriation of lands located at 1723 Cedar Road on NCID's behalf in order that NCID could meet the new stringent water quality requirements of Island Health due to be enforced in January 2018. The Board of Trustees of the day believed that acquisition of this parcel was important to ensure the long-term water quantity and quality requirements of the community be maintained and improved to the standards set by Island Health. Meeting this requirement would provide comfort to Cedar community residents about water quality as well as make provision for controlled growth in the community in order to keep the costs of services in Cedar from spiralling out of control.

Subsequent to the expropriation process being initiated, several new Trustees were elected to the Board. The new Board of Trustees was hopeful that it could come to some agreement with the landowner outside of the expropriation process that would provide benefits for both sides rather than resort to actual expropriation. The Board met with the landowner on two occasions and correspondence between the parties included a formal offer made by NCID to open negotiations. The landowner did not respond to the offer. He did, however, request that the Province of British Columbia hold an inquiry into the expropriation as he believed certain requirements for the taking of the lands were not being met. While the BC Government was deliberating on this request, NCID's Board of Trustees looked at a number of potential alternatives that would provide high quality water in quantities and locations that would preclude the development of an expensive water treatment facility on the property in question. So far, this research has proven to be futile but NCID continues to explore these options.

On September 26, 2016 the Deputy Attorney General for BC wrote a decision letter that cited various legal precedents which were used to determine that no inquiry was available to the landowner and so the request for an inquiry was denied. As a result, NCID has proceeded to acquire the property at 1723 Cedar Road for the purposes of providing additional water resources and processing those resources according to the new health and safety standards imposed by Island Health. In the months ahead, NCID's Board of Trustees will be moving forward with development of additional well capacity, service and storage improvements and a water treatment plant. The Board of Trustees will ask for the community's input in making key decisions to help it move these projects forward in an efficient, cost-effective and prudent manner.

For any questions or for further information, contact Keith Wilson, Chair, North Cedar Improvement District.