

## **Regional District of Nanaimo Approved for Evacuation Route Planning Grant**

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has been approved for a grant of \$25,000 for Evacuation Route Planning for Electoral Area B. The Community Emergency Preparedness grant, which is funded by the Government of British Columbia and administered by the Union of BC Municipalities, will enable the RDN to identify strategies and alternate evacuation methods to coordinate a safe and orderly multi-agency evacuation response for Gabriola, Mudge and DeCourcy Islands.

“There are a number of unique challenges when it comes to moving island residents and animals to an area of safety during an emergency, including many one way in/out neighbourhoods and restricted road infrastructure, and limited ferry capacity” said Vanessa Craig, Electoral Area B Director. “By developing and distributing a plan that identifies efficient and safe evacuation routes, we can help residents be better prepared to respond in the event of an emergency evacuation.”

With the increase in BC fires and the high to extreme risks in the RDN, evacuation planning has become a priority. The RDN identified and prioritized vulnerable communities for evacuation plans and have included them in the Operational Plan. A plan for Electoral Area E (Nanoose) was completed in 2020 and valuable insights gained will be applied to this planning process. Once complete, the Electoral Area B plan will set the framework for evacuation plans for the many other islands on our coast faced with similar challenges.


The planning process will take many factors into consideration including risk areas, population size and demographics, transportation resources, traffic management, evacuation route availability and capacity, communications, animal welfare, identification of vulnerable populations for voluntary evacuations, immediate emergency actions, response and evacuation times, and time of year.

For more information on the RDN’s Emergency Program, visit [rdn.bc.ca/emergency-program](http://rdn.bc.ca/emergency-program). To sign up for emergency and non-emergency service alerts, visit [rdn.bc.ca/emergency-alerts](http://rdn.bc.ca/emergency-alerts).

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