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## **Proposed Borrowing for the Purchase of the Former French Creek School and Parkland**

On Tuesday, May 27, 2025, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board will be considering proceeding to referendum to obtain the assent of the electors of the Electoral Area 'F' Community Parks and Halls Local Service Area for borrowing up to \$824,000, plus interest to purchase a 3.7 hectare (9.15 acre) property located at 2350 Alberni Highway, Coombs (formerly French Creek School) legally described as PID: 004-523-555, Lot A, District Lot 143, Nanoose District, Plan 15661 for use by the Electoral Area 'F' Community Parks and Halls Local Service.

The Board will also be considering the recommendation: That "Electoral Area 'F' Community Parks and Halls Local Service Property Purchase Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1929, 2025" be introduced and read three times and forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

The purchase of the property is included in the approved 2025-2029 Financial Plan. The purchase would be funded through \$376,000 of Electoral Area 'F' Community Parks and Halls reserve funds, \$120,000 of Community Works Funds and long-term borrowing of \$824,000 plus interest. Borrowing would have a financial impact on the property owners within the Electoral Area 'F' Community Parks and Halls Local Service Area.

If approved by the Board and the Inspector of Municipalities, a public referendum would take place in the fall of 2025.

### **Background**

When the School District 69 (SD69) closed operations of French Creek Community School in 2014, the RDN was able to secure a ten-year licence of use for the field and playground. SD69 recently extended this licence of use until December 30, 2025. Parks operations have been inspecting and maintaining the playground, field and trees and surrounding vegetation within the park area.

In 2023, SD69 issued a public notice that they were considering the disposition of this property. The RDN Board directed staff to negotiate a conditional offer to purchase the lands from the School Board. A conditional purchase offer of \$1,300,000 for the property has been negotiated.

At the April 8, 2025, In Camera Special RDN Board meeting the following resolutions were approved:

- 1. That the Purchase and Sale Agreement with a purchase price of \$1,300,000 cash for the lands legally*

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*described as PID: 004-523-555 Lot A, District Lot 143, Nanoose District, Plan 15661 be revised and approved to include an assent vote (referendum) for eligible electors in the Electoral Area F Community Parks and Halls Service to borrow up to \$824,000 for the site acquisition with the completion date extended accordingly to undertake the referendum.*

*2. That the Board authorize the Board Chair and Corporate Officer to sign the revised Purchase and Sale Agreement.*

The report to the RDN Board with further information can be found on the board [meeting agenda](#). Residents can find all meeting agendas, watch the board meeting live on May 27 or view the recording after at [rdn.bc.ca/agendas-minutes-videos](http://rdn.bc.ca/agendas-minutes-videos).

**For more information, please contact:**

Rebecca Taylor  
Communications Coordinator  
Regional District of Nanaimo



250-713-2400



[engagement@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:engagement@rdn.bc.ca)

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