

September 10, 2025

French Creek School and Parkland Purchase Referendum

On April 8, 2025, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board approved a resolution in camera to purchase the former French Creek School site, a 3.7-hectare (9.15 acre) property located at 2350 Alberni Highway, Coombs in Electoral Area F, from School District 69 (SD69) for \$1,300,000. Part of the purchase would be funded through long-term borrowing up to \$824,000 which requires elector approval. Accordingly, the RDN will be holding a referendum on October 25, 2025.

Features of the property include the former French Creek Community School, a gymnasium as well as a field and playground currently utilized as French Creek School Community Park. If the referendum is approved by eligible electors, future use of the buildings will be determined following public engagement. The field and playground would continue to be utilized as a Community Park for Electoral Area F.

On May 27, 2025, the RDN Board approved the resolutions required to proceed 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, repayable over a period of no more than ten years, to purchase the property.

The RDN has scheduled an information session for eligible electors of Electoral Area F to learn more and ask questions about the proposed borrowing and referendum. Members of the general public are also welcome to attend.

Drop-In Information Session

Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 4 to 7 p.m.

Coombs Fairgrounds - 1014 Ford Rd, Coombs

Only French Creek School and Parkland Purchase Referendum questions will be answered during the information session. There will not be a presentation or a microphone. Residents who have questions about other RDN services, projects or topics should send them to inquiries at inquiries@rdn.bc.ca or call 250-390-4111. They will be connected with the appropriate RDN staff person who will respond to their inquiries during regular office hours.

For more information on the French Creek School and Parkland Purchase project and upcoming information session, and to sign up to receive electronic project updates, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/french-creek-school-and-parkland-purchase-referendum.

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Voting Information and Key Dates

Advanced Voting Days	General Voting Day
Dates: October 15 and 22, 2025 Time: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Location: Coombs Fairgrounds, 1014 Ford Road, Coombs	Date: October 25, 2025 Time: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Location: Coombs Fairgrounds, 1014 Ford Road, Coombs

Mail Ballot Voting

Eligible electors can register to vote by mail by requesting a mail ballot package by submitting an Application to Vote by Mail.

[Applications to vote by mail](#) will not be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on October 23, 2025. To be counted, mail ballots must be received by the Chief Election Officer no later than 8 p.m. on general voting day, October 25, 2025, at the Regional District of Nanaimo Administration Office, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2.

Voters will be asked: “Are you in favour of the Regional District of Nanaimo adopting “Electoral Area 'F' Community Parks and Halls Local Service Property Purchase Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1929, 2025”, which will authorize the Regional District of Nanaimo to borrow up to eight hundred and twenty-four thousand dollars (\$824,000), plus interest, repayable over a period of no more than ten (10) years, to finance the purchase of a 3.7 hectare (9.15 acre) property located at 2350 Alberni Highway, Coombs, (known as French Creek School) for use by the Electoral Area 'F' Community Parks and Halls Local Service?”

For more information on the referendum, including the three ways to vote and who can vote, visit rdn.bc.ca/French-Creek-School-and-Parkland-Purchase-Referendum.

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For more information, please contact:

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