

**For immediate release
June 12, 2015**

SLRD INVITES RESIDENTS TO “TALK TRASH” AT THE LILLOOET LANDFILL:

***New Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan to be shared over BBQ at Open House
Saturday, June 20, 11:30 – 1:30, Lillooet Landfill***

Pemberton, BC – Love this place. Reduce your waste. Residents are invited to get the lowdown on garbage, landfilling, composting, reusing and recycling at the Lillooet Landfill, on Saturday, June 20 from 11:30am to 1:30pm, and give feedback to the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District's (SLRD) Utilities and Environmental Services team on proposed waste management initiatives. No smack talk is expected, but plenty of trash talk is welcome!

The open house is an opportunity for visitors to enjoy a free barbeque, site tours of the new composting facility (at noon and 1pm), talk with on-site experts about what can be recycled locally and what happens to materials after they are dropped off, and to comment on proposed initiatives to reduce waste from the area. (The Landfill will be open for garbage and recycling drop-off on Sunday, during its usual hours of operation, but not during the open house.)

The “Let’s Talk Trash” event is the first of several Open Houses taking place throughout the region to introduce the newly redrafted Regional Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (SWRMP).

Two years in the making, the draft SWRMP Plan is the blueprint for how the region will manage waste and resources for the next 10 years. The Plan proposes reducing landfill-bound waste by one-third (from 525 kg per capita to 350 kg per capita) by 2020. Organics currently comprise around 40% of all waste produced in the region, so the Plan also aims to ensure that 75% of the SLRD population will have easy access to organics recycling by 2020.

The community is encouraged to provide input on initiatives proposed in the Plan for Lillooet and Electoral Areas A and B, including:

- Establishing a Re-Build-It Centre at the Lillooet Landfill for used building materials;
- Assessing the provision of residential curbside recycling and yard waste collection for Lillooet;
- Implementing a region-wide campaign to reduce food waste;
- Developing a region-wide strategy to tackle illegal dumping;
- Enforcing bylaw requirements for commercial waste containers to be bear-proof; and
- Increasing awareness of return opportunities for products and packaging covered by a stewardship program.

“We’re really proud of the service we’re providing at the Lillooet Landfill and the ongoing improvements to recycling and now, composting,” says Jack Crompton, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Board Chair. “We have to be a lot more enlightened in the way we think about waste, and this is a chance to share the positive changes being made.”

The draft plan, which covers the entire regional district, was developed with input from technical experts, members of a region-wide advisory committee, staff and elected leaders. The “Trash Talk” event provides an opportunity for Lillooet and Electoral Area A and B residents to provide feedback on what the final Plan should look like. Additionally, feedback is requested via a questionnaire on-site or online, with the chance to win a \$50 gift card for those who complete it.

Says Meredith Gee, SLRD Environmental & Utilities Services Technician, “When you put something in your garbage bin, it’s helpful to realise that it doesn’t disappear, it comes to the landfill to be buried forever. So to move beyond a throwaway approach we want to show off all the cool initiatives at the Lillooet Landfill; we have a recycling facility, a composting pad, we take back electronics like computers and TVs, and we have a Free store for reusable goods. We hope lots of people come out to talk some trash with us.”

The questionnaire and additional information is available at www.slrd.bc.ca/LetsTalkTrashLillooet.

For additional information, contact Meredith Gee at the SLRD at 1-800-298-7753 (ext. 236) or MGee@slrd.bc.ca.

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For more information, please contact:

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