



## Joint News Release New Aquatic Facility

MUNICIPALITY of *North*  
**COWICHAN**

Date: April 19, 2006

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

North Cowichan / Duncan – The District of North Cowichan and the City of Duncan are proposing to build a new aquatic centre to be located adjacent to the Cowichan Centre on James Street in Duncan.

A Pool Design Select Committee, comprised of political and staff representatives of the District, City, North American Indigenous Games Society and Cowichan Centre, has been meeting over the past two months with Vic Davies, Architect, to bring forward a design for the new aquatic centre. The proposed facility will contain an eight-lane, 25-meter (expandable in the future to 50-meter) pool of sufficient depth to allow one-meter and three-meter diving boards, and a large wave pool/leisure pool including lazy river, a variety of spray elements, water slides, a hot pool, sauna, and steam room. A “flowrider” is an optional element depending upon final costs. Architect Vic Davies states, “This is best described as a surf machine in a box”. Although there are a many installed throughout the world including the United States, this would be the first of its kind in Canada. Other support facilities include a child minding area, multi-purpose rooms, fitness area, reception, public viewing space, offices, change rooms, and family change rooms to accommodate families and those with physical disabilities.

Mayor Lefebure states “The Pool Design Select Committee has had the privilege of working with Vic Davies, an architect on the leading edge of pool design and layout, and we believe that once the final preliminary design is completed our communities and users will be excited and very pleased with the proposal.”

North Cowichan gave three readings to a loan authorization bylaw at its Council meeting today that, if passed by the electors, will allow the District to borrow \$15 million dollars. The City of Duncan has agreed to follow a similar process that, if approved by its electors, will authorize the City to borrow \$1.5 million. June 24, 2006, will see referenda held in both the City of Duncan and the District of North Cowichan allowing eligible voters to vote on this opportunity. The design and other details about the facility will be unveiled to the public in a series of public open houses to be scheduled leading up to the referenda.

“We have a long history of partnering with North Cowichan,” added Mayor Kent. “We look forward to working together once again with the District to provide all of our residents with the opportunity to recreate in a first class facility without having to travel to other communities where leisure pool facilities are built.”

“While we will continue to attempt to build partnerships we are committed to a two-tier system for this facility where there will be admission and program fee differentials for those paying and for those not paying towards the capital and operating costs,” Mayor Lefebure advised.

“The City and the District are also committed to pursue grant programs including Canada/BC Infrastructure and 2010 Olympics Legacy, as well as corporate sponsorships and other sources of revenue to offset the capital costs,” added Mayor Kent. Success in securing this type of funding would directly reduce the amount to be borrowed.

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### **For More Information:**

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