

## Community Excellence Awards 2018 Application Form

Please complete and return the application form by Friday, May 25, 2018. All questions are required to be answered by typing directly in this form. If you have any questions, contact awards@ubcm.ca or (250) 356-5193.

### SECTION 1: Applicant Information

Local Government: District of North Saanich

Complete Mailing Address: 1620 Mills Road,  
District of North Saanich V8L 5S9

Contact Person: Coralie Breen

Position: Senior Planner

Phone: 250,580.4169

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### SECTION 2: Category

- Excellence in Governance.** *Governance processes or policies that are outcomes-based and consensus oriented; support and encourage citizen participation in civic decision-making; are efficient, equitable and inclusive, open and transparent; and exemplify best practices in accountability, effectiveness, and long term thinking.*
- Excellence in Service Delivery.** *Projects/programs that provide effective services in a proactive manner, demonstrate benefit to the community, and utilize performance measures, benchmarks and standards to ensure sustainable service delivery.*
- Excellence in Asset Management.** *Projects/programs that demonstrate a comprehensive system of asset management policies and practices, meeting and/or exceeding accepted best practices.*
- Excellence in Sustainability.** *Projects/programs that incorporate a long-term sustainability lens by considering cultural, social, economic and environmental issues in planning, policy and practice.*

### SECTION 3: Project/Program Details

**1. Name of the Project/Program:**

Marine Policy Planning - Coastal Flood Mitigation Bylaw and Special Development Areas

**2. Project/Program Summary.** Please provide a summary of your project/program in 150 words or less.

In 2016, the District of North Saanich completed a study of flood construction levels (FCL) for 0.5 m and 1.0 m Sea Level Rise (SLR) (the FCL Report) which informed the review of the Official Community Plan marine policies. 1.0 m SLR is generally regarded as year 2100 (Province of BC). In 2017, a draft OCP Marine Policy and Guidelines Recommendations Report (the Marine Policy Report) was completed and Council directed staff to complete the Report recommendations consistent with the Provincial Guideline Memorandum Amendment – Section 3.5 and 3.6 – Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines (FHALUMG) (January 1, 2018). Specifically, S. 3.5.5.1 that “the Year 2100 FCL should be established for specific coastal areas by a suitably qualified Professional Engineer, experienced in coastal engineering”. (FHALUMG, pg. 5). Further FHALUMG identified that this work could be completed as part of flood plain mapping, sea level rise planning areas or development approval processes.

The District of North Saanich completed an extensive coastal mapping conducted by SNC-Lavalin Inc. of the 700+ residential coastal lots as part of the FCL report which informed the Coastal Flood Mitigation Bylaw and OCP policy changes.

**3. Demonstrating Excellence.** Please describe how your project/program demonstrates excellence in meeting the purposes of local government in BC and provides promising practices for others to follow.

This work has not been conducted before in Canada. It is held to be of immense value to all local governments considering implementation of the FHALUMG and protection of waterfront properties from sea level rise as a model bylaw and project. It will serve to inform any local government seeking to undertake such work savings time and money. Other local governments have adopted flood plain bylaws but have not mapped flood construction levels by reaches with wave effects. In the absence of detailed information local governments can adopt development permit areas - however, with this level of detail coastal flood mitigation bylaw is suitable. It precludes the need for a professional report unless the applicant seeks to challenge the bylaw flood construction level.

Section 524 of the Local Government Act confers authority to “designate land as a flood plain”, by bylaw. Enactment of the bylaw is not subject to a public hearing requirement. The bylaw may designate both flood construction levels for new construction and building setbacks in respect of the water body that presents a flood hazard. Section 524 regulations are analogous to zoning regulations in that they establish a rule with which all development must comply unless a site-specific exemption is obtained. In view of the life safety and property damage issues associated with flood hazards, the Act is very particular about how such exemptions are handled. General variance procedures such as board of variance orders and development variance permits cannot be used to vary s. 524 standards. Rather, s. 524(7) enables a local government to “exempt” development from the application of the bylaw if the exemption is consistent with the province’s Flood Hazard Area Land Use Management Guidelines (FHALUMG) or the local government has received a report from a professional engineer that the land may be safely used for the use intended despite non-compliance with the bylaw. The approval of exemptions may be delegated to District staff.

**4. Category Criteria.**

**A.** Please describe how your project/program meets the objectives of the category you have applied under. Refer to S. 3 of the Program & Application Guide.

The Coastal Flood Mitigation Bylaw provides flood construction levels for sea level rise planning to 0.5 m and 1.0 m (50 and 100 years respectively) which considers economic, cultural, social and environmental factors. The bylaw sets flood construction levels to 100 years ensuring that buildings on waterfront lots are built to flood construction levels to protect habitable space from sea level rise. This considers the economic value for property owners and considers cultural and social factors facilitating owners and future generations to enjoy waterfront living while building in protection from change environmental factors due to climate change. This improves livability of the region.

**B.** In many cases projects may meet the criteria of more than one category. If applicable, please describe how your project meets the criteria of one or more other categories.

The project also provides considerations for Excellence in Asset Management as the reach mapping identified needs to protect District infrastructure but also identified the complexity of infrastructure protection as the District has a main transportation artery - Pat Bay Highway running from the Swartz Bay Ferry terminal to Victoria and other provincial roads near the waterfront subject to sea level rise. The identification of two special development areas - lochside and Tsehum harbour, as next phases for indepth analysis through a Transport Canada grant -- for infrastructure planning in addition to community residential development planning. The project is an interface of planning and engineering considerations.

#### **SECTION 4: Program Criteria**

**5. Leadership.** Describe the extent to which your local government acted as a local or regional leader in the development or implementation of the project/program.

This project would also be a candidate for Excellence in Governance while extensively involving the public and regional and representative authorities through several public consultations. While the District invited other local governments to participate in the study, for various reasons, other local governments were not ready to proceed concurrently. The District's leadership in proceeding now results in a model project that other local governments, not only within the CRD, but regionally, provincially and nationally can review, copy and/or modify for their own communities enable communities to not have to "start from scratch". The research reports and bylaw will be a model for sea level rise adaptation to climate change at a national level, and perhaps beyond. Other local governments have flood plain bylaws but none have mapped wave effects by reach providing more certainty to authorities and property owners for planning and protection purposes.

**6. Partnerships and collaboration.** Describe the breadth and depth of community and/or regional partnerships that supported the project/program and the extent to which internal and/or external collaboration was evident.

The project was supported by the Capital Regional District who initiated regional flood construction level mapping at a regional level in 2015. The project builds on this foundational work. The original mapping lidar was provided to all CRD local

governments. The variables such as wave effects were default variables. North Saanich then took the mapping to the next step by mapping wave effects by reaches and developing the coastal flood mitigation bylaw with supporting OCP policies. The Province of BC was also involved in public consultations. North Saanich Senior Planner participated concurrently in the provincial guidelines Flood Hazard Area Management Guidelines update. North Sanaich SEnior Planner was also involved in the Green Communities review of climate change guidelines particularly adaptation to climate change. There was a lot of interjurisdictional collaboration.

Note on initial work by CRD:

In 2015 the Capital Regional District (CRD) undertook a Sea Level Rise Planning Project to understand potential implications of future sea level rise inundation and to identify potential sea level rise adaptation approaches that are appropriate for regional municipalities/electoral areas. The project included analysis on the anticipated future shoreline at high tide and during storm surge conditions in 2050, 2100 and 2200 at 24 sites (focus areas) throughout the region using a simplified "combined" methodology. As the analysis used regional scale data, included only 24 sites, and did not include criteria for wave effects or freeboard, further analysis would be required to inform local sea level rise plans.

**7. Innovation and promising practices.** Describe the degree to which the project/program demonstrated creativity and innovation, and contributed to increased efficiency or effectiveness.

The mapping work is the first conducted in Canada, and to our knowledge in North America. The 39 reaches along the coast of North Saanich were mapped with several data sources and ground truthed with coastal engineers boating the coastline of north Saanich.

**8. Public engagement and communications.** Describe the extent to which public engagement was foundational to the success of the project/program, including the use of communication tools such as social media.

There were six public consultation sessions over a period of 2 years conducted at Mary Winspear.

**9. Transferability.** Describe the degree to which the process or outcomes of the project, or other learnings, could be conveyed to other UBCM members.

Easily transferable to any local government with coast line regionally, nationally, internationally. The technical studies and methodology is clearly laid out in two reports - one on flood construction levels and the second on official community plan policy review. The reports will be attached to this application for review and sharing purposes.

The Coastal Flood Mitigation Bylaw has undergone legal review.

## SECTION 5: Additional Information

10. Please share any other information you think may help support your submission.

Letters of Support from the Capital Regional District, a copy of the Flood Construction Level Report, a copy of the Marine Official Community Plan Recommendations Report, a copy of the FCL maps for the OCP amendment (simplified) from the version of the Coastal Flood Mitigation Bylaw, a copy of the Coastal Flood Mitigation Bylaw maps, photos of the coast of North Saanich

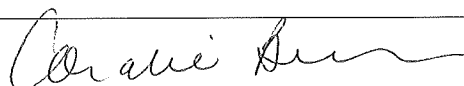
**SECTION 6: Signature**

Applications are required to be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant.

Name: Coralie Breen

Title: Senior Planner

Signature:



Date: May 24, 2018

All applicants are required to submit:

- Signed application form. Applications should be submitted as Word or PDF files.
- Five representatives photos of the project. Photos should be submitted as JPEG files.

If you choose to submit your application by e-mail, hard copies do not need to follow.

Submit applications to Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities

E-mail: [awards@ubcm.ca](mailto:awards@ubcm.ca)

Mail: 525 Government Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 0A8