



MEDIA RELEASE – April 21, 2011

District of Summerland to review organizational structure and operations

The District of Summerland has awarded a contract for a 3rd party independent and objective review of the municipality's organizational structure and operations. This study will ensure that the District's organization, staffing and financial arrangements are as efficient and effective as possible.

Council has awarded the contract to Helios Group, a Vancouver-based management consulting firm.

The review will look at a number of issues, including:

- Examining business activities which should be considered compulsory and which are discretionary.
- Comparing District services and business operations with similar municipalities through a benchmarking exercise.
- Determining the best organizational structure and resource level for municipal administration and operations.

Helios will begin the review in May and the process will be collaborative and include interviews with councillors, management and District staff. A review of local services and comparisons with the structure and operations of a number of similar municipalities will be conducted. Any recommendations for change within the District of Summerland operations will be evidence-based and rely on objective analysis.

The project is scheduled to be completed by July 15, 2011 – which will allow Council to consider its recommendations during preparation of the District's 2012 budget.

A number of other governments have conducted operational reviews in recent years and it is prudent for local Councils to have such studies done every few years, to ensure that they are operating local services effectively and efficiently.

Mayor Janice Perrino stated that "Independent reviews carried out by reputable management consulting firms like Helios provide unbiased professional assessments and recommendations and we look forward to the results of this process."

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