



Merritt

FLOURISH UNDER THE

SUN



Official Community Plan Review

JULY 2020

Your Project Team

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WSP provides technical expertise and strategic advice to clients in Property & Buildings, Transportation & Infrastructure, Environment, Industry, Resources (including Mining and Oil & Gas) and Power & Energy sectors, for over 50 years. We also offer highly specialized services in project delivery and strategic consulting. Our experts include engineers, advisors, technicians, scientists, architects, planners, surveyors and environmental specialists as well as other design, program, and construction management professionals. With 8,000 across Canada and more than 43,000 talented staff in over 550 offices across 40 countries, we are uniquely positioned to deliver successful and sustainable projects



Urban Food Strategies is a food system planning firm that works on a diverse range of projects to achieve significant shifts in community health, regional economies, and resiliency. With a focus on research, planning, engagement, and design, Urban Food Strategies is on the forefront of food and agriculture system planning in North America.

INTRODUCTIONS – TEAM WSP!

- **Bob Evans** – Senior Planner (Kelowna, BC) – Local Liaison
- **Chen Peng** – Senior Project Manager (Calgary, AB) – Project Manager/Planning Lead
- **Brittany Shewchuk** and **Lauren Gagatek** – Project Planners (Calgary, AB) – Engagement Team
- **Janine de la Salle** – Food Security Expert (Lower Mainland, BC)
- **Erin Prelypchan** – Poverty Reduction Expert (Vancouver, BC)
- **Jim Roe** – Infrastructure Engineer (Kelowna, BC)
- **Elise Pare** - Future Ready expert (Rossland, BC)
- **Mel de Jager** - Climate Change and Resilience (Dartmouth, NS)
- **Dan Ross** – Transportation Engineer (Vancouver, BC)
- **Carl Miller** – Geotechnical Engineer (Nanaimo, BC)
- **Michael Taylor** – Environmental Planner (Vancouver, BC)

The current Official Community Plan was adopted by City Council in 2011. Nearing a decade in force, the City has shifted and grown under the direction of this plan. In reviewing and refreshing the Official Community Plan, the project team, in coordination with the City of Merritt, can identify the achievements of the past 9 years, while developing a vision for growth over the next 20. Through this exercise, key themes will be engaged upon and supportive direction provided to the community.

Engagement Timeline

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PURPOSE

- **Enhance awareness** of the project's engagement process and **clearly communicate the opportunities to become involved.**
- **Educate the community on the technical information** presented during the design process to enhance their understanding of the issues and opportunities.
- **Establish meaningful communication** between the City of Merritt, the WSP Project Team and project stakeholders to facilitate informative discussions on issues and opportunities.
- **Provide meaningful opportunities** for stakeholders and the public to provide comments and feedback that may be used to inform the development of the Official Community Plan.
- **Utilize web-based, electronic and print materials** to ensure that stakeholders have full access to information and documentation, while respecting social distancing protocols.

KEY THEMES

- To develop a **community vision** and policy to guide development.
- To **develop a Merritt “brand”** and use a **common set of graphic standards** throughout the duration of the project.
- To consider the unique aspects of Merritt that **define community identity**.
- To address and **foster the City and region’s unique Indigenous culture**.
- To consider **long-term sustainability and innovation**.
- To **recognize Merritt as a winter city**, where people can ‘play’ and enjoy the outdoors throughout all four seasons.
- To ensure that Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is considered in OCP development.
- To involve and value the feedback collected from all stakeholder groups in the City of Merritt, **including employing innovative engagement techniques to “dig deep” and understand the areas of importance for a diverse group of project contributors**.
- To communicate the OCP process as a **holistic process** that can only be achieved through wide-spread involvement, engagement and communication.

WHO IS IMPACTED?

- As both the update process and the final OCP are intended to be **impactful** for all those involved, we anticipate that any resident of Merritt can **choose to participate and have a meaningful stake** in the project
- The project process will provide a unique opportunity for the public and a number of stakeholder and focus groups, **to become involved and share their thoughts** on the shaping of the City of Merritt.
- The final deliverable will **impact the entire community** of Merritt as it will set the stage for growth and development well into the future.



ENGAGEMENT AVENUES

- City Steering Committee Review and Involvement throughout project
- Indigenous engagement (City conducted)
- Stakeholder meetings and workshops
- Sector-Specific Workshops
- Poverty reduction and food security one-on-one interviews and workshops
- Open houses
- Online survey
- Hardcopy comments from all events
- Email submissions and social media feedback

ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

- City Steering Committee Workshop
- Online Survey
- Stakeholder Visioning Workshop
- Poverty reduction and food security one-on-one interviews
- Open House – Project Launch
- Poverty reduction and food security one-on-one workshops
- Sector-Specific Workshops
- Presentation of draft OCP to Council & Steering Committee
- What We Heard Open House Event – Reporting Back

WHAT WE HEARD

- Each event will have a detailed summary prepared, to be compiled into a final “What We Heard Report”.
- The report will be shared with all project stakeholders and participants to clearly demonstrate how engagement feedback was considered and implemented in the OCP.
- Communicating back to participants how feedback was used is invaluable to providing tangible meaning in participation, and to promote participation in ongoing City projects and processes.

OPTIONS

merritTOGETHER
a bright future

(the last “t” in Merritt and first “t” in together are shared, using a distinct colour to identify the overlap)

MERRITT
Flourish Together

(Merritt logo on top, with the “Flourish Together” name below)

MERRITT
yé te skícetip

(Merritt logo on top, with the name below; The meaning is “It is good you come to visit us” in the local Nl̓eʔkepmx language)

OPTIONS

MERRITT 2040

Grow. Diversify. Flourish.

(Merritt logo on top, with a similar font for “2040”, and the slogan below)

MERRITT

eMERgence

(Merritt logo on top, with the “eMERgence” name below, and perhaps a rising sun behind; the “MER” would be in a similar font/colour as the Merritt logo above it; this one would likely need to be explained that emergence means to “bring into the light”, which is what we want for the city, but it also has a correlation with sun light)

OTHER OPTIONS

Merritt
Momentum 2040

Merritt
Future Ready

Merritt
Making It Right

MyMerritt: Moving Merritt Forward

Thank you!

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QUESTIONS?