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## Media Release

**For Immediate Release**

**DATE: March 1, 2022**

### **SUMMERLAND— Recreation Centre Feasibility & Site Fit Study Completed**

The District of Summerland has completed another significant milestone in its analysis of options to replace the Summerland Aquatic & Fitness Centre, which is at the end of its serviceable life. As a follow up to the 2021 Needs Assessment, a Feasibility & Site Fit Study was completed over the last eight months and presented to Council on Monday, February 28.

A team of consultants led by Carscadden Stokes McDonald Architects Inc. were tasked with confirming a preferred site location for a new or renovated Aquatic & Recreation Centre, providing detailed concept design work, completing a capital cost estimate and high-level cost-benefit assessment, considering sustainable building opportunities, and undertaking a comprehensive community engagement process.

The new recreation facility is proposed to be 60% larger than the current facility, which opened in 1976, to address unmet demand for these services in the community. The facility is slated to include a 25-meter, 6-lane pool for swimming and a separate, warmer leisure pool with all the associated aquatic amenities, plus fitness and recreation spaces.

Council supported two key decisions at Monday's Council meeting through resolution: Confirming the site location of 8820 Jubilee Road East beside the Summerland Arena & Curling Club as the preferred site strategy and targeting spring of 2023 for a referendum to obtain elector assent to enter long-term borrowing. This timeline will allow time for staff to seek out possible grant funding support.

"Confirming a strategy to replace or update the Summerland Aquatic & Fitness Centre is a big step towards a key Council priority—one that is also a recommendation in the District's 2018 Parks & Recreation Master Plan," said Mayor Toni Boot. "Providing quality aquatic and recreation services in Summerland is a key factor in supporting healthy and active lifestyles for our residents."

Council will review additional project next steps in future meetings, which will include decisions such as if a childcare facility or gymnasium should be explored as part of a new facility build (or potentially phased in the future), initiating further analysis to further refine construction costs, setting sustainability goals, conducting additional stakeholder engagement, and fleshing out a more detailed financial plan.

The completed Summerland Recreation Feasibility & Site Fit Study and supporting reports are available for viewing at [www.summerland.ca/rec-and-health-centre](http://www.summerland.ca/rec-and-health-centre).

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