



January 16, 2024

Dear Resident,

You could be **one of 25 people** selected to take part in a Residents Assembly as one part of the public engagement on the revised Official Community Plan for the Town of Gibsons on the important question:

How can Gibsons best plan for the future and meet the housing needs of our growing population?

The Town of Gibsons will be updating the Official Community Plan (OCP), which maps out housing options and where they will go. As part of a broad community engagement process to inform the new OCP, we will be hosting a Residents Assembly, bringing up to 25 neighbours together to learn more about Gibsons' projected growth in the years to come, demystifying diverse housing options, and exploring what is most important for our community as it grows. As a member of the Residents Assembly you would work alongside fellow community members to develop recommendations for the integration of affordable housing and land use development in the Official Community Plan.

The **Gibsons Residents' Assembly** will run across four sessions from 11am - 5pm on Sundays in Feb 2024 - April 2024: **February 25, March 10, April 7 and April 21** . You need to attend all the sessions. If you take part we will give you **\$900** to thank you for your time.

You don't need any prior knowledge to take part in the Assembly; all we require from you is a willingness to listen to the information presented and share your opinions with us and your fellow residents. We want to hear from a real cross-section of people from across the Town of Gibsons, so if your household has received this letter then you are the right person to take part!

Everyone aged 16 and over who lives at this address can register their interest by visiting <https://www.renovatethepublichearing.ca/gibsons-assembly> or by calling Freephone **877-882-1253** (8:30am–5pm Monday to Friday.) The deadline to register is **Feb 4 2024**. The participants will then be selected by lottery. More details about the **Gibsons Residents' Assembly** are available overleaf.

This is a fantastic opportunity to help to shape what the Mayor and Council will consider in the Official Community Plan over the coming year. We hope that you will be interested in joining the **Gibsons Residents' Assembly** and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Silas White

Mayor of the Town of Gibsons

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Town of Gibsons Residents' Assembly

What is a Residents' Assembly?

Gibsons Residents' Assembly will follow an established democratic process that is used all over the world. It brings together a group of people selected by lottery, who broadly represent the entire community. The people who attend learn about issues, discuss them with one another, and then make recommendations about what should happen and how things should change.

Who is running the event?

The Town of Gibsons in partnership with Simon Fraser University - Centre for Dialogue and the Renovate the Public Hearing Initiative

The Sortition Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that specialises in recruiting and selecting people by lottery to take part in these kinds of events, in a way that is broadly representative of the wider population. www.sortitionfoundation.org

What are the dates and times of the sessions?

- **Session 1: Sunday February 25 2024, 11am - 5pm**
- **Session 2: Sunday March 10 2024, 11am - 5pm**

- **Session 3: Sunday April 7 2024, 11am - 5pm**
- **Session 4: Sunday April 21 2024, 11am - 5pm**

What will taking part involve?

If you are selected to take part you will have the opportunity to meet with individuals from all walks of life who live in and around the Town of Gibsons. You will hear from engaging speakers, and you will discuss the issues involved in small groups, with facilitators to make sure everyone has their voice heard. You do not need to have any prior knowledge of the topics – all the information you need will be provided during the day.

How will you ensure that the event is accessible?

- The in-person meeting will be held at an accessible venue with disabled parking available.
- Lunch will be provided, and transportation funding will be available as needed.
- There will be access to a quiet space.
- There is no dress code. Please wear whatever feels comfortable for you.
- The information provided during the event will be as jargon-free as possible.
- There will be opportunities to ask speakers to explain what they mean if what they are saying is not clear.



To register your interest visit:
<http://bit.ly/gibsonsassembly>
or call **Freephone 877-882-1253**
8:30am–5pm Monday to Friday
by **Sunday 4th February 2024**

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Town of Gibsons Residents' Assembly

If you require any form of additional support, for example translation, or support with accessibility issues, childcare, or other caring responsibilities, then every attempt will be made to provide this. If you are selected please just let us know about your specific requirements when we contact you.

If you are selected to take part, you will receive \$900 to compensate you for your time.

Who can apply?

Anyone aged 16 and over by the close of registrations, who is normally resident in the area and who lives full or part time at an address that has received this invitation can apply, with a few exceptions set out below. Please note that a maximum of one person from any single household will be selected to participate.

The following people cannot apply: Elected representatives from any level of government; paid employees of any political party; and current employees of the Town of Gibsons **cannot** volunteer to participate.

How was I selected to receive this invitation?

This invitation was sent to all households within the Town of Gibsons. If your neighbour did not receive one, please share yours with them!

After I register my interest, what happens next?

Once registration has closed, 25 people will be selected by lottery from those who registered their interest, to take part in the event. The lottery process is done in a particular way to make sure that there are people from all across the community attending.

If you are selected, we will contact you by phone and email from Monday Feb 5 February to let you know. We will then arrange a call with you to confirm that you can attend, discuss any requirements you may have to make it possible for you to attend, and explain what happens next.

What will happen after the event?

Your recommendations will be presented to the Mayor and Council for the Town of Gibsons for consideration in the final Official Community Plan. An evaluation of this assembly will occur for the Renovate the Public Hearing Initiative. You may be asked to complete an additional survey to understand your experience and the impact of this type of engagement.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like to talk to someone about the Town of Gibsons' Residents Assembly before



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