

Backgrounder - West Shore RCMP detachment expansion

Colwood has been actively engaged in planning for the West Shore RCMP detachment expansion for over five years.

The current facility, built in stages during the 1960s and 1990s, is beyond capacity and cannot adequately serve the rapidly growing West Shore region, which has seen its population increase from approximately 47,000 in 1999 to over 85,000 today.

Colwood's role

Colwood has participated in good faith throughout the project development process, including:

- Active involvement of Colwood's Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer in all Owners Group meetings and decision-making.
- Colwood's Manager of Building and Bylaw Services serving as a key member of the Project Management Team.
- Unanimous support in 2023 for the IPD delivery model alongside our municipal partners.
- Agreement to establish a Project Charter in 2025 that emphasizes respect, trust, and cooperation among all parties.

Understanding Colwood's Review Process

At its December 8, 2025 Council meeting, Colwood Council deferred consideration of consent to the Capital Regional District (CRD) borrowing bylaws and directed staff to retain an independent consultant to review the project.

Subsequently, on January 12, 2026, Council deferred approval of the "Council Facing Validation Report" pending completion of an independent review and receipt of the "Final Validation Report".

Colwood's independent review will focus on:

- Verification that the construction cost estimate of \$87.5 million is realistic, achievable, and represents fair market value.
- Assessment of the risk allocation and contingency provisions within the IPD contract.
- Confirmation that Colwood taxpayers are receiving appropriate value and protection given our approximate 26% cost share.
- Analysis of long-term operational and lifecycle cost implications for Colwood.

This review is not about delaying the project—it is about ensuring Colwood Council has complete, independent information before committing taxpayers to a 20-25 year borrowing obligation.

Council looks forward to completing its independent review, examining the final Validation Report in detail, and working collaboratively with our partners to advance this critical community safety project in a manner that protects both public safety and the public purse.

Colwood looks forward to receiving the final validation report (confirmed through the project team) which we understand will be sometime in mid-January and our consultants final report which will be available to Council and the community on an upcoming regular Council meeting.