

## NEWS RELEASE

January 9, 2020

### Englishman River Water Service Drinking Water Project

With the commissioning today of the new Englishman River Water Treatment Plant, residents of Parksville and Nanoose will benefit from new drinking water infrastructure.

Construction, which began in 2017, was completed in December 2019. Total cost of the project was \$41.7 million with just over \$12 million provided by the provincial and federal governments through the New Building Canada Fund: Small Communities Fund (Province of BC - \$3 million, Government of Canada - \$3 million) and the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (Province - \$2,410,641, Federal Government - \$3,652,487).

The Englishman River Water Service (ERWS) is a joint venture between the City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) formed in 2011 to secure bulk water supply from the Englishman River for the residents of Parksville and the Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area. The ERWS project included:

- An in-river water supply intake and raw water pumping station designed and located to accommodate how residents and visitors access and use the Englishman River and to protect aquatic habitat.
- Water treatment plant with a capacity of 16 million litres per day of membrane filtration to comply with new water regulatory treatment standards including ultraviolet light and chlorine disinfection.
- Transmission mains to existing water reservoirs supplying homes and businesses of Parksville and the Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area with potable water.

This significant project ensures the community has a sustainable source of potable water for current and anticipated future needs. Access to clean drinking water provides security for the future. ERWS's mandate is to deliver safe and secure water for the community and to do this requires careful stewardship of both the surface water and groundwater sources. The recently completed Englishman River Water Service project will sustain a healthy river system and meet the future water needs of the City of Parksville and areas of the Regional District of Nanaimo.

#### QUOTES:

"I'm pleased that Canada's historic infrastructure investments have resulted in an improved drinking water treatment system in Parksville and Nanoose. The Englishman River Water Service will protect public health by providing residents with a reliable supply of clean drinking water. It will also help keep the local river system cleaner. This project reflects our commitment to strengthening our communities now while laying the foundation for economic growth and a greener future."

*The Honourable Catherine McKenna  
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities*

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“Our government is committed to working in partnership with the federal government to invest in the critical infrastructure that communities need and they can count on for many years to come. The completion of the Englishman River Water Service project ensures that the people of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo have clean, safe drinking water and a healthy ecosystem for everyone.”

*Selina Robinson*

*Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Province of British Columbia*

“The Englishman River Water Service project is a significant community project which now provides the community’s water system with high quality, safe water for future generations. On behalf of the ERWS management board and the City of Parksville, I wish to express our appreciation of the significant funding support given to this project by the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada; funding which was critical to its success.

*Ed Mayne*

*Mayor, City of Parksville and Chair, Englishman River Water Service Management Board*

“The Regional District of Nanaimo is proud of the innovative partnership with the City of Parksville to work together to ensure a sustainable supply of high quality, safe drinking water, now and into the future, for RDN and Parksville residents receiving water from the Englishman River. This joint venture to secure drinking water supply while supporting sustainable fisheries is an important demonstration of the strength and benefits of working together with our municipal, provincial and federal partners.”

*Ian Thorpe*

*Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo*

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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