



PRESS RELEASE

March 15, 2016

On March 7, 2016, the Town was served with a Petition filed in the BC Supreme Court. The Petition seeks an Order requiring the Town follow the road closure process outlined in the Community Charter. The Town notes that there has been no actual closure of Winn Road yet and therefore the Petition is premature.

Contrary to the claims in the Petition, the Town planned and is committed to follow all the process requirements for the Winn Road closure and exchange. Information regarding this item has been provided to Council in staff reports dated July 28, 2015 and September 15, 2015. Information to the public was provided on the Presentation Boards at the information meeting on September 24, 2015 and as part of the Public Hearing process leading up to the October 1st Public Hearing. These documents are available on the Town's website at <http://www.gibsons.ca/the-george>.

Based on the current status of the George Hotel project we expect to start the road closure process sometime this spring or summer. This process includes a Notice of the proposed disposition for the part of Winn Road that would be closed. The Town is awaiting detailed design drawings to be able to define the road dedication over the Plaza that will be received in exchange for closure of a section of Winn Road. Please note that a new road dedication, to be provided in exchange for the road closure, will continue to provide publicly owned access to the water over an accessible Plaza with an elevator for those with mobility challenges.

Contrary to a story circulated by a local group, the Town has 21 calendar days to prepare and file a response to the Petition and the Town has conceded nothing in the litigation. The Town notes that a Public Hearing is not part of the legal requirements for a road closure, but rather a Public Notice which will be provided once a road closure bylaw has been prepared.