

## Sidney Community Association

### Policy on Information Sharing and Collaboration with Other Organizations

This policy describes the conditions and limitations on the types of information produced by outside organizations, and collaborative or co-operative activities, that the Sidney Community Association may engage in. Information sharing and collaboration may be undertaken to fulfill the purposes under our Constitution, the Vision articulated by our members, current Priorities or other adopted Policies (as found on the [www.sidneycommunityassociation.ca](http://www.sidneycommunityassociation.ca) main page or Links). This policy also describes the under which circumstances the Board will require further input and consensus from the membership before making decisions on information sharing and collaboration with other organizations.

**WHEREAS** the purposes in the Sidney Community Association's Constitution directly pertaining to this policy are to:

- b) promote informed public interest and participation, and protect and advance the interests of the community as a whole,
- d) take an active role in the development of the Official Community Plan (OCP) and encourage adherence to it, and
- e) undertake and support other activities which may from time to time be deemed appropriate.

**For the purposes of this policy, the terms 'share' and 'collaborate' mean:**

- **Share** - The Sidney Community Association may provide links to material produced by outside organizations that pertains to the current concerns, Priorities or Vision of residents, or to the Sidney OCP objectives. The objective for information-sharing is to promote public engagement by association members; however, any person able to access the public-facing website and Facebook profile of the association would be able to see materials shared via those platforms.
- **Collaborate** - The Sidney Community Association Board or members acting with the Board's permission, and in the Sidney Community Association's name, may take an active role in crafting communication materials or steering events or campaigns in co-operation with other organizations.

**THUS, the Sidney Community Association, as represented by the Board, MAY:**

**SHARE** (via weblinks, social media and other communication media to members) campaigns or events:

- being held by other community groups that operate wholly or in part within Sidney, and
- on issues that may affect, or interest Association members based on:
  - the topics or values expressed in the Sidney Community Association Vision,
  - the current Priorities of the Association, or
  - current planning or engagement initiatives of the Town.

Sharing information or an event does not necessarily constitute endorsement of the group or agreement with any other current, future or past actions of the organization putting forward the material or event being shared.

For example:

- providing a link to an open letter to sign regarding marine conservation in the Salish Sea, or
- sharing the Facebook event for an information session on housing or development, held by another community group.

**COLLABORATE** in campaigns or events:

- of other community groups, that share the Priorities of Sidney residents or that help meet the vision for Sidney laid out in Sidney's OCP or the Association's Vision, or
- where a statement or position has been voted on and adopted at a regular monthly members meeting, Annual General Meeting, or by email survey to the membership, and
- where those events are open to all Sidney residents.

For example:

- An open public forum hosted by another community association in the CRD on a topic such as housing, regional transportation or urban forests.
- An open letter from an advocacy group on a municipal issue of known importance to members,
- A non-partisan community activity such as a Jane's Walk or beach clean-up.

If a request to collaborate on a topic or event is brought before the Board without having been discussed by the membership previously, but in the Board's opinion it fulfills the Association's Purposes and Vision and it is in the interests of the membership participate as an Association, the Board will consult the membership at a meeting or by email prior to taking a position.

**The Sidney Community Association WILL NOT:**

1. **Provide a monetary contribution** to any outside organization or group. Equipment or materials previously purchased by the Sidney Community Association for use in Association activities (e.g. microphones or audiovisual equipment) may be lent to other public/community organizations except groups excluded by the criteria below.
2. **Promote political parties or candidates.** The Board and membership are always free to endorse, contribute to or volunteer with political parties or candidates as individuals. Election platforms and links, open forums with candidates, and discussion of campaign platforms may be provided to membership for information, so long as all candidates or parties are given equal opportunity and presence. (An exception would be Information on public engagement events being held by sitting government representatives open to all constituents, which may be shared).
3. **Share content for private businesses or their commercial activities.** The Sidney Community Association may share public notices and advertisements for community entertainment or charity events held by individual businesses or business associations that are free (or by donation) and open to the public.
4. **Share content for any group, campaign, or event that discriminates** against any group based on a protected category under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, or that engages in what could be considered hate propaganda under the Canadian Criminal Code.