



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2010

Questionable Leadership Demonstrated by City Council's Decision on CD-21

The decision by Kelowna City Council to terminate the CD-21 Development Plan after two years of comprehensive public consultation and the investment of millions of dollars is irresponsible and regrettable.

The input City Council has received from community members, City planners and staff, engineers and visionaries in Urban Planning, and the citizens of Kelowna has been arbitrarily ignored. The opportunity to provide a long-term vision for the development of a core section of Kelowna's downtown has now been brought to an end. It is unacceptable that elected members of Council have acted in such an arbitrary manner without the foresight into the consequences of their decision.

The business community has been urging City Council to move forward on a long-term strategy for the revitalization and development of the downtown core. The recent decision sends a clear message from City Council that it is indecisive, unaccountable and has no clear vision of what development is in the best interest of our community, even after extensive consultation. This decision risks economic stagnation and frustration amongst the development community.

The recent decision by City Council sends a strong message to the business community that, after investing significant monies, gathering significant input from the public, and seeking the assistance of professionals and staff, the process can be arbitrarily terminated without consequence.

Kelowna Chamber of Commerce President Wesley Shields states, "The suggestion by one Council member that 'I think we can do a better plan' is ludicrous and a fantasy".

"Given the inability of City Council to agree on very basic principles of what development plan should be implemented, it is inconceivable that City Council will be in a position to move forward with the development of the downtown core in the foreseeable future", adds Shields.

"This type of indecision and arbitrary action sends a very negative message to the development community, City staff, city residents, and all those professionals who have invested time, effort and resources in undertaking a project of this magnitude that would provide amenities and benefits to the entire downtown core", says Shields.

The proposed CD-21 Zone Plan represented a visionary future for Kelowna's downtown core. The Chamber of Commerce believed that this plan would have had a positive impact on our community and our local economy. It would also have sent a very positive signal to the business community that would have resulted in the attraction of more investment and the creation of more jobs. Over a period of time, the net result would be that there would be increased tax revenue to pay for needed community infrastructure and services.

Shields states that "Although the CD-21 had its limitations, the plan and vision was what was needed to assist in developing the downtown core. Although not perfect, the decision to abandon the process is clearly the wrong decision."

For more information, call:

Weldon LeBlanc, CEO

Kelowna Chamber of Commerce

(250) 469-7356 (direct)

(250) 470-3407 (cell)

weldon@kelownachamber.org