

## WATER SYSTEM A PRIORITY FOR COMOX VALLEY



### BUILDING LINKS

#### CLARICE COTY

In the Comox Valley, the upgrade to the Comox Valley Regional District water system is one of the largest water projects on the agenda for BC, as part of a province-wide effort to bring all drinking water systems to current standards. While the provincial Ministry of

Health sets drinking water quality policies, each regional health authority works with communities to achieve those objectives. The current treatment project design will feature a filtration plant combined with chlorination. The construction project is expected to cost \$110 million and will include five major pieces of infrastructure:

1. A new deep-water intake in Comox Lake built a kilometre off shore and 30 metres below low-lake level;
2. A new raw water pump station on the shore of the lake;
3. A 2.5-kilometre pipe that will transport the water uphill to the site of the new water treatment plant;
4. A new filtration plant building, including offices for water treatment staff;
5. A five-kilometre pipeline to deliver treated water to the

base of the BC Hydro penstock, connecting with the existing system.

The Comox Valley is the only community of its size in BC that does not have a secondary form of treatment. A new system will bring the Comox Valley water system in line with other communities across BC.

Construction of the new water treatment plant is scheduled to begin in 2019 and will be fully operational by 2021.

Medical cannabis producer **Santé Veritas Therapeutics** is currently in talks with **City of Powell River** and **Catalyst Paper Corporation** for expansion as it continues to convert a building on Ash Avenue into a medicinal-marijuana growing facility. **Santé Veritas** has indicated it will exercise its option to purchase the former mill administration

building that is currently being renovated, and has approached the city to buy additional property for construction of another 50,000-square-foot building. The company has also approached Catalyst about purchasing additional surplus land. **Santé Veritas** signed a memorandum of understanding with the city in 2013 that included provisions for the company to lease the former Catalyst administration building. The company is spending between \$6 million on the building's conversion which is expected

to be completed in January, 2018. The company is planning a public information session in December so the community can learn more about its plans. Health Canada is expected to provide the license as soon as February, 2018. This project is expected to create up to 50 jobs at the facility.

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