



## Minutes

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| <b><u>Meeting</u></b> | Regular Council   |
| <b><u>Date</u></b>    | April 21, 2020  |
| <b><u>Time</u></b>    | 7:00 PM   |
| <b><u>Place</u></b>   | Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means |

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|                       |                             |          |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| <b><u>Present</u></b> | Mayor Martin Davis          |          |
|                       | Councillor Bill Elder       |          |
|                       | Councillor Sarah Fowler     |          |
|                       | Councillor Lynda Llewellyn  | by phone |
|                       | Councillor Cheryl Northcott | by phone |

|                     |   |          |
|---------------------|---|----------|
| <b><u>Staff</u></b> | Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer           |          |
|                     | Janet StDenis, Finance and Corporate Services Manager | by phone |

|                      |                         |          |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| <b><u>Public</u></b> | 2 members of the public | by phone |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|

### **A. Call to Order**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor Davis acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachaht/ Muchalaht territory

### **B. Introduction of Late Items and Agenda Changes**

None.

### **C. Approval of the Agenda**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0169/2020**

**THAT** the Agenda for the April 21, 2020 Regular Council meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **D. Petitions and Delegations**

None.

### **E. Public Input # 1**

None.

### **F. Adoption of the Minutes**

- 1 Committee of the Whole April 7, 2020**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0170/2020**

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of April 7, 2020 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

**2 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on April 7, 2020.**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0171/2020**

THAT the Regular Council meeting minutes of April 7, 2020 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

**G. Rise and Report**

None.

**H. Business Arising**

None.

**J. Council Reports**

**Mayor Davis (written report)**

Well, it has certainly been another interesting two weeks. Covid-19 continues to be almost the only thing on the news and has replaced talking about the weather as the main topic in Tahsis. At this point, there has been 1,724 cases in BC and 87 deaths. Seniors and particularly those in long term care homes continue to be disproportionately affected, which also puts our aging population at risk in Tahsis. I feel that overall, the BC government has responded appropriately to the crisis, although the recent outbreaks in large work camps is concerning, as well as at means of food production, such as a poultry plant. Locally, we have continued our messaging about social distancing and discouraging visitation to Tahsis for the time being. I find much of my job as Mayor these days involves communication with the public and our businesses as well as the media, and fielding complaints regarding enforcement of social distancing. Our businesses are taking great precautions and for the most part, people have hunkered down for the time being. I recently signed on to a letter from Vancouver Island mayors expressing concern over the number of tourists coming to the Island on the Easter weekend. It asked the provincial government take more action, should things not improve by the next long weekend, and to turn them back at the ferry. As I write this, the irony is not lost on me that we are telling tourists to stay away! It is heartening to see that infection rates are slowing in BC but that could all change if the restrictions are lifted too soon. We just have to look south of the border where a non-existent coordinated federal response and false news has led to an explosion of cases and a mortality rate three times higher than in Canada. We have pretty much closed our southern border to non essential travel and that is entirely prudent at this time.

On another note, we have finally passed our Official Community Plan and it has been put on the Village webpage. Also, we are in active negotiations with Western Forest Products regarding forestry issues around Tahsis and should have much good news on that front, once the local First Nations have been consulted and things have been finalized.

**Councillor Elder (verbal report)**

Councillor Elder reported that long term Tahsis resident Bill Simpson had passed away.

Councillor Elder gave notice of 2 motions that he would be bringing forward at the May 5th, 2020 Regular Council meeting; 1) with respect to the Fees and Charges Bylaw and 2) regarding gravel pit access.

**Councillor Fowler (written report)**

Thank you to Grieg Seafood's generous donation of tinned fish, for the Community Cupboard.

After seeing the work that Roger Dunlop has prepared for the TSR on behalf of the NSWS, I am grateful to be given such a fascinating learning opportunity to learn about salmon parks, habitat adaptation and water issues.

Even as the AGM to elect a new board has been postponed the dedicated talent involved in the table is making sure a deliverable doesn't fall through the cracks. I have been focusing on the #AVICC2020 and reaching out virtually to promote #sarahfowler4directionatlarge as elections are hoping to take place at the UBCM in fall should it be possible considering the pandemic. While attending the virtual happy hour over the weekend I spoke to Taylor Backrach from Smitters about travel expenses and rural blockaids, who represent Skenna and Buckley Valley in Ottawa. After doing more research I learned that the FCM executive position of president is dedicated to a representative from our province this year and having sent an email to Bill Karsten (councillor in Halifax) when elected president last June. The one thing positive about COVID-19 that is this move to internet is leverage that we in remote locals like Tahsis, can use as an equalizing variable, as contrast to our larger than most travel cost if participating in forums, trainings or association. As the June FCM forum in Toronto is cancelled, our collective digital migration that is of course, unprecedented but open-ended as Carl Jensen says "we are building the ship as we sail it"

Notice of motion, sample resolution FCM (attachment)

Respectfully submitted.

Sarah Fowler

**Councillor Llewellyn**

No report.

**Councillor Northcott**

No report.

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0172/2020**

**THAT** the Council Reports be received.

**CARRIED**

**K. Bylaws**

None.

**L. Correspondence**

- 1 Maja Tait, UBCM President- Letter to Mayor Davis Re: Provincial Response to 2019 Resolutions**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0173/2020**

**THAT** this correspondence item be received.

**CARRIED**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0174/2020**

**THAT** correspondence item #1 be pulled for discussion.

**CARRIED**

- L1 Mayor Davis spoke to the province's response to both the Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Management Framework and the Cave Protection Act. A discussion followed.**

**M. New Business**

- 1 UBCM convention delegate selection**

**Llewellyn/Elder: VOT 0175/2020**

**THAT** this item be received for discussion.

**CARRIED**

**Llewellyn/Elder: VOT 0176/2020**

**THAT** Mayor Martin Davis, CAO Mark Tatchell and Councillor Sarah Fowler be selected to attend the 2020 UBCM convention in Victoria, September 21-25, 2020.

**CARRIED**

**N. Public Input #2**

A member of the public noted that it was Volunteer Week and that volunteers are important to this community

**Public Exclusion**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0177/2020**

**THAT** the meeting is closed to the public in accordance with section 90(1) (k) of the Community Charter- negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of Council could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

**CARRIED**

**Recess**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0178/2020**

**THAT the Regular Council meeting recess to go into the in camera meeting. CARRIED**

**Reconvene**

**Fowler/Llewellyn: VOT 0184/2020**

**THAT the Regular Council meeting reconvene at 7:47 p.m. CARRIED**

**Adjournment**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0185/2020**

**THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:48 p.m. CARRIED**

**Certified Correct this**

**5th Day of May, 2020**



**Chief Administrative Officer**



# Minutes

Village of Tahsis

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|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Meeting</b> | <b>Committee of the Whole</b>                                    |
| <b>Date</b>    | <b>Tuesday April 7, 2020</b>                                     |
| <b>Time</b>    | <b>1:02 p.m.</b>   |
| <b>Place</b>   | <b>Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means</b> |

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|                |   |                                  |
|----------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Present</b> | Mayor Martin Davis<br>Councillor Bill Elder<br>Councillor Sarah Fowler<br>Councillor Lynda Llewellyn<br>Councillor Elect Cheryl Northcott | by phone<br>by phone<br>by phone |
| <b>Staff</b>   | Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer<br>Sarah Greer, Co-op Student<br>Janet StDenis, Finance and Corporate Services Manager        | by phone                         |
| <b>Guests</b>  | Shaun Koopman, SRD Protective Services Coordinator  | by phone                         |
| <b>Public</b>  | 1 member of public  | by phone                         |

**Call to Order**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.  
Mayor Davis acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachaht/ Muchalaht territory

**Introduction of Late Items**

McKelvie Creek Watershed – engagement of EcoLogic for review of WFP proposed reserves- under "Business Arising " as H2.  
Grant-in-Aid – consideration of public communication and/or policy direction - under "Business Arising" as H3.

2020-2024 Capital Plan amendment – video equipment and related costs for livestreaming Council meetings- under "Business Arising" as H4.

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Fowler: COW 032/2020**

**THAT** the Agenda for the April 7, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

**Business  
Arising**

**1 Village's Response to COVID-19 and related issues**

**a) EOC update**

**b) Council's role as a Policy Group under the EOC/BCERMS framework**

**c) Public communication responsibilities and procedures**

**Llewellyn : COW 033/2020**

**THAT** this information be received.

**CARRIED**

The CAO provided council with an update on the Village's response to COVID-19 related issues. A discussion followed.

The CAO spoke to Council's role as a Policy Group under the EOC/BCERMS Framework. Shaun Koopman, SRD Protective Services Coordinator explained other key responsibilities and additional roles and duties of Council during COVID-19.

There was a discussion on public communication and the need for the Mayor as the "central voice".

**2 McKelvie Creek Watershed – engagement of EcoLogic for review of WFP proposed reserves**

Mayor Davis spoke to this item and the CAO elaborated on the scope of the proposal.

**Llewellyn : COW 034/2020**

**THAT** this information be received for discussion.

**CARRIED**

**Llewellyn : COW 035/2020**

**THAT** the engagement of Ecologic for review of WFP proposed reserves be approved for costs up to \$5000.

**CARRIED**

**3 Grant-in-Aid – consideration of public communication and/or policy direction**

There was a lengthy discussion on the Grant-in-Aid Policy. A decision was made to put this item on the April 21st, Committee of the Whole Agenda for further discussion.

**Llewellyn : COW 036/2020**

**THAT** this information be received for discussion.

**CARRIED**

**4 2020-2024 Capital Plan amendment – video equipment and related costs for livestreaming Council meetings**

**Llewellyn : COW 037/2020**

**THAT** this information be received for discussion.

**CARRIED**

**Fowler : COW 038/2020**



**THAT** staff be directed to cost out video equipment and related costs for  
livestreaming Council meetings for the 2021 - 2025 Capital Plan.

**CARRIED**  
1"no" vote  
registered  
Councillor  
Elder

**Adjournment**

**Elder: COW 039/2020**

**THAT** the meeting adjourn at 2:32 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Certified correct this  
21st Day of April, 2020

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Corporate Officer

**Minutes**

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|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Meeting</b> | <b>Regular Council</b>   |
| <b>Date</b>    | <b>April 7, 2020</b>   |
| <b>Time</b>    | <b>7:00 PM</b>   |
| <b>Place</b>   | <b>Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means</b> |

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|                |   |                      |
|----------------|---|----------------------|
| <b>Present</b> | Mayor Martin Davis<br>Councillor Bill Elder<br>Councillor Sarah Fowler<br>Councillor Lynda Llewellyn<br>Councillor Cheryl Northcott | by phone<br>by phone |
| <b>Staff</b>   | Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer<br>Janet StDenis, Finance and Corporate Services Manager                                | by phone             |
| <b>Public</b>  | 3 members of the public   | by phone             |

**A. Call to Order**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
Mayor Davis acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachaht/ Muchalaht territory

**B. Introduction of Late Items and Agenda Changes**

2 late items under "correspondence", L4 an email from Rita Aedan and L5 a letter from UBCM re: the 2020 Age Friendly Community Transportation Planning Project.

1 late item under "new business" as M1 Council position on visitors – consideration of public notice and/or media release.

1 late item under "business arising" as H2- Revised Budget Meeting Dates.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**Llewellyn/Elder: VOT 0149/2020**

**THAT** the Agenda for the April 7, 2020 Regular Council meeting be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED****D. Petitions and Delegations**

**None.**

**E. Public Input # 1**

A member of the public spoke to several COVID-19 related issues to which the Mayor and Council responded.

**F. Adoption of the Minutes**

**1 Committee of the Whole March 16, 2020**

**Northcott/Elder: VOT 0150/2020**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of March 16, 2020 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2 Committee of the Whole March 17, 2020**

**Elder/Northcott: VOT 0151/2020**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of March 17, 2020 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 17, 2020.**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0152/2020**

**THAT** the Regular Council meeting minutes of March 17, 2020 be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

**G. Rise and Report**

None.

**H. Business Arising**

**1 Village of Tahsis (in conjunction with the Strathcona Regional District)  
Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Response Plan Level 3**

**Llewellyn/Elder: VOT 0153/2020**

**THAT** the Village of Tahsis COVID-19 Response plan be received.

**CARRIED**

**Llewellyn/Fowler: VOT 0154/2020**

**THAT** the Village of Tahsis COVID-19 Response plan be activated to Level 3.

**CARRIED**

**2 Budget Meeting Dates (Revised)**

The CAO spoke to this agenda item.

**Elder/Fowler: VOT 0155/2020**

**THAT** the amended budget meeting dates be received.

**CARRIED**

**Mayor/Fowler: VOT 0156/2020**

**THAT** the amended budget meeting dates be approved.

**CARRIED**

**J. Council Reports**

**Mayor Davis (written report)**

Since my last report to council, COVID-19 has spread and today there are 1291 documented cases and 43 deaths in BC. I have been posting on social media regarding the measures that need to be taken to minimize spread and have asked visitors to Tahsis to stay away, although doing so is unenforceable under current law. Fortunately, most people have been complying with the measures in town and the businesses have been quite proactive in their approaches to minimizing risk. Unfortunately, not all citizens have heeded the warnings and police have been involved in one circumstance, to my knowledge. The good news is that it appears that measures taken provincially are leading to a decline in new cases, so this is good news. At the same time, we have to continue with these measures to ensure that the trend doesn't reverse. With a bit of luck, we may be back to some semblance of normal by this summer, although the continuing governance issues in the US may lead to the extension of ongoing measures, as their outbreak is now the world's worst with 2,000 deaths in the last day. This may have a profound impact on tourism in Tahsis, particularly sport fishing. I want to take this opportunity to thank our citizens, all village staff and businesses in Tahsis for complying with and often exceeding the recommended measures. Our staff and public works has had to respond, increasing the difficulty of their jobs but they have risen to the occasion. It has also brought to the forefront other issues, such as enhancing food security in Tahsis and the need to continue to improve our preparation for future catastrophic events as they may arise.

Covid-19 has led to cancellation of the regular regional board and other meetings that I attend out of town, but it is also leading to changes in the way we conduct business such as building capacity for electronic meetings, which is something we are also addressing locally. In future, we will be able to conduct our council meetings remotely when the need arises. But business continues and tonight we will hopefully be passing our Official Community Plan, while staff continues to work away on completing our financial plan.

**Councillor Elder**

No report.

**Councillor Fowler (written report)**

This past week I have been talking (by phone) to some of our more vulnerable residents about food security and access to healthy fresh food.

I have also been doing twice the webinars I usually do, which has been very informative. Having said that I have cancelled the age-friendly accessibility action standing committee and the U4C AGM until further notice.

Submitted respectfully,  
Sarah Fowler

COVID 19 Response for Unsheltered Homeless People

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgJDOpTRZs&feature=youtu.be>

COVID 19 Response for Unsheltered Homeless People (PowerPoint)

<https://caehca.sharepoint.com/CAEH%20Shared/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2FCAEH%20Shared%2FCommon%2FCOVID%2D19%2FWebinars%2FApril%201%20Webinar%2FStreet%20Outreach%20During%20COVID19%20March%202020%2Epdf&parent=%2FCAEH%20Shared%2FCommon%2FCOVID%2D19%2FWebinars%2FApril%201%20Webinar&p=true&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9jYWVoY2Euc2hhcmVwb2ludC5jb20vOml6L2cvRVFicklUcDNGTWhCdDREWkVUcUE1eUVcCm9BYmpfVXNKbkhoWkJITTRtaTIPZz9ydGltZT1TRHhHdTYZyZwZw>

**Councillor Llewellyn (written)**

Our world is changing daily, almost hourly at the moment and for those who don't do well with change these can be very unsettling times. While a lot of what we hear is bad news there is some good mixed in there and I challenge all of us to find at least one good news story everyday.

The VIRL March board meeting was cancelled due to the current crisis but the Executive felt the need to meet and so a ZOOM meeting was set up for this past Friday. There were 19 of at the first ever electronic meeting in VIRL history. We were offered a 20 minute one on one trial with the platform a couple of days before the meeting so all of us who had never used it before could become familiar with it. The meeting lasted almost 4 hours, probably partly to do with the delays as each person who wanted to get to address the group. The meeting went very well and never once did any of us get dropped from the feed. It was a good meeting and I think we were all impressed with how well this technology works. We will be meeting this way in mid April with the whole board.

I heard Monday morning that a long term resident of Tahsis passed away, rest in peace Sheila Orr. My neighbour had to put down her long time canine companion, Loxi, had been by her side since he was 5 weeks old and turned 19 at the end of February. In a time when my natural instinct would be to hug people in their time of loss I am reduced to letting them know I am thinking of them through messages and waves.

Stay safe everyone,  
Respectfully submitted  
Councillor Llewellyn

**Councillor Northcott**

No report.

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0157/2020**

**THAT** the Council Reports be received.

**CARRIED**

**K. Bylaws**

**1 Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw No. 625, 2020**

**A Bylaw to Amend the Village of Tahsis Council Procedure Bylaw (Consolidated and Amended) No. 495, 2004 to facilitate electronic Council meetings.**

**Adoption**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0158/2020**

**THAT** the Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw No. 625, 2020 be received for consideration.

**CARRIED**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0159/2020**

**THAT** the Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw No. 625, 2020 be reconsidered, finally passed, and adopted as presented on this 7th day of April, 2020.

**CARRIED**

**2 Village of Tahsis Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 623, 2020  
Second, Third and Adoption**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0160/2020**

**THAT** the Village of Tahsis Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 623, 2020 be received for consideration.

**CARRIED**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0161/2020**

**THAT** the Village of Tahsis Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 623, 2020 receive a second reading this 7th day of April, 2020.

**CARRIED**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0162/2020**

**THAT** the Village of Tahsis Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 623, 2020 receive a third reading this 7th day of April, 2020.

**CARRIED**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0163/2020**

**THAT** the Village of Tahsis Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 623, 2020 be reconsidered, finally passed, and adopted as presented on this 7th day of April, 2020.

**CARRIED**

**L. Correspondence**

**1 Vincent Hanemayer, P. Eng. email Re: Western Forest Products Inc.  
Contaminated former Hemlock Mill Site (Tahsis)**

2 Charles St-Denis, Retired Captain, Letter to Mayor and Council Re: EOC  
Censorship of Personal Expression

3 City of Prince George- UBCM Resolution Re: Payments from Opioid Class  
Action Lawsuits

4 Email from Rita Aedan Re: Remote First Nations tell visitors to go away  
and stay away.

5 UBCM letter re: 2020 Age-Friendly Community Transportation Planning  
Project

**Elder/Fowler: VOT 0164/2020**

THAT these correspondence item be received.

**CARRIED**

**Llewellyn/Fowler: VOT 0165/2020**

THAT correspondence item #1 be pulled for discussion.

**CARRIED**

L1 The CAO spoke to this item. A discussion followed.  
Staff was directed to draft a letter for Council's review to be sent to  
municipalities in similar situations with contaminated sawmill sites on the  
contaminated site registry that are not being studied.

**M. New Business**

1 **Council position on visitors – consideration of public notice and/or media  
release**

Both the Mayor and the CAO spoke to this item. A lengthy discussion  
followed.

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0166/2020**

THAT this item be received for discussion.

**CARRIED**

**Llewellyn:/Northcott VOT 0167/2020**

THAT the Staff draft a press / social media release asking visitors not to  
come to Tahsis until the state of emergency is rescinded.

**CARRIED**

**2 "no" votes registered  
Councillor Fowler  
Councillor Elder**

**N. Public Input #2**

The mayor spoke individually to the members of the public who had joined  
the council meeting remotely by phone.

**Adjournment**

**Fowler/Elder: VOT 0168/2020**

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**Certified Correct this**

21st Day of April, 2020

**Chief Administrative Officer**





March 27, 2020

Mayor Martin Davis  
Village of Tahsis  
Box 219  
Tahsis, BC V0P 1X0

Dear Mayor Davis:

**Re: Provincial Response to 2019 Resolutions**

UBCM has received the Province's response(s) to your Council resolution(s) from 2019. Please find the enclosed resolution(s) and their provincial response(s).

Responses received from the Province have been posted to the UBCM web site under Resolutions & Policy.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Jamee Justason, Resolutions and Policy Analyst at 604.270.8226 ext. 100 or [jjustason@ubcm.ca](mailto:jjustason@ubcm.ca)

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maja Tait". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Maja Tait  
UBCM President

*Enclosure*

**2019 B121 Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Management Framework**

Whereas the *Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Act* was intended to create safe and more convenient incidental access to public roads and highways to better connect BC's rural communities and support a first-rate ORV trail network, and to allow local governments to expand their trail networks to take advantage of economic development opportunities by way of tourism;

And whereas the current administrative process to obtain Operation Permits as permitted under the ORV Act is onerous and not conducive to convenient incidental access to trail networks connecting multiple communities as a separate operation permit must be obtained from each jurisdiction:

Therefore be it resolved that the following changes to legislation are made:

- Only one (1) Operation Permit required for approved access to multiple jurisdictions and/or communities along a connecting designated ORV route and trail network issued in any of the jurisdictions or communities along the route.
- Operation Permits can be issued by any local RCMP or local government along a designated route.
- Operation Permit term extended from 2 years to 5 years to align with the driver's licence term.

**Convention Decision:                      Endorsed**

Provincial Response***Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development***

*The ORV Management Framework promotes the safe and responsible use of Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) on Crown land (including resource roads) under the Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Act and provides more convenient incidental access to highways by ORV's to promote tourism. Changes to highway laws have involved amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations (MVAR), Division 24.*

*The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) is currently seeking support from other ministries responsible for the Motor Vehicle Act, the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) and policing services in order to further amend the MVAR, Division 24; specifically, to address the following two highway ORV access scenarios (which require different ICBC Basic Insurance products):*

- 1. Improve incidental access to highways for Crown land trail systems by further simplifying the process for police-issued operation permit as described in UBCM's resolution; and*
- 2. Seeking support for ICBC to develop a new Basic Insurance product to support increased access to municipal streets by ORV's; this would require select rural communities to be designated pilot projects, similar to golf carts on roads in Chase.*

*UBCM is encouraged to continue to liaise with FLNRORD ministry staff responsible for the ORV framework. UBCM's ORV Local Government Working Group has been re-engaged to ensure a common approach when engaging the Province. FLNRORD is pleased to hear that this group includes participation from rural communities impacted by the downturn in forestry and who are seeking to expand their local economy by promoting ORV tourism.*

**2019 B162 Cave Protection Act**

Whereas caves are uncommon and unique environments that can harbour rare and threatened species, unique mineralogy and sediments, First Nation heritage values; and are non-renewable, site-specific landscape features with natural, cultural, spiritual, aesthetic and scientific value;

And whereas caves are sensitive ecosystems that can underlie developed landscapes and as such are vulnerable to pollution, destruction by quarrying, vandalism, mismanagement, species extinction and general degradation caused by human activities:

Therefore be it resolved that the Provincial Government should pass a Cave Protection Act in order to conserve caves, in perpetuity.

**Convention Decision:                      Endorsed**

Provincial Response**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**

*The Provincial Government acknowledges that caves are uncommon and unique environments that provide a diverse set of natural, cultural, spiritual, aesthetic and scientific values; also, that caves are sensitive to human-caused developments and disturbances. The Province is not pursuing specific legislation for the protection of cave formations at this time because there are a number of existing legislative and policy tools already available to protect and minimize impacts to cave formations.*

*The following are tools to protect caves through legislation and policy in British Columbia:*

- The Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and associated Government Actions Regulation (GAR) enables the identification of karst caves and other significant karst features, by legal order, as a Resource Feature, which in turn requires forest licensees to identify results and strategies for its management as part of Forest Stewardship planning.*
- GAR orders are also used to establish Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA) for habitat of plant and animal species at risk, as well as Wildlife Habitat Features (WHF) for habitat features requiring special management. These could include cave formations. WHAs and WHFs are a legally-enforceable, site-specific protection for identified species/features during forest and range practices, authorized under FRPA, and under the Oil and Gas Activities Act.*
- GAR orders are also considered during the adjudication of Land Act applications to ensure that existing interests and values on Crown land are protected in authorizations for use of Crown land e.g., permitting of activities other than forestry and oil and gas developments.*
- Any commercial or organized not-for-profit use of caves on Crown Land would need to be reviewed and approved by the Crown Land Authorizations Division (CLAD) under the Land Act.*
- Caves are protected where they occur within provincial parks, Wildlife Management Areas, federal parks, and other conservation tenures on Crown Land and on private conservancies (e.g., The Nature Trust and The Nature Conservancy of Canada). In 2017, provincial protected areas totalled roughly 15 percent of the province. Spatially Managed Areas and Resource Exclusion Areas, comprising around 25 percent and 12 percent of the province, respectively, also contribute to protection measures where they overlap caves.*
- Caves are protected through government policy. This is non-legal direction for inventory, assessment and management, including guidance on best management practices. For example, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development maintains the provincial Karst Inventory Standards and Vulnerability Assessment Procedures and the Karst Management Handbook for British Columbia. The handbook identifies recommended best management practices when conducting forest operations on karst terrain.*
- Best management practices are also available for several sectors in relation to caves as follows:*
  - o Best Management Practices for Bats in BC*
  - o Caving, Rock Climbing, Geocaching and other Activities Around Cave and Crevice Habitat*
  - o Mine Developments and Inactive Mine Habitats*
  - o Develop with Care 2014*