



AGENDA

**Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Tahsis Village Council
to be held on June 15, 2021 in the Council Chambers
Municipal Hall, 977 South Maquinna Drive and by electronic means**

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A. Call to Order Mayor Davis will call the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**B. Introduction of
Late Items**

**C. Approval of the
Agenda**

**D. Petitions and
Delegations**

None.

E. Public Input # 1

**F. Adoption of the
Minutes**

1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on June 1, 2021

2 Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on June 1, 2021

G. Rise and Report None.

- H. Business Arising** 1 **Cascadia Seaweed Re: Blue Economy Draft Report**
- J. Council Reports** 1 **Mayor Davis**
 2 **Councillor Elder**
 3 **Councillor Fowler**
 4 **Councillor Llewellyn**
 5 **Councillor Northcott**
- K. Bylaws** None.
- L. Correspondence** 1 **Nancy Smardon, Tahsis resident- email Re: the use of rodenticides**
- 2 **Saanich Council email and correspondence Re: British Columbia Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Ending**
- 3 **City of Langley Council Re: Letter of Support for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Line**
- 4 **Letter from Hon. Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to Mayor Davis Re: Modernizing Forest Policy**
- 5 **City of Prince George Council email Re: Resolutions submitted to the 2021 UBCM Convention**
- 6 **UBCM May 21, 2021 Letter to Mayor Davis Re: Gas Tax Agreement Community Works Fund Payment**
- 7 **Letter from Shannon Salter, Chair of the Civil Resolution Tribunal Re: Information for Motor Vehicle Accident Disputes**
- N. Public Input #2**
- P. Adjournment**



Minutes

<u>Meeting</u>	Regular Council
<u>Date</u>	01-Jun-21
<u>Time</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Place</u>	Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means

<u>Present</u>	Mayor Martin Davis	
	Councillor Bill Elder	
	Councillor Sarah Fowler	
	Councillor Cheryl Northcott	by video
	Councillor Lynda Llewellyn	by video

<u>Staff</u>	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer	
	Shelley Debruyne, Administrative Coordinator	by video
	Janet St-Denis, Corporate Services Manager	by video

<u>Public</u>	3 members of the public.	by phone/video
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A. Call to Order

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:01 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

Elder/Fowler: VOT 0233/2021

THAT the Agenda for the June 1, 2021 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

D. Petitions and Delegations

None

E. Public Input # 1

None

F. Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 18, 2021

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0234/2021

THAT the Regular Council Meeting minutes of May 18, 2021 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

G. Rise and Report

At the June 1st closed meeting Council passed a resolution THAT the Village conduct a detailed inspection of all buildings on the property (1400 S. Maquinna Drive) and prepare a staff report detailing the deficiencies and, with the assistance of legal counsel, use this report to prepare a letter to the property owner in order to proceed under s. 74 of the Community Charter.

H. Business Arising

1 Proposed Tahsis Seniors Volunteer Ride Share Service - Notice of Motion from Councillor Fowler:

Fowler/Llewellyn: VOT 0235/2021

WHEREAS there is a need in Tahsis for a community-based volunteer ride service to Campbell River with the potential for stops to pick up passengers in Tsaxana and Gold River;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Village of Tahsis seek permission under section 13 of the Community Charter to provide inter-community transportation support to our residents with the Tahsis Seniors Society Volunteer Ride Service partnership.

AND Be It Further Resolved, that the Village of Tahsis seek to obtain consent from the Strathcona Regional District for providing the volunteer community-based ride sharing service between Tahsis and Campbell River including service for Tsaxana and Gold River.

CARRIED

J. Council Reports

Mayor Davis (written report)

The main topic of discussion around town is the wolf issue and will probably continue to be until there is some kind of resolution to the matter. Wolves were almost extirpated from Vancouver Island due to the bounty on them, but their population has been rebuilding since the abolition of the bounty in 1955. Since the first dog was killed here, I have been in regular contact with the conservation officers and they have made several trips to town to try to find them but have been unsuccessful to date. They continue to reiterate that removing attractants is important, but when our pets continue to be the main attractant, it is difficult to find any middle ground in this. I have advocated for live trapping them but to date that hasn't occurred and I don't really understand why, apart from the fact that they are understaffed and unable to spend enough time here to resolve the issue. While I am not happy about killing wildlife unnecessarily, I can't see any way forward without it.

Generally, wolves can not be relocated as they will either return or will be in conflict with other wolves, as they are very territorial. Unfortunately, this pack has chosen our village as their territory due to plentiful food and show no fear of humans, which bush wolves normally do. If they are allowed to continue and breed here, the problem will only get worse. As it is, given that they have killed dogs and even a small bear in town, I believe that our children are at risk and that is unacceptable. The media have taken an interest in our plight and in the last two days I have been interviewed for both CHEK News and CBC radio. I have raised the issue of our Conservation Officers being understaffed and underfunded. Finally, I would like to say that there have been several people in town threatening to take matters into their own hands. While I sympathize, I will say that discharging firearms in town is illegal and we don't need to double our risk. The last time I remember people doing this, they were. I was told at the time that this book was taken before church representatives came to remove all the documents kept at the school

Since our last council meeting, I have attended a First Nations Relations Committee and a regular board meeting of Strathcona Regional District. Of note was a defeated motion to support the move by the federal government to remove fish farms from the Discovery Island area; it was opposed by Campbell River, Gold River and Sayward Directors. Preliminary information indicates that salmon smolts passing through the area have seen a 90% decline in sea lice infection over previous years. Some directors opposed receiving this data. On a related note, salmon smolts passing the Esperanza area fish farm are heavily infected by sea lice when passing by the farm. This was documented on May 15. The farm is in the midst of an outbreak, with sea lice at double the allowable limit.

Yesterday, I had a meeting with a representative of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers to further discuss the effort to convince the federal government to allow Canada Post to conduct some bank transactions in small communities which are not served by regular banks. It would be very helpful for people with small incomes and could potentially end the usurious practise by cheque cashing businesses, which typically charge exorbitant fees from their clients. The banks are opposing this so we will see if the proposal goes anywhere. Tahsis has not been served by a bank branch since about 2004.

This week, we learned of the discovery of a mass grave containing at least 215 children that died at a Catholic residential school in Kamloops. At least 4,100 children are known to have died while attending residential schools in Canada. This is absolutely horrific and speaks volumes about the treatment our indigenous populations have received in this country. I did the math and this equated to 2-3 deaths per year in this alleged school. I think back to my own experiences in school and tried to remember if anybody died, let alone being dumped in a mass grave. I can't help but also think that this is only the tip of the iceberg, given that they actually went searching for graves using ground-penetrating radar at this site. It reminds me of a small book written by one of the priests at the former residential school near Tofino that I read excerpts from; it was salvaged from the abandoned school by a former Tahsis resident. It described a student being punished for stealing bread by being shot in the leg. I was told at the time that this book was taken before church representatives came to remove all the documents kept at the school. It is a grim history. The best we can do now is shine the light of truth on this atrocity and do whatever we can to ensure that we never descend into this level of barbarity ever again.

Councillor Elder (Verbal Report)

I have been having many discussions with our residents about 2021 Property Taxes.

Councillor Northcott

No Report

Councillor Fowler (written report)

I was unsuccessful at the AVICC in my bid for a director at large position.

However, I did receive a certificate for level 1 Local government leadership academy.

Attached are 2 documents as well.

NSWS Draft Minutes April 28th 2021.doc

NSWS Draft Agenda May 26th 2021.doc

Councillor Llewellyn (verbal report)

The Vancouver Island Regional Library has not received a response to its grant application to construct a new Tahsis branch. VIRL is hoping to have an answer by the end of June.

Interviews were held for the of Executive Director position of the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board. They have not chosen anyone as of yet, but it is short listed to 4 candidates.

Elder/Fowler: VOT 0236/2021

THAT the Council Reports be received.

CARRIED

K. Bylaws

None.

L. Correspondence

- 1 UBCM Re: CEPF -2021 Emergency Support Services Program - Approval Agreement and Terms of Conditions of Funding
- 2 Email from Darlene MacKinnon, Chief Operating Officer, BC Emergency Health Services Re: Scheduled On-Call (SOC) – Vancouver Island / Gulf Islands Prototype.
- 3 Julie Colborne, Mayor, Village of Zeballos letter to Hon. Adrian Dix, Ministry of Health Re: Concern for the sustainability of BC Ambulance Service in the Zeballos area.
- 4 Letter from Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors to Hon. Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development- Re: Moratorium on Recreational Wolf Hunting on Vancouver Island.
- 5 Dan Law, Mayor, District of Tofino letter to Hon. Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development- Re: Support for expedient and resourced Implementation of the Old-Growth Strategic Review.
- 6 Spark BC Re: Say Yes to Access- June 5th Access Awareness Day
- 7 Email and resolution from the Mayor and Council of the Village of Gold River submitted to AVICC and UBCM Re: Support Working Forests on Vancouver Island and in British Columbia.
- 8 Mike Little, Mayor, District of North Vancouver letter to UBCM Re: BC Government's Use of Provincial Paramountcy to Undermine Local Government Bylaws.

Elder/Fowler: VOT 0237/2021

THAT these correspondence items be received.

CARRIED

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0238/2021

THAT correspondence item #3 and #6 be pulled for discussion.

CARRIED

- 3 Julie Colborne, Mayor, Village of Zeballos letter to Hon. Adrian Dix, Ministry of Health Re: Concern for the sustainability of BC Ambulance Service in the Zeballos area.

Councillor Fowler spoke to this correspondence item. A discussion followed.

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0239/2021

THAT a letter from the Village be sent to Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health supporting the Village of Zeballos regarding the sustainability of BC Ambulance Services in rural communities under the new resourcing model.

CARRIED

6 Spark BC Re: Say Yes to Access- June 5th Access Awareness Day

Councillor Lewellyn spoke to this correspondence item. A discussion followed.

Lewellyn/Fowler: VOT 0240/2021

THAT the Village promote Access Awareness Day on social media and other channels.

CARRIED

N. Public Input #2

None.

Adjournment

Fowler/Elder: VOT 0241/2021

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified Correct this

the 15th day of June, 2021

Chief Administrative Officer

Nootka Sound Watershed Society
 Draft Minutes
 Wednesday, April 28th 2021
 7pm, Online via Zoom
 Meeting ID: 882 0054 4123
 Passcode: 635956

Direct Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88200544123?pwd=N3VmbWVLeVUvbmNlUk2QxRzBkd08zQT09>

Welcome and attendance.

Kent O'Neill – President, NSWS Teresa O'Neill – Treasurer, NSWS Dean Tretheway – Grieg Seafood Stacey Larsen – Community Advisor, DFO Laura Terry – Community Advisor, DFO Craig Blackie – Scoot Science	Lyndy Vroom – Conuma Hatchery, DFO Paul Kutz – Western Forest Products Samantha Kagan – Nootka Marine Adventures, NSWS Secretary
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1. Review and adopt of the Agenda - **Motion to accept:** Teresa **2nd:** Craig
2. Review and adopt of the Minutes from March 31st, 2021 meeting - **Motion to accept:** Sarah **2nd:** Paul
3. Review of action items from March 31st 2021

New Items

No new items

Ongoing Items

Action	Who	Status
Inquire with equipment operators to determine if switch to vegetable based hydraulic fluid for purpose of Oktawanch live staking is viable	Kent	Ongoing – will do in September
Put together proposal for coho monitoring (using PIT tags) on Dunlop Creek	Roger	Ongoing
Assess pump house ramp for GR egg take	Kent/Roger/Kadin	Ongoing

Action	Who	Status
Write letter of support for the Coastal Restoration Society	Roger/Kent? Kent emailed Wanda and Dorothy from MMFN before last meeting	Received email back from Wanda, meeting on May 10 th .

4. Old Business

a. **Strategies for Steelhead Taskforce**

New group spearheaded by Karenn. Inquire with Kent about attendees. Looking at habitat on the gold, pinniped predation, ocean survival, political will/policy changes. Last swim 10 days ago saw 2 fish. Room for additional seats if anyone has interest.

b. **Fisheries Habitat**

Paul: Roger and Paul and Bryan Sommerfeld had a zoom call couple weeks ago to walk through Rogers proposed map. Keyed in on some of the features more closely, going to get better mapping. Overall not much of an impact to tenure holders.

Spill response:

c. **Hatchery Update**

i. **Conuma**

Lyndy: as of coffee tomorrow entire marking program will be complete.

Largest clipping effort in all of DFO SEP ever.

Early group chinook clipped first, already released from sea pens. Late group finished clipping tomorrow morning, heading to seapens over the next few days.

Chum: all released.

Burman: all clipped. Final clipped number is less than inventoried. 169 628 total clipped. Invoice for \$4752.11 for 69 628 clipped fish.

Gold: next week being moved to Muchalaht Lake

Burman: next week being moved to seapens.

Kent: Mike was on area 25

Was getting the vibe that we have a pretty good chance to get the gold clipped next year.

ii. **Tahsis**

Laura: doing really great. Last Monday vaccine application. Collected a otolith sample. Thank you to Conuma for lending equipment. Still missing boat and motor – plans fell through for the ones they thought they had.

iii. **Zeballos**

Stacey Larsen: now solely just in CR position (no more Port Hardy). Things moving quite nicely in Zeballos with infrastructure updates. Old water holding tank has been removed. New tank donated by Grieg, Stacey et al are figuring out logistics to getting new tank installed.

d. **Fisheries Management/Area 25 Roundtable Updates**

Kent: meeting last week. Mainly pre-season forecast. Expected terminal return is moderate. 33 000 fish returning. Age composition – much larger 4 year old age group this year. Generally means we will see larger/medium sized fish. Last few years heavily weighted towards 3 year olds. Escapement goal is 11 000 to Conuma. Limits haven't changed. More information coming out on Five Nations fishery in couple weeks.

e. **Mass Marking**

Discussed above.

f. **Coastal Restoration Fund**

Kent: officially completed year 3. Hoping final report can go in on Friday and we will get out 10% hold back.

g. **Gravel Bar Seed Money:** Have \$6200 for substrate investigation and moving substrate from Oktawanch to Muchalaht. Both oktawanch and muchalaht for seed money.

h. **Fundraising**

ACTION: Sam to post Stewardship Coordinator post job on job boards
Kent: Do we know if opening CRF? Laura: not yet.

Haven't head from BC SRIF. Laura thinks that could be positive outcome.

i. Terms of Reference review

not without Roger.

5. New Business

Sarah brought up the email she sent out. Seeking funds for the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Plan (VICC CLP) Steering Committee

Paul: tree initiative from Gov. of Canada – pays 50% of silviculture reforestation side of things. One of the targets is areas that do not have obligations (eg. Not in licences where there is an obligation to replant). Could be a good source of funding for riparian planting, livestocking gravel bars, etc.

Laura: SEP community workshop. Hosting it virtually this year in Vancouver.

6. Correspondence.

none

7. Financial Report

Teresa read out the financial report. **Motion to accept:** Sarah **2nd:** Craig

Kent: received last invoice of year 2 from strategic.

Motion to pay the invoice for clipping from Lyndy: Sarah **2nd:** Paul.

8. Next Meeting

Wednesday May 26th 2021

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Teresa **2nd:** Craig

Nootka Sound Watershed Society
 Draft Agenda
 Wednesday, May 26th 2021
 7pm, Online via Zoom
 Meeting ID: 856 9632 9108
 Passcode: 792871

Direct Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85696329108?pwd=bVfkSVdBRzluRnoxVE1VS0NPbDQvUT09>

Welcome and attendance.

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1. Review and adopt of the Agenda - **Motion to accept:** **2nd:**
2. Review and adopt of the Minutes from April 28th 2021 meeting - **Motion to accept:** **2nd:**
3. Review of action items from April 28th 2021

New Items

Action	Who	Status
Post Stewardship Coordinator posting online	Sam	

Ongoing Items

Action	Who	Status
Inquire with equipment operators to determine if switch to vegetable based hydraulic fluid for purpose of Oktawanch live staking is viable	Kent	
Put together proposal for coho monitoring (using PIT tags) on Dunlop Creek	Roger	
Assess pump house ramp for GR egg take	Kent/Roger/Kadin	

Action	Who	Status
Write letter of support for the Coastal Restoration Society	Roger/Kent? Kent emailed Wanda and Dorothy from MMFN before last meeting	.

4. Old Business

- a. **Strategies for Steelhead Taskforce**
- b. **Fisheries Habitat**
- c. **Hatchery Update**
 - i. **Conuma**
 - ii. **Tahsis**
 - iii. **Zeballos**
- d. **Fisheries Management/Area 25 Roundtable Updates**
- e. **Mass Marking**
- f. **Coastal Restoration Fund**
- g. **Gravel Bar Seed Money**
- h. **Fundraising**
- i. **Terms of Reference review**

5. New Business

6. Correspondence.

7. Financial Report

8. Next Meeting

9. Adjournment



Minutes

Village of Tahsis

Meeting	Committee of the Whole
Date	1 June, 2021
Time	2:30 p.m.
Place	Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means

Present	Mayor Martin Davis	
	Councillor Bill Elder	
	Councillor Sarah Fowler	
	Councillor Lynda Llewellyn	by video
	Councillor Cheryl Northcott	by video
Staff	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer	
	Janet St-Denis, Finance and Corporate Services Manager	by video
	Lauren Roth, Recreation Centre coordinator	by phone

Call to Order

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

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

Introduction of Late Items

None.

Approval of the Agenda

Fowler: COW 053/2021

THAT the Agenda for the June 1, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

H. Business Arising

1 Airline Dock Management and Regulation

Fowler: COW 054/2021

THAT this Report to Council be received for discussion.

CARRIED

The CAO spoke to his Report to Council and the airline dock repair cost estimates. A discussion followed.

Llewellyn: COW 055/2021

THAT repair option #2 (short term repairs to the north float only) be approved.

CARRIED

A discussion followed.

Llewellyn: COW 056/2021

THAT COW 55/2021 be reconsidered.

CARRIED**Llewellyn: COW 057/2021**

THAT COW 55/2021 be rescinded.

CARRIED

Council made no decisions regarding the airline dock repairs and the management and regulation of the facility.

**M. New
Business**

1

**UBCM Convention – Meeting Requests with Premier Horgan and
Provincial Cabinet
Ministers and the Minister of Municipal Affairs**

Elder: COW 058/2021

THAT this information be received.

CARRIED**Fowler : COW 059/2021**

THAT Council meet with Cabinet Ministers on the following topics:

**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural
Development (Minister Controy)**

Community Forest Opportunities, Securing long-term protection for the McKelvie Creek Watershed, Community Unity Trail - next steps, Head Bay Forest Service Road logging truck traffic, Cave Protection Act

Ministry of Agriculture (Minister Donnelly)

Harms caused by open net fish farms, Aquaculture opportunities,

Ministry of Finance, Public Service Agency (Minister Robinson)

Promote remote working to encourage BC public service employees to re-locate to smaller communities for quality of life, affordability and to strengthen economies of small communities

Ministry of Municipal Affairs (Minister Osborne)

Funding for new Tahsis Fire Hall

Ministry of Health (Minister Dix)

Impact of changes to BC Emergency Health Services (BC Ambulance)
resourcing and scheduling in small communities

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Ministry Heyman)

Western Forest Products Inc. contaminated mill site; Conservation Officer
Service staffing - North Island

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (Minister Fleming)

Head Bay Forest Service Road maintenance and improvements

CARRIED**2 2021 Tahsis Days****Elder: COW 060/2021**

THAT this information be received for discussion.

CARRIED

Lauren Roth, Recreation Centre Coordinator spoke to the proposed in-person activities.

Llewellyn: COW 061/2021

THAT Council approve the Virtual Activities for the 2021 Tahsis Days and the following in-person activities; parade, outdoor movie, floral arrangement competition, bocce ball, duck race, outdoor scavenger hunt and car wash. All outdoor activities are subject to Provincial Health Officer guidelines and Orders.

CARRIED**Adjournment****Elder : COW 062/2021**

THAT the meeting adjourn at 4:07 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified correct this
15th day of June, 2021

Corporate Officer

From: Erin Bremner-Mitchell <erin@cascadiaseaweed.com>
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 12:57 PM
To: Erin Bremner-Mitchell <erin@cascadiaseaweed.com>
Cc: Alexandre Bilodeau-Bouchard <alex.bilodeau.bouchard@gmail.com>; Mairi Edgar <medgar@cascadiaseaweed.com>
Subject: Blue Economy Draft Report

June 4, 2021

Good afternoon ~

On behalf of the team here at Cascadia Seaweed, I hope this email finds you safe and well.

As you are likely aware, the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is developing a [Blue Economy Strategy](#) for Canada and welcoming feedback from those involved in ocean-based sectors, Indigenous communities, environmental groups and Canadian citizens, by June 15.

On behalf of the growing seaweed sector and supply chain in British Columbia, Cascadia Seaweed held a virtual round-table discussion with industry stakeholders on May 27 to discuss the climate benefits of seaweed cultivation, the human and community impact of this growing new sector, and the entire value chain. It was a very productive session that led us to the attached document which is the basis of a submission that Cascadia Seaweed will submit to DFO.

Participants of the roundtable are being asked to sign the report demonstrating support for the growing seaweed sector. As you have previously indicated support on behalf of your community, I would like to extend the invitation to you as well. Attached is the draft report to give you an idea of the direction we are heading. We expect to send the final copy around with a request for signatures late next week in an effort to submit the final document end of day Monday, June 14.

I apologize for the tight timeline. I hope you can give this some thought and consider becoming a signatory on the final document.

I look forward to your comments and questions.

With gratitude,

--

Erin Bremner-Mitchell

Manager of Communications and Engagement

[Cascadia Seaweed](#)

1-250-818-1840



We are social!

Be sure not to miss a beat and follow us...



Call to Action: Integrating seaweed aquaculture into Canada's Blue Economy Strategy

Submitted by Cascadia Seaweed

[insert Executive Summary with infographic]

The purpose of this submission is to present the significant and timely opportunities for seaweed production and processing on the Canadian coast. To build a sustainable blue economy that will generate jobs and benefit our precious marine ecosystems, the Government of Canada cannot overlook the advantages of seaweed farming.

This call to action is backed by the expert opinions of Cascadia Seaweed and partner signatories [insert list of signatories]. The unified voice of all signatories herein carries no small weight and must be heard with the greatest attention.

Signatories were surprised and concerned that seaweed was not mentioned in the Blue Economy Strategy (BES) engagement paper. Stakeholders in Canada's budding seaweed aquaculture sector are urging the federal government to invest in the development of the industry, which will invariably contribute to revitalizing remote, rural, Indigenous, and coastal communities and to driving growth and innovation in sustainable, regenerative aquaculture.

This submission urges the Government of Canada to stimulate growth in the initial stages of the national seaweed industry by i) investing in production and processing techniques and infrastructure, particularly food processing as it is the highest-value product in the short term, to create regional value production points; ii) subsidizing phycology, policy, and marketing research along with specialized training programs for the future seaweed workforce; and iii) designing a separate approval track and task force for seaweed licensing and interdepartmental coordination to connect stakeholders with relevant authorities.

Environmental and economic potential

The BES engagement paper supports the appeal from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to scale and adapt aquaculture to address the increased global demand for seafood. In this same spirit, the FAO recently identified seaweed as a valuable marine resource that “sustains the livelihoods of millions of people in coastal communities throughout the world” [1]. Looking to the future of marine farming, the World Bank Group (WBG) also acknowledges that seaweed “could represent a transformational change in the global food security equation and in the way we view and use the oceans” [3]. Seaweed has been harvested worldwide for centuries, and its positive impacts on both the economy and society are no secret. Canada must seize this opportunity and prioritize development in seaweed production and processing to carry its aquaculture industry forward.

Seaweed is a fast-growing, nutritionally dense crop that requires no fertilizer or pesticides and very little intervention to grow. However, the potential of macroalgae remains largely unexplored in Canada. Seaweed boasts a dry weight protein content of 10-30%, depending on the species, and is rich in macronutrients such as sodium, calcium, and potassium; in micronutrients like iodine, iron, zinc, and a host of antioxidants; in essential vitamins B12, K, and C; and in long chain omega-3

fatty acids. As a food source, seaweed possesses all the right components to become the primary plant-based protein of the future. As of 2019, seaweed aquaculture generated close to USD 15 billion per annum, representing 5.4% of the world’s aquaculture production [2]—and it continues to grow at an impressive pace. By 2050, The WBG estimates that the global seaweed industry will generate USD \$28 billion per annum and supply close to 10% of the world’s food stores [3], driving innovation not only in food security, but also in emerging areas of algal biofuel, fertilizer, compost, water filtration, biopackaging, medicine, and agri-feed. For example, research has demonstrated that adding seaweed to only 2% of livestock feed could decrease their methane emissions by close to 70%—with livestock emitting 14.5% of anthropogenic greenhouse gases, that is no small feat [4]. Canada is uniquely positioned to nurture this marine resource and benefit from its wide array of applications: a recent, large-scale, collaborative study published in *PLOS ONE* by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the University of Adelaide, and The Nature Conservancy recognized the North American eastern and western coasts as “high-opportunity marine ecoregions” for restorative shellfish and seaweed aquaculture [5]. With the longest coastline in the world, touching the Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic oceans, Canada is more than capable of fully harnessing the potential of seaweed aquaculture and generating significant socioeconomic and environmental return on investments.

The environmental benefits of seaweed cultivation are just as worthwhile and transformative as the market potential. Coastal ecosystems sequester 20 times more carbon per acre than land forests, but these areas are particularly vulnerable to runoff and human activity [6]. Growing seaweed, which is highly efficient at storing carbon, effectively represents a marine equivalent to afforestation and can play a critical role in curbing climate change. A recent study published in *Current Biology* suggests seaweed aquaculture in only 0.065% of the viable ocean waters could entirely offset carbon emissions from the United States’ USD 50-billion aquaculture industry [7]. Canadian aquaculture can reap the same advantages and set the example for sustainable, diversified marine farming on the global stage. Beyond carbon capture, seaweed absorbs excess nutrients in the water to grow, counteracting ocean acidification and deoxygenation, and shares symbiotic relationships with surrounding marine life. Seaweed also acts as food and protection for neighbouring marine life while thriving off existing ecosystem services like nitrogen- and phosphorous-rich waste from fish [8] and water filtration from shellfish [9]. The sustainability of Canada’s growing aquaculture industry is crucial, and the benefits of seaweed cultivation towards this endeavor cannot be discounted.

Under the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act [10], Canada has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Introduced in the House of Commons in November 2020, the Act holds Canada accountable to “establish a legally binding process to set five-year national emissions-reduction targets for 2030, 2035, 2040, and 2045, as well as develop credible, science-based emissions-reduction plans to achieve each target.” Seaweed aquaculture aligns with these commitments, representing a powerful, untapped source of natural carbon that can be harnessed on the global scale to achieve net-zero emissions.

Canada is also one of the recent 14 signatories on the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy [11]. The Panel acknowledges that “the actions we take now can safeguard the ocean’s capacity to regenerate, in order to deliver substantial economic, environmental and social value and offer powerful solutions to global challenges.” As a signatory to this international initiative,

Canada commits to achieving the goals outlined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to “mutually reinforcing transformations in five critical areas: ocean wealth, ocean health, ocean equity, ocean knowledge and ocean finance.” Under the umbrella of ocean wealth, Canada has committed to “scale up environmentally responsible commercial farming of seaweed and algae to provide food and create alternatives for products such as fuels, aquaculture and agriculture feedstocks, biotech, and viable and sustainable plastic alternatives.”

Climate change is an issue of top priority for all Canadians. In a recent survey on climate opinion conducted through the Canadian Nuclear Association, 91% of Canadian respondents cited climate change as a serious issue, while 88% reported that climate change has adversely impacted their lives in some way. The global repercussions of the pandemic have only intensified these concerns, and 85% of Canadians are urging the government to invest in cleaner technologies [12]. Environmental health and economic prosperity are intimately tied, as is made evident in the term “blue economy.” Fluctuations in ocean pH and temperature will generate ripple effects across all facets of human life, including the loss of trillions of dollars in GDP if the world’s access to marine resources was to disappear. Seaweed farming is an avenue to clean technologies and a sustainable blue economy with the potential to become a billion-dollar market in Canada with a wide array of verticals.

The evidence that Canada can benefit from this market is already available in real time. China, Indonesia, Japan, and South Korea may be the four largest cultivators of seaweed, but smaller jurisdictions are both taking advantage of and creating the seaweed aquaculture market in other countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, Ireland, Spain, Iceland, and Norway. The 2020 “Hidden Champion of the Ocean” report, published by Seaweed for Europe and funded by the German SUN Institute Environment and Sustainability, paints the picture of a growing and concerted seaweed industry that could produce 9.1 million fresh tons of seaweed, create 115,000 jobs, and mitigate 6 million tons of carbon by 2030. This represents a potential European seaweed market of close to €9.3 billion (USD 11.7 billion) [13]. In developing its own market analysis of and approaches to seaweed, Canada will have a wealth of international experience and partnerships to draw from.

Value chain diversification

Although the Canadian seaweed industry is still in its infancy, Canada’s existing strengths in aquaculture can easily be adapted to accommodate the production and processing of this new resource. The water-based infrastructure required to produce seaweed is significantly less impactful than that of shellfish and finfish. Seaweed cultivation requires only ropes, floats, and anchors with no need for on-site human habitation. However, the workforce, processing facilities, route to market, and basic regulatory framework are similar to the needs of the current industry, which presents interesting opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

The ease of setup can be seen in the marine farms Cascadia Seaweed has already installed in partnership with Indigenous communities on Vancouver Island. Cascadia’s seaweed farms are designed with horizontal, parallel lines suspended below the surface and moored at each end with cement anchors. An array of materials including ropes, floats, and anchors are needed, most of which are sourced from local businesses on the island. Assembled on land, one hectare of seaweed

farm infrastructure requires only two to three days to set up before being deployed and installed 100 m to 200 m offshore. Once the farm is in place, spools seeded with nursery-grown kelp sporophytes are wrapped around the cultivation lines. Farms must be cleaned twice a year to remove mussels and sea life weighing down the ropes. Along with regular farm maintenance, water conditions and growth rate must also be monitored and recorded on a weekly basis. Around five months later, seaweed is ready to be harvested and transported for primary and secondary value processing. As Cascadia continues to grow, farms will be cultivated with various species of seaweed that can be harvested at different times of the year. Certain species of seaweed can also grow year-round and can be harvested and processed at regular intervals, providing a steady stream of economic generation. Over 600 seaweed species grow in British Columbia alone, which presents many future possibilities for research, cultivation, and innovation.

The most accessible seaweed product with the highest value in the short term is food for human consumption. This form requires the least amount of processing and can be used to grow the industry while providing high-quality, plant-based protein in creative ways that appeal to the North American palate. Seaweed can be eaten as a snack as is in its dried state and can also be enjoyed pickled, fermented, steeped, and boiled in a variety of forms. Seaweed can easily be combined with other ingredients to make flavourful and nutritious products such as seaweed butter, bread, pasta, snacks, and seasonings [14]. All these options retain seaweed's nutritional benefits and present consumers with health-conscious alternatives to more common, less nutritionally dense foods.

Signatories are aware that the unconventional nature of seaweed presents a barrier to access in the Western market. An essential step to integrating seaweed into the North American diet will be to work with food companies, culinary organizations, and chefs to bring seaweed to people's supermarkets and tables. An example of this initiative has already been demonstrated in a recent partnered publication between Knorr, a multinational food corporation, and the World Wildlife Fund called "Future 50 Foods." Two of the foods identified were species of seaweed, *Porphyra umbilicalis* and *Undaria pinnatifida* [15].

When the national seaweed industry becomes more established, Canada can explore the superprocessing potential of seaweed into higher-value, globally coveted hydrocolloids such like carrageenan, alginates, and agar, which are used in many food, pharmaceutical and biotechnological applications. The FAO highlights that, in the food industry, hydrocolloids are required as "thickening agents in confectionaries, bakery products, salad dressing, ice creams, sweets and desserts (e.g. puddings, chewing gum, jams, jellies), dairy products such as chocolate milk, beverage mixes and processed meats, sausages and fish, as well as in clarifying of beers and wines." In the pharmaceutical industry, these compounds are also invaluable "as binders, stabilizers, emulsifiers, and for creating moulds in dentistry" [1]. The global seaweed-derived hydrocolloid market generates a gross annual income over USD \$1 billion, a figure which is only expected to increase as the international seaweed industry grows [16]. With such diversified opportunities for seaweed products, Canada must factor both production and processing into its industry framework. Investing in the infrastructure and facilities required to derive the greatest potential from seaweed—as opposed to exporting raw product—will secure Canada's position as a leader in the field and will set the foundations for innovation, independence, and wealth generation.

Given the urgency of climate change and the rapidly declining health of our oceans, designing a framework that ensures sustainability from both an environmental and economic perspective is critical. A proactive method of fostering resilience in the Canadian industry and connecting with international partners as seaweed cultivation evolves is by creating a genetic repository of native seaweed crops, a process known as macroalgal germplasm banking. These terrestrial gene banks hold live plant matter in the embryonic stage (i.e., seeds and spores) that farmers and scientists can access should a certain type of species become unavailable. The largest seed bank in the world is the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, located on the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen. As environmental fluctuations and increasing human impact threaten global biodiversity, germplasm banks are essential to preserving valuable genetic strains and diversity and to ensuring conservation and restoration in an economically viable manner [17]. Genetic banking is already being done with a number of target microalgae and many terrestrial plants, and the same efforts must be focused on marine ecosystems.

Signatories are conscious of the longer-term timelines and heavy investments required to build processing facilities and germplasm banks. However, smaller investments can be made in the shorter term to optimize the first stages of the seaweed value chain in seed production and harvest. Pre-processing components of the industry are still in development and in dire need of scale to demonstrate proof of concept. By leveraging existing licenses in the shellfish and finfish industries, algal seed production and harvest represent a concentrated and immediate opportunity for growth. Canada already has a strong aquaculture framework on which to build the pillars of a thriving seaweed industry. Infrastructure for shellfish and finfish can be seasonally adapted to process seaweed products. Along with investments in initial production stages, subsidies for research in phycology, regulatory policy, and barriers to market will be crucial to paving the way forward. Funds directed towards the development of training programs both in and outside of post-secondary institutions and within remote, rural, and coastal communities will also be key to building the workforce of tomorrow for seaweed aquaculture.

Community and human impact

Seaweed presents a unique opportunity to engage coastal and Indigenous communities in both the development of the industry at large and the day-to-day operations of farm management and maintenance. The aquaculture sector in Canada is not on the National Commodities list, which enables foreign workers to travel and work in Canada through the Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program [18]. Current regulations would restrict the labour force of seaweed farming to local communities and thus reinforce the need to reach out and provide the necessary training to future seaweed farmers across the country. The Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council (CAHRC) points out that “aquaculture has the second-highest percentage of operators with a need for more workers than they can find.” In 2014, 58% of aquaculture operators were unable to find enough workers, compared to 41% for the agriculture sector, and the CAHRC predicts this labour gap will continue to widen. Through strategic approaches to attracting and growing the workforce in the seaweed industry, Canada has the potential to generate close to 30,000 jobs in British Columbia alone.

The greatest labour challenges in Canadian aquaculture are the rural location of operations, rural depopulation, and the consequent barrier to worker mobility. Aquaculture workers are also subject to a high and often underreported level of occupational health and safety hazards [19], which not only affects the morale and productivity of current workers but also feeds into the negative perceptions potential workers have of the industry. These issues must be taken into consideration in developing strategies to attract and retain workers. Given that seaweed aquaculture is still in its early stages, the Government of Canada has an invaluable chance to attract and build the workforce as it builds the industry. With two-thirds of Canada's aquaculture industry concentrated on the coasts of Atlantic Canada and British Columbia [18], investments in seaweed farms will serve to create value production points in these areas that will capitalize on existing infrastructure, increase the financial value of operations, and create a powerful sense of ownership for the workers from local communities. Many of these workers may already have experience in the shellfish and finfish sectors, which will hugely facilitate training in the emerging seaweed sector.

Indigenous coastal communities are essential partners in the development of Canada's seaweed industry. In a 2016 survey of 40 Indigenous organizations and communities involved in Canadian aquaculture, 42% of respondents in operational aquaculture expressed high interest in partnering with non-Indigenous companies to stimulate growth, while 50% presented a range of different strategies. A total of 70% of respondents involved in planning aquaculture expressed interest in collaboration, 50% with non-Indigenous partners and 20% with Indigenous partners [20]. When asked how Canada could foster growth in aquaculture with Indigenous communities, respondents proposed that i) First Nations must take the lead in identifying sites and species with development potential in their territories and formalize development opportunities with potential partners; ii) all partners must agree on aquatic resource management and aquaculture operations frameworks with aquaculture proponents; iii) governmental arrangements and revenue sharing mechanisms must be co-managed so First Nations can maintain and retain oversight; and iv) support mechanisms such as development services, access to working capital, and specialized training opportunities must be in place to nurture a healthy, skilled workforce. In developing the necessary partnership agreements and social licenses with Indigenous communities, the Government of Canada must meet these demands. Dynamic collaborations will ensure a sustainable, prosperous industry and align directly with the commitment in the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission "to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects" [21].

Indigenous respondents in all sectors of aquaculture, including hatcheries, finfish, shellfish, and processing, described a labour force that relies in large part on seasonal and part-time work, which is also a reality for many non-Indigenous workers in the industry. Seaweed aquaculture will provide a range of full-time and part-time jobs in academia, policy, management, and skilled labour that can lead to exciting careers and opportunities for individuals and communities mainly dependent on seasonal work. Social licensing is the first step to establishing economic opportunities in seaweed aquaculture. A farm cannot exist without farmers. Future skilled workers will likely be unable to afford specialized training on their own, and a strategy to catalyze the industry must take into consideration the need for subsidized education.

Unique regulatory framework

Signatories understand the straw-man nature of this proposal: the strategy to establish and scale the seaweed industry in Canada is predicated on science, policy, and community engagement that is still in development. However, seaweed does not require a eureka moment—existing expertise in aquaculture is only waiting to be developed and applied. This submission has demonstrated that Canada possesses all the fundamental elements and experience to grow seaweed into a booming source of economic, social, and environmental revenue. Strengthening the knowledge base is the last step to setting a direction along which Canadian seaweed farming can thrive.

The most immediate requirement in the industry is for investments in coordination and research to design a regulatory framework that will secure the future of production and processing in Canada. To appropriately scale macroalgal production on the Canadian coastline from the perspective of ocean sciences, for example, more research is needed in i) genetic interactions between cultivated and wild crops; ii) impacts of seaweed cultivation on surrounding ecosystems; iii) epiphytes and diseases; iv) area utilization; and v) threats from climate change [24]. Signatories are more than ready to begin this important work, but streamlined federal support is essential. In addition to open and transparent lines of communication between federal and provincial ministries and stakeholders in seaweed aquaculture, Canada needs a centralized, one-stop shop for seaweed regulation and approval to truly unlock the industry's potential. Current licensing timelines for establishing seaweed farms in Canada are unacceptable and present a significant barrier to growth.

To develop its own regulations, Canada can turn to a number of countries that have already translated small-scale seaweed aquaculture into legislation. For example, in the Government of Ireland's most recent National Marine Planning Framework Baseline Report, seaweed is officially identified as one of the country's sources of aquacultural revenue [22]. As of March 2018, Ireland received a total of 17 applications, 13 from seaweed companies, for seaweed harvesting and cultivation licenses under the country's Foreshore Act. The Act requires residents to request a permit to remove or disturb beach material, including "seaweed whether growing or rooted on the seashore or deposited or washed up thereon by the action of tides, winds, and waves or any of them" [22]. Seaweed aquaculture in Ireland has traditionally been limited to wild harvesting, but a number of companies interested in cultivation were nonetheless well positioned to request licenses within existing regulations and governmental capacity at the senior level [23]. Policies are bound to adapt as these companies continue to grow, and stakeholders will be able to inform these policies as they are developed, which presents an ideal situation for all parties involved. Canada's initial regulatory framework around seaweed does not have to be comprehensive but instead proactive and dynamic. Without a direct, regulated avenue for licensing with a reasonable turnaround and a dedicated internal capacity at the senior level, seaweed aquaculture in Canada does not stand a chance.

Norway can also provide Canada with an example of effective seaweed regulation. Experimental cultivation in Norway began around 2005, and the first official permits for commercial seaweed cultivation were issued in 2014. The Government of Norway created special licenses for seaweed farming applications according to the country's Aquaculture Act. Applications are managed in a concerted effort through the Directorate of Fisheries, The Norwegian Coastal Administration, the Norwegian Food Safety Authority, The County Governor's Environmental Department, The

Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate, and municipal authorities. All actors work together to identify potential conflicts in their areas of oversight [24]. Successful applicants have begun building their farms to benefit from the commercial potential of Norwegian waters. Relevant to Canada in this case is not only Norway's unified approval process, but also their approach to policy development: experimental-, pilot-scale production was vital to building Norway's seaweed framework. With minimal investments into research, community engagement, and farming and processing infrastructure, Canada can support one or more regional value production points that will inform future policies of the larger industry.

Conclusion

Seaweed is an aquacultural resource with significant market potential that can help restore coastal ecosystems and revitalize remote, rural, and coastal communities. Canada's eastern and western coastlines have been identified as ideal environments for seaweed farming applications. If this confluence of advantages was not reason enough to consider investing in Canadian macroalgal production, existing expertise in hatcheries, shellfish, finfish, and seafood processing should engender well-deserved confidence. Canada is uniquely positioned to build a thriving seaweed industry on the solid foundations of its aquaculture framework. The engine to drive seaweed farming along the world's longest coastline is already in place and only requires the fuel to set the gears in motion.

Signatories have highlighted the need to establish social licenses and engage with coastal and Indigenous communities, the high costs of super-processing facilities and germplasm banks, the lengthy and disconcerted process for seaweed licensing approvals, and the challenge of adapting seaweed products to the North American palate. However, investigating these complex issues and cultivating seaweed are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they must be conducted simultaneously to inform one another and contribute to a sustainable system.

Through this submission, signatories are urging the Government of Canada to invest in the growth of seaweed aquaculture by i) investing production and processing infrastructure, particularly food processing as it is the highest-value product in the short term, to create regional value production points; ii) subsidizing phycology, policy, and marketing research along with specialized training programs for the future seaweed workforce; and iii) designing a separate approval track and task force for seaweed licensing and interdepartmental coordination to connect stakeholders with relevant authorities.

Human industries have severely impacted ocean health, contributing to pollution, deoxygenation, acidification, rising temperatures, and decreasing biodiversity. The socioenvironmental implications of the current aquacultural model are under global scrutiny. Canada has the opportunity to shift this narrative and not only mitigate, but also reverse the degradation of ocean health through sustainable seaweed farming that benefits from and strengthens marine ecosystem services. With a calculated approach, Canada can nurture an emerging field of research on the international stage to attract top talent and generate significant revenue through meaningful collaboration with remote, rural, and coastal communities.

The benefits are clear, and the way forward is paved with invaluable expertise. Canada must act now and must act fast to build a blue economy for future generations.

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-----Original Message-----

From: NANCY SMARDON <nsmardon@shaw.ca>

Sent: May 24, 2021 8:43 PM

To: Reception Account <Reception@villageoftahsis.com>

Subject: Use of rodenticides

Hello there,

I'm not sure who to address this email to so I hope whoever receives it can direct it to the appropriate person, possibly the mayor. I am concerned about the use of rat poison in bait boxes by some residents in Tahsis. I found a dead mouse in my kitchen the other week that I strongly suspect was killed by poison in a bait box at the side of my next door neighbour's house. I also saw a live but disoriented rat walking in the middle of the road at the end of N. Maquinna. I recognized that it was also probably poisoned because of its unnatural behaviour. I am very concerned about poisoned rodents killing other wildlife such as owls in Tahsis. I know there is an exterminator who comes up from Courtney to fill some people's bait boxes. My former friend employs him for this at her home and guest house and know that several others do too. Licences exterminators are permitted to use these poisons, like Bromone, but that doesn't make it right. Other communities such as municipalities around Victoria and Vancouver are banning the use of rodenticides because of their deleterious affect on other wildlife. As an animal lover I sincerely hope you will consider banning these poisons in Tahsis too for the sake of the local wildlife. Snap traps are a more humane way to deal with rats and mice anyway if baited properly so there are other options available. Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Nancy Smardon

415 N. Maquinna

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 3:11 PM
Subject: CARIP ending correspondence from May 17 Saanich Council meeting

Good afternoon,

Attached to this email please find correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council regarding the British Columbia Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program ending.

Regards,

Rachel Mattiuz

Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Administration Department
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave.
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

t. [250-475-5510](tel:250-475-5510)
f. [250-475-5440](tel:250-475-5440)
e. rachel.mattiuz@saanich.ca
saanich.ca



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email

June 1, 2021

British Columbia Elected Officials
BC Chief Administrative Officers

Re: British Columbia Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Ending

This letter will confirm that Council, at their meeting held May 17, 2021, considered a staff report on the end of the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) and resolved as follows:

"That Council:

1. *Receive for information the report of the Director of Planning dated May 13, 2021.*
2. *Direct the Mayor to send a letter to the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs; the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; the Minister of Finance, and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) based upon the draft provided, detailing the impact of cancelling the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) and the need for a swift replacement that provides consistent, non-application funding to allow the District of Saanich and other municipalities to continue their work at a scale that can deliver on the Provincial CleanBC Plan and Municipal Climate Plans.*
3. *Direct staff to draft a resolution to UBCM on a replacement CARIP program and present this to Council for consideration prior to the June 30, 2021 submission deadline.*
4. ***Share this report and attachments with the Capital Regional District Board of Directors, other BC municipal elected officials and Chief Administrative Officers in advance of the UBCM Conference in September, 2021."***

A copy of the report and draft meeting minutes are attached for information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Haynes", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Sharon Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning, District of Saanich
Valla Tinney, Director of Finance, District of Saanich

The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Mayor and Council
From: Sharon Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning
Date: May 13, 2021
Subject: Ending the B.C. Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP)
File: 1300-50 • Provincial Governments

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2021

LEGISLATIVE DIVISION
DISTRICT OF SAANICH

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council receive this report for information.
2. That Council send a letter to: Premier John Horgan; the Minister of Municipal Affairs; the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) based upon the draft provided in Attachment 2, detailing the impact of cancelling the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) and the need for a swift replacement that provides consistent, non-application funding to allow the District of Saanich and other municipalities to continue their work at a scale that can deliver on the Provincial CleanBC Plan and Municipal Climate Plans.
3. That Council direct staff to draft a resolution to the Union of B.C. Municipalities on a Replacement CARIP Program and present this to Council for consideration prior to the June 30, 2021 submission deadline.
4. That Council share this report and attachments with the Capital Regional District Board of Directors, other B.C. municipal elected officials and Chief Administrative Officers in advance of the Union of B.C. Municipalities Conference in September, 2021.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding:

- The announced end to the Provincial Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP);
- The implications this has for District of Saanich climate action; and
- Proposed next steps.

DISCUSSION

Provincial Announcement - Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP)

In terms of background, the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) is a conditional grant program that provides funding to local governments that have signed the B.C. Climate

Action Charter. This funding equals 100% of the carbon taxes a local government pays to support their operations.

The program requires local governments to report annually on their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and encourages investment in climate action to help the Province deliver on its commitment to carbon neutrality. Since the Climate Charter was launched in 2007, 187 of 190 municipalities, regional districts and the Islands Trust have signed up, providing the Province with a comprehensive database of municipal corporate emissions inventories and corporate and community climate actions implemented at the local level.

On May 11, 2021 the Deputy Minister, and Assistant Deputy Minister for the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs called a meeting with all Municipal and Regional District Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) to announce the end of the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program. It was indicated that this decision was a direct result of the recently introduced Provincial Budget. A follow up e-mail was then issued that includes information shared at the meeting (see Attachment 1).

The Province has outlined that 2020 will be the final year for reporting, with the final grant paid to local governments in 2021. They indicated that at this stage no replacement program with unconditional funding is planned and future programs would be application based. They aim to work with local governments through UBCM and the Green Communities Committee on further supporting the CleanBC goals.

In light of the Federal government's renewed climate commitments prior to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), the withdrawal of this consistent provincial funding source for climate action was extremely unexpected and it is clear that local governments have not been engaged in this decision.

Implications

Loss of Consistent Funding

The District of Saanich has participated in the CARIP program since signing the Climate Charter in 2007 and has benefited from more than \$1.3 million over the last 10 years, with approximately \$150,000 annually in recent years.

This funding has been used within the Sustainability Division of the Planning Department to support staff wages, implement community climate mitigation and adaptation projects and to leverage larger climate related grant applications, which often require a substantial contribution from the local government partner.

Examples of projects supported by CARIP funding include, but are not limited to:

- Feasibility analysis, design and installation of multiple rounds of public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations;
- Communications campaigns for home energy efficiency upgrades, the Oil to Heat Pump program and Better Home BC rebates;
- Municipal top-ups to provincial rebates for home energy retrofits;

- Analysis and engagement to support the introduction of the Saanich Greener Garbage program and the BC Energy Step Code;
- Funding for the B.C. Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA) CoolIt! School climate leadership education program;
- Installation and maintenance of Bike kitchens at Saanich facilities;
- Support for engagement and analysis related to electric mobility and development of the Electric Mobility Strategy; and
- Workshops on local food production and processing.

Until approval of the 2021 Budget in May of this year, CARIP has been the main source of sustained and consistent funding for community focused climate action at the District of Saanich, with the Carbon Fund used for corporate climate action projects. While Council has committed to multiple one-time resource requests to support climate action where opportunities arose or costs exceeded CARIP funding, this approach does not provide the reliability afforded by the CARIP program. As such, CARIP has been instrumental in the development of a District of Saanich Sustainability Division and the hiring and retention of sustainability staff. Many other B.C. municipalities will have sustainability staff that are still resourced through CARIP funding.

Therefore, the clear lack of a replacement program that provides a consistent and reliable funding source for municipal climate action and the shift towards solely competitive funding streams and programs is of major concern.

Competitive funding programs and grants require significant effort, staff time and, often, financial resources to fund the analysis needed for an application with no guarantee of success. They also take substantial time and resources for evaluation by the decision making body. We regularly hear that grant programs and competitive funding streams are highly competitive and over-subscribed. In addition, they rely on match funding or financial contributions from the local government partner.

In the absence of either the CARIP program or a similar source of consistent funding, many municipalities will be limited in their ability to apply for such competitive programs or grants and it will be extremely difficult to develop work plans and implement climate programs that span multiple years based upon this competitive funding approach. This change is being implemented in a time of particular uncertainty when there is an overwhelming demand for municipal tax dollars to support core municipal services and local governments have limited ability to pivot on budget decisions. Removing dedicated climate action funding will create a shortfall that is unlikely to be met by many local governments through the municipal tax base.

Loss of Coordinated Reporting & Data

Saanich has recently committed to developing a comprehensive annual climate report card that aligns with the goals and actions outlined in the Climate Plan and Electric Mobility Strategy. Further, we report on community-wide GHG emissions through the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) using the globally recognized Global Protocol for Community Scale GHG Emissions Inventories (GPC Basic+). However, there are only a limited number of B.C. municipalities that are providing this level of climate reporting.

The CARIP program established a consistent climate reporting template for all B.C. local governments that had signed onto the Climate Charter and represents over a decade of publicly accessible data on municipal climate action. This is a true example of global best practice in coordinated climate reporting. Local government have spent significant effort building internal capacity and restructuring reporting systems to align with CARIP and the process has, in many municipalities, supported the development of strategic plans for climate action, monitoring and reporting on progress and the regular cross-departmental collaboration necessary to identify opportunities for climate related projects and programs.

Proposed Next Steps

Some amendments to the CARIP process and report template would be valuable and local governments can provide important insight moving forward. For instance, as Saanich and other municipalities move towards our corporate GHG reduction targets and increase our requirements for contractor climate responsibilities, we will pay less carbon tax as a result. While this should be addressed by an increase in the carbon tax in the short term, as we get close to our zero carbon targets, the CARIP funding will be reduced. In addition, funding based on fossil fuel consumption may be perceived as rewarding a lack of progress. As such, changes to the program could include the move from a carbon tax refund based upon fossil fuel consumption to one based on municipal population. However, there remains considerable benefit to continuing with a climate program that provides consistent funding tied to the delivery of a simple annual climate report.

A draft letter to: Premier John Horgan; the Ministry of Municipal Affairs; the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) is included as Attachment 2 for Council's consideration.

This letter outlines the value of the CARIP program and associated funding to the District of Saanich and the considerable implications for the program's end. It advocates for the Province to engage local governments in the design and implementation of a replacement program that offers consistent funding that is comparable to or greater than that is currently provided by CARIP. Program funding should be used for climate action (mitigation and adaptation), tied to a requirement for annual reporting on progress towards climate goals and should be in place for the first payments to be received by municipalities in 2022. It is recommended that Council sends this letter to the Provincial officials listed above.

In addition, there is the opportunity for Council to submit an endorsed resolution directly to UBCM prior to June 30, 2021 that would address the impact of ending the CARIP program and propose the swift development of a suitable replacement. It is recommended that Council direct staff to draft such a UBCM resolution for their consideration.

Finally, it is recommended that this Council report and attachments be shared with the CRD Board, other B.C. municipal elected officials and Chief Administrative Officers in support of an additional coordinated response and discussion at the UBCM Conference in September 2021.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That Council approve the recommendations as outlined in this report.
2. That Council reject the recommendations as outlined in this report.
3. That Council provide alternate direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The District of Saanich has participated in the CARIP program since signing the Climate Charter in 2007 and has benefited from more than \$1.3 million from the program over the last 10 years. In 2020, CARIP funding amounted to \$154,072. This forms a substantial portion of the Sustainability Division's budget. Should a similar Provincial program that provides consistent funding for municipal climate action not be developed to replace CARIP by 2022, then staff will need to bring forward a resource request to Council as part of the 2022 budget to ensure the required sustained funding necessary, to effectively deliver on the Climate Plan actions and goals. As always, staff will continue to apply for senior government and other sources of external funding. That said, the time spent seeking out and applying for external funding draws valuable staff resources away from work on corporate and community GHG initiatives.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The 2021 Council Budget requests and Sustainability Division and Planning Department work plans have been developed on the understanding that the CARIP program will continue. As such, removal of this funding without a suitable and consistent replacement impacts the ability to deliver on the 2019-2023 Council Strategic Plan Goal: 'Climate Action and Environmental Leadership', most notably the initiative to implement Saanich's Climate Plan.

CONCLUSION

CARIP has been a valuable source of consistent and dedicated funding over the last decade, allowing municipalities to take action on climate change by resourcing staff, undertaking key emissions reduction projects and leveraging larger climate related grants. It is a true example of global best practice in coordinated and consistent climate reporting by local governments at the provincial level.

On May 11, 2021 the Ministry of Municipal Affairs announced the end of the CARIP program, with the final grant paid to local governments in 2021. This amounts to a loss of approximately \$150,000 in consistent annual funding to the District of Saanich, which is used to address climate change.

In light of the Provincial commitment to climate action outlined in CleanBC and the Federal government's renewed climate commitments prior to COP26, the end of the CARIP program and withdrawal of this consistent provincial funding source was extremely unexpected and it is clear that local governments have not been engaged in the decision. The absence of a replacement program and shift towards competitive funding applications has considerable implications for dedicated municipal staffing and actions on climate change and jeopardises a decade's worth of work monitoring and reporting on local government GHG emissions and progress.

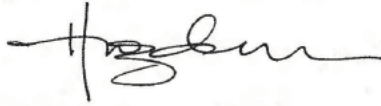
As such, staff are recommending that Council advocate to the Province via letter to the Premier, appropriate Ministries and UBCM, for a swift replacement of the CARIP program with consistent, non-application based funding, tied to annual climate reporting and that this be followed by a Council endorsed resolution submitted to UBCM addressing the same. This will allow municipalities to continue their work at a scale necessary to address the Climate Emergency and deliver on CleanBC and Municipal Climate Plan goals.

Prepared by:



Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability

Approved by:



Sharon Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning

RN/jsp

- Attachments:**
1. E-mail from Province of BC, Ministry of Municipal Affairs Re: CARIP Reporting 2020, May 11, 2021
 2. Draft Letter to Premier John Horgan, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM)

cc: Valla Tinney, Director of Finance

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

I endorse the recommendation from the Director of Planning



Paul Thorkelsson, Chief Administrative Officer

Jon Poole

From: Rebecca Newlove
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 11:11 AM
To: Rebecca Newlove
Subject: Re: Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Reporting 2020

From: INFRA MUNI:EX [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 12:40 PM
To: INFRA MUNI:EX <[REDACTED]>
Subject: (External Email) Re: Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Reporting 2020

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

To: All Municipal and Regional District Chief Administrative Officers and Chief Financial Officers

Re: Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Reporting 2020

Many thanks to all who joined Deputy Minister Okenge Yuma Morisho and me on today's call about the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP), please accept our apologies for the technical difficulties on the call that some experienced. This email includes the information that was shared during the call. We want to emphasize that local governments throughout British Columbia have shown great leadership on climate action. The province is committed to working with local governments to reach our climate goals and make life better for people across British Columbia.

For those who were unable to attend or hear due to some technical difficulties on the call, I wish to inform you and your staff that the CARIP will be wrapping up in the 2021/22 fiscal year. During this final program year, local governments will be required to complete and submit the 2020 Carbon Tax Calculation Form. **This will be the only reporting requirement.**

All program information is available on the [Ministry of Municipal Affairs' CARIP webpage](#). In particular, we encourage you to review the CARIP [Program Guide](#) for 2020 prior to completing the 2020 [Carbon Tax Calculation Form](#).

CARIP Reporting Requirement

1. **2020 [Carbon Tax Calculation Form](#) (submission deadline: August 6, 2021)**
 Complete and submit a signed electronic version of the form to [REDACTED]. This form requires Financial Officer certification.

The end of the CARIP program should not be interpreted as the Province pulling back from the productive relationship we have and we look forward to working with UBCM, through the Green Communities Committee, to support the goals of the Climate Action Charter.

Under CleanBC, the Province of British Columbia has put a priority on reducing pollution, boosting energy-efficient solutions and building a low-carbon economy. Local governments will continue to be a key partner in

our collective efforts to address the challenges of a changing climate, playing a specific and important role in British Columbia's climate goals.

Just as local governments' actions on climate solutions have evolved in the past decade, our government is responding to support you with tools and funding programs such as:

- Updating the BC Action Climate Toolkit and the Green Communities Committee Carbon Neutral Framework.
- Investing \$110 million in combined provincial and federal funding to help local governments and Indigenous communities develop energy efficiency and clean energy projects through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program CleanBC Communities Fund.
- Working with the federal government to assess the climate impacts of all major infrastructure being funded under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to reduce GHG emissions and increase resilience to climate change, which benefits communities and creates jobs.
- Boosting active transportation infrastructure with \$18 million through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- Making sure commuters can get out of their cars with historic investments in public transit, such as the Broadway Subway Line, and free transit for kids 12 and under starting this September.

Budget 2021 commits \$11 million in new funding to help local governments plan for compact, energy-efficient communities, directly supporting the Climate Action Charter's commitment to create complete, compact, energy-efficient rural and urban communities. We look forward to working with all local governments through UBCM and the Green Communities Committee on how to support greener and more livable communities.

Building on record investments in CleanBC, the Province will continue to strengthen our work with local governments and support the Climate Action Charter.

If you have any questions, please contact the Ministry of Municipal Affairs at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

Tara Faganello
Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division
Ministry of Municipal Affairs

District of Saanich**Legislative Services Division**

770 Vernon Ave.
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

t. 250-475-5501
f. 250-475-5440
saanich.ca



May , 2021

The Honourable John Horgan, MLA
Premier of British Columbia
Office of the Premier
PO Box 9041 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

The Honourable Josie Osborne, MLA
Minister of Municipal Affairs
PO Box 9056 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable George Heyman, MLA
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9047 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Councillor Brian Frenkel
President, Union of B.C. Municipalities
Local Government House
525 Government Street
Victoria BC V8V 0A8

Dear Premier John Horgan:

Re: B.C. Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Ending

This letter will confirm that Council, at their meeting held May 17, 2021, considered a staff report on the end of the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) (see attached) and resolved as follows:

"That Council send a letter to: Premier John Horgan; the Minister of Municipal Affairs; the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) based upon the draft provided in Attachment 2, detailing the impact of cancelling the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) and the need for a swift replacement that provides consistent, non-application funding to allow the District of Saanich and other municipalities to continue their work at a scale that can deliver on the Provincial CleanBC Plan and Municipal Climate Plans;

That Council direct staff to draft a resolution to the Union of B.C. Municipalities on a Replacement CARIP Program and present this to Council for consideration prior to the June 30, 2021 submission deadline; and

That Council share this report and attachments with the Capital Regional District Board of Directors, other B.C. municipal elected officials and Chief Administrative Officers in advance of the Union of B.C. Municipalities Conference in September, 2021."

On May 11 2021, the District of Saanich was made aware of the end to the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) through an announcement made by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

In light of the Provincial commitment to climate action outlined in CleanBC and the Federal government's renewed climate commitments prior to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), the end of the CARIP program and withdrawal of this provincial funding source for climate action was extremely unexpected and it is clear that local governments have not been engaged in the decision.

CARIP has been a critical source of consistent and dedicated funding over the years, allowing municipalities to take action on climate change by resourcing staff, funding key emissions reduction projects and leveraging larger climate related grants. It is a true example of global best practice in coordinated and consistent climate reporting, representing over a decade of data on climate action at the municipal level.

The District of Saanich has delivered a considerable number of high impact actions using CARIP funding, ranging from multiple rounds of public electric vehicle charging stations, to the analysis and engagement required to support adoption of the BC Energy Step Code. Additional examples are provided in the attached Council Report. Further, CARIP funding has been instrumental in the development of a Sustainability Division and the hiring and retention of sustainability staff, which, until 2021, were still partly resourced via CARIP funding. Many other municipalities will have staff delivering on climate action that are still resourced through the CARIP carbon tax refund.

Given this, the clear lack of a replacement program that provides a consistent and reliable funding source for municipal climate action and the shift towards solely competitive funding streams and programs is of major concern. Such programs require significant effort, staff time and, often, financial resources to fund the analysis needed for an application with no guarantee of success. They also take substantial time and resources for evaluation by the decision making body and we regularly hear that grant programs and competitive funding streams are over-subscribed. In addition, they rely on match funding or financial contributions from the local government partner. In the absence of either the CARIP program or a similar source of consistent funding, many municipalities will be limited in their ability to apply for such competitive programs. Further, this level of uncertainty makes it extremely difficult to plan for and implement climate actions that span multiple years.

While some amendments to the CARIP process and report template would be valuable, for example, the move from a carbon tax refund based upon fossil fuel consumption to one based on municipal population, there remains considerable benefit to continuing with a program that provides consistent funding tied to the delivery of a simple annual climate report.

This change is being implemented in a time of particular uncertainty when there is an overwhelming demand for municipal tax dollars to support core municipal services and local governments have limited ability to pivot on budget decisions. Removing dedicated climate action funding will create a shortfall that is unlikely to be met by many local governments through the municipal tax base.

As such, Council requests that the Province engage local governments on the swift replacement of CARIP with a program that provides consistent, non-application based funding, tied to annual climate reporting and with first payments received by local governments in 2022. This will allow municipalities to continue their work at a scale necessary to address the Climate Emergency and deliver on CleanBC and Municipal Climate Plan goals.

Sincerely,

Angila Bains, B.A., CMC,
Manager, Legislative Services

RN/

Enclosures: Council Report:

cc. Mayor and Council
Paul Thorkelsson, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Saanich
Sharon Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning, District of Saanich
Valla Tinney, Director of Finance, District of Saanich
Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division, Ministry of Municipal Affairs

2560-50
Climate Action

ENDING THE BC CLIMATE ACTION REVENUE INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CARIP)

Report of the Director of Planning dated May 13, 2021. To provide Council with information regarding:

- The announced end to the Provincial Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP);
- The implications this has for the District of Saanich Climate Action; and
- Proposed next steps.

The Manager of Sustainability provided an overview of the termination of the BC Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program.

MOVED by Councillor Chambers and Seconded by Councillor Plant: “That Council:

- 1. Receive for information the report of the Director of Planning dated May 13, 2021;**
- 2. Direct the Mayor to write a letter to the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Minister of the Environment, Minister of Finance and Climate Change Strategy, and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities based upon the draft provided, detailing the impact of cancelling the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) and the need for a swift replacement that provides consistent, non-application funding to allow the District of Saanich and other municipalities to continue their work at a scale that can deliver on the Provincial CleanBC Plan and Municipal Climate Plans;**
- 3. Direct staff to draft a resolution to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities on a replacement CARIP program and present this to Council for consideration prior to the June 30, 2021 submission deadline; and**
- 4. Share this report and attachments with the Capital Regional District Board of Directors, other BC municipal elected officials and the Chief Administrative Officers in advance of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities conference in September 2021.”**

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- The cuts to funding are disappointing.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

From: Kelly Kenney <kkenney@langleycity.ca>

Sent: June 4, 2021 9:39 AM

Subject: Letter of Support for National 988 Suicide and Crisis Line

Please see the attached correspondence.

Best regards,

KELLY KENNEY
CORPORATE OFFICER

20399 Douglas Crescent, Langley BC V3A 4B3
P 604.514.4591 E kkenney@langleycity.ca



File: 0110.01

June 4, 2021

Ms. Tamara Jansen, MP
Cloverdale - Langley City
Suite 105 - 19211 Fraser Highway
Surrey, BC V3S 7C9

Via Email: Tamara.Jansen@parl.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Jansen:

Re: Support for 988 Suicide and Crisis Line Initiative

At its May 31, 2021, Regular Council meeting, the Council for the City of Langley passed the following resolution to convey Council's support of the Federal government's proposed National three-digit suicide and crisis line initiative:

WHEREAS the Federal government has passed a motion to adopt 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline;

AND WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200 per cent;

AND WHEREAS existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold;

AND WHEREAS in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline;

AND WHEREAS The Council of the City of Langley recognizes that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Langley endorses this 988-crisis line initiative; and

THAT staff be directed to send a letter to the local MP, MLA, Federal Minister of Health, the CRTC and local area municipalities to indicate our support.

Yours truly,
CITY OF LANGLEY



Kelly Kenney
Corporate Officer

Cc Andrew Mercier, MLA for Langley
Andrew.Mercier.MLA@leg.bc.ca

The Hon. Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Canadian Heritage
Minister Responsible for the CRTC
steven.guilbeault@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Patty Hajdu
Federal Minister of Health
hcmminister.ministresc@canada.ca

Local Area Municipalities



June 2, 2021

VIA EMAIL: mayor@villageoftahsis.com

Martin Davis, Mayor
Village of Tahsis

Re: Modernizing Forest Policy

Dear Mayor Davis:

Yesterday, the Premier and I shared a plan to modernize forest policy with the release of an intentions paper - www.gov.bc.ca/modernforestpolicy. This work aligns with our continued efforts to implement the recommendations of the Old Growth Strategic Review and improve forest management through the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. I would like to update you on this work and our next steps.

Intentions Paper

Plans to modernize forest policy as outlined in the Intentions Paper stem from what we heard from Indigenous peoples, local governments, industry, stakeholders and the public in forestry-focused engagement initiatives over the past three years including the *Forest and Range Practices Act* Improvement Initiative, the Old Growth Strategic Review, Coast Forest Sector Revitalization, and Interior Forest Sector Renewal. Three principles emerged from these engagements to guide our work including a focus on strengthening sector diversity, enhancing sustainability and stewardship, and ensuring ongoing support of the forest sector, what we have called strengthening the social contract.

There are 20 policy intentions laid out in this paper with several directly connected to what we heard from community leaders. This includes ensuring the voices of your communities are considered in decisions, like tenure disposition, where our government brought in Bill 22 in 2019 on this topic and seek to make further improvements. Other topics include the need to prioritize greater access to community tenures if local jobs, particularly in manufacturing, can be demonstrated. I also want to highlight our intention to provide statutory decision makers with discretion in permit approvals if the forest management proposed as part of a permit could put forest values at risk of damage, and to have community perspectives considered in tenure replacement decisions. There is much to be excited about it in these intentions and I hope you will take the time to review them.

Old Growth Strategic Review

In 2019, my predecessor appointed a two-person panel to engage Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, industry, and stakeholders on what a new path forward on managing old growth could include. They visited 45 communities, held over 200 meetings with close to 800 people, and received over 300 written submissions and more than 18,000 survey responses. The report they submitted in Spring 2020, along with the insight which informed it is included on our website at [Old Growth Forests - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/land/oldgrowth/oldgrowthforests.htm).

The report and its 14 recommendations are complex and over the next two years policy options and implementation decisions will be developed into a new Old Growth Strategy for British Columbia. The immediate priorities are recommendations #1 and #6, that is to work with Indigenous Nations on a government-to-government basis, to identify if and where any further timber harvesting deferrals are needed where old growth is at a very high and near-term risk of irreversible biodiversity loss. Attached in Appendix 1 is a high-level roadmap for how the ministry plans to sequence the work on the recommendations going forward.

What's Next

Over the next several weeks, ministry staff will connect with you on a series of virtual town halls we would like to have you join. I have asked my Parliamentary Secretary Roly Russell to host these town halls as part of his role to hear from you on modernizing forest policy and how it affects your communities.

After several initiatives to better understand where we should start our modernization effort, I am pleased we are advancing this work. The experiences and insights your government can bring to the table on behalf of your community are most welcomed. I hope you can participate.

Sincerely,



Katrine Conroy
Minister

Enclosure

pc: Roly Russell, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development
Brian Frenkel, President, UBCM
Craig Sutherland, ADM, Coast Area
Sharon Hadway, Regional Executive Director, West Coast Region

Appendix 1:

Given the breadth and scope of the report, the province is recommending a phased approach to addressing the recommendations over the next two years. The diagram below illustrates recommendations #1, 5, 6, and 7 under the heading “Immediate Measures”. The center column titled “Elements Required for Change” outlines recommendations #2, 4, 9, 13, 14 which set up a framework of key changes and policy shifts that support change. The third column titled “The New Old Growth Strategy” are recommendations #3, 8, 10, 11, and 12 which are critical to implementing change.

Old Growth Strategic Review – The Path Forward



From: Leslie.Jackson@princegeorge.ca <Leslie.Jackson@princegeorge.ca>
Sent: June 2, 2021 1:59 PM
To:
Subject: City of Prince George Resolutions Submitted to the 2021 UBCM Convention

Good afternoon,

At the May 10, 2021 and May 31, 2021 regular Council meetings, the City of Prince George Council endorsed the four (4) resolutions for submission to the 2021 UBCM Convention. Those resolutions are attached for your review and consideration to support at the 2021 UBCM Convention.

1. Increased Capacity at the National Forensic Lab Services;
2. Improved Efficiencies in the Prosecution of Criminal Offences; and
3. Comprehensive Training Model for RCMP Members;
4. Increasing Capacity in Provincial Court Systems through Alternative Coordinated Initiatives.

Thank you,
Leslie



Leslie Kellett

Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services Division
1100 Patricia Blvd, Prince George, BC V2L 3V9
Phone: 250-561-7655
Leslie.Jackson@princegeorge.ca
www.princegeorge.ca

Schedule “A”

City of Prince George 2021 UBCM Resolutions

1. Increased Capacity at the National Forensic Lab Services

WHEREAS the RCMP are tasked to preserve and organize information and evidence collected in the course of their investigation, in consideration of the Crown’s obligation to disclose and in recognition of the benefits of early disclosure,

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the Crown Counsel Act, Crown Counsel is required to “examine all relevant information and documents and, following the examination, to approve for prosecution any offence or offences that he or she considers appropriate”;

AND WHEREAS the demand for and backlog of biological and other forensic service at the National Forensic Lab Services negatively impacts the efficiency and effectiveness of an investigation and ability to proceed with the laying of charges;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to increase working capacity within the National Forensic Lab Services for the provision of forensic services in biology, firearms, toxicology, and trace evidence in order to better meet the necessary timelines of RCMP investigations across Canada.

2. Improved Efficiencies in the Prosecution of Criminal Offences

WHEREAS the BC Crown Counsel Policy Manual’s guidelines regarding charge assessment states that unless impracticable to do so, police will lay an Information charging a person with an offence only after approval of charges by Crown Counsel has been given;

AND WHEREAS police responsibilities regarding disclosure in criminal and regulatory offence proceedings is defined in the Disclosure Memorandum of Understanding between the BC Prosecution Service, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (BC) and all BC police agencies, Crown Counsel’s responsibility in accordance with the Crown Counsel Act, is to “examine all relevant information and documents and, following the examination, to approve for prosecution any offence or offences that he or she considers appropriate”;

AND WHEREAS the costs and hours required to prepare a fulsome disclosure before charges are approved by Crown Counsel, can result in delays in charges being laid;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the BC Prosecution Service to work with all police agencies in British Columbia to improve efficiencies in disclosure and information management practices in order to reduce delays in charges being laid for the prosecution of criminal offences.

3. Comprehensive Training Model for RCMP Members

WHEREAS RCMP costs are borne by local governments, as well as the provincial and federal governments;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Police Services Agreement between BC and Canada includes costs for RCMP training;

AND WHEREAS local governments have different policing and training needs based on factors such as crime rates and patterns, population size, and cultural, social and economic circumstances;

AND WHEREAS law enforcement officers have increased needs for specialized training to safely respond to complex and challenging situations in multi-cultural urban and rural environments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that both the provincial and federal governments increase funding and training specific to the provision of mental health resources (such as Health IM app) and the development of a comprehensive training model for RCMP members that includes components applicable to a detachment's service region and/or local government.

4. Increasing Capacity in Provincial Court Systems through Alternative Coordinated Initiatives

WHEREAS Provincial Crown Counsel prosecutes offences and appeals in British Columbia that arise under Canada's Criminal Code and British Columbia statutes;

AND WHEREAS collaborative approaches that address root causes of crime, such as mental illness and addictions, create effective and targeted responses by providing offenders with supports, services and ties to their community to promote rehabilitation and a crime-free lifestyle;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government, through the implementation of coordinated initiatives such as community/integrated court and addiction treatment centres, First Nation's Health Councils and Integrated Case Assessment Teams, recognizes social and economic factors and the negative effects of reliance on established measures within the mainstream justice system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Attorney General to improve capacity in the provincial court system by funding, province-wide, coordinated and collaborative alternatives to the court system.

May 21, 2021



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

Dear Martin Davis:

RE: GAS TAX AGREEMENT COMMUNITY WORKS FUND PAYMENT

I am pleased to advise that UBCM is in the process of distributing the Community Works Fund (CWF) payment for fiscal 2021/2022. An electronic transfer of \$68,794.97 is expected to occur the first week of June. This payment is made in accordance with the payment schedule set out in your CWF Agreement with UBCM (see section 4 of your Agreement).

As announced by the Government of Canada, this CWF payment has been accelerated and delivered as a single payment, rather than two half-payments.

CWF is made available to eligible local governments by the Government of Canada pursuant to the Administrative Agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia. Funding under the program may be directed to local priorities that fall within one of the eligible project categories.

The Government of Canada has further announced that there will be a one-time top-up of the Gas Tax Fund this year, subject to federal approval. Information on the timing and amount of this top-up will be communicated once details have been confirmed.

Further details regarding use of CWF and project eligibility are outlined in your CWF Agreement and details on the Gas Tax Agreement can be found on our website at www.ubcm.ca.

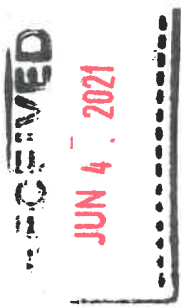
For further information, please contact Gas Tax Program Services by e-mail at gastax@ubcm.ca or by phone at 250-356-5134.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Frenkel".

Brian Frenkel
UBCM President

PC: Ian Poole, Director of Finance



Civil Resolution Tribunal

L7

May 28, 2021

Mayor & Council, Village of Tahsis
PO Box 219
Tahsis, BC V0P 1X0

Dear Mayor & Council,

Information for Motor Vehicle Accident Disputes

Thank you for helping us let your constituents know about the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT). We are writing to let you know we can now resolve claims with ICBC about entitlement to **enhanced accident benefits**. This coincides with the launch of BC's new "care-based" model of compensation for injuries from motor vehicle accidents.

These changes will make the CRT the dispute resolution body for most motor vehicle injury claims where the accident happens on or after May 1, 2021. For more information visit our website at civilresolutionbc.ca.

We have enclosed some of our new rack cards, FAQs, and posters with public information about the tribunal's jurisdiction over accident benefit disputes. I would be grateful if you could help us build awareness by posting this information for your constituents.

The CRT is an independent tribunal. In addition to motor vehicle injury disputes, the CRT's jurisdiction also includes small claims \$5,000 and under, strata property disputes, and societies and co-operative association disputes. The dispute resolution process is user-friendly, convenient, and affordable. A case manager will help the parties reach an agreement, if possible. If they can't reach an agreement, a tribunal member will make a binding decision. CRT decisions are made by legal experts, independently from ICBC and government.

If you need further information or more materials, please contact our Communications Specialist Wendy Wall (communications@crtbc.ca). The rack cards and FAQs are available in 9 languages in print and digital formats: English, Punjabi, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, Tagalog, Farsi, French, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Sincerely,

Shannon Salter
Chair

FAQ – Motor Vehicle Injury Disputes and the Civil Resolution Tribunal

Since April 1, 2019 the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) has been resolving many motor vehicle accident injury (MVI) disputes in British Columbia.

This includes disputes about accident benefits, disputes about fault and damages up to \$50,000, and determining whether an injury is a “minor injury”.

For accidents that happen on or after May 1, 2021, British Columbia will have an enhanced accident benefits regime and most motor vehicle injury disputes will come to the CRT.



About the CRT

Is the CRT the same as a court?

The CRT is an administrative tribunal, not a court. But like a court, the CRT is part of the public justice system, its CRT members are independent and neutral, and it is required to apply the law and make enforceable decisions.

The CRT has jurisdiction over most motor vehicle accident injury (MVI) disputes, as well as strata property disputes, small claims under \$5,000, and certain disputes involving societies and cooperative associations.

I thought the Court decided the CRT can't decide MVI disputes?

On March 2, 2021 the BC Supreme Court decided that certain parts of the CRT's jurisdiction were unconstitutional and no longer in effect. However, the Court of Appeal then modified this decision. This means the CRT can continue to decide MVI disputes at least until the Court of Appeal releases its final decision on the appeal. Visit www.civilresolutionbc.ca for more information.



Are CRT members employed by ICBC?

No. CRT members are independent and appointed by the provincial government, based on recommendations by the CRT Chair, after an extensive merit-based competition. The competition includes strict criteria for qualifications, intensive screening, an anonymously evaluated decision-writing exercise, a panel interview, reference checks, and other due diligence. In addition, all CRT tribunal members must follow the CRT Code of Conduct.



Applying for CRT dispute resolution

Do I have to try to settle with ICBC first?

You might get a faster resolution if you negotiate a settlement with the insurer. But if you can't reach a settlement on your own, the CRT is here to help. You don't have to try to settle with ICBC before starting your CRT dispute.

Can I apply if the accident happened outside BC?

This depends on what you're claiming for. If your claim is for accident benefits, your accident does not have to have occurred in BC. If your claim is for something other than accident benefits, you may be able to dispute your claims through the CRT or you may have to apply in the province or country where the accident occurred.

Can I have a lawyer represent me?

Yes. For motor vehicle injury claims made on or after April 1, 2019, you can have a lawyer represent you. For other types of CRT disputes, you may need to ask the CRT for permission. Our online application form will guide you through this process.

Do you think my dispute will be successful?

The CRT is an independent, neutral decision maker. Our staff can't provide legal advice or tell you how likely you are to succeed.



If you need advice about your chances of success, you may want to get professional advice from a lawyer or legal services provider before applying for CRT dispute resolution.

How long does the dispute resolution process take?

The Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) aims to resolve disputes as fairly, quickly, and affordably as possible. But every dispute is different. The time to resolve a dispute depends on whether the parties can reach an agreement early in the process, and the amount of issues and evidence in the dispute.



Negotiation and facilitation

What if I don't want to negotiate?

The negotiation process is voluntary, and you don't have to participate in it. But if you reach an agreement during online negotiation, we will refund your application fee and your agreement can be turned into an enforceable CRT order.

Do I have to participate in facilitation?

Yes. Parties are required to participate in facilitation, where a case manager will help you try to reach an agreement. If you can't reach an agreement, an independent CRT member will make an enforceable decision on your dispute.



Getting a decision

Who will decide my dispute?

If you can't reach an agreement, an independent CRT member will decide your dispute. All CRT members are expert decision-makers and are appointed after an extensive, merit-based competition process. CRT members deciding motor vehicle accident injury (MVI) disputes are lawyers with expertise in personal injury law.

Will the decision and my name be made public?

In most cases, yes. The *Civil Resolution Tribunal Act* requires that final decisions and orders must be posted to the CRT's website, where they are available to the public. But if a party or witness is concerned that information in a final decision or order would be harmful to their privacy or security, they may request that this information be redacted or anonymized.

Generally, if a decision involves a minor (a person under 19 years of age) or similarly vulnerable person, the CRT will anonymize the decision or take other steps to protect the vulnerable person's privacy.



After a decision

What if I don't agree with a decision?

Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) decisions for motor vehicle injury disputes are subject to judicial review. This means that you can ask the BC Supreme Court to review the CRT's decision.



Have a question we didn't answer here?

Contact us!

Visit www.civilresolutionbc.ca and use our [Contact Us](#) form. Or call us at 1-844-322-2292 (toll-free in North America).





Have a dispute with ICBC about accident benefits?

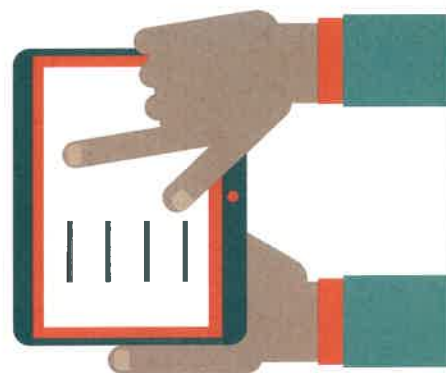
The CRT is an independent tribunal. It can resolve your dispute.

Visit our website to learn more.

Vous avez un différend avec l'ICBC au sujet de vos indemnités d'accident?

Le CRT est un tribunal indépendant. Il peut résoudre votre différend.

Visitez notre site Web pour en savoir plus.



Civil Resolution Tribunal

www.civilresolutionbc.ca



¿Tiene una disputa con ICBC acerca de subsidios por accidente?

El CRT es un panel independiente que puede resolver su disputa.

Visite nuestro sitio web para mayor información.