



Minutes

<u>Meeting</u>	Regular Council Meeting
<u>Date</u>	April 21, 2026
<u>Time</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Place</u>	Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means

Present Mayor Martin Davis
Councillor Sarah Fowler
Councillor Brenda Lenahan **by video**
Councillor Ryan Moore
Councillor Cheryl Northcott

Staff Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer **by video**
Adia Mavrikos, CPA, CA, Director of Finance **by video**
Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager

Public 3 members of the public. **2 by video**

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

Land Acknowledgement

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

B. Introduction of Late Items None.

C. Approval of the Agenda **Moore/Fowler: VOT 0163/2026**
THAT the Agenda for the April 21, 2026 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**

D. Delegation None.

E. Public Input # 1 None.

F. Adoption of the Minutes **1 April 7, 2026 Standing Committee of Business Liaison Minutes**

Moore/Fowler: VOT 0164/2026

THAT the Standing Committee of Business Liaison meeting minutes of April 7, 2026 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2 April 7, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Moore/Fowler: VOT 0165/2026

THAT the Regular Council Meeting minutes of April 7, 2026 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3 April 8, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Moore/Fowler: VOT 0166/2026

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of April 8, 2026 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

G. Rise and Report

None.

H. Business Arising

1 Report to Council Re: Updated Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action plan and attachments.

Moore/Fowler: VOT 0167/2026

THAT this Report to Council and attachments be received.

CARRIED

The CAO presented the proposed updated Strategic Economic Development Plan (SEDP) and Action Plan (AP).

Topics presented included: the reasons for the update; the update process; the key changes to the SEDP, implementation risks; changes to governance (annual reporting), and updates to the Action Plan. The Action Plan was reduced from 24 to 17 items, focusing on outdoor recreation, municipal infrastructure, tourism, resident attraction and connectivity.

Council reviewed their options: approve the plan as presented, refer it back to the committee for further consideration, or consider amendments.

The committee members expressed concerns that the committee's expertise and inputs were not sufficiently represented in the proposed plan. They discussed bringing forward to future council meetings for council's consideration and funding, specific action items, particularly those related to tourism, village beautification and trails.

After debate, including concerns about staff and volunteer time, council approved the plan as is.

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0168/2026

THAT option # 1be approved (approve the SEDP and AP as presented).

**Registered "no
vote"
Councillor
Lenahan**

J. Council Reports

Mayor Davis

No report.

"I just wanted to acknowledge the passing of Dan Dahling and to say that he always felt like the 5th councillor. "

Councillor Northcott

No report.

Councillor Lenahan

No report.

Councillor Moore

No report.

Councillor Fowler

Please include the below link as a report to council for April 21st regular meeting.

<https://www.orcbc.ca/events/tahsis>

Attachment #1 Certificate of Completion- Community Infrastructure, Climate, and Equity: Training for BC Elected Officials.

In addition to the previously submitted link from orcbc.ca/events and the infrastructure certificate of completion of my training, I hope that, if possible, this letter from the Village of Daajing Giids could come to council during a May meeting to consider a letter of support from Tahsis council.

Attachment #2 Email from the Village of Daajing Giids Re: Health Care Equality- Daajing Giids, Haida Gwaii and Rural and Remote British Columbia.

**Submitted respectfully,
Councillor Fowler**

All council members acknowledged the passing of Dan Dahling, reflecting on his contributions to the community and at council meetings.

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0169/2026

THAT the Council Reports be received.

CARRIED

K. Bylaws

1 Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 681, 2026

Adoption.

Moore/Fowler: VOT 0170/2026

THAT Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 681, 2026 be received for consideration.

CARRIED

Moore/Fowler: VOT 0171/2026

THAT Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 681, 2026 be reconsidered, finally passed and adopted this 21st day of April, 2026.

CARRIED

L. Correspondence

1

April 1st and April 2nd, 2026 letters from Lynn Gordon to Mayor and Council Re: Tourism.

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0172/2026

THAT this correspondence item be received.

CARRIED

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0172/2026

THAT correspondence item # 1 be pulled for discussion.

CARRIED

L1

April 1st and April 2nd, 2026 letters from Lynn Gordon to Mayor and Council Re: Tourism.

Council reviewed in detail this correspondence item noting that it included many points related to signage, trails, and community goals but also noting that it contained some factual errors. Council debated whether to provide a detailed or summary response to this letter. Council decided that the mayor would personally acknowledge receipt of this correspondence item and offer to discuss the issues further with the author in person, rather than tasking staff with a point-by-by point reply.

M. New Business

None.

N. Public Input #2

A member of the public requested an update on the Community Dock and Boat Launch Project which staff provided.

O. Adjournment

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0173/2026

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

CARRIED

**Certified Correct this
5th day of May, 2026**

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' shape with a horizontal bar and a curved tail.

Chief Administrative Officer

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO

Sarah Fowler

for completing Asset Management BC's

**Community Infrastructure, Climate, and Equity: Training for BC
Elected Officials**

earning 2.0 Professional Development Hours



Issued: 2026-04-15

Certificate ID: 79tsyztup

March 6, 2026

Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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BY EMAIL: mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

Honourable Premier David Eby
Office of the Premier
PO BOX 9041 STN Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E1
BY EMAIL: Premier@gov.bc.ca

Auditor General Canada
240 Sparks Street,
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G6
BY EMAIL: communications@oag-bvg.gc.ca

Auditor General of British Columbia
PO BOX 9036 STN PROV GOVT,
Victoria BC
V8W 9A2
BY EMAIL: bcauditor@bcauditor.com

Re: Health Care Equality – Daajing Giids, Haida Gwaii and Rural and Remote British Columbia

Thank you both for your extraordinary words and leadership during the aftermath of the recent tragedy in Tumbler Ridge. The thoughtful and genuine way you both steered the Country and the Province were greatly appreciated at a very difficult time for all of us. While in this period of recovery and evaluation, I am writing to request that **Health Care equality be reconsidered** for those living in geographical service gaps that require travel to access routine and specialized health care.

My constituents and others routinely travel long distances and endure large expenses for medical services that most British Columbians' (Canadians') take access for granted in their local areas. **I am writing to request a focused effort be undertaken to calculate this inequity, such as the cost of living has been studied with BC's Living Wage Study, specifically for health care to gauge services not available to all British Columbians (Canadians) locally and the real costs to those individuals accessing needed services.**

Haida Gwaii residents do not have access locally to health care such as

- Psychological and most Mental Health Services
- Addictions Facilities
- most diagnostics (the lack of availability of diagnostic tools such as CT fosters delayed diagnoses for critical conditions such as stroke, trauma, and cancer)
- Surgery
- most Cancer Care and Treatment
- many Eye Care and Dental procedures

For the residents of Haida Gwaii, and others living in parts of the regional catchment area with reduced Health Care Services, often the best-case scenario is a travel day on each side of a medical appointment, meaning a minimum of 3 days away from home. While portions of their BC Ferries transportation fees are provincially covered under MSP, most do not receive taxable travel benefits from employers to benefit fully from the Northern Residents Deductions medical travel, and the Medical Expense Tax Credit (METC) available to all Canadians is easily exceeded. Expenses such as accommodations, childcare and lost wages, costs that patients must cover out of pocket, add up quickly and substantially. Travel to larger centers such as Terrace, Prince George or Vancouver can take a week or longer for a single appointment. Often treatments are prolonged, may require multiple appointments, and/or trips are unexpected as with medivacs. **This can leave patients with both a health and a financial crisis.** It is not uncommon for island residents not to proceed with the off-island appointments and procedures simply because of affordability. Medical fundraising for individuals requiring travel to access health care is a regular occurrence in every community here. Quite the opposite of BC's stated purpose of "*access to necessary medical care is based on need and not an individual's ability to pay.*"

Health equity is created when individuals have fair opportunity to reach their fullest health potential. Achieving health equity requires reducing unnecessary and avoidable differences that are unfair and unjust and one group paying more per capita for healthcare because it is not reasonably accessible is unjust.

I am requesting the Canadian and British Columbia governments

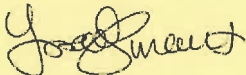
- ensure *The Working Together Plan* recognizes and examines the inequity that requires substantial travel for some Canadians to obtain health care services, reviews service delivery gaps, length of travel required to obtain Health Care, and the associated costs and impact for individuals.
- define *reasonable access* and establish provincial standards of health care accessibility to ensure equitable access for those living in rural and remote communities in British Columbia.
- amend the *Canada Health Act* to add clear language under Accessibility Section 12 to address reasonable access geographically for all Canadians.
- enable a regional Health Care Service Delivery Study, modeled from *BC's Living Wage Study*, to identify service gaps and the costs endured by some British Columbians.
- pledge to address systemic challenges and harmonize health care service delivery throughout entire catchment areas.

I am requesting the Auditor General, and the Auditor specific to British Columbia undertake a comprehensive audit and review of the real costs of health care for rural and remote British Columbian's requiring onerous and unreasonable travel to access services including

- to review the inequity endured by my constituents, and those in other rural and remote areas, for failing to meet the guiding principles of the *Canada Health Act* and the *Medicare Protection Act (MPA)*.
- review the process or selection criteria that designates and allocates the locations of health care services and/or equipment, including diagnostic imaging.
- for an accounting of how the constitutional equity provisions are met in the current Canada Health Transfer Payments and provincial healthcare model.
- to evaluate the trend of downloading, even onto disadvantaged rural and remote communities, fundraising expectations to effect needed health care services and/or equipment locally, where there is a clear failure to consider socioeconomic and per capita impacts.
- reasonableness of expansive additional health care access costs only born by some.
- review of *Income Tax Reimbursements for Medical Travel* being directly tied to income for equity to all rural and remote British Columbian's and for the disproportionate burdening to groups who often face lower incomes such as women, seniors and those with prolonged medical issues.

It was clear to all Canadians during the recent heartbreaking tragedy in Tumbler Ridge, how you both were able to put yourself in their shoes. Prime Minister Carney and Premier Eby please do it again for rural and remote communities in British Columbia and consider the status quo of geographical inequity for those disadvantaged by living with a model of health care that does not meet rural and remote needs. Right in front of all our eyes is an unjust obstacle to access the health services we all need and value as a fundamental part of our Canadian National Identity.

Respectfully,



Her Worship,

Mayor Lisa Pineault

Village of Daajing Giids

PO Box 580, 903A Oceanview Drive V0T1S0

Office Phone: 250 559 4765 | Cell: 250 637 1339

Email: mayor@daajinggiids.ca | Web: <https://daajinggiids.ca/>

CC Mr. Ellis Ross, MP
Honourable Josee Osborne, Minister of Health
Honourable Tamara Davidson, MLA North Coast
President Gaagwiis and Council of the Haida Nation
North West Regional Hospital Board
All Islands Protocol Table, protocoltable@haidanation.com
Aidan McLaren-Caux, UBCM Small Communities Group amclarencaux@nakusp.com
Laurie Hopfl, Rural Mayors Health Group lhopfl@lillooet.ca
Medical Services Commission MSC hlth.bip@gov.bc.ca
BC Ombudsman