



## AGENDA

**Regular Meeting of the Village of Tahsis Council  
to be held on May 19, 2026 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers  
Municipal Hall, 977 South Maquinna Drive and by electronic means**

**Remote Access**                    **To attend this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams/ phone  
Join the Village of Tahsis Microsoft Teams Meeting  
[Click here to join the meeting.](#)  
Or call in (audio only)  
Toronto, Canada  
+1 437-703-5480  
Phone Conference ID: 693 613 527#**

Microsoft Teams may be hosted on servers in the U.S., so the name you use with Microsoft Teams and metadata about how you use the application may be stored on servers outside of Canada. If you have privacy concerns: a) don't create your own account with Microsoft Teams, b) provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session, c) keep your camera off and microphone muted, as much as you can, and d) try to avoid sharing any identifying information.

**A. Call to Order**                    **Mayor Davis will call the meeting to order.**

**Land Acknowledgement**                    **Mayor Davis will acknowledge and respect that we are meeting upon Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory.**

**B. Introduction of Late Items**                    **"M1" moved to follow adoption of the minutes.**

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**D. Petitions and Delegations**                    None.

**E. Public Input #1**

**F. Adoption of the Minutes**                    **1 Minutes of the May 5, 2026 Regular Council Meeting**

**2 Minutes of the May 7, 2026 Special Council Meeting**

**3 Minutes of the May 11, 2026 Special Council Meeting**

**G. Rise and Report**

**H. Business Arising 1 Village of Tahsis- Appointment of an additional Deputy Election Officer**

**J. Council Reports**

- 1 Mayor Davis**
- 2 Councillor Fowler**
- 3 Councillor Northcott**
- 4 Councillor Lenahan**
- 5 Councillor Moore**

**K. Bylaws** None.

**L. Correspondence**

- 1 May 1, 2026 email from Sarah Jepson to Mayor and Council Re: Safety Concern - dead tree.**
  
- 2 April 16, 2026 National Defence Media Post forwarded by Amanda Knibbs, Tahsis Junior Canadian Ranger Patrol Leader to Mayor and Council Re: Junior Canadian Ranger Gabriel John, from Tahsis.**
  
- 3 Mayor Davis' May 4, 2026 email response to Susan Gage's, Jackie Larkin's & Bill Johnston's, Elders for Ancient Trees, May 3, 2026 email to Mayor and Council Re: Please don't endorse COFI's "Forestry Is a Solution" campaign.**
  
- 4 May 5, 2026 News Release Re: Join the ParticipACTION Community Challenge.**
  
- 5 May 6, 2026 email from Julie Colborne, Mayor, Village of Zeballos to Ted Olynyk, Community Relations Manager, BC Hydro Re: 5 year Maintenance Plan Request: Tahsis to Zeballos transmission lines.**
  
- 6 May 7, 2026 email from Mark Baker, Co-Chair and Will Cole-Hamilton, Co-Chair, Comox Strathcona Waste Management to Mayor and Council Re: Request for Endorsement of the Solid Waste Management Plan.**
  
- 7 May 13, 2026 email from Stephanie Olson, on behalf of Love our Planters Group to Mayor and Council Re: Request for the Village to purchase plant basket hangers for the museum porch and for Village Staff water and deadhead these two baskets as needed.**

**M. New Business 1 Bylaw Enforcement Officer appointment**

**Councillor Fowler's Motion for a letter of support- Re: March 6, 2026 Letter from  
2 the Village of Daajing Giids regarding Health Care Equity- Daajing Giids, Haida  
Gwaii and Rural and Remote British Columbia.**

**WHEREAS** the Village of Tahsis has formerly used the UBCM meeting to bring up geographic health care inequities to the provincial ministry of health;

**THEREFORE**, it be resolved to direct staff to write a letter in support of Village of Daajing Giids and send it to the Prime Minister, Premier, Auditor General of Canada and the Auditor General of British Columbia.

**Public Input # 2**

**O. Adjournment**



Minutes

---

<u>Meeting</u>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<u>Date</u>	<b>May 5, 2026</b>
<u>Time</u>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<u>Place</u>	<b>Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means</b>

---

<u>Present</u>	Mayor Martin Davis Councillor Sarah Fowler Councillor Brenda Lenahan Councillor Ryan Moore Councillor Cheryl Northcott	<b>by video</b>
<u>Staff</u>	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer Adia Mavrikos, CPA,CA, Director of Finance Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager	<b>by video by video</b>
<u>Guests</u>	Vivian Schau, Senior Manager of CSWM Services, Engineering Services Sarah Willie, Manager of Solid Waste Planning and Policy Development, CSWM	<b>by video by video</b>
<u>Public</u>	5 members of the public.	<b>2 by video</b>

**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 0174/2026**  
**THAT** the Agenda for the May 5, 2026 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**D. Delegation** None.

- E. Public Input # 1** There was a question regarding the completion timeline of the Community Dock and Boach Launch Project to which the CAO responded.
- F. Adoption of the Minutes**
- 1 Minutes of the April 21, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**
- Fowler/Moore: VOT 0175/2026**  
**THAT** the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of April 21, 2026 be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**
- 2 Minutes of the April 21, 2026 Regular Council Meeting**
- Moore/Fowler: VOT 0176/2026**  
**THAT** the Regular Council Meeting minutes of April 21, 2026 be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**
- G. Rise and Report** None.
- H. Business Arising**
- 1 Comox Strathcona Waste Management- Presentation of the Solid Waste Management Plan.**
- Fowler/Moore: VOT 0177/2026**  
**THAT** this presentation be received.
- Sarah Willie and Vivian Schau from Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) presented the Solid Waste Management Plan to Council, including public consultation results, new diversion targets and landfill closing plans.
- Following the presentation there was a question period. Council raised numerous question with respect to the landfill closing plan for Tahsis and expressed concerns about illegal dumping following the closure. There was also a discussion about fish waste composting.
- 2 Report to Council Re: Tahsis Flood Protection Project- Phase 3, 2026 Budget and Schedule.**
- Fowler/Moore: VOT 0178/2026**  
**THAT** this Report to Council be received.
- The CAO provided Council with a revised budget estimate for the Tahsis Flood Protection Project (Phase 3) along with options for addressing the \$903,998 budget shortfall.
- Three options were presented to Council. Councillor Lenahan presented a 4th option of not proceeding with the project. Council discussed the risks, concerns and implications of each option.

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0179/2026**

**THAT** option # 1 be approved (to delay the project until receiving a decision on the Canadian Community Building Fund (Strategic Priorities Fund) grant application for the North Maquinna Integrated Corridor Project).

**3 Draft Reserve and Surplus Policy Amendment****Fowler/Moore: VOT 0180/2026**

**THAT** this Draft Reserve and Surplus Policy be received for consideration.

The Director of Finance presented amendments to the Reserve and Surplus Policy which included the establishment of new statutory reserves for Roads (operating and capital) and for the museum/information centre (capital).

The Director of Finance clarified that establishing the reserve does not require immediate funding and that contributions are determined during the annual budget process. The Reserve and Surplus Policy sets minimum levels for reserve health, but only the financial plan bylaw mandates contributions.

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0181/2026**

**THAT** Council approve the Village's Draft Reserve and Surplus Policy as presented and consider the Draft Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 680, 2026- 1st, 2nd and 3rd readings.

**J. Council Reports****Mayor Davis**

I recently attended the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities in Victoria. While there, I went on a field trip to the Esquimalt Naval Dockyards where we did a short excursion on a trainer vessel and were updated on new enhanced funding for our navy and military in general, given the recent events in the world, a new prime minister and the need for updating our military and a decoupling from the US military, which we have become much too dependent on for our defense. Another highlight was a talk given by Mayor Alto of Victoria about their efforts to house the homeless and offer supports that help integrate them into the community and find them work. It is noticeable that the tent cities in Victoria have disappeared in the last year.

Another highlight for me was a seminar on AI, its applications in governance and data management, its pitfalls and potential issues that need addressing.

**Councillor Northcott**

No report.

**Councillor Lenahan**

No report.

**Councillor Moore**

No report.

**Councillor Fowler**

I attended the NSW meeting April 29 and thought it would be prudent to include the below email in my report to council regarding volunteer opportunities for Muchalaht lake net pen & checks in May.

Also happy to share the news that I was successful in my campaign to become the 1st VP of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities at the recent 77th annual convention.

Submitted respectfully,  
Councillor Fowler

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0182/2026**

**THAT** the Council Reports be received.

**CARRIED**

**K. Bylaws****1 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 677, 2026.****1st, 2nd and 3rd Reading****Moore/Fowler: VOT 0183/2026**

**THAT** 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 677, 2026 be received for consideration.

**CARRIED**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0184/2026**

**THAT** 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 677, 2026 receive a first reading this 5th day of May, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0185/2026**

**THAT** 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 677, 2026 receive a second reading this 5th day of May, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0186/2026**

- THAT** 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 677, 2026 receive a third reading this 5th day of May, 2026. **CARRIED**
- 2 2026 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 678, 2026.**
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reading**
- Moore/Fowler: VOT 0187/2026**
- THAT** 2026 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 678, 2026 be received for consideration. **CARRIED**
- Moore/Fowler: VOT 0188/2026**
- THAT** 2026 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 678, 2026 receive a first reading this 5th day of May, 2026. **CARRIED**
- Moore/Fowler: VOT 0189/2026**
- THAT** 2026 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 678, 2026 receive a second reading this 5th day of May, 2026 **CARRIED**
- Fowler/Moore: VOT 0190/2026**
- THAT** 2026 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 678, 2026 receive a third reading this 5th day of May, 2026 **CARRIED**
- 3 Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 679, 2026.**
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reading**
- Moore/Fowler: VOT 0191/2026**
- THAT** Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 679, 2026 be received for consideration. **CARRIED**
- Moore/Fowler: VOT 0192/2026**
- THAT** Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 679, 2026 receive a first reading this 5th day of May, 2026. **CARRIED**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0193/2026**

**THAT** Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 679, 2026 receive a second reading this 5th day of May, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0194/2026**

**THAT** Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 679, 2026 receive a third reading this 5th day of May, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**4 Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 680, 2026 Amendment No. 3, Bylaw No. 676, 2026  
1st, 2nd and 3rd Reading**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0195/2026**

**THAT** Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 680, 2026 Amendment No. 3, Bylaw No. 676, 2026 be received for consideration.

**CARRIED**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0196/2026**

**THAT** Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 680, 2026 Amendment No. 3, Bylaw No. 676, 2026 receive a first reading this 5th day of May, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0197/2026**

**THAT** Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 680, 2026 Amendment No. 3, Bylaw No. 676, 2026 receive a second reading this 5th day of May, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0198/2026**

**THAT** Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 680, 2026 Amendment No. 3, Bylaw No. 676, 2026 receive a third reading this 5th day of May, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**L. Correspondence**

**1 April 22, 2026 email from Cheryl O'Donnell, President of the Tahsis Garden Society to Mayor and Council Re: Broom Cutting Initiative.**

**2 April 24, 2026 email from James Warren, CAO, Comox Valley Regional District Re: Request for a letter in support of Campbell River's Long-Term Care Hospital Project.**

- 3 March 21, 2026 letter from Jenna Pham, Enterprise Account Executive, CityWest Re: Connected Coast Project Update.**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0199/2026**

**THAT** this correspondence item be received.

**CARRIED**

**Lenahan/Moore: VOT 0200/2026**

**THAT** correspondence item 1,2 and 3 be pulled for discussion.

**CARRIED**

- L1 April 22, 2026 email from Cheryl O'Donnell, President of the Tahsis Garden Society to Mayor and Council Re: Broom Cutting Initiative.**

Councillor Lenahan spoke to the Tahsis Garden Society's initiative to address the spread of the invasive Scotch Broom in Tahsis. The Garden Society has requested help from the Village to pick up and dispose of the Scotch Broom.

Staff confirmed that public works would assist by picking up and disposing of the broom.

- L2 April 24, 2026 email from James Warren, CAO, Comox Valley Regional District Re: Request for a letter in support of Campbell River's Long-Term Care Hospital Project.**

**Council discussed the regional need for a long-term care facility, noting the recent provincial funding setbacks.**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0201/2026**

**THAT** staff to send a letter in support of the Campbell River Long-Term Care Hospital Project.

- L3 March 21, 2026 letter from Jenna Pham, Enterprise Account Executive, CityWest Re: Connected Coast Project Update.**

Council expressed frustration with delays and funding barrier for the Connected Coast Project, which would bring fibre-optic internet to Tahsis. Topics discussed included: grant ineligibility; high costs for the last-mile connection and SRD's borrowing authority for CityWest to complete the last-mile.

Council discussed inviting Dave Leitch, Strathcona Regional District, CAO and Jenna Pham, Enterprise Account Executive, Citywest to a future meeting to explore a strategy to move forward.

- M. New Business**
- 1 Councillor Fowler's Notice of Motion for a letter of support- Re: March 6, 2026 Letter from the Village of Daajing Giids regarding Health Care Equity- Daajing Giids, Haida Gwaii and Rural and Remote British Columbia (F2 p.14).**

**WHEREAS** the Village of Tahsis has formerly used the UBCM meeting to bring up geographic health care inequities to the provincial ministry of health;

**THEREFORE**, it be resolved to direct staff to write a letter in support of Village of Daajing Giids and send it to the Prime Minister, Premier, Auditor General of Canada and the Auditor General of British Columbia.

There were no questions from Council on this motion.

- N. Public Input #2**
- A member of the public asked Mayor Davis about the tent cities in Victoria that he had referenced in his Report to Council

- O. Adjournment**
- Moore/Fowler: VOT 0202/2026**  
**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**Certified Correct this 19th day of May, 2026**

**Chief Administrative Officer**



Minutes

---

<u>Meeting</u>	<b>Special Council Meeting</b>
<u>Date</u>	<b>May 7, 2026</b>
<u>Time</u>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
<u>Place</u>	<b>Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means</b>

---

<u>Present</u>	Deputy Mayor Sarah Fowler Councillor Brenda Lenahan Councillor Ryan Moore Councillor Cheryl Northcott				
					<b>Video</b>
					<b>Video</b>

<u>Absent</u>	Mayor Martin Davis
---------------	--------------------

<u>Staff</u>	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer Adia Mavrikos, CPA,CA, Director of Finance Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager				
					<b>by video</b>
					<b>by video</b>

<u>Public</u>	None.
---------------	-------

<b>A. Call to Order</b>	Deputy Mayor Fowler called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
-------------------------	--

**Land Acknowledgement**  
Deputy Mayor Fowler acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachaht/ Muchalaht territory.

<b>B. Introduction of Late Items</b>	None.
--------------------------------------	-------

<b>C. Approval of the Agenda</b>	<b>Moore/Northcott: VOT 0203/2026</b> <b>THAT</b> the Agenda for the May 7, 2026 Special meeting of Council be adopted as presented.				
					<b>CARRIED</b>

<b>K. Bylaws</b>	<b>1 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 677, 2026.</b> <b>Adoption</b>
------------------	---

**Moore/Northcott: VOT 0204/2026**

	<b>THAT</b> 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 677, 2026 be received for consideration.	<b>CARRIED</b>
	<b>Moore/Northcott: VOT 0205/2026</b>	
	<b>THAT</b> 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 677, 2026 be reconsidered, finally passed and adopted this 7th day of May, 2026.	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>2026 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 678, 2026.</b>	
	<b>Adoption</b>	
	<b>Moore/Northcott: VOT 0206/2026</b>	
	<b>THAT</b> 2026 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 678, 2026 be received for consideration.	<b>CARRIED</b>
	<b>Moore/Northcott: VOT 0207/2026</b>	
	<b>THAT</b> 2026 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 678, 2026 be reconsidered, finally passed and adopted this 7th day of May, 2026.	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 679, 2026.</b>	
	<b>Adoption</b>	
	<b>Moore/Northcott: VOT 0208/2026</b>	
	<b>THAT</b> Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 679, 2026 be received for consideration.	<b>CARRIED</b>
	<b>Moore/Northcott: VOT 0209/2026</b>	
	<b>THAT</b> Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 679, 2026 be reconsidered, finally passed and adopted this 7th day of May, 2026.	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 680, 2026 Amendment No. 3, Bylaw No. 676, 2026</b>	
	<b>Adoption</b>	
	<b>Moore/Northcott: VOT 0210/2026</b>	

**THAT** Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 680, 2026 Amendment No. 3, Bylaw No. 676, 2026 be received for consideration.

**CARRIED**

**Moore/Northcott: VOT 0211/2026**

**THAT** Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 680, 2026 Amendment No. 3, Bylaw No. 676, 2026 be reconsidered, finally passed and adopted this 7th day of May, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**O. Adjournment**

**Moore/Northcott: VOT 0212/2026**

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**Certified Correct this 19th day of May, 2026**

**Chief Administrative Officer**



Minutes

---

<u>Meeting</u>	<b>Special Council Meeting</b>
<u>Date</u>	<b>May 11, 2026</b>
<u>Time</u>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
<u>Place</u>	<b>Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means</b>

---

<u>Present</u>	Mayor Martin Davis Councillor Sarah Fowler Councillor Cheryl Northcott Councillor Brenda Lenahan	by video by video
----------------	---	----------------------

<u>Absent</u>	Councillor Ryan Moore
---------------	-----------------------

<u>Staff</u>	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer Adia Mavrikos, CPA,CA, Director of Finance Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager	by video by video
--------------	--	----------------------

<u>Guests</u>	Derek Lamb, CPA, CA, Partner, Chan Nowosad Boates	by video
---------------	---	----------

<u>Public</u>	None.
---------------	-------

**A. Call to Order** Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 1:00 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**

<b>Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0222/2026</b>	<b>THAT</b> the Agenda for the May 11, 2026 Special meeting of Council be adopted as presented.	<b>CARRIED</b>
--	---	----------------

**M. New Business**

<b>Presentation of the 2025 Village of Tahsis Financial Statements and the Audit Findings Report for the year ended December 31, 2025.</b>	<b>Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0223/2026</b>	<b>THAT</b> this presentation and documents be received.	<b>CARRIED</b>
--	--	--	----------------

Derek Lamb from Chan Nowosad Boates explained the audit review process and the scope of the audit prior to presenting the Village of Tahsis' Audit Findings Report for the year ended December 31, 2026. The auditor confirmed that there were no going concern issues, no significant internal control issues or any significant or material misstatements identified during the audit.

The auditor detailed the impact of the new accounting standard requiring the recording of asset retirement obligations. The impact is the addition of \$1.2 million in liabilities, which are long-term estimates that are often not realized for decades.

Mayor Davis asked for clarification regarding the asset retirement obligation related to the sale of the old fire hall to which the auditor responded.

The Director of Finance presented the draft financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2025 discussing the Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet), the Statement of Operations (Income Statement) and the Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets. Highlights from Schedule 4 - Reserve Fund transactions were also discussed.

The audit is complete pending Council's approval of the Financial Statements and signed Management Representation letter from Mayor and Council.

**Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0224/2026**

**THAT** Council approve the Draft 2025 Village of Tahsis Financial Statements and the Audit Findings Report and request that staff post the 2025 Financial Statements on the Village website.

**CARRIED**

**O. Adjournment**

**Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0224/2026**

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**Certified Correct this 19th day of May, 2026**

**Chief Administrative Officer**

**Office of the Chair**

770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay, BC V9N 0G8  
Tel: 250-334-6000 Fax: 250-334-4358  
Toll free: 1-800-331-6007  
www.comoxvalleyrd.ca



File: 5360-30

May 7, 2026

**Sent via email only: [mtatchell@villageoftahsis.com](mailto:mtatchell@villageoftahsis.com)**

Village of Tahsis  
PO Box 219  
Tahsis, BC V0P 1X0

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: Endorsement of the Solid Waste Management Plan**

The Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) service is updating its Solid Waste Management Plan (the Plan) to meet provincial requirements and better address the region's evolving waste needs. After extensive engagement with community members, staff and experts over the past few years, we are pleased to share a key milestone, the draft Solid Waste Management Plan. The CSWM board adopted the following resolutions at its March 5, 2026 meeting:

*THAT the report dated February 26, 2026 regarding the draft language for the Solid Waste Management Plan renewal for the final stage of the Solid Waste Management Plan process, in preparation for public and First Nations consultation prior to submission to the Ministry of Environment and Parks this summer be received.*

*THAT the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board approve the draft Solid Waste Management Plan for final public and First Nations consultation (step 4), as presented in the staff report dated February 26, 2026.*

As part of our preparation for submission to the Minister of Environment and Parks CSWM is requesting your council review the draft [Plan](#) and if endorsed, provide your support of the Plan by way of council resolution.

Please forward a letter of support to the CSWM no later than June 1, 2026.

*The Comox Strathcona Waste Management service area is located in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw, and Nuu-chah-nulth territories.*

Comox Strathcona Waste Management manages over 100,000 tonnes of waste and recycled material annually and oversees a number of diversion and education programs for the Strathcona and Comox Valley Regional Districts.

We are extending the opportunity to have staff attend your next council meeting to present and discuss the contents of the Plan and remaining steps towards approval, in order to ensure clarity of content and procedure, and to better facilitate this request. Please contact Krista Robertson, [CSWM@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:CSWM@comoxvalleyrd.ca) and let us know if your Council is interested, and we will coordinate a date and time for an online or in-person presentation.

For general information on the Plan background and planning process please visit [engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp](http://engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp). If you have any questions regarding the content of the Plan, please reach out to Sarah Willie, Manager of Solid Waste Planning and Policy Development, by email at [swillie@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:swillie@comoxvalleyrd.ca) or by telephone at 250-334-6065.

Sincerely,



---

Mark Baker  
Co-Chair



---

Will Cole-Hamilton  
Co-Chair

# Solid Waste Management Plan

## Step 4 Presentation to Village of Tahsis

May 5, 2026

Sarah Willie, CSWM  
Manager of Solid Waste Planning & Policy Development



# What is the Goal of an SWMP?



## **The goal is to produce less garbage.**

On average, each person in the service area generates 551 kg of waste annually. The provincial target is 350 kg per person.

SWMP presents the programs, services, infrastructure and policies that guide the design and implementation of CSWM solid waste for the next decade.

# Step 3 – Evaluate Options 2024-2025

H2

① Support reuse



② Encourage repair



③ Educate and reach out to communities



④ Support multi-family waste separation



⑤ Reduce industry, commercial and institutional waste



⑥ Reduce construction, renovation and demolition waste



⑦ Equalize access to services



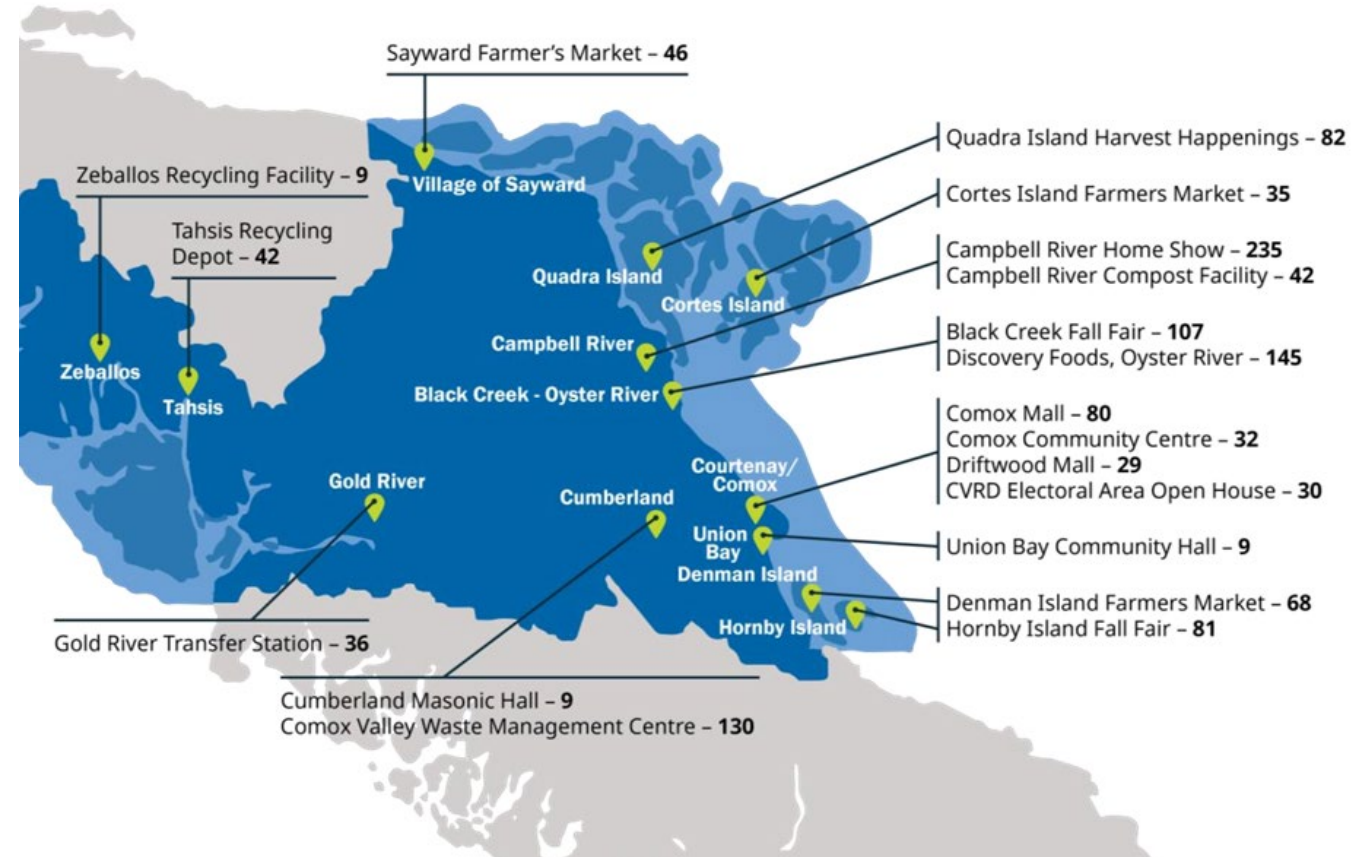
⑧ Track solid waste



## Waste Reduction Strategies

# 2025 - Step 3 Engagement on Strategies and Actions

- 1,247 people at 19 events in September and October 2025
- Promoted online survey, offered paper surveys to complete
- Captured themes of the conversations
  - Expand collection and drop-off
  - Improve communication
  - Fairness and consistency



# Online Survey on Strategies and Actions

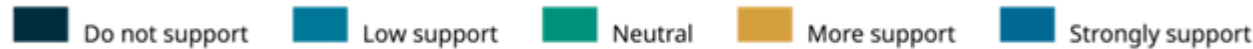
11. Require new multi-family buildings to have space for recycling and organics bins and pickup.



14. Advocate to increase access to recycling programs and expand materials accepted under the provincial regulations for waste producers.



13. Start organics collection in multi-family buildings.



- 624 responses
- 85% residents of single family or duplex
- Consistently finished the survey
- All actions were supported by CSWM Board to include in Draft

# You're Up to Speed!

Provided with CSWM Solid Waste Management Plan Backgrounder with agenda package

Link to our [Engagement Page](#) and the complete version of the [Draft Plan](#)

YouTube [Video](#) for Step 4



**1.**  
**Initiate the Process**  
2022



**2.**  
**Set the Plan Direction**  
2022-2023



**3.**  
**Evaluate Options**  
2024-2025



**4.**  
**Prepare and Adopt the Plan**  
2026

## Step 4 – Draft SWMP 2026

- Developed targets to support goals over the plan life
- An implementation schedule was provided on when actions will be initiated and funded
- Committee structure outlined



# Targets

Regional targets should be achievable, have clear timelines and results, and show continuous improvement towards the Provincial targets.

- Have 80% of B.C.'s population covered by organic waste disposal restrictions

## Goal 1

To support regional circular economy approaches, and to work towards a goal of zero waste.

### Target

- A 10% increase in participation at repair cafés from 2024 levels by 2031.



## Goal 2

To reduce and remediate environmental impacts from solid waste management activities.

### Target

- By 2035 to have all waste generated from within the region disposed of within a landfill with leachate capture and treatment, or a comparable modern waste management facility approved within this Plan.



## Goal 3

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to pursue beneficial use of landfill gas.

### Targets

- That all new multi-family developments constructed after 2030 have adequate space for waste, recycling and organics containers and implement collection.
- 80% of the CSWM population covered by an organic waste disposal restriction by 2036.
- 75% of landfill gas captured at the CVWMC to be used beneficially by 2031.



## Goal 4

To responsibly manage waste, and to minimize the amount of residual waste in landfills.

### Targets

- To have an MSW disposal rate of 200 kg/capita from households with curbside collection of waste, recycling and organics by 2031.
- Excluding CRD waste, to have a decreasing disposal rate targeting 400 kg/capita of in-region MSW by 2037.
- The long-term target for the CSWM service is to strive to achieve an MSW disposal rate of 350 kg/capita.



# Lower the MSW disposal rate to 350 kg per person per year

## Goal 5

To have informed residents, businesses and community partners empowered to participate effectively and consistently in proper waste management practices. To use CSWM enforcement powers when necessary.

### Targets

- A 10% increase to in-person community member interactions with educators from 2024 levels by 2031.
- Year over year increases to the CSWM solid waste mobile app unique users.
- To maintain a 3% (wet weight) contamination rate within organics collected at the curbside from residents.



## Goal 6

To ensure that the CSWM solid waste services are financially sustainable and delivered equitably across the region, recognizing and leveraging the unique challenges and cultures of our rural and remote communities.

### Target

- To fund and provision solid waste services in line with the Board approved fiscal sustainability framework and strategy.

# Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee (PMAC)

**Purpose:** Review and provide feedback on regular reporting regarding SWMP implementation and diversion.

- Desire for some continuity between PMAC and RSWAC
- Expecting one to two meetings per year
- Diverse geography, demography and political organization of the plan area and balance technical and non-technical interests
- Two-year term, optional renewal for two additional terms. Staggered expiry of terms
- Continue with financial support for participation and travel
- The CSWM Board remains the final authority on decisions

# PMAC: Composition

- Public Members – up to 6 members,
  - One member of the public residing in either the City of Courtenay, the Town of Comox or the Village of Cumberland
- Technical Members – up to 12 members, specified experience or employment
  - Inclusive of up to 4 members of local government staff
- First Nations – up to 10 members, one per nation
- The Co-Chairs of the CSWM Board will be the Co-Chairs of PMAC

# Next Steps

- Public and First Nations consultation on draft SWMP language April 7 to April 24, 2026
- CSWM will be seeking a letter of endorsement by June 1, 2026
- Return to the Board with consultation results and final package for submission to the Ministry in June
- When ready, submit to the minister for review. Review anticipated to take 6-18 months
- Establishment of PMAC following SWMP approval



Thank you.



[engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp](https://engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp)

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing to bring attention to a safety concern located on municipal property directly in front of my vacation rental on Maquinna Drive.

There is a dead tree situated near the roadway that appears structurally compromised. While it is not directly aligned with where guests typically park their vehicles, its condition raises concern—particularly during periods of high wind or storms. Given its proximity to guest parking areas, there is a reasonable risk that the tree or falling branches could cause damage to vehicles or pose a safety hazard.

I have previously contacted [REDACTED] Director of Operations, about this matter. She advised that removal would require a permit and/or formal assessment. While I understand and respect the need for proper process, the underlying safety concern remains and should be addressed in a timely manner.

As a property owner operating a short-term rental, I have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for my guests. However, because this tree is located on village property, I am unable to take action myself. I am therefore requesting that the municipality prioritize taking appropriate steps to mitigate any potential risk, including removal if warranted.

I would appreciate confirmation that this matter has been received and, if possible, an indication of the timeline for inspection or action. I am happy to provide further details or assistance if required.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing efforts to maintain public safety within the community.

Sincerely,

Sarah Jepson

[REDACTED]





# HOMETOWNER

HT-[26].[010]

[April 16, 2026]



## JUNIOR CANADIAN RANGERS VOLUNTEERING IN MANITOBA DURING SPRING BREAK LEADER ETS

Junior Canadian Ranger Gabriel John from Tahsis, BC, posing for a group photo after volunteering at Agape Table, Winnipeg, MB, during Spring Break Leader ETS on March 16, 2026. Gabriel was selected to attend Spring Break Leader ETS, an exercise activity designed to support life, ranger and traditional skills while building leadership, problem solving and teamwork. Over the course of the program, participants travel through Winnipeg, Kelowna and Vancouver and work with peers from different communities.

Leader ETS combines classroom learning with practical experience. JCRs take part in leadership lessons, volunteer service, physical fitness and outdoor training, including an overnight hike during the outdoor phase. The schedule also includes activities such as kickboxing, yoga, snowmobiling, skiing or snowboarding, and opportunities for JCRs to help plan group activities.

The aim is to help JCRs return to their home patrols better prepared to lead their peers, contribute to training and represent the program with maturity. Participants are expected to be ready for changing March weather and to take part fully in both indoor and outdoor activities.

Photo by: Canadian Ranger Larissa Chahley

— 30 —

For more information  
Capt Brandon McAuley  
Officer-In-Charge

**4 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group**

**Phone: 236-464-2548**

Email: Brandon.McAuley@foreces.gc.ca




---

**Re: Please don't endorse COFI's "Forestry Is a Solution" Campaign**


---

**From** Mark Tatchell <MTatchell@villageoftahsis.com>

**Date** Mon 5/4/2026 6:14 PM

**To** Martin Davis <iskarst22@gmail.com>

**Cc** Mayor Davis <Mayor@villageoftahsis.com>; Sarah Fowler <SFowler@villageoftahsis.com>; Cheryl Northcott <CNorthcott@villageoftahsis.com>; Ryan Moore <RMoore@villageoftahsis.com>; Brenda Lenahan <BLenahan@villageoftahsis.com>; Janet St. Denis <J.St.Denis@villageoftahsis.com>; Reception Account <Reception@villageoftahsis.com>

**From:** martin davis <iskarst22@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2026 12:46:24 PM

**To:** Susan Gage <oldfolksforoldgrowth@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Mayor Davis <Mayor@villageoftahsis.com>; Sarah Fowler <SFowler@villageoftahsis.com>; Cheryl Northcott <CNorthcott@villageoftahsis.com>; Ryan Moore <RMoore@villageoftahsis.com>; Brenda Lenahan <BLenahan@villageoftahsis.com>; Mark Tatchell <MTatchell@villageoftahsis.com>

**Subject:** Re: Please don't endorse COFI's "Forestry Is a Solution" Campaign

Hi Susan,

Thanks for your letter and I understand your concerns. I also appreciate the importance of the forest industry, having worked within it over a 40 year period. Having said that, it is apparent that the industry is badly in need of reforms in order to better utilize the resource while becoming truly sustainable and protecting what little old growth remains on the coast.

We also understand the risks that unregulated logging pose to Tahsis from flooding, which has been a severe problem in the past when much of the Tahsis River watershed was clearcut. During my tenure as Mayor, Tahsis Council has advocated for protection of our unlogged drinking watershed (about 22 square kilometres), protection of old growth viewscapes around Tahsis. These areas are currently under deferral with decisions pending. We have also endorsed the Salmon Park initiative of the Mowachaht Muchalat First Nation which is now federally funded and mandated to perform fish habitat restoration programs along with research and advocacy for watershed protections.

In meetings with the provincial Forest Minister I have advocated for reducing the Annual Allowable Cut in order to allow previously logged areas to attain greater productivity (currently, second growth is being cut at just 40+ years of age, which results in declining productivity). Reductions are occurring.

In my own advocacy as the President of the Canadian Cave Conservancy, we have protected about 900 hectares of unique old growth karst habitats in the Tahsis area. This protects rare plants, invertebrates and bat habitat, all endemic to these areas.

We continue to work closely with the Mowachaht Muchalat First Nation in this region on both conservation and restoration programs, while also exploring options for truly sustainable forestry for future generations.

Regards,  
Martin Davis, Mayor of Tahsis



On Sun, May 3, 2026 at 10:02 AM Susan Gage <[oldfolksforoldgrowth@gmail.com](mailto:oldfolksforoldgrowth@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

We are a group of seniors (over 900 strong) who are very concerned about the state of BC's forests. We understand that your council has recently received a letter from the Council of Forest Industries (COFI) promoting an accelerated system of forestry.

The past decades of unsustainable logging have led to the current situation of mills closing due to lack of timber supply, and at the same time enhanced risk to some of the systems that come under municipal responsibility. Municipal governments in British Columbia face growing responsibility for protecting drinking-water sources, public safety, health and well-being, tourism and recreation, infrastructure, and fiscal stability amid increasing wildfire, flood, and other climate risks. All of these issues are dependent on protecting our natural life support systems, especially intact forests.

For these reasons, we are urging councils to **carefully consider** the implications of endorsing COFI's "**Forestry Is a Solution**" campaign. This platform would result in:

- Increased pressure on already degraded forests, biodiversity and watersheds
- Heightened wildfire risk in clearcut areas that quickly dry out
- Reduced long-term water security
- Further destabilizing B.C.'s already exhausted long-term timber supply

COFI is effectively requesting expanded access to protected areas, including parks and Old Growth Management Areas. The 2021 report [Intact Forests, Safe Communities](#) highlights that **9 of 15 climate risks identified by the BC government are increased by industrial forestry practices**, and they all impact local communities in devastating ways. Forest management decisions have direct consequences for **drinking-water sources, salmon streams, floodplain infrastructure, and wildfire resilience**. Expanded harvesting in already stressed watersheds would transfer risk and cost directly to local governments and residents, while offering no long-term solution to fibre supply or employment stability.

Endorsing the COFI platform risks escalating municipal costs, while endangering communities and locking in continued boom-and-bust economic cycles that hurt us in the long term.

### The Real Solution: Forest Recovery

Forestry is important to so many BC communities. We all share the goal of long-term, stable employment, but we see that policies that accelerate unsustainable logging only make that harder to achieve.

Government-commissioned reviews and forestry experts agree: **BC's forests are over-cut, ecologically stressed, and unable to sustain past logging levels.** Accelerating extraction will deepen, not solve, the crisis.

Many studies [show](#) that primary and old growth forests keep communities safe by storing moisture like a sponge, and that **clearcutting and turning primary forests into dryer tree farm plantations creates dangerous conditions for wildfires and floods.** Protecting old growth and restoring forest health is the only proven path to safeguarding:

- A diverse economy, including long-term jobs in tourism and forestry
- Drinking-water reliability
- Flood and wildfire resilience
- Carbon stored in resilient forests
- Biodiversity

For the reasons outlined above, we urge councils **not to endorse** the COFI “Forestry Is a Solution” campaign. It misdiagnoses the problem and promotes actions that would increase the risk to communities.

Sincerely,

Jackie Larkin, Bill Johnston, Susan Gage  
Elders for Ancient Trees

---

### Links and Further reading

- [Closer to the Brink](#): The state of the forest in BC in 2025
- [Intact Forest, Safe Communities](#): Reducing community climate risks through forest protection and a paradigm shift in forest management
- [Clear-cutting linked to 18-fold rise in extreme floods, UBC study finds](#)
- [What is the Relationship Between Deforestation and Forest Fires?](#) *Western Fire Chiefs Association* link more frequent and more destructive forest fires to deforestation
- How One Mayor Is Trying to Reinvent the Forestry Town: Former mayor of Quesnel, one of BC's more forestry-dependent towns, site of a 2017 forest megafire, promotes a more sustainable model of forestry
- [Industry-led, market-driven forestry isn't working, says former forests official](#): Former BC Liberal MLA for Prince George-Mackenzie, Mike Morris, notes that the sector remains locked in high-volume clear-cutting despite ecological and economic constraints



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Join the ParticipACTION Community Challenge

Join the Village of Tahsis in the ParticipACTION Community Challenge

— The [ParticipACTION Community Challenge](#), presented by Novo Nordisk, returns this year to help people in Canada enjoy the many physical, social and mental health benefits of getting active together!

This national physical activity and sport initiative encourages everyone in Canada to get active throughout June, ultimately recognizing Canada's Most Active Community and awarding it \$100,000 to support local physical activity and sport initiatives.

To help rally our community and boost our chances at winning the grand prize this year, we need as many people as possible to get involved—every participant makes a difference!

- **Local governments and organizations:** The Tahsis Recreation Centre has registered on [ParticipACTION's website](#) and will be tracking how many people stay active at the facility throughout June. This effort helps our community compete for the title of Canada's Most Active Community. All forms of physical activity count toward our progress, including swimming, bowling, workouts in the weight room, pickleball, and sports organized by the Junior Canadian Rangers. Bring your friends and family, get moving, and help show just how active our community can be!
- **Active groups of two or more people:** Sign up for the Challenge on [ParticipACTION's website](#) starting April 15, 2026, and participate in physical activities together throughout June. Your selected group leader will then register and track your group's June physical activities on the website. All of your efforts will help boost our community's overall progress—so gather a team and get involved!

Join the Village of Tahsis in the movement to build a stronger, healthier, and more active community—get involved, get moving, and be part of something great!

### About the ParticipACTION Community Challenge, presented by Novo Nordisk

The Community Challenge is a national physical activity and sport initiative that encourages everyone in Canada to get active throughout June in search of Canada's Most Active Community. The Challenge is open to all communities and individuals, ultimately recognizing Canada's Most Active Community and awarding it \$100,000 to support local physical activity and sport initiatives. In addition to the national winner, there is also a prize for the most active community in each province and territory, as well as prizes for participating organizations.

*The ParticipACTION Community Challenge, presented by Novo Nordisk, is proudly funded by the Government of Canada and Novo Nordisk.*

# LET'S MAKE ROOM TO MOVE!

## We are proud participants of the Community Challenge



Presented by



### Help our community win the title of Canada's Most Active and \$100,000!

- ✔ Register your physical activity initiatives on the ParticipACTION website.
- ✔ Track the number of participants.
- ✔ Support our community.
- 🌐 Visit [ParticipACTION.com](https://www.participaction.com) for more information.



---

**Fw: Five Year Maintenance Plan Request: Tahsis to Zeballos Transmission Line**

---

**From** Janet St. Denis <J.St.Denis@villageoftahsis.com>

**Date** Thu 5/7/2026 8:54 AM

**To** Janet St. Denis <J.St.Denis@villageoftahsis.com>

---

**From:** Pete Nelson-Smith <cao@zeballos.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2026 12:20 PM

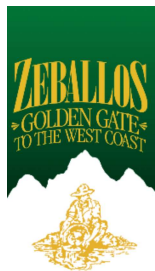
**To:** Ted Olynyk <Ted.Olynyk@bchydro.com>; brian.knoke@bchydro.com

**Cc:** Louwers, Karla <karla.louwers@bchydro.com>; Stacey Miller <admin@ehatis.ca>; administrator <administrator@nuchatlaht.com>; Cynthia Blackstone <cynthiab@kcfirstnations.com>; Mark Tatchell <MTatchell@villageoftahsis.com>

**Subject:** Five Year Maintenance Plan Request: Tahsis to Zeballos Transmission Line

Good afternoon Ted,

Please see the attached letter from Mayor Julie Colborne on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Village of Zeballos. We look forward to your response.



Pete Nelson-Smith

**Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Zeballos**

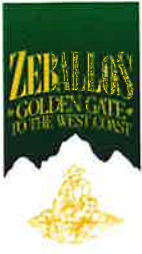
Office: 250-761-4229 Cell: 250-207-8766 Fax: 250-761-4331

a: 157 Maquinna Avenue, Zeballos, BC V0P 2A0

w: [www.zeballos.com](http://www.zeballos.com) e: [cao@zeballos.com](mailto:cao@zeballos.com)

*Respectfully sent from the territory of the Ehattesaht Chinehkint First Nation.*

This transmission (including any attachments) may contain confidential information, privileged material (including material protected by the *FOI Act* or other applicable privileges), or constitute non-public information. Any use of this information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately reply to the sender and delete this information from your system. Use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this transmission by unintended recipients is not authorized and may be unlawful.



L5

## VILLAGE OF ZEBALLOS

PO BOX 127  
157 MAQUINNA AVE  
ZEBALLOS, BC V0P 2A0  
(250) 761-4229  
(250) 761-4331 fax  
Email: [mayor@zeballos.com](mailto:mayor@zeballos.com)

May 06, 2026

**\*Via Email**

Brian Knoke, Executive Vice-President, Operations  
Ted Olynyk, Community Relations Manager  
Karla Louwers, Public Affairs Coordinator  
BC Hydro

**Subject:** Five Year Maintenance Plan Request: Tahsis to Zeballos Transmission Line

Dear Ted,

As you are aware in your role for supporting the flow of information to the community, there were two extended power outages in Zeballos early in 2026. The first outage was from January 8<sup>th</sup> to January 12<sup>th</sup>, and power was interrupted again January 13<sup>th</sup> to January 15<sup>th</sup>. We gratefully acknowledge the work you put in, in communications coordination, and the work the crews put in to restore power in adverse weather conditions.

As with any emergency, equipment failure, or incident, it is typical for responding agencies to reflect on causes, responses and preventions to mitigate future incidents from happening. It is assumed that BCHydro went through similar exercises in the wake of the January events.

Given the rugged landscape that makes the supporting power transmission to the west coast remote communities vulnerable, we are respectfully requesting a review of BCHydro's maintenance plans for the Tahsis – Zeballos transmission line in 2026 and moving forward as a long-term plan to reduce the failures that we endure, typically in the coldest months of the year.

We understand the financial implications of maintaining this corridor, but as Benjamin Franklin, the discoverer of electricity was once quoted as saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

We are graciously anticipating your reply and looking forward to reviewing the maintenance plan that will support our communities this year and into the future.

Respectfully,  
**Village of Zeballos**

Mayor Julie Colborne

Cc: Ehattesaht Chinehkint First Nation, Nuchatlaht First Nation, Kyuquot Checleseht First Nation.

**Office of the Chair**

770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay, BC V9N 0G8  
Tel: 250-334-6000 Fax: 250-334-4358  
Toll free: 1-800-331-6007  
www.comoxvalleyrd.ca



File: 5360-30

May 7, 2026

**Sent via email only: [mtatchell@villageoftahsis.com](mailto:mtatchell@villageoftahsis.com)**

Village of Tahsis  
PO Box 219  
Tahsis, BC V0P 1X0

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: Endorsement of the Solid Waste Management Plan**

The Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) service is updating its Solid Waste Management Plan (the Plan) to meet provincial requirements and better address the region's evolving waste needs. After extensive engagement with community members, staff and experts over the past few years, we are pleased to share a key milestone, the draft Solid Waste Management Plan. The CSWM board adopted the following resolutions at its March 5, 2026 meeting:

*THAT the report dated February 26, 2026 regarding the draft language for the Solid Waste Management Plan renewal for the final stage of the Solid Waste Management Plan process, in preparation for public and First Nations consultation prior to submission to the Ministry of Environment and Parks this summer be received.*

*THAT the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board approve the draft Solid Waste Management Plan for final public and First Nations consultation (step 4), as presented in the staff report dated February 26, 2026.*

As part of our preparation for submission to the Minister of Environment and Parks CSWM is requesting your council review the draft [Plan](#) and if endorsed, provide your support of the Plan by way of council resolution.

Please forward a letter of support to the CSWM no later than June 1, 2026.

*The Comox Strathcona Waste Management service area is located in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw, and Nuuchahnulth territories.*

Comox Strathcona Waste Management manages over 100,000 tonnes of waste and recycled material annually and oversees a number of diversion and education programs for the Strathcona and Comox Valley Regional Districts.

We are extending the opportunity to have staff attend your next council meeting to present and discuss the contents of the Plan and remaining steps towards approval, in order to ensure clarity of content and procedure, and to better facilitate this request. Please contact Krista Robertson, [CSWM@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:CSWM@comoxvalleyrd.ca) and let us know if your Council is interested, and we will coordinate a date and time for an online or in-person presentation.

For general information on the Plan background and planning process please visit [engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp](http://engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp). If you have any questions regarding the content of the Plan, please reach out to Sarah Willie, Manager of Solid Waste Planning and Policy Development, by email at [swillie@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:swillie@comoxvalleyrd.ca) or by telephone at 250-334-6065.

Sincerely,



---

Mark Baker  
Co-Chair



---

Will Cole-Hamilton  
Co-Chair

May 13, 2026

To: Mayor and Council

From: Stephanie Olson on behalf of the Love our Planters group

The group has begun the work of planting flowerboxes for the third year. We have adequate funds from Tahsis donors and a grant from the Neighbourhood Small Grant association. Six new volunteers stepped up to help with gardening. This year we will be tending 21 flower beds.

To further expand our project and celebrate the opening of the refurbished museum/info centre, we would like to buy hanging baskets to be displayed on the building. **In order to do this, it would be necessary for the village to buy and attach hangers for the baskets on the museum building's porch.** This letter is a request for that to be done.

Since there will be staff in that building all summer, **we ask that they water and deadhead** those two baskets as needed.

As in other summers, we request that the **village crew water all beds** on a regular basis especially since this is supposed to be an extra hot summer.

Thank you for consideration of these requests.

March 6, 2026

Honourable Mark Carney  
Prime Minister  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6  
BY EMAIL: [mark.carney@parl.gc.ca](mailto: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](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca)

Auditor General Canada  
240 Sparks Street,  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0G6  
BY EMAIL: [communications@oag-bvg.gc.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:protocoltable@haidanation.com)  
Aidan McLaren-Caux, UBCM Small Communities Group [amclarencaux@nakusp.com](mailto:amclarencaux@nakusp.com)  
Laurie Hopfl, Rural Mayors Health Group [lhopfl@lillooet.ca](mailto:lhopfl@lillooet.ca)  
Medical Services Commission MSC [hlth.bip@gov.bc.ca](mailto:hlth.bip@gov.bc.ca)  
BC Ombudsman