

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2019 at 7:00 pm
IN THE PORT ALICE COUNCIL CHAMBERS



(1) CALL TO ORDER

We are privileged to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Quatsino First Nations.

(2) RESOLUTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED MEETING (6:00 pm)

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to consider matters pursuant to the following sections of the Community Charter:

Section 90 (1) (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

Section 90 (1) (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;

RECONVENE

(3) ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the Village of Port Alice for November 13, 2019, be approved; AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence and other information set to the agenda be received for information.

(4) DELEGATIONS:

Pg 3-5

(5) MINUTES:

a.) THAT the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2019, be approved.

(6) OLD BUSINESS: N\A

Pg 7-9

(7) COMMUNICATIONS:

**a.) Off Road Vehicle Working Group Update
October 22, 2019, Email from Kim Smith, ATV BC**

Recommendation:

THAT a letter be sent to Minister Donaldson supporting the Quad Riders ATV Association of BC, for an Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Management framework, and FURTHER, that it include supporting the revision of the ORV Act so that riders be able to acquire a single Operation Permit for traveling through multiple areas.

Pg 11

b.) 41st Annual Oscar Hickett Tournament Request

October 22, 2019, Email from Patrick Murray, Port Alice Arena Society

Pg 13

c.) Appointment to the 2020 Vancouver Island Regional Library Board

October 28, 2019, Letter from Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director, VIRL

(8) NEW BUSINESS:

Pg 15

(9) REPORTS:

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**
TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2019 at 7:00 pm
IN THE PORT ALICE COUNCIL CHAMBERS



a.) RDMW Noxious Weed Control Program
November 6, 2019, Report by Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

Pg 17

b.) Reconsideration of Motion
November 6, 2019, Report by Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

Pg 19

c.) Monthly Fire Chief's Report for October 2019
November 5, 2019, Report from Jerry Rose, Fire Chief

(10) BYLAWS: N\A

(11) QUESTION PERIOD:

(12) ADJOURNMENT:
THAT the meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held November 13, 2019, be adjourned.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. October 31, 2019, Press Release from Vancouver Island Regional Library re Video Games have landed at VIRL
2. October 31, 2019, Letter from the Honourable Katrine Conroy, Ministry of Children and Family Development, re November is Adoption Awareness month

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23, 2019
IN THE PORT ALICE COUNCIL CHAMBERS



Present Councillor Bruce Lloyd
Councillor Angela Yunker
Councillor Holly Aldis
Mayor Kevin Cameron
Councillor Sean Watson

Staff Bonnie Danyk, CAO / CFO

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 pm

Mayor Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

114/19
Adoption of
Agenda

MOVED by Councillor Aldis / Seconded by Councillor Lloyd

*THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the Village of Port Alice for October 23, 2019, be approved: **AND THAT** all delegations, reports, correspondence and other information set to the agenda be received for information.*

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS:

MOWI- To discuss certification programs and future innovations

Renee Hamel and Chris Read gave a presentation on the Aquaculture Stewardship Council Certification and MOWI's progress in achieving the certification.

MINUTES:

115/19
Minutes
October 2

MOVED by Councillor Aldis/ Seconded by Councillor Lloyd

THAT the minutes for the Special Council Meeting held on October 2, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

116/19
Minutes
October 9

MOVED by Councillor Aldis / Seconded by Councillor Lloyd

THAT the minutes for the Regular Meeting held on October 9, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Notice of Motion – re: Council Remuneration

117/19
COLA 2020

MOVED by Councillor Lloyd / Seconded by Councillor Watson

***WHEREAS** given our ongoing financial situation **THAT** for the Year 2020 Council agrees to forgo the cost of living increase to their monthly remuneration.*

CARRIED

118/19
Wage Subsidy

MOVED by Councillor Yunker / Seconded by Councillor Lloyd

That for the Year 2020 Council agrees to cancel the reimbursement for lost wages policy in regard to attendance at meetings, training or conferences for Council Members.

CARRIED

b) Signing Authority with Imperial Bank of Commerce

119/19
CIBC Signing
Authority

MOVED by Councillor Yunker / Seconded by Councillor Aldis

WHEREAS the Council of the Village of Port Alice must approve and execute a signing authority with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for the members of Council, Chief Administrative Officer, Financial Officer and Administrative Assistant;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following persons have signing authority for the Village of Port Alice:

- Kevin Cameron, Mayor
- Holly Aldis, Councillor
- Bruce Lloyd, Councillor
- Sean Watson, Councillor
- Angela Yunker, Councillor
- Bonnie Danyk, Chief Administrative Officer/Finance Officer
- Tanya Spafford, Administrative Assistant

CARRIED

REPORTS:

a) Tiny Houses

October 16, 2019 Report from Bonnie Danyk, CAO / CFO

b) CEPF Grant – Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments

October 16, 2019 Report from CAO / CFO

120/19
CEPF Fire
Dept Grant

MOVED by Councillor Yunker / Seconded by Councillor Lloyd

THAT the Village of Port Alice apply to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training program for funding to purchase SCBA equipment to a maximum grant amount of \$25,000.

CARRIED

c) Accounts Payable Listing for September 2019

October 17 2019 Report from Bonnie Danyk CAO / CFO

d) Summary of Revenues and Expenses for September 2019

October 17, 2019 Report from Bonnie Danyk CAO / CFO

BYLAWS:

a) Bylaw 656- Bylaw to Dispose of Park land Dedicated by a Subdivision Plan in the Village of Port Alice

121/19
Bylaw 656
MOVED by Councillor Lloyd / Seconded by Councillor Yunker

THAT Bylaw – 656 to disposal of park land dedicated by a subdivision plan be given fourth Reading and adoption
CARRIED

b) Bylaw 658- Borrowing Bylaw

122/19
Bylaw 658
MOVED by Councillor Yunker / Seconded by Councillor Lloyd

THAT Bylaw 658- Borrowing Bylaw be given fourth reading and adoption
CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

123/19
Adjournment
MOVED by Councillor Lloyd / Seconded by Councillor Aldis

THAT the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice held October 23, 2019, be adjourned at 7:55 pm
CARRIED

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held October 23, 2019.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

From: kim@atvbc.ca
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 6:52 PM
To: 'Marie Crawford'; greenwoodcity@shaw.ca; mayor.adams@campbellriver.ca; ed.smith@greenwoodcity.ca; rsmith@loganlake.ca; jdoward@porthardy.ca; lwishart@porthardy.ca; gbushell@sicamous.ca; jeff.mallmes@gmail.com; jwall@dtr.ca; cdc@village.clinton.bc.ca; grbunger@conumacable.com; info@portalice.ca; mayor.lockwood@salmo.ca; wmives57@yahoo.ca; iskarst22@gmail.com; mtatchell@villageoftahsis.com; mayor@zeballos.com; gjackman@kootenay.com; al.radke@powellriverrd.bc.ca; sbeeching@elkford.ca; mike@directorareaa.ca; lackerman@fortstjohn.ca; mmercer@lakecountry.bc.ca; mwoods@rdos.bc.ca; carol.zanon@westkelownacity.ca; cao@valemount.ca; cnewsom@gochetwynd.com; nmurphy@islandstrust.bc.ca; tosborne@rdn.bc.ca; tluck@merritt.ca; dpatan@summerland.ca; mvanalp@gmail.com; cao@canalflats.ca; troberts@rdos.bc.ca; alison.lauzon@chasebc.ca; thekeep.rg61@gmail.com; petep1@telus.net; jmassier@cariboord.ca; todd@dalexauto.com
Cc: 'Vukelich, Vera FLNR:EX'; 'Art Kaehn'
Subject: RE: Off Road Vehicles Working Group UPDATE - UBCM Conference Call
Attachments: District of Sicamous - Letter of Support_ORV Management Framework 2019-09-13.pdf; City of Campbell River - Min D Donaldson re ORV Mgmt 11 Oct 2019.pdf; TOTA ORV Support Letter - Sep 2019.pdf

Hi All,

Now that everyone has had a chance to recover from the whirlwind week of UBCM and hopefully enjoyed a relaxing thanksgiving holiday, would like to reconnect with the group and thank everyone for their support of ORV tourism and resolution B121 which was widely endorsed by the members at the convention.

We had the pleasure of speaking with various communities and the support for ORV tourism far exceeded our expectations with many rural communities eager to learn more about the economic opportunities, community connectivity, and improved access from trail network to services to facilitate tourism with 10 new interested members which brings the working group to over 30 local government groups as follows:

Cariboo Regional District	District of Sicamous	Village of Chase
City of Campbell River	District of Summerland	Village of Clinton
City of Fort St. John	District of Tumbler Ridge	Village of Gold River
City of Greenwood	Islands Trust	Village of Midway
City of Merritt	Northern Rockies Regional Municipality	Village of Port Alice
City of West Kelowna	qathet Regional District	Village of Salmo
District of Chetwynd	Regional District of Central Kootenay	Village of Sayward
District of Elkford	Regional District of East Kootenay	Village of Tahsis
District of Lake Country	Regional District of Nanaimo	Village of Valemount
District of Logan Lake	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen	Village of Zeballos
District of Port Hardy	Village of Canal Flats	

I have copied all the above communities on this email to connect the new members with the existing group as during the call in August it was discussed that the working group would reconvene after UBCM to discuss next steps regarding:

- community support letters in support of ORV tourism and B121

- requests from communities interested in expanding their tourism/economic development potential through pilots/improved access to trail networks
- update from Vera Vukelich regarding follow up with applicable Ministry(s) in response to community requests for ATV pilot program
- ORV Act – due for its 5 year review (opportunities for local government input?)

I have attached a sampling of the support letters the we have received for reference (and look forward to receiving more).

Lastly wanted to mention that the Provincial ORV Trail Fund will be opening its next intake for grant applications in early 2020 (likely Feb/Mar) which provides funding for ORV (mixed use) trail maintenance and development, as well as safe and responsible use of ORVs, therefore I encourage you to visit [ORV Trail Fund](#) to see the funding opportunities as last year the District of Hudson's Hope was awarded \$20,000 towards an ATV campground which allowed the District to market themselves as ATV friendly to improve their economy. With the rural dividend fund suspended, this could be a viable alternative funding option for trails development and maintenance in your community.

Art, Marie and Vera, it would be greatly appreciated if we could please schedule a follow up ORV Working Group call at your convenience.

Kind Regards,

Kim Smith

General Manager

Quad Riders ATV Association of British Columbia

kim@atvbc.ca

Tel: 604 534 0537

From: Marie Crawford <mcrawford@ubcm.ca>

Sent: July 30, 2019 11:17 AM

To: greenwoodcity@shaw.ca; mayor.adams@campbellriver.ca; ed.smith@greenwoodcity.ca; rsmith@loganlake.ca; jdorward@porthardy.ca; lwishart@porthardy.ca; gbushell@sicamous.ca; jeff.mallmes@gmail.com; jwall@dtr.ca; cdc@village.clinton.bc.ca; grbunger@conumacable.com; info@portalice.ca; mayor.lockwood@salmo.ca; wmives57@yahoo.ca; iskarst22@gmail.com; mtatchell@villageoftahsis.com; mayor@zeballos.com; gjackman@kootenay.com; al.radke@powellriverrd.bc.ca; mike@directorareaa.ca; sbeeching@elkford.ca; lackerman@fortstjohn.ca; mmercerc@lakecountry.bc.ca; mwoods@rdos.bc.ca; carol.zanon@westkelownacity.ca; cao@valemount.ca; cnewsom@gochetwynd.com; nmurphy@islandstrust.bc.ca; tosborne@rdn.bc.ca

Cc: Vukelich, Vera FLNR:EX <vera.vukelich@gov.bc.ca>; Art Kaehn <akaehn@rdffg.bc.ca>; Kim Smith - ATVBC <kim@atvbc.ca>

Subject: Off Road Vehicles Working Group UPDATE - UBCM Conference Call

Good Morning UBCM members:

On behalf of Chair Art Kaehn, UBCM's Electoral Area Representative and Chair of the UBCM Community Economic Development Committee, I am reaching out to you since you, or your community, have previously been part of the UBCM's Off Road Vehicle (ORV) working group; or your contact information has been provided to UBCM by Kim Smith at ATVBC.

In March 2014 the ORV Act was passed, over five years ago. And while the legislation responded to UBCM member concerns related to regulating and licensing of ORVs we understand that some communities have concerns about some limitations related to trail access/connectivity. UBCM has also received three resolutions related to operation permits for consideration at this year's Convention. As a result, UBCM felt it was timely to check back in with interested members, provide an overview

of the existing rules and regulations and hear from affected communities about some of the concerns related to implementation and economic development (tourism) interests as it relates to ORVs.

Vera Vukelich, Manager, Land Policy and Programs of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is the provincial staff person that has supported the ORV file since its inception. We would like to arrange a conference call with interested local governments and Vera to provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the background to the ORV Act but also give you a chance to share your questions and concerns with Vera.

Please log into the doodle poll and indicate when you are available for a conference call:

<https://doodle.com/poll/uqn8qigv5rbzs3vt>

Once we hear from everyone we will send out the confirmed date and time for the conference call that works for the majority of participants.

Thanks,
Marie Crawford

Marie Crawford
General Manager, Richmond Operations
UBCM
Phone: 604.270.8226 ext.104
Email: mcrawford@ubcm.ca

The Compass: Weekly News and Information from UBCM -- subscribe for free at www.ubcm.ca



Virus-free. www.avq.com

Bonnie Danyk

From: Pat Murray <madmallard@shaw.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 11:50 AM
To: Bonnie Danyk
Cc: Natalie Stewart; Kysa Moretto; John Smith
Subject: 41st Annual Oscar Hickee Tournament Request

October 22, 2019

Village of Port Alice Mayor and Council

Dear sir:

I am writing this as a member of the Oscar Hickee Memorial Hockey Tournament organizing committee.

As you are no doubt aware, this tournament has been successfully held for the past 40 years. This coming edition would mark the 41st anniversary of what has become the longest running tournament of its kind on Vancouver Island.

Although it is a tournament for adult hockey players, this tournament represents the major source of fundraising for the various youth groups participating. These groups include (but are not limited to) the Port Alice Minor Hockey Association, Henry Penny Pre-school, youth soccer, and Dry Grad.

Over the duration of this tournament, we estimate that the total funds raised are well in excess of \$300,000. This does not include the associated revenue generated by the various businesses in Port Alice directly and the rest of the North Island in general.

We are writing this letter to ask the following question:

If the Port Alice Arena Society pays all the costs (to be determined) for the installation and removal of the hockey ice plus associated arena operating costs, would the Village of Port Alice agree to allow the 41st Annual Oscar Hickee Memorial Hockey Tournament to be held March 27th through March 29th, 2020?

Kindest regards,

Patrick Murray



Administration
Box 3333 | 6250 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC Canada V9R 5N3
t: 250.758.4697 f: 250.758.2482
e: info@virl.bc.ca w: www.virl.bc.ca

October 28, 2019

Mayor Kevin Cameron
Village of Port Alice
PO Box 130, 1061 Marine Drive
Port Alice, BC V0N 2N0
Original sent via email: mayor@portalice.ca

Dear Mayor Cameron,

Re: Appointment to the 2020 Vancouver Island Regional Library Board

It is time to consider your 2020 representation on the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) Board of Trustees. VIRL is the fifth largest library system in British Columbia serving more than 457,000 residents on Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii, and Bella Coola on the Central Coast. VIRL enhances lives through universal access to knowledge, lifelong learning, and literacy in the communities we serve.

When appointing your representative, the *Library Act* (October 9, 2019), section 17 (2) states:

"All subsequent regular appointments must be made each November at the first meeting of the municipal council or regional district board."

The term of office is one year, January 1 to December 31. Reappointment of sitting members is encouraged for continuity, but no member may serve for more than 8 consecutive years.

The *Library Act*, section 55, reimbursement of expenses states: "(1) The members of a library board are not entitled to be paid by the library board for their services but may be reimbursed by it for reasonable travelling and out of pocket expenses, including child care expenses, necessarily incurred by them in performing their duties under this Act. (2) A library board may not reimburse a member for any expenses if another body reimburses the member for the expenses or pays the expenses.

VIRL requires annual documentation by December 16, 2019 for both your appointed VIRL Trustee and Alternate, including:

1. Certified copy of the Resolution (by provincial legislation)
2. Financial disclosure statement (original or copy of that on file with the municipality/district)
3. VIRL 2020 Appointment form

Strong Libraries • Strong Communities

Bella Coola Bowser Campbell River Chemainus Comox Cortes Island Courtenay Cowichan Cowichan Lake Cumberland
Gabriola Island Gold River Hornby Island Ladysmith Masset Nanaimo Harbourfront Nanaimo North Nanaimo Wellington
Parksville Port Alberni Port Alice Port Clements Port Hardy Port McNeill Port Renfrew Quadra Island Qualicum Beach Queen
Charlotte Sandspit Sayward Sidney/North Saanich Soanula Sooke South Cowichan Taisis Tofino Ucluelet Union Bay West



VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor & Council
From: CAO / CFO
Date: November 6, 2019
Subject: RDMW Noxious Weed Control Program

The Regional District of Mount Waddington has been operating a Noxious Weed Control Program for the last five years. The main focus of the program has been knotweed eradication. The program has been funded through a grant from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and small contributions from the communities who have participated in the program. In 2019 the program sent a crew to Port Alice for five days for knotweed eradication. The Village of Port Alice did not contribute any funding to the program in 2019.

The Regional District of Mount Waddington has advised that the grant funding will no longer be available for the program after this year. They would like to continue the program and at a meeting on October 30, 2019 presented a funding model based on higher contributions from participating communities and a contribution from the RDMW solid waste budget.

The amount that would potentially be requested from the Village of Port Alice for the program would be \$2,700. This funding would give us five days of eradication as well as producing the required reports to the Province.

If Council is interested in continuing this service with the Regional District of Mount Waddington the expense could be added to the 2020-2025 Financial Plan.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie Danyk
CAO / CFO



VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor & Council
From: CAO / CFO
Date: November 6, 2019
Subject: Reconsideration of Motion

At our last Council meeting Motion # 118/19 regarding cancelling the Council wage subsidy for 2020 was passed. As per our Procedure Bylaw "A motion that deals with a matter that is not on the agenda of the Council meeting at which the motion is introduced may be introduced with Council's permission".

Sometimes when a motion is introduced without a backup report or an opportunity to think about it Council members will vote and then change their mind later. Our procedure bylaw addresses this with the following:

Reconsideration by Council Member

25. (a) Subject to subsection (e), a Council member may, at the next Council meeting,
- (i) move to reconsider a matter on which a vote, other than to postpone indefinitely, has been taken, and
 - (ii) move to reconsider an adopted Bylaw after an interval of at least 24 hours following its adoption.
- (b) A Council member who voted affirmatively for a resolution adopted by Council may at any time move to rescind that resolution.
- (c) Council must not discuss the main matter referred to in subsection (a) unless a motion to reconsider that matter is adopted in the affirmative.
- (d) A vote to reconsider must not be reconsidered.
- (e) Council may only reconsider a matter that has not
- (i) had the approval or assent of the electors and been adopted,
 - (ii) been reconsidered under subsection (a) or section 131 of the Community Charter,
 - (iii) been acted on by an officer, employee, or agent of the Village.
- (f) The conditions that applied to the adoption of the original Bylaw, resolution, or proceeding apply to its rejection under this section.
- (g) A Bylaw, resolution, or proceeding that is reaffirmed under subsection (a) or section 131 of the Community Charter is as valid and has the same effect as it had before reconsideration.

In regard to Motion #118/19 there was some concern, therefore I recommend the following motion:

THAT Motion #118/19 *"That for the Year 2020 Council agrees to cancel the reimbursement for lost wages policy in regard to attendance at meetings, training or conferences for Council Members" be reconsidered.*

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie Danyk
CAO / CFO

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE

Port Alice Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief's Monthly Report For the month of Oct, 2019

Active Members	11	Number Of False Alarms	0
On Leave	0	Mutual Aid Calls	0
Rescue Calls	2	Lift Assist Calls	0
Fire Calls	0	Public Relation Events	0

Practices:

Date	Attendance	Purpose
Oct. 1	6	Ambulance practice/learning – New Ambulance
Oct. 2	5	MVA on HWY #30
Oct. 8	7	Ropes Practice
Oct. 15	3	Ambulance practice/learning – New Ambulance
Oct.22	2	ATV accident near Link River
Oct.29	7	Monthly Equipment Checks & Assoc. meeting
Oct.31	5	Halloween / Fireworks

Public Relations Events:

Situation Responses:

Fire Chief: _____ 

Administrator: _____ 



Gateway to the Wild West Coast

INFORMATION ITEMS



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Video Games have landed at VIRL

Friday, November 1, 2019, Vancouver Island, BC – Gamers on Vancouver Island, grab your consoles and get ready. There's a new way for you to access some of the hottest video games on the market thanks to Vancouver Island Regional Library's (VIRL) new video game collection. Starting today, VIRL is lending games for the Playstation 4, Nintendo Switch, and Xbox One to anyone with a VIRL library card.

"We know that our customers are avid media consumers," says Emily Mathews, VIRL's Divisional Manager of Collections and Support Services. "Video games are wildly popular in our communities, particularly with Millennials and Generation Xers, and it is vital that we provide library content to complement their interests and passions. We are so excited to be offering this service."

In addition to lending games to customers, VIRL will also explore opportunities to provide more game-based programming in our branches. These type of programs help promote our branches as social hubs and community gathering spaces throughout our service areas.

VIRL's Board of Trustees supports the adoption of video games into our collection.

The video games can be borrowed for one week with the option to renew twice if there are no holds. More information, including game ratings and how to access the full suite of games, [is available on our website.](#)

#####

For more information

David Carson, Director, Corporate Communications and Strategic Initiatives

Direct: 250.753.1154 ex 248

Cell: 250.327.3651

Email: dcarson@virl.bc.ca

From: MCF Info MCF:EX <MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 1:00 PM
To: XT:PortAlice, Village ENV:IN
Subject: Letter from the Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 245429

His Worship Mayor Kevin Cameron
Village of Port Alice
E-mail: info@portalice.ca

Dear Mayor Cameron:

As Minister of Children and Family Development, I am honoured to once again proclaim November as Adoption Awareness month. This month of recognition encourages us to reflect on those in our province who have selflessly opened their hearts and lives through adoption. This month, we also take the time to champion and guide those who might consider adopting now or in the future.

It is my wish to see a province where growing up in a stable home with food, shelter and love is a given for all children and youth in British Columbia. Unfortunately, there are hundreds of young people still hoping to find a home and a family to call their own. Adoption can provide some of the most vulnerable people in our communities with the support and guidance necessary to thrive in both the present and as they grow into adulthood.

For more information on the Adoption Campaign of 2019, please visit Adoptnow.ca.

Proclaiming November as Adoption Awareness month is not the only way your community can support adoptive parents and those who might choose to adopt in the future. In addition to your proclamation, you could organize an information session for prospective parents in your community or a celebration for those who are already adoptive parents. You can explore the variety of adoption awareness events happening around our province in November here: <https://www.bcadoption.com/aam>. If you would like more guidance or information on how to champion and raise awareness about adoption, please connect with Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) staff at MCF.AdoptionsBranch@gov.bc.ca.

An important pillar for all those involved in adoptions in British Columbia is [The Adoptive Families Association of British Columbia](#), which has been a support for adoptive families in British Columbia for over forty years. You may wish to [connect with the association](#) to learn more about your community's involvement in adoption events, their contact information, as well as contact information for the licensed adoption agencies in British Columbia and more.

[Adopt BC Kids](#) is an online portal that allows citizens to complete an adoption application 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I encourage you to take the time to explore this resource and provide it to any community members who are interested in adopting a child in foster care.

On behalf of MCFD, thank you for leading your communities and supporting both those who have opened their homes and hearts and those who might do so in the future. With your help and support, more children and youth could find their forever homes.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Katrine Conroy
Minister

Sent on behalf of the Minister by:



Client Relations Branch
Executive Operations
Ministry of Children and Family De



Virus-free. www.avg.com