

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE  
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**  
TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2020 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 (6:30 pm)**

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

*Section 90 (1) (c) labour relations or other employee relations;*

**RECONVENE**

**(3) ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

*THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the Village of Port Alice for February 26, 2020, be approved; AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence and other information set to the agenda be received for information.*

**(4) DELEGATIONS:**

**(5) MINUTES:**

*a.) THAT the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2020, be approved.*

**(6) OLD BUSINESS: N/A**

**(7) COMMUNICATIONS:**

Emergency Support Services Modernization  
February 21, 2020, Letter from Lori Halls, Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC

**(8) NEW BUSINESS:**

Displaced Worker Research Study through Decoda Literacy Society  
February 20, 2020 email from Leslie Dyck, MW Literacy

**(9) REPORTS:**

a.) Accounts Payable Listing for January 2020  
February 19, 2020, Report by Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

**(10) BYLAWS:**

**(11) QUESTION PERIOD:**

**(12) ADJOURNMENT:**

*THAT the meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held February 26, 2020, be adjourned.*

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1. January 18, 2020, From the Board Table, Vancouver Island Regional Library Newsletter
2. February 4, 2020, City of Port Moody, Resolution to support a National Universal Pharmacare program, from Mayor Rob Vagramov

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**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2020  
IN THE PORT ALICE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**



**Present**

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

**Staff**

Bonnie Danyk, CAO / CFO

**CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 pm**

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

**13/20  
Adoption of  
Agenda**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Moved, seconded and CARRIED

*THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the Village of Port Alice for February 12, 2020, be approved with the addition of the Report regarding RDMW Taxes under **NEW BUSINESS**: AND **THAT** all delegations, reports, correspondence and other information set to the agenda be received for information.*

**DELEGATION:**

Greg Beatty, the new Community Paramedic and Maria Fraser BCEHS Unit Chief

Greg Beatty gave an overview of the Community Paramedic Program. Greg's education and orientation are now complete. The program focusses on community health and wellness. HE will be running various events including a monthly health promotion topic in conjunction with the Community Centre.

**MINUTES:**

**14/20  
Minutes  
January 22**

Moved, seconded and CARRIED

*THAT the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on January 22, 2020 be adopted.*

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

a) Government of Canada's Ocean Protection Plan- Places of Refuge Initiative  
January 23, 2020, Letter from Captain David Kyle, Place of Refuge Initiative Lead.

**15/20  
Place of  
Refuge  
Initiative**

Moved, seconded and CARRIED

*THAT the Village of Port Alice let Captain David Kyle know that we are interested in participating in the POR planning process and FURTHER THAT Councillor Sean Watson will be the point of contact on behalf of the Village of Port Alice.*

B Request for Letter of Support for RDMW Tub Grinder.

February 5, 2020, Letter from Patrick Donaghy, Operations Manager, RDMW

**16/20  
Letter of  
Support**

Moved, seconded and CARRIED

**THAT** the Village of Port Alice write a letter of support for the Regional District of Mount Waddington's application to the Canada-BC Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for the purchase of a wood grinder.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Report regarding RDMW Taxes for Neucel Mill Property

**REPORTS:**

a) Fire Chief's Report for December 2019

January 27, 2020, Report from Jerry Rose, Fire Chief

b) Fire Chief's Report for January 2020

February 5, 2020, Report from Jerry Rose, Fire Chief

**BYLAWS:**

a) Bylaw 659, -Village of Port Alice Official Community Plan Amendment for First and Second Reading

17/20  
Bylaw 659

Moved, seconded and CARRIED

**THAT** Bylaw 659, Village of Port Alice Official Community Plan Amendment receive First and Second Reading

18/20  
Adjournment

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved, seconded and CARRIED

**THAT** the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice held February 12, 2020, be adjourned at 7:20 pm

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held February 12, 2020.

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Mayor

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Chief Administrative Officer



February 21, 2020

**Re: Emergency Support Services Modernization:**

Dear Chief Administrative Officer:

As you are aware, the Province is committed to implementing lessons learned from the 2017 and 2018 flood and wildfire seasons and adopting the United Nations' Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In doing so, BC is changing the way we approach emergency management. In support of this shift, Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) is modernizing the *Emergency Program Act*, enabling us to work together to implement the legislative changes needed moving forward.

Since the release of the *Emergency Program Act* discussion paper on October 28, 2019, EMBC has received a great deal of helpful feedback on the proposed policy changes. In the Spring we will be publicly releasing a "What We Heard Report".

Ensuring that the needs of the citizens impacted by emergencies are supported is a priority for EMBC. As part of the Province's modernization of the broader emergency management system, EMBC is working to modernize the Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program. The ESS Modernization Project aims to ensure that evacuated individuals can access services more easily and efficiently, while enhancing administration, reporting and financial accountabilities at all levels of government. Initiated in 2018, phase one of the project included; rebranding of the program name from *Emergency Social Services* to *Emergency Support Services* to reflect feedback received from local governments; an increase to evacuee meal per diems; policy amendments; and most notably, the development of a digital registration and referral proof of concept that was successfully piloted in four communities over a six-month period during Spring/Summer of 2019.

Phase two of the project continues to build on the work from phase one, recognizing the importance of engagement at every step and the value of collaborative and transparent processes. ESS Modernization components have been broken into packages to be implemented as appropriate by your community Emergency Program and/or Emergency Support Services Program.

Packages includes the following:

- Program Branding – New Provincial Emergency Support Services Logo and program vision statement;
- Technical Planning Information – Pilot Community feedback and recommendations;
- ESS Modernization Survey; and
- The Path to ESS Modernization.

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Phase two will have a large focus on the development and provincial implementation of the online Evacuee Registration Assistance (ERA) tool to be rolled out through to Spring 2021. The ERA tool will be developed and implemented in a phased approach, enabling communities to realize the benefits in real-time as they become available. Starting in April 2020, the ERA tool will have the functionality to support: evacuee self-registration, digital registration and referrals, and basic reporting. Increased functionality will be developed and implemented, including; a *Vendor Portal* - improving the process and time for ESS vendors to be reimbursed. The final development and implementation in Spring 2021, will shift the method of ESS support delivery to empower evacuees to make decisions to best support themselves during an evacuation and will include direct payment options to vendors and to evacuees.

EMBC understands that it may not be feasible for all communities to implement the ERA tool and will be rolling out implementation and training in a phased approach. In order to develop an informed provincial implementation and training strategy, we are asking all Local Authorities and First Nations to have their Emergency Program Coordinator, or person responsible for their Emergency and or ESS program, complete the *ESS Modernization Survey*. The survey link and instructions are included in the attached package. This information will be used to inform the development of the provincial implementation plan that will be shared with communities in the Spring of 2020.

The work being done at all levels of government to modernize Emergency Support Services programs represents a significant step forward in modernizing Emergency Management in British Columbia.

If you have any questions, please contact Madeline Maley, Assistant Deputy Minister, Response Operations at [madeline.maley@gov.bc.ca](mailto:madeline.maley@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Lori Halls  
Deputy Minister  
Emergency Management BC

Attachments: ESS Modernization Package

pc: Madeline L. Maley, RPF, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC  
Emergency Program Coordinator

Reference: 563605

## BRANDING INFORMATION FOR THE EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM

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Following the 2017 and 2018 response season, Local Authorities, First Nations and the ESS community provided feedback about the ESS program branding and identity. As a result, the program was officially renamed “Emergency Support Services” on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The intention was to remove the perception of ‘social services’ while simultaneously increasing awareness of basic needs and supports administered on a temporary basis via the ESS program.

### Approved Logo

The following is the approved logo that can be used by local ESS programs throughout the Province.

There is no requirement for local teams to adopt the Provincial ESS Program logo. EMBC will be utilizing the logo on all newly developed material going forward.

Pdf files have been attached in a separate document for your use.



### ESS Program Vision

To support the updated program name and logo, EMBC worked with a variety of partners to develop the program vision.

***Emergency Support Services is a Provincial Program delivered by Local Authorities and First Nations that meets the basic needs of British Columbians impacted by disasters by providing short-term support in a compassionate manner.***

## TECHNICAL PLANNING INFORMATION FOR THE EVACUEE AND REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE (ERA) TOOL

Equipment Type	Roadside/in the field	Reception Centre
<b>Computers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iPad or Chromebooks with a protective case to minimize weight and allow portability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laptop computers with larger screens including keyboards and mice to assist in data entry.</li> <li>These computer devices must have the ability to read PDF documents.</li> </ul>
<b>Printers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Portable/Bluetooth enabled printers</li> <li>The correct printer drivers must be loaded onto computer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multifunction devices for scanning, copying and printing.</li> <li>The correct printer drivers must be loaded onto computers</li> </ul>
<b>Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobile hotspots provided by network providers and/or portable WiFi routers enabled devices to connect to the internet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internet provided to devices through WiFi or hardwire network cable in established Reception Centre facilities</li> </ul>

<b>Best Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extra chargers and power bars (including battery operated) are recommended.</li> <li>Data plans should be reviewed in advance to ensure coverage and estimate costs required for remote connectivity. Mobile providers may be able to establish a mobile network that can provide connection to a community that isn't serviced.</li> <li>Community Emergency and ESS Plans should be adjusted to consider use of IT. This includes determining connectivity in pre-identified RC/GL locations and data coverage in core and outlying community areas. The plan should also establish procedures for tech support from their Local or First Nations Government.</li> <li>ESS Teams develop standard operating procedures for callouts including who will keep and update IT devices, how they will be signed out and how they will be secured when used in the field.</li> </ul>
<b>Purchasing Responsibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local and First Nations Governments are responsible to purchase hardware to support ESS response within their jurisdiction. Communities are encouraged to apply for the <u>Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Grant</u> administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. The Provincial Government, through EMBC, may make available additional laptop computers as surge support. These can be accessed through a resource request through the British Columbia Emergency Management System.</li> </ul>







Emergency  
ManagementBC

## EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES MODERNIZATION SURVEY

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Starting April 1, 2020, Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) will launch the new Emergency Support Services **Evacuee Registration Assistance (ERA)** tool. Provincial implementation will be conducted in a phased approach in support of Local Authorities and First Nations Emergency Support Services (ESS) programs across the province.

This survey will be used to gather information about your Local Authority or First Nation Emergency Support Services program, to inform the training and implementation plan. *All Local Authorities and First Nations communities are being asked to complete this survey by March 13, 2020.*

This survey will take **less than 10 minutes** to complete.

Survey Link: <https://survey.jag.gov.bc.ca/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=158032524900>

If you have questions about this survey, please contact [essmodernization@gov.bc.ca](mailto:essmodernization@gov.bc.ca).

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## Displaced Worker Research Study through Decoda Literacy Society

From: Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society <mwfamilyliteracy@gmail.com>

Date: 02/20/2020 11:20AM

To: info@portalice.ca

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Hi Tanya,

I am working with MW Literacy Now to help bring together a table of representatives from our region to discuss displaced workers and the impact on them and to the larger community. I would like to invite a representative from the Port Alice town counsel to join the table. Please let me know your process on how to proceed. I have copied our invitation letter below. Our regional meeting that I will co-host in partnership with SRDC and Decoda Literacy will be on March 5th in Port McNeill.

\*\*\*\*

The Region of Mount Waddington was selected to be part of a federal study of Displaced Workers and we are *inviting a representative from your organization to be part of the local Project Outreach Team.*

**Objective:** the project aims to fill knowledge gaps on what works for Literacy and Essential Skills (LES) support and training for displaced workers to improve their employability. The project will seek to enhance knowledge and raise awareness of promising LES service responses to workforce displacement for individuals and communities in Canada.

**Who are displaced workers:** people whose lives and work have been disrupted by employment loss through circumstances like industry slowdowns, mill closures, natural disasters or factors such as policy changes or physical displacement. (Does not include seasonal or project-based workers).

### Research Study Partners:

- **Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society (MWFLS)** – Local Project Lead
- **Decoda Literacy Solutions** – Provincial Project Lead
- **Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC)** will design surveys and conduct literacy review, focus groups & surveys
- **Learning Metrix** – will manage project data

**Outreach Team Role:** Outreach Team members will help identify workers, employers, and government and community service agencies who are affected by worker displacement. They will provide input on local impacts, whether existing programs are effective, and what gaps exist in the current system. They will also investigate local employer needs.

Team members will meet with SRDC for an in-depth discussion of local displaced workers.

**Time Commitment:** Participation will initially consist of attending a half-day meeting within the region (agenda and “save the date” to follow), completion of a survey, as well as additional follow up calls.

For further information and to confirm your participation on the Outreach Team, please contact: Leslie Dyck at [mwfamilyliteracy@gmail.com](mailto:mwfamilyliteracy@gmail.com) or 250-230-1879.

Sincerely,  
Leslie Dyck

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**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE LISTING FOR JANUARY 2020**

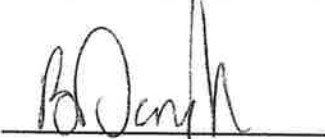
Total Payment of Accounts: \$32,416.68

Wages Payable: \$33,056.14

**Total Accounts Payable Listing** \$65,472.82

If you have any questions regarding the cheques on this month's Accounts Payable Listing, please ask me.

Respectfully submitted



Bonnie Danyk  
Finance Officer



Cheque #	Bank	Pay Date	Vendor #	Vendor Name	Invoice #	Description	Invoice Amount	Hold Amount	Paid Amount	Void
046556	001	14/01/2020	S-018	SCOTIABANK	30112019 7999412 11122019 189875 421840 7680200 4662388614500 5588232 5504216828 16122019 20191217 413827	Tree Light Up cook Gates for CC Stage Spinner Motor for Christmas Gift Cer Light Bulbs Hammer Drill Cutting Disc Set Bar Clamp CC and VO supplies Snow plow part CC Maintenance Sup Xmas supplies	89.88 117.40 434.66 1,200.00 36.12 189.49 180.28 80.64 211.38 193.38 566.10 115.93		3,415.26	
046557	001	14/01/2020	S-018	SCOTIABANK	Phone Nov 19 Cell Nov 19 Sr Dinner 19 Door Prize GC Internet 1219 9124	Phone Charges Cell Phone charges Sr Dinner Liquor L GC for xmas events Webhosting Plasma Cutter	863.40 289.60 25.00 700.00 19.04 709.80		2,606.84	
046558	001	14/01/2020	K-112	KWC PLANNING SERVI	1319	OCP Planning fees	1,260.00		1,260.00	
046559	001	14/01/2020	L-080	LIDSTONE & COMPANY	26583 26584	Legal Fees Legal Fees	611.12 1,058.97		1,670.09	
046560	001	14/01/2020	N-140	NORTH ISLAND IMAGE	2019	2019 Retail Sales	139.61		139.61	
046561	001	14/01/2020	P-172	PORT ALICE PHOTOGR	2019	2019 Retail Sales	126.01		126.01	
046562	001	14/01/2020	S-151	SEA TO SKY NETWORK	15726	Hosted Back up	44.80		44.80	
046563	001	24/01/2020	A-045	ALSCO UNIFORM & LI	LNAN732003	PW Coveralls	89.50		89.50	
046564	001	24/01/2020	B-061	BROOKS BAY CABLE C	Jan Internet	January Internet	369.60		369.60	
046565	001	24/01/2020	C-008	A-MAIS TECHNOLOGIE	2020037	Finance System	10,535.29		10,535.29	
046566	001	24/01/2020	C-080	BRANDT TRACTOR LTD	5559821	Resistor	145.11		145.11	
046567	001	24/01/2020	C-115	CIVICINFO BC	2020-0030	Membership Dues	149.10		149.10	
046568	001	24/01/2020	G-060	GREGG DISTRIBUTORS	011-749997 011-750138	Tarp Green Monkey Glove	270.06 80.85		350.91	
046569	001	24/01/2020	M-132	MINISTRY OF FINANC	EMI384516	2020 - 324 Effluen	677.47		677.47	
046570	001	24/01/2020	M-145	MCGRAW, DANIEL	428897	Boot Allowance	175.00		175.00	
046571	001	24/01/2020	M-153	BUREAU VERITAS CAN	VA10050516	Effluent Samples	313.43		313.43	
046572	001	24/01/2020	S-151	SEA TO SKY NETWORK	15866	Hosted Back Up	44.80		44.80	
046573	001	24/01/2020	T-022	TOURISM VANCOUVER	3466	2020 VIN Tourism G	1,758.75		1,758.75	
046576	001	24/01/2020	W-345	WALLPEPPER DESIGNS	7095	Marina Decals	470.40		470.40	
046575	001	24/01/2020	V-003	VOLUNTEER FIREFIGH	2020	2020 Dues	140.00		140.00	
046574	001	24/01/2020	T-195	TEX ELECTRIC LTD	1930	Scada System	1,780.45		1,780.45	
046577	001	28/01/2020	O-345	ORACH ENTERPRISES	3227	Port-a-Potty renta	844.20		844.20	
046578	001	28/01/2020	A-045	ALSCO UNIFORM & LI	LNAN728351	PW Coveralls	89.50		89.50	
046579	001	28/01/2020	B-076	BC ONE CALL LIMITE	20192003	Annual BC One Call	40.16		40.16	
046580	001	28/01/2020	B-080	TECHNICAL SAFETY B	01254609	Plant assessment	92.40		92.40	
046581	001	28/01/2020	F-021	FOUR STAR WATERWOR					823.52	Yes
046582	001	28/01/2020	I-075	Island Instrumenta	1348	SCADE System	1,752.66		1,752.66	
046583	001	28/01/2020	J-068	JOHNSON, GLENN	Dec 2019	Dec Honorarium	272.80		272.80	15

Cheque #	Bank	Pay Date	Vendor #	Vendor Name	Invoice #	Description	Invoice Amount	Hold Amount	Paid Amount	Void
046584	001	28/01/2020	M-010	LOCAL GOVERNMENT M	2019-refund	Refund	50.00		50.00	
046585	001	28/01/2020	M-138	MCCORMICK, KATHY					600.00	Yes
046586	001	28/01/2020	N-071	NORTH ISLAND TRACT	65514N	Filters	69.30		69.30	
046587	001	28/01/2020	P-089	PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTI	93954479	Cylinder Rental	49.20		49.20	
046588	001	28/01/2020	R-078	RUMBLE MOUNTAIN CO					700.00	Yes
046589	001	28/01/2020	A-045	ALSCO UNIFORM & LI	LNAN733825	PW Coveralls	89.50		89.50	
046590	001	28/01/2020	C-089	CAMERON, KEVIN	25012020	Meeting in PH - OC	58.32		58.32	
046591	001	28/01/2020	F-021	FOUR STAR WATERWOR	56426 - 6707 56427 - 6707	Marina Building Re Marina Building Re	603.73 219.79		823.52	
046592	001	28/01/2020	M-138	MCCORMICK, KATHY	Jan 2020	January Janitorial	600.00		600.00	
046593	001	28/01/2020	R-078	RUMBLE MOUNTAIN CO	001 - 2020	Danger Tree Remova	700.00		700.00	
046594	001	29/01/2020	C-010	CAN.UNION OF PUBLI	Dec 2019	CUPE Dues	622.70		622.70	
Total:							32,416.68	0.00	32,416.68	

\*\*\* End of Report \*\*\*



# Information Items





# from the Board Table

## 2020 Annual General Meeting

On January 18, 2020, Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) Board of Trustees convened for the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Board received an orientation for new and returning Trustees, learned about VIRL's Advocacy efforts and goals, and how VIRL is "not your typical library."

Trustees also toured the Creativity Commons and gained firsthand experience of the 21st Century library through a series of technology-related tasks.



*VIRL's Board of Trustees visited the Creativity Commons for a chance to try STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math) learning stations, most of which are available to their communities - rural and urban.*

# Not Your Typical Library

In many ways, VIRL is unique from municipal libraries and even other regional systems. Our wide and varied geographic jurisdiction, our mix of urban, rural and remote communities, and the high number of branches in our system are some factors that set VIRL apart. In this presentation, the Trustees learned about some of the important initiatives and projects from 2019, including:

- An explanation of our pooled budgeting system
- Our floating collection
- Our diverse array of free programming
- The elimination of children's fines
- The launch of our video game collection
- Our award winning Indigenous Voices program
- The launch of cultural literacy kits
- Opening of new and renovated facilities in Parksville, Sidney/North Saanich, and Sayward
- Our revamped Creativity Commons (which the Trustees had an opportunity to experience on a field trip)



# Advocacy Presentation

The purpose of this insightful presentation was to help our Trustees understand the many organizations, provincially and federally, focused on advocating on behalf of municipal and regional library systems in Canada, how VIRL has been involved, and a roadmap for the path ahead.

In 2019, advocacy efforts focused on increasing funding for libraries and raising awareness about restrictive practices being imposed on libraries from major publishing companies related to lending eBooks and eAudiobooks. The Canadian Urban Libraries Council launched a campaign to bring these challenges to the national level and VIRL was actively involved through letters to our Federal candidates during the election, a meeting at the Legislature with the Minister of Education, and from the nearly dozen communities and regional districts that signed a statement of Equitable Access to eBooks.

The Board will continue to be apprised of ongoing advocacy opportunities and campaigns as they arise.



# Creativity Commons

## Field Trip

As part of the Trustees' orientation about all of the amazing and cutting-edge technologies and resources at VIRC, staff set up a field trip to the Creativity Commons at the Nanaimo Harbourfront branch to provide Trustees with firsthand, tactile experiences with the following:

- Virtual Reality
- 3D Printing
- STEAM Resources, such as Felting and Tech Boxes
- Gaming/E-sports
- Recording Studio



# Finance

## Finance Report

**Balance Sheet:** The balance sheet of \$33.0 million shows a healthy balance of cash and investments of \$5.8 million at the end of December and a year to date operating deficit of \$2.9 million.

**Revenue and Expenditures:** The deficit is due mostly due to an appropriation related to an MFA borrowing, as there is a timing difference between the capital costs being incurred and the repayment of the long-term borrowing. Other than this, revenues were generally in line with expectations and expenditures were within budget. Appropriations to reserves are recorded on a monthly basis. Transfers from reserves are recorded when the expenditures have been substantially completed and adjustments will be made for reserve-funded projects at year end.

**Summary:** VIRL's finances indicate that results are in line with expectations and significant projects are currently either complete or underway.

## Reserves Report

The Board of Trustees is provided with updated reserves information at each meeting. At the end of December, the reserves stood at a balance of \$6.2 million. Appropriations to reserves are recorded on a monthly basis. Year to date withdrawals consist of amounts for debt servicing and projects at Parksville, Sayward, Sidney, Sooke, Chemainus and others, as well as purchases of furniture and equipment, replacement of a delivery vehicle, and investments in IT software and hardware.



*The community came to celebrate the opening of the new Sayward branch, which held its Official Opening on December 21.*

# Facilities Update

**Campbell River:** VIRL has selected the site of the current branch on Shoppers Row for the new branch. The next step is to work with the Strathcona Regional District to secure funding through the Municipal Finance Authority.

**Chemainus:** The branch opened to the public on January 13, 2020 to widespread acclaim. Grand Opening celebrations are slated for March 7.

**Courtenay:** VIRL has initiated planning this project and we await an announcement from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grant.

**Ladysmith:** Ladysmith is looking to initiate a mixed-use project on property owned by the town, which could include space for a new branch. No recent discussions have taken place.

**Masset:** VIRL is moving forward with the floorplan and other planning documents for the Masset branch. We await an announcement from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grant.

**North Saanich:** The proposed site at the Panorama Centre is part of the Agricultural Land Reserve. VIRL awaits further direction from North Saanich.

**Port Alberni:** VIRL has selected Lowe Hammond Row to complete the architectural work. Project planning will commence shortly.

**Sandspit:** Discussions are on hold while VIRL and SD50 work to resolve an issue surrounding use of the space.

**Sayward:** The first of VIRL's prototype branches opened to the public on December 18 with Grand Opening celebrations three days later on December 21. The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive.

**Sooke:** The Development Permit was approved by the District of Sooke on November 25 and VIRL has submitted the Building Permit application.

**Tahsis:** VIRL continues discussion around potential sites or other options for service delivery.

**Tofino:** VIRL awaits direction from Tofino as to the placement of a new branch.

**Woss:** The Village of Woss has identified the site for the new branch. VIRL staff have commenced with the necessary planning work in preparation of a prototype branch, including work to produce a bid package.





# 2020 Elections and New Trustees



## Board Chair

Brenda Leigh, who represents the Strathcona Regional District, has 17 total years' experience on the VIRL Board of Trustees. In her role as Board Chair, Leigh also chairs the Executive Committee.



## Vice Chair

Mayor Gabriele (Gaby) Wickstrom, from the Town of Port McNeill, was elected as Vice Chair. This is Wickstrom's third appointment to the Board. Wickstrom also serves on the Executive Committee.

## 2020 Executive Committee

**Members at Large (from back left to right):** Penny Cote, Lynda Llewellyn, Nicole Minions, Daniel Arbour, Gaby Wickstrom (Vice Chair), Manno Theos, Brenda Patrick. **From front left to right:** Brenda Leigh (Board Chair), Rosemary Bonanno (Executive Director), Debra Toporowski. Absent from photo: Evan Putterill and Fred Robertson.



# New Trustees

This was a year with a relatively small changeover in Board composition. We welcome back 32 of our Trustees with six new Trustees joining the Board. They are:



Jennifer Capps

City of Duncan



Colleen Evans

City of Campbell River



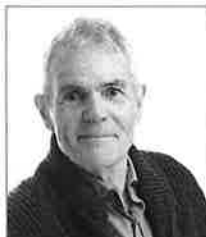
Sharie Minions

City of Port Alberni



Blaise Salmon

Cowichan Valley Regional District



Ian Savage

District of Lantzville



Jeff Virtanen

Town of Ladysmith



# CITY OF PORT MOODY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 4, 2020

To All BC Municipalities,

On January 14, 2020, at a Regular Meeting of Council, Port Moody City Council passed the following resolution:

*Moved, seconded, and CARRIED*

**WHEREAS** the City of Port Moody has recognized and has demonstrated over the past years its commitment to the importance of healthy citizens as the foundation of a healthy, engaged, and economically vibrant community;

**AND WHEREAS** the over 3 million Canadians, including many in our local communities, don't take medicines prescribed by their doctors because they can't afford them;

**AND WHEREAS** Canada is currently the ONLY country with a National Medicare Program that does not have a National Pharmacare Program;

**AND WHEREAS** the risk of having no insurance for medicines is high among lower income Canadians which includes the service industry, precarious working, and seasonal workers;

**AND WHEREAS** studies show that adding a National Pharmacare Program to our National Health Care System would lower costs to businesses by over \$8 billion per year, providing Canadian companies competitive advantages in international trade;

**AND WHEREAS** recent research confirms that these gains can be achieved with little or no increase in public investment;

**AND WHEREAS** municipal government expenses for employee benefits would be significantly reduced by a National Pharmacare Program;

**AND WHEREAS** a national prescription drug formulary would support better quality prescribing, including reducing dangerous and inappropriate prescribing to Canadian seniors;

**AND WHEREAS** a National Pharmacare plan is a sound policy, both economically and socially, the City of Port Moody express its support for the creation of a National Pharmacare program as an extension of Canadian Medicare, since health and economic studies now show that such a policy would improve health in municipalities, give local businesses a competitive advantage in the global marketplace, and lower costs for municipal government on taxpayers;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of Port Moody call on the Federal Government to work with the provinces and territories to develop and implement a

**Universal Public National Pharmacare program as one of the first orders of business after the 2019 election;**

**AND THAT this letter be forwarded to all BC municipalities asking to write their support as well.**

Attached is the letter that the City of Port Moody sent to the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health requesting the Federal Government to start working with the provinces and territories to develop and implement a Universal Public National Pharmacare Program.

We hope that you will join the City of Port Moody and write to the Minister of Health to support the creation of a National Pharmacare Program for all Canadians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Vagramov', followed by a period.

Mayor Rob Vagramov  
City of Port Moody

**Attachments:**

1. Letter dated February 4, 2020 to the Minister of Health regarding National Pharmacare Program
2. Report dated December 17, 2019 from Councillor Amy Lubik regarding Supporting Universal National Pharmacare



## Report to Council From the Office of Councillor Amy Lubik

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Date: December 17, 2019  
Subject: Supporting Universal National Pharmacare

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### Purpose

To ask that the City of Port Moody Write to the Federal Government in support of the implementation of a national pharmacare strategy as a priority following the 2019 election.

### Recommendation

**WHEREAS, The City of Port Moody has recognized and has demonstrated over the past years its commitment to the importance of healthy citizens as the foundation of a healthy, engaged and economically vibrant community; and**

**WHEREAS, The over 3 million Canadians, including many in our local communities, don't take medicines prescribed by their doctors because they can't afford them; and**

**WHEREAS, Canada is currently the ONLY country with a National Medicare Program that does not have a National Pharmacare Program; and**

**WHEREAS, The risk of having no insurance for medicines is high among lower income Canadians which includes the service industry, precarious working and seasonal workers; and**

**WHEREAS, The studies show that adding a National Pharmacare Program to our National Health Care System would lower costs to businesses by over \$8 billion per year, providing Canadian companies competitive advantages in international trade; and**

**WHEREAS, The recent research confirms that these gains can be achieved with little or no increase in public investment; and**

**WHEREAS, Municipal government expenses for employee benefits would be significantly reduced by a National Pharmacare Program; and**

**WHEREAS, A national prescription drug formulary would support better quality prescribing, including reducing dangerous and inappropriate prescribing to Canadian seniors; and**

**WHEREAS, A National Pharmacare plan is a sound policy, both economically and socially, the City of Port Moody express its support for the creation of a National Pharmacare program as an extension of Canadian Medicare, since health and economic**

**studies now show that such as policy would improve health in municipalities, give local businesses a competitive advantage in the global marketplace and lower costs for municipal government on taxpayers; therefore be it**

**BE IT RESOLVED, That the City of Port Moody call on the Federal Government to work with the provinces and territories to develop and implement a Universal Public National Pharmacare program as one of the first orders of business after the 2019 election.**

**AND THAT this letter be forwarded to all BC municipalities asking to write their support as well.**

## Background

In 2017, the City of Port Moody wrote to the federal government to support the development of a Nation Pharmacare program (**attachment 1**); this has been initiative supported by the majority of Canadians, but it has yet to come to pass despite support from at least three major parties. Growing health and wealth inequalities impact Port Moody residents, including a growing elder population; BC residents may be hardest hit by lack of universal coverage, despite recent changes to provincial drug coverage, as demonstrated in a 2018 cross-institutional study <https://www.myprincegeorgenow.com/68282/bc-residents-struggling-afford-prescription-drugs/>. Studies have shown that 88% of Canadians support universal medicare as a component of our universal health care system, as was summarized in a brief to the house of commons <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/HESA/Brief/BR8352162/br-external/AngusReidInstitute-e.pdf>.

As Port Moody moves into budget season, it makes sense to push for policies from other sphere of government that will take pressure off of our residents, and indeed off of our corporate coffers, as studies from the Columbia Institute and Canadian Doctors for Medicare have calculated that local governments across Canada would save millions if such a system was in place, which is why it has been endorsed by the Surrey Board of Trade and the BC Chamber of Commerce.

Now is an opportune time for local governments to remind the federal government that a national pharmacare strategy needs to be a priority.

## Discussion

Writings from the Canadian Labour Congress demonstrate why national universal pharmacare would benefit our residents, our city as a corporation, and small businesses:

Finally, some good news for the millions of Canadians who have to choose between paying for groceries or their prescription medications.

Canada's Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare has laid out a clear path for public, single-payer, universal pharmacare in its final report.

"The time for universal, single-payer, public pharmacare has come," writes Dr. Eric Hoskins, the Council's chair. "This is our generation's national project: better access to the medicines we need, improved health outcomes and a fairer and more sustainable prescription medicine system."

This is the unfinished business of medicare, as envisioned by the late Tommy Douglas. As Saskatchewan's seventh premier, Mr. Douglas pioneered North America's first universal, single-payer health care system. It would become a cornerstone of Canada's social safety net and a key pillar of our nation.

We know that a fair society must be one in which every person has the opportunity to succeed and to thrive... we believe that universal, public pharmacare is a necessary step towards greater fairness.

As **numerous studies** have shown, millions of Canadians are struggling to afford to pay for their prescription medications. One study found that nearly a million Canadians sacrificed basic needs such as food, and close to a quarter of a million people gave up heating their homes. This lack of affordability is hurting not only people's health and well-being, but the **economic strength of our communities**.

The new report demonstrates that every family will save, on average, \$350 per year on medications. It also points out that the average business owner will save about \$750 per employee. That will open up capacity for businesses to increase wages, or expand other types of coverage, including for dental and vision care. It also supports small businesses that find it difficult to compete for workers when they can't afford to offer drug coverage.

There will be an upfront cost, specifically at the outset, but as time goes on, the money our provincial health care systems will save will be significant. A **recent study** found that over 300,000 people had additional doctor visits, 93,000 had to go to the emergency department and 26,000 people were admitted to hospital – all because they couldn't pay for their medications. That creates a significant burden on the health care system, one that we can alleviate with a national drug plan.

### Other Option(s)

THAT the report dated November 12, 2019 from Councillor Amy Lubik regarding Supporting Universal National Pharmacare be received for information.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications related to this report.

### Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

There are no communications or civic engagement initiatives required by the recommendations in this report.

### Attachment(s)

1. Delegation Application regarding Pharmacare from May 15, 2018 City of Port Moody Committee of the Whole Meeting

