

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**
TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm
IN THE SEA VIEW ACTIVITY CENTRE



(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) ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the Village of Port Alice for January 13, 2021, be approved; AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence and other information set to the agenda be received for information.

(3) DELEGATIONS: N\A

(4) MINUTES:

Pg 3-5

a.) *THAT the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2020, be approved.*

(5) OLD BUSINESS:

(6) COMMUNICATIONS:

Pg 7-8

a.) December 9, 2020, Letter from Brian Grover, response to News release from ICE-T in December 9th, 2020 Regular Council info items.

Pg 9

b.) January 4th, 2021, Letter from Joseph Brayton, re Poor cell reception in Port Alice

(7) NEW BUSINESS:

Pg 11

a.) Cascadia Report to council
January 1, 2021, Report from Councillor Lloyd

(8) REPORTS:

Pg 13

a.) Fire Chief's Report for December 2020
January 6, 2021, Report from Fire Chief Gerry Rose

Pg 15

b.) Budget Meeting suggested meeting dates
January 7, 2021, Calendar of suggested dates from Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

Pg 17-27

c.) Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream
January 7, 2021, Report from Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

(9) BYLAWS:

(10) QUESTION PERIOD:

(11) ADJOURNMENT:

THAT the meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held January 13, 2021, be adjourned

INFORMATION ITEMS:

a.) December 24th, 2020, Changes to the Provincial Home Owners Grant program, from Kelly Khaira, Director of Annual Property Tax, Ministry of Finance

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2020
AT SEA VIEW ACTIVITY CENTRE



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

Staff Tanya Spafford, Deputy Corporate Officer

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 pm

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

114/20
Adoption of
Agenda

THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the Village of Port Alice for November 25, 2020, be approved AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence, and other information set to the agenda be received for information.

CARRIED

DELEGATION: N/A

MINUTES:

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

115/20
Minutes
November
25

THAT the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on November 25, 2020 be adopted.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMUNICATIONS:

NEW BUSINESS:

116/20
Notice of
motion

Notice of Motion – Councillor Lloyd

November 29, 2020

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT council decline, once more, to accept the structured annual pay increase as per bylaw

REPORTS:

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

117/20 2021
Appointments

2021 Council Appointments

December 1, 2020, Report from Mayor Kevin Cameron

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

VIRL Report – November 21, 2020

November 27, 2020, Report from Councillor Bruce Lloyd

Accounts Payable Listing for September and October 2020

November 27, 2020, Report by Bonnie Danyk CAO/CFO

Summary of Revenue & Expenses for November 2020

November 27, 2020, Report by Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

Lack of acceptable cell coverage

119/20
Letter re
Cell service

December 3, 2020 report from Tanya Spafford Deputy CO
Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT a letter be sent to Telus requesting improved service to the Village of Port Alice

BYLAWS:

120/20
Bylaw 664
Borrowing

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Borrowing Bylaw 664 for \$20,000 be given fourth reading and adoption.

121/20
Adjourn

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice held December 9, 2020, be adjourned at 7:55pm

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held December 9, 2020.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer



speekeezy publication workshop

PO Box 408 – 905 Maquinna Ave, Port Alice, BC V0N 2N0

grover@speekeezy.ca ■ 778-995-7379 ■ www.speekeezy.ca

December 9, 2020

Village of Port Alice
1061 Marine Dr
Port Alice, BC,
Canada V0N 1V1

RE: COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA; INFORMATION ITEMS: November 17, 2020 News Release from Isnad [sic] Coastal Economic Trust re: **Plan to attract Home-based knowledge workers to North Island set in motion**

The Port Alice Council meeting agenda includes an informational item as described above which I believe deserves further investigation and more pointed discussion. The plan to attract home-based knowledge workers to the North Island is a laudable one and, of course, should be supported and encouraged. However, as it stands, leaving this effort entirely in the hands of the Island Coastal Economic Trust [ICET] will result in, largely, a miss for the Village of Port Alice, with other North Island communities reaping the bulk of benefits due to the discrepancy in internet speeds and reliability. The facts are:

- True High-Speed Internet is the key to attracting the kinds of professionals being targeted by the ICET.
- Port Alice's Internet speeds are "high" in name only and remain woefully inadequate for undertaking the kinds of professional activities being targeted by the ICET Plan. Reception with products like Telus' SmartHub remains spotty and inconsistent at best and the "high" speed services offered by Telus' wholly owned low-speed subsidiary Mascon would have been adequate 2 decades ago. They are not adequate now.
- Mascon Internet was recently acquired by Telus as part of long term positioning in preparation for the arrival of fibre-optic cable through the provincial government's excellent Connected Coast initiative. Mascon is energetically upgrading television options, with a special emphasis on the "up" with regards to pricing. They are, however, making no efforts to improve internet speeds. The upload speed of less than 10 Mbps in particular represents a barrier which, ultimately, will see outback-bound professionals deferring to communities such as Port Hardy and Port McNeill, a win for the North Island but a significant loss for Port Alice. It is my belief that Mascon has made the decision to simply sit on its assets awaiting the arrival of the Connected Coast network rather than upgrading infrastructure in keeping with present day demands in order to avoid costs which may not be recoverable before the coast is connected. Efforts to contact Mascon regarding this matter have been met with insincere foot-dragging and purposeful obfuscation.
- The Connected Coast initiative is scheduled for completion in 2023. Those living in the real world will know that, in spite of optimistic projections, engineering and government ALWAYS finish late and over-budget. Late is one thing, meaning Port Alice could have to wait until 2025 or even later for its slice of pie. Can we afford to wait? Over-budget is quite another matter altogether. When the money is gone some communities will be left behind once again. You can be sure, for political reasons, the expensive-to-reach

JOSEPH BRAYTON
82 MCKAY CRES.
PORT ALICE, B.C.

JAN 4, 2021

THE VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE, B.C.

(RE: POOR CELL PHONE RECEPTION)

DEAR COUNCIL MEMBERS,

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE COUNCIL TO
REQUEST TELUS TO INSTALL A PERMANENT CELL
PHONE ANTENNA IN THE VILLAGE? IN THE FUTURE
WHEN THEY CHANGE THE SYSTEM TO 5G WE
WILL HAVE NO SIGNAL AT ALL.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN THIS MATTER.

J.P. Brayton

I was recently interviewed by Mairi Edgar who you will remember from the Cascadia delegation regarding infrastructures available on the coast for the possibilities regarding the nascent industry of kelp farming. I was able to tell her of what we as a community and as a region (Quatsino Sound) had available and what we do not offer. She is doing this work for the Nuchalnath and has also been in contact with the Quatsino Band as well. This is good news and I have encouraged her to follow up on all leads. Cascadia, by the way also made presentation to the other Tri-Port councils so as usual we may be in competition with them – but our advantage may be in both space and a lack of other tenures etc. We shall see.

I believe it is time that we send a respectful letter to the Quatsino letting them know we are interested in the concept of such farming and letting them know we are ready to follow their lead should they choose to allow such tenures in their traditional lands as is the present situation. We also should send the suggested political support for tenure to FLINROD after we hear back from the Quatsino should their response be positive.

Sincerely,

Councillor Lloyd

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE

Port Alice Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief's Monthly Report For the month of December, 2020

Active Members	12	Number Of False Alarms	0
On Leave	1	Mutual Aid Calls	0
Rescue Calls	1	Lift Assist Calls	1
Fire Calls	0	Public Relation Events	0

Practices:

Date	Attendance	Purpose
Dec.1/20	8	Ladder Practice
Dec.8/20	5	Monitor Practice
Dec11/20	6	M.V.A.Highway # 30
Dec15/20	5	4 Man Evolution
Dec16/20	6	Lift Assist
Dec22/20	9	Truck and Equipment Checks and assoc. Meeting.

Public Relations Events:

Situation Responses:

Fire Chief: 

Administrator: _____

[illegible]

	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

[illegible]

				1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		29	30	31				

357-553

			1	2	3	4								1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30				24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
						*		31							

NOVEMBER

	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

0073853

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

DECEMBER

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JANUARY 22

1st Budget Meeting

February 5

2nd Budget Meeting

FEBRUARY 19

3rd Budget Meeting

March 5

4th Budget Meeting

MARCH 10

Financial Plan Bylaw 1st Reading

MARCH 24

Financial Plan Bylaw Public Meeting and 2nd & 3rd Reading

APRIL 7

Financial Plan Bylaw Final Reading, Tax Bylaw
1st to 3rd Reading

APRIL 21

Tax Bylaw Final Reading

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor & Council
From: Bonnie Danyk, Finance Officer
Date: January 7, 2021
Subject: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program- Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream

On December 3, 2020 applications opened for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program- Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream grant program.

This grant program is 100% funded and is focussed on upgrading public buildings, improving health and educational facilities, increasing access to active transportation and increasing resilience / adaptation to natural disaster events.


One of the eligible projects under this grant program is sidewalks.

The grant application requires a resolution from the Village of Port Alice Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Village of Port Alice apply to Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream for funding extend the sidewalk to the Industrial Park for a total project cost up to \$201,300, and **FURTHER THAT** the Village of Port Alice Council supports the project and understands that the Village of Port Alice will be responsible for any costs in excess of the grant funding.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie Danyk
CAO / CFO



Circular No. 20:20

December 10, 2020

To: All Chief Administrative Officers

Re: **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program:**
COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream - Open for Application

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province of British Columbia and Canada have amended the existing Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Integrated Bilateral Agreement to make funds available to include the **COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS)**. This stream will expand on the existing Green Infrastructure; Community, Culture and Recreation; Public Transit; and, Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Programs that fall under ICIP. The ICIP provides communities across British Columbia a variety of funding opportunities to build sustainable infrastructure, to help create long term economic growth, and to support a low carbon, green economy.

On December 1, 2020 an announcement was made that Canada and the Province are committing up to \$136.54 million dollars towards COVID Resilience Infrastructure projects. This funding is split between two programs. \$80.29 million for an intake of the **CVRIS** is administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and a separate \$56.25 million program for flood related disaster mitigation and adaptation projects administered by Emergency Management BC through the Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program (ARDM).

The **CVRIS** will focus on projects that provide retrofits, repairs and upgrades to local government and indigenous government buildings, health and education infrastructure; allow communities to improve their infrastructure to increase the resiliency and efficiency in preventing the spread of COVID-19 (including protective screens and ability to physically distance); support development of active transportation networks; and, complete disaster mitigation and adaptation infrastructure projects. **CVRIS** provides an opportunity for eligible ultimate recipients that are Local Governments, Indigenous applicants, and Not-for-Profit organizations to seek funding for eligible infrastructure for public use and benefit.

To help you prepare an application for the **CVRIS** and **ARDM** funding please see materials including program guide, application instructions and links to the sample application that are now available on the ICIP website: www.gov.bc.ca/Investing-in-Canada-Infrastructure-Program. Links to both CVRIS and ARDM funding will be found on this page.

Frequently Asked Questions

UPDATED December 3, 2020

This FAQ document supports information on the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) webpage and provided in the CVRIS Program Guide. Applicants are advised to refer to all these resources prior to filling out the application for the program.

GENERAL

Q: What is the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS)?

A: The COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream consists of combined federal-provincial funding as part of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) under the Investing in Canada Plan. CVRIS is a competitive, merit-based grant program, focused on upgrading public buildings, improving health and educational facilities; increasing access to active transportation; and increasing resilience/adaptation to natural disaster events. For more information on the Investing in Canada Plan, see the Government of Canada websites: [Investing in Canada Plan](#) or [Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program](#)

Q: Are there any special timelines associated with CVRIS?

A: Yes, projects submitted under CVRIS, must commence prior to September 30, 2021 and be completed before December 31, 2021. Remote communities will have until December 31, 2022 to complete their projects.

Q: Do you have any tips for preparing to apply to the program?

A: Yes, please see below for:

- Read the Program Guide and the Application Questions to ensure that the project will be eligible and that it will meet the program criteria and outcomes. These are available on the Program website and will also assist with entering project information into the online application directly through the LGIS.
- Read the **Accessing the Online Application** document on the [CVRIS Website](#) for instructions that will assist you in applying for a Business BCeID (this can take up to 10 days) if your organization does not already have access to the Local Government Information System (LGIS). Applications will only be accepted by submitting them using LGIS. The process to obtain a Business BCeID and gain access to LGIS can take some time and it is encouraged to start this process as soon as possible. Once your organization has its Business BCeID it must then request access to LGIS in order to gain access the online CVRIS Program application. Please note that the Business BCeID must be specific to the applicant (not a consultant assisting with an application).
- Check what is in your capital plans, and work towards having your asset management framework complete and up to date.
- Ensure that a potential project is ready to go, i.e. land is purchased, permits are in place where possible, and that the project timeframe aligns with program timelines (following approval, projects must commence prior to September 30, 2021 and be completed before December 31, 2021. Remote communities will have until December 31, 2022 to complete their projects.

Frequently Asked Questions

A: Yes, if the project has good alignment with the program outcomes and criteria. We recommend that you contact Ministry program staff to discuss your previous application and areas where improvements can be made prior to submission under the program. Note that the application questions may be different than for previous programs.

Q: Is there a maximum grant amount for projects?

A: Yes, the maximum grant amount for CVRIS is \$10 million. However, fair distribution of the funds will be considered. Project timelines should factor into a funding request. A short construction timeline must be achievable for the project, with construction being completed prior to December 31, 2021 and for remote communities Dec. 31, 2022. Projects should be scaled appropriately to fit program timelines.

WHEN CAN I APPLY and WHAT ARE THE FUNDING TIMELINES

Q: What are the application timelines?

A: The application intake opened on December 1, 2020. Applications can be submitted until 2:00pm **(PST) January 27, 2021**. **Reminder:** If your organization does not already have a Business BCeID for you to be added as a user, it can take up to 10 business days to obtain a Business BCeID. Please account for this while creating your timelines for applying. It is suggested that applications are submitted as soon as possible

Q: When will funding decisions be announced?

A: Funding decisions are anticipated to be made in Late Spring 2021

HOW DO I APPLY

Q: What is the process for applying?

A: Applicants must complete and submit an online application form through the LGIS. It is a two-step process. New users are encouraged to start the process of requesting a Business BCeID as early as possible, as the Business BCeID will be required to then request and set up access to the LGIS. This can take up to **10 business days**. **The set up in LGIS requires verification (it is not instant) and can normally be completed within 5 business days.** Please refer to the **Accessing the Online Application** document on the CVRIS website.

Q: Do I need to answer all of the questions on the application form?

A: Yes. Please note that answering N/A to required questions (except when instructed) may affect your project's scoring and ranking in the technical assessment process. There is a need to ensure that projects align with program and senior government priorities, and to gather enough information to assess applications accordingly.

Frequently Asked Questions

SPECIFIC OUTCOME ADVICE

Active Transportation

Q: Are there any guides available to help us design active transportation projects?

A: Yes, please refer to the [BC Active Transportation Design Guide](#) for assistance with the planning and design of your project. All active transportation applicants are encouraged to review and reference the B.C. Active Transportation Design Guide in order to build consistent infrastructure across B.C. that is accessible to all ages and abilities, using Universal Design and GBA+ (Gender Based Analysis) principles.

The Design Guide is a comprehensive set of planning and engineering guidelines offering recommendations for the planning, selection, design, implementation, and maintenance of active transportation facilities for jurisdictions of all sizes. The Design Guide incorporates theory, recent research, design concepts, best practices, new methodologies, and innovations to maximize the benefits of investing in active transportation infrastructure. The guidance provided is BC-specific, context sensitive, and province-wide. It brings together engineering principles and best practices from the municipal, provincial, national, and international levels, and includes rural-specific best practices and examples.

Q: Are there any guides available to assist with the design of temporary roadway projects?

A: Yes, please refer to the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure's [Reallocation of Roadway Space for Physical Distancing Guidelines](#) as well as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' [COVID-19 Street Rebalancing Guide](#). These guidelines will help local governments ensure space is available for active transportation opportunities for the community.

Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation

Q: Are flood related disaster mitigation and adaptation projects eligible under CVRIS?

A: Flood related disaster mitigation and adaptation projects are being administered by Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC). For more information please see the program website at: [EMBC Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program](#)

USE OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES AND BORROWING

Q: Can we use funding acquired from other federal grant programs, including Gas Tax, as our contribution to project funding under the CVRIS program?

A: No, because of the short time period between approval and project completions, as well as projects being 100% funded for all applicant types, funding from other programs will not be allowed.

Q: Are there any restrictions to applying under the CVRIS if we have already applied under a different program [such as the Environmental Quality (EQ) or Community, Culture and Recreation (CCR) Programs]?

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do we get reimbursed for expenditures?

A: To receive both the federal and provincial governments' contributions for approved projects, claims must be submitted for eligible costs to the Ministry. Only costs incurred, paid and consistent with and comparable to those identified in the signed shared cost agreement are eligible for reimbursement. Where multiple projects are ongoing (e.g. through different grant funding programs or through a phased approach), please ensure that claims are specific to the approved project only.

Q: Will an Impact Assessment be required?

A: Applicants are expected to determine whether all applicable legislative or regulatory requirements will or have been met, including requirements for federal or provincial environmental assessments as defined in the *Impact Assessment Act 2019*.

Q: What should I expect in terms of reporting requirements for an approved project?

A: Ultimate recipients will be required to submit quarterly progress reports and monthly budget forecast reports to Ministry program staff. The payment of claims will be conditional upon submission of requirements that support sustainable infrastructure management, such as relevant plans or confirmation that required permits have been obtained. Reporting on federal targets and indicators will be required, as related to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, accessibility standards, increased broadband access, long-term drinking water advisories, compliance with federal effluent regulations and increased active transportation and transit. The CVRIS Program guide contains additional details on reporting requirements.

Q: Do I need to retain ownership of infrastructure assets once the project is complete?

A: Yes. There will be a requirement in the Shared Cost Agreement with the Province that ultimate recipients will need to maintain ongoing operations and retain title to and ownership of the asset for at least 5 years following completion of the project. Assets may be able to be transferred to Canada, British Columbia, or a municipality or regional district in certain circumstances with agreement from the Province and Canada.



INFORMATION ITEMS



December 24, 2020

via email

Municipalities of BC

Dear Recipient,

On Tuesday, December 8, 2020, the B.C. government introduced legislation to amend the Home Owner Grant Act.

These amendments are the first step to centralizing the home owner grant program for the 2021 tax year. The proposed amendments do not change the eligibility criteria for the program. Regulations are required to enable the Province to begin accepting applications.

What this means:

- The Province will be entirely responsible for the home owner grant program for the 2021 tax year.
- All home owners will apply directly to the Province online or over the phone.
- The provincial application will be available early in the new year, subject to the deposit of the regulations. Work on the regulations is currently underway.
- Starting Jan. 1, 2021, you must **no longer** accept retroactive or new applications for the grant and instead direct homeowners to www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant

Centralizing this program within the B.C. government will:

- Ensure homeowners receive the grant amount they are eligible for, such as the additional grant for seniors or persons with a disability.
- Automate the approval process for grants resulting in quicker application processing – this will help prevent ineligible homeowners from being penalized for late property tax payment.
- Remove an administrative burden from municipalities.
- Increase tax compliance, ensuring people are paying the right amount of tax.

We are committed to working with you to ensure a smooth a transition for home owners.

.../2



December 18, 2020

All UBCM Members
via email

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Overdose Crisis and Call for Overdose Action Plan

At the December 15, 2020, Regular Council meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the opioid crisis is one of the largest public health emergencies of our lifetime, with a death about every two hours on average and a death toll of over 16,360 since 2016 (January 2016 to March 2020);

AND WHEREAS other countries have significantly reduced drug-related fatalities with reforms such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply and decriminalization for personal use;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has indicated it is premature to discuss these measures until there are comprehensive supports for people to get well;

AND WHEREAS supports are needed, but measures that save lives are essential if people are to survive and access supports;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has stated that they agree the evidence suggests "decriminalization for simple possession as an effective way to reduce the public health and public safety harms associated with substance use", causing the Federal Health Minister to indicate the government is now "deliberating" over decriminalization;

AND WHEREAS the overdose crisis rages, showing few signs of abating;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council:

- a) request that the Government of Canada:
 - i) declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency so that it is taken seriously and funded appropriately
 - ii) immediately seek input from the people most affected by this crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive, Pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full consideration of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use



THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Honourable Janet Austin



Above: With MacDuff amongst the Liberation75 tulips, a gift from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands in the Second World War

The year 2020 started off as it always does, with the grand tradition of the annual New Years Day Levee at Government House. With our faithful dog MacDuff by our side, His Honour and I welcomed more than a thousand guests to enjoy each other's company and share some holiday cheer. How we long for the chance to gather again—to shake hands, to embrace, to sing and dance together, and to once more express our friendship and love for one another, face to face.

2020 has been a year of uncertainty and great sacrifice for many. However, with the dawn of the New Year and the emergence of new treatments

and vaccines for COVID-19, we have every reason to expect that 2021 will find us in a much better place. And what a relief that is!

As the year draws to a close, I must say how very proud I am of the way in which British Columbians have pulled together in response to the challenges of COVID-19. We have witnessed countless examples of generosity and compassion throughout our province; been inspired by the selfless work of our front-line workers; and been deeply moved by the humanity of those who house and care for our most vulnerable citizens.



The spring and summer months brought a disturbing rise in race-based violence and discrimination, which prompted us to create the Different Together pledge and social media campaign. I was heartened by the broad-based and positive response to this campaign, with leaders at all levels of government, business and social services publicly pledging to uphold the Canadian values of diversity and inclusion and oppose racism and hate in all its forms. This is work that will continue in 2021.

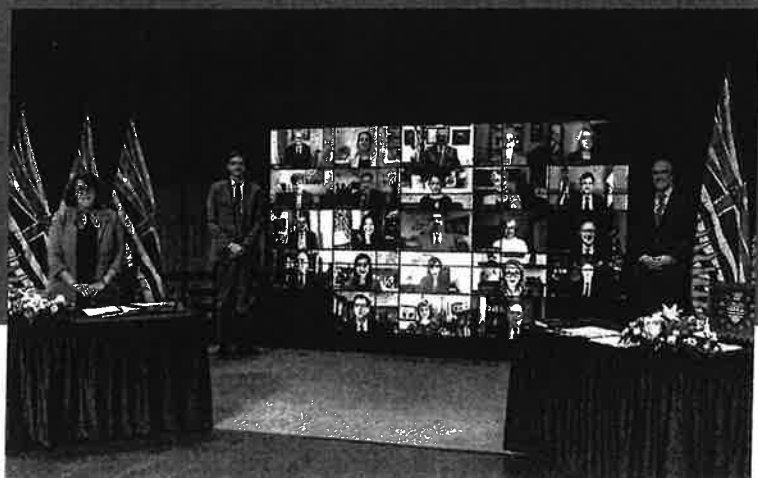
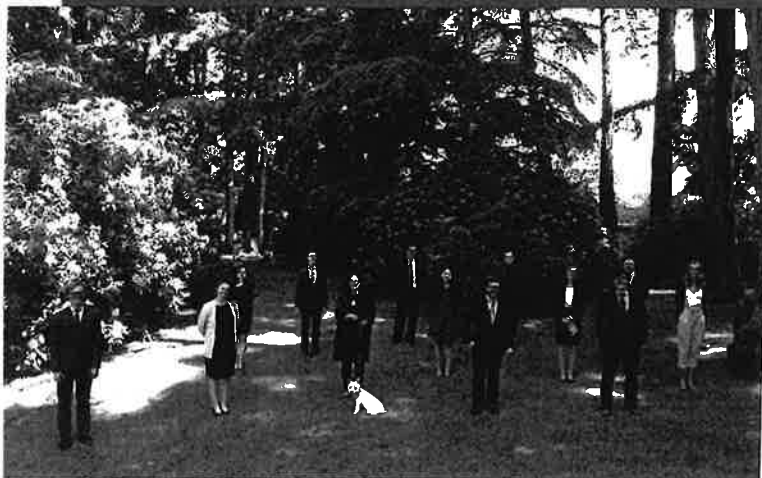
Food insecurity has also been exacerbated by the pandemic, with Statistics Canada reporting in June that close to 15% of all Canadians had lacked sufficient food at least once in the previous month. Inspired by the Victory Gardens planted across Canada during the First and Second World Wars, we created the Government House Victory Over COVID-19 Garden to provide fresh food to the most vulnerable in our local communities. The Victory Over COVID-19 Garden built on the longstanding work of the Friends of Government House Gardens Society, who have also contributed fresh produce to local charities.

Throughout it all, I was delighted to recognize extraordinary British Columbians through our awards and honours programs. Post-secondary

students throughout BC received the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Inclusion, Democracy and Reconciliation. The Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence, a partnership with the BC and Yukon Book Prizes, was presented to Julie Flett and Joy Kogawa – two of BC's exceptional authors. The BC Lieutenant Governor's Wine Awards named Upper Bench Estate Winery's 2019 Riesling as Wine of the Year. We also recognized the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalization of homosexuality and celebrated leaders in the Canadian LGBTQ2S+ community.

In partnership with the BC Achievement Foundation, I launched the British Columbia Reconciliation Award, recognizing individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to advancing reconciliation. The concept for this award was initially proposed by the Honourable Steven Point, 28th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and I was delighted to work with him and a committee of Indigenous leaders to bring this to fruition.

I did my best to further our work on democracy with the launch of the University of Victoria Democracy Dialogue series, bringing together a diverse group of students to discuss questions about youth participation in political process



Left: A socially distanced meeting at Government House with the BC Legislative Interns; Right: A uniquely 2020 swearing-in ceremony conducted in-person and virtually in November

As always, I wish to extend my personal thanks to my Honorary Aides-de-Camp, the Friends of Government House Gardens Society, the Government House Foundation, the LG Youth Advisory Council, and all those who support the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the activities of Government House. I am most grateful to you all.

Finally, I am wishing you all health and happiness for the season and the New Year. Please stay safe in the time ahead and thank you for all that you do to support and care for one another. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve British Columbians in 2020.



The Honourable Janet Austin
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia



Immediately above: After a great Conversations on Democracy session at City Hall in Prince George in February; Top: Proudly wearing my Office of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia mask at UBCM

Vancouver Island Sunshine Coast Community Relations 2020 Annual Report

Fall 2020

Crews at work overlooking Pender Harbour. Photo courtesy of Dylan Martini.

Vancouver Island dam safety and seismic upgrades proposed for the Campbell River system

There are four hydroelectric watersheds on Vancouver Island – Jordan River near Sooke, Ash River near Port Alberni, Puntledge River in the Comox Valley, and the Campbell River. Together, they can generate about 25% of Vancouver Island's peak electricity demand in the winter.

We have a rigorous Dam Safety Program to monitor our dams 24/7, and when determined, we'll upgrade them following the Canadian Dam Association guidelines.

For the Campbell River hydroelectric system, we have three dams, built in the 1940s and 1950s, that will have improvements so they can withstand a severe earthquake. We've proposed seismic upgrades for the Strathcona Dam, downstream at the Ladore Dam, and below that at the John Hart Dam.



Ladore Dam is one of the dams in the Campbell River system.

Powered by Water

BC Hydro provides clean, reliable and affordable electricity to British Columbians. We generate 96% clean energy for the province, giving us a hydro advantage.



Strathcona Dam, one of the dams in the Campbell River system, is the largest dam on Vancouver Island.

Since 2014, we continue to consult with First Nations and engage the community on the three proposed projects. We plan to begin the regulatory process with a BC Utilities Commission application filing of the John Hart project in early 2021, and hopefully get approval to begin construction in 2023, which could then last about five years. We'll file the BCUC applications for the other two dam projects after the John Hart application. The construction period for the Ladore and Strathcona projects will be about three to four years, pending regulatory approval. The capital cost for each project is in the hundreds of millions of dollars and cost estimates are being refined as we complete the designs.

For more information, please select
[bchydro.com/crdamsafety](https://www.bchydro.com/crdamsafety).

 **BC Hydro**
Power smart

Site C Update

Site C will be a third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. Construction started more than five years ago, in July 2015.

During the fifth year of construction, activities accelerated substantially in all project areas, particularly the roller-compacted concrete placement work on the spillways buttress and the activities required in advance of river diversion in fall 2020. Work also advanced along the Highway 29 realignment, transmission line corridor and in the future reservoir area.

The project reached several milestones this past year, including:

- river diversion was successfully achieved on October 3, 2020, which involved opening the two diversion tunnels and completing the rockfill berm across the Peace River
- the temporary fish passage facility is now operational
- the Site C Substation and one of two 75-kilometre-long transmission lines that run between Site C and the Peace Canyon Substation were energized in October 2020
- the roller-compacted concrete buttress for the Site C spillways was completed in October 2019; work continues on the buttress for the dam core
- powerhouse construction advanced and penstock installation began; to date, one of six penstock units are complete
- work advanced on all sections of the Highway 29 realignment

BC Hydro also delivered on several commitments in the region this year. We continued to provide grants to support non-profit organizations in the Peace region through the Generate Opportunities (GO) Fund; as of September 2020, \$487,000 had been distributed to 55 projects. We distributed the first funds from our \$20 million Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund; as of March 2020, \$400,000 had been distributed to 16 projects.

For more information on Site C, please select sitecproject.com.



The Site C project achieved river diversion in October 2020.

Clean Power 2040 – Building a bright electricity plan for B.C.

Clean Power 2040 is our province-wide, long-term resource planning process. Engaging with you will help us make informed strategic decisions to meet future electricity demand. These decisions will become part of our next Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).

Over the next year, through Clean Power 2040, we'll be looking at options for our power system over a 20 year horizon.

JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE B.C.'S CLEAN ELECTRICITY FUTURE.

- What should we do to meet everyone's electricity needs over time?
- How should BC Hydro meet the demand for electrification?
- What new technology could support our power systems?

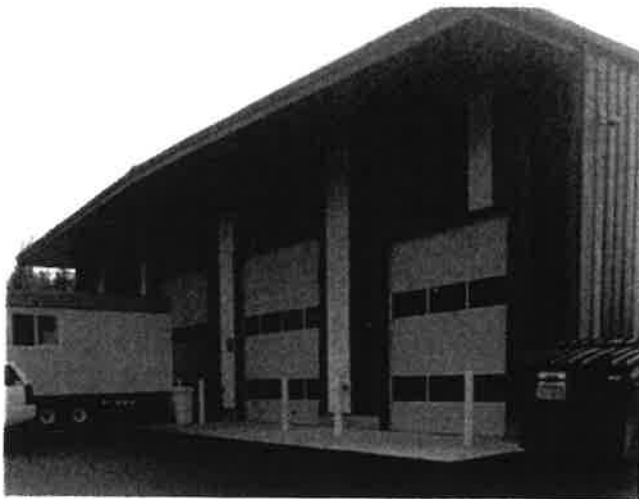
We already have one of the cleanest renewable power systems in the world, but our ability to meet your needs now and in the future depends on different assets and factors. This includes our power stations, power lines, conservation initiatives and our understanding of potential demand.

Through Clean Power 2040, we're gathering input from customers, Indigenous communities, regulators and governments. We're also looking at technical, financial, environmental and economic development considerations. Your forward-thinking input alongside those factors will help us draft actions.

Five Fast Facts on Clean Power 2040

- BC Hydro must submit an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to the B.C. Utilities Commission.
- The IRP is a plan for our power system over the next 20 years.
- The IRP is structured to look at early years (now to approximately 2030) and the remaining years to 2040.
- Engagement with Indigenous communities, our customers, and our future customers is key.
- Clean Power 2040 kicked off in September and will take one year to complete.

Sign up for our updates, and learn more about participating in the Clean Power 2040 consultation process that started this fall, by selecting bchydro.com/CleanPower2040.



Vehicle truck bays at the new office can accommodate the new, larger field trucks.

This substation expansion resulted in less than ideal access to the office building as the existing 470 m² (5056 ft²) Long Beach Office, built in 1999, is located within the confines of the substation, just east of the Tofino/Ucluelet junction. The current local office does not meet the operational needs of our 5 full-time and 2 drop-in personnel.

The current facility cannot accommodate the new, larger field trucks, and has inadequate yard space. Any future expansion would have encroached further into the operations space and render the site unusable. Before the end of 2020, a new and larger BC Hydro district office will be built near Ucluelet to meet the growing requirements of our staff. Completed by this fall, the \$9 million project will support a regional response to operational requirements for a residential and commercial population of approximately 4,000 customers.

As BC Hydro is an essential service, all of our new buildings are built to rigorous standards to ensure we are available and functional after any natural disaster. When considering the new site, the most important requirement was that it be located outside of the tsunami inundation zone. The new prefabricated modular main administration building is designed with an estimated service life of 40 years and the flexibility to accommodate up to 20 additional staff in a storm or emergency event.

The building will accommodate two new distribution line truck bays, a large-bucket truck bay, a tool crib, and a workshop and warehouse space. There is ample room for future expansion and storage on the 5-acre property, as well as staff and visitor parking stalls, including an accessible stall and infrastructure to add electric charging stations in the future.

Our capital project investments are creating thousands of jobs for skilled workers in a wide range of disciplines and generating economic opportunities for local contractors and businesses across the province. BC Hydro continues to invest approximately \$3 billion per year to upgrade aging assets and build new infrastructure to ensure our system is there to support British Columbia's growing population and economy.

Check out what the road was like in the 1960s to the west coast:

tranbc.ca/2017/04/06/see-what-tofino-and-ucluelet-was-like-in-the-1960s/

BC HYDRO CREWS REPLACING 8,000 AGING POWER POLES

Our crews are replacing more than 8,000 wooden power poles across B.C. as part of our ongoing maintenance program.



**Top community
on Vancouver Island
for pole replacements**



**Top community
on Sunshine Coast
for pole replacements**

The average lifespan of a wooden power pole is 40 to 50 years, with many lasting much longer. In fact, more than 10% of BC Hydro's poles are more than 50 years old.

Adverse weather, insects and wildlife all contribute to the deterioration of the poles over time, which results in them needing to be replaced.

We have about 900,000 wooden poles that hold more than 58,000 kilometres of overhead distribution lines. Replacing power poles is one of the investments we're making to our aging infrastructure to improve the safety and reliability of the electricity system.

Supporting communities

Trees and vegetation management

Our electrical system is complex and highly efficient, with over 79,000 kilometres of overhead transmission and distribution power lines throughout the province. Managing trees and plants around these lines is important for safety and service reliability.

Our vegetation management team regularly inspects trees and other tall vegetation growing under or adjacent to our overhead system to identify potential problems. Tall, diseased or dead trees can fall or grow into power lines, causing electrical outages.

Vegetation management contractors – we employ professional arborists and foresters that follow strict environmental guidelines – prune or remove trees and vegetation in areas where the lines may be impacted. What's more, when an area experiences reliability issues, we assess the local distribution lines for potential tree-related causes. Even with a proactive management program, more than half of all outages in B.C. are caused by trees. For more information, please select bchydro.com/trees.

Community ReGreening Program

Our Community ReGreening Program helps fund urban tree planting that's related to visual aesthetics and environmental enhancements. We pay for seedlings, medium and large trees in cities and towns across B.C. Over the past 20 years, we've funded the planting of more than 300,000 trees.

We partner with local communities and Tree Canada to help make sure appropriate trees are planted around power lines, while enhancing open spaces. The program is intended for small-scale community projects and is open to local governments served by BC Hydro. All applications need to be received by January 31, to be eligible for funding within the same year. For more information, please select bchydro.com/regreening.

Successful applications included:

Community	Project	Funding
Alberni-Clayoquot Reg. Dist.	Shades of Color – Community Regreening Program	\$1,500
Campbell River	Heritage Cemetery/City Hall	\$5,980
Central Saanich	Central Saanich 2020	\$2,700
Comox Valley Reg. Dist.	One Spot Trail – Hedgerow Planting	\$3,700
Cowichan Valley Reg. Dist.	Bright Angel Park Playground Tree Project	\$4,500
Courtenay	Courtenay River Air Park & Estuary Planting	\$4,000
Esquimalt	Town of Esquimalt Regreening Project	\$6,764
Ladysmith	Ladysmith Green Street Trees Enhancement	\$2,700
Langford	Irwin Bike Park	\$5,800
Lantzville	Peterson Road Re-Greening	\$4,750
North Saanich	2020 Lillian Hoffer Park Tree Planting Project	\$5,675
Oak Bay	Uplands Park Garry Oak Boulevard Planting	\$7,500
Salt Spring Island (Conservancy)	Tree Planting on Salt Spring Island Nature Reserves	\$3,060
Saanich	Saanich Arboretum	\$6,000
Sechelt	Adopt a Street Tree (Phase 10)	\$5,000
Sidney	Rathdown Park Improvements	\$4,400

Grants-in-lieu

We pay net property tax and grant payments to local governments. The grant program is a provincial government initiative and the amounts paid are determined under the current legislation. Listed below are the grants paid to each community in the Vancouver Island-Sunshine Coast region as of June 30, 2020.

Municipality/District	School Taxes*	Grants	Other Taxes	Total Payments
Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot	0	\$61,097.00	0	\$61,097.00
Village of Alert Bay	\$3,482.31	\$8,467.49	\$18.05	\$11,967.85
City of Campbell River	\$2,687,405.63	\$962,382.95	0	\$3,649,788.58
Capital Regional District	0	\$370,950.00	0	\$370,950.00
District of Central Saanich	\$319,005.83	\$274,655.36	\$6,781.85	\$600,443.04
City of Colwood	\$40,966.32	\$140,313.91	0	\$181,280.23
Town of Comox	\$38,425.47	\$118,685.04	0	\$157,110.51
Regional District of Comox Valley	0	\$52,369.00	0	\$52,369.00
City of Courtenay	\$202,404.36	\$432,989.20	\$349.06	\$635,742.62
Village of Cumberland	\$11,492.46	\$36,149.26	0	\$47,641.72
City of Duncan	\$8,730.10	\$61,578.39	0	\$70,308.49
Township of Esquimalt	\$180,673.98	\$280,782.22	0	\$461,456.20
Town of Gibsons	\$58,392.65	\$117,294.37	\$636.39	\$176,323.41
Village of Gold River	\$11,883.36	\$21,477.13	0	\$33,360.49
District of Highlands	\$90,800.86	\$30,028.05	0	\$120,828.91
Town of Ladysmith	\$64,107.25	\$116,989.75	0	\$181,097.00
Town of Lake Cowichan	\$26,771.44	\$37,946.06	\$350.00	\$65,067.50
City of Langford	\$209,196.65	\$373,732.09	0	\$582,928.74
District of Lantzville	\$106,388.65	\$69,190.61	\$20.00	\$175,599.26
District of Metchosin	\$58,057.77	\$57,478.96	0	\$115,536.73
City of Nanaimo	\$713,184.81	\$2,005,441.49	\$92.76	\$2,718,719.06
Municipality of North Cowichan	\$863,685.68	\$1,188,090.69	\$1,182.00	\$2,052,958.37
District of North Saanich	\$109,337.57	\$193,079.60	\$204.72	\$302,621.89
District of Oak Bay	\$36,744.60	\$136,739.54	0	\$173,484.14
City of Parksville	\$41,357.22	\$138,640.38	0	\$179,997.60
City of Port Alberni	\$182,284.61	\$697,761.59	\$40.86	\$880,087.06
Village of Port Alice	\$6,666.00	\$14,723.31	0	\$21,389.31
District of Port Hardy	\$67,102.14	\$93,758.53	0	\$160,860.67
Town of Port McNeill	\$9,928.86	\$44,224.38	0	\$54,153.24
City of Powell River	\$167,117.16	\$395,745.42	\$2,210.20	\$565,072.78
Town of Qualicum Beach	\$107,133.34	\$204,596.44	\$40.00	\$311,769.78
District of Saanich	\$1,039,676.60	\$1,735,581.67	0	\$2,775,258.27
Village of Sayward	\$2,853.57	\$4,396.90	0	\$7,250.47
District of Sechelt	\$60,000.53	\$151,542.94	\$(0.42)	\$211,543.05
Town of Sidney	\$22,739.19	\$125,338.92	0	\$148,078.11
District of Sooke	\$104,740.36	\$147,861.52	0	\$252,601.88

*Local governments collect school taxes which are then forwarded to the provincial government to help fund school districts.

Reliability performance



We recognize how important the reliable supply of electricity is to our customers. We'll continue to improve, reinforce and maintain the electrical system.

The information below provides a comparison between Fiscal 2019 and Fiscal 2020 for communities in the Vancouver Island–Sunshine Coast region. These statistics include interruptions due to planned outages.

Community	Fiscal 2019 Average customer interruption duration (hours)	Fiscal 2020 Average customer interruption duration (hours)	Fiscal 2019 Average number of interruptions per customer	Fiscal 2020 Average number of interruptions per customer
Campbell River	2.82	3.29	2.55	1.86
Courtenay	3.61	2.38	2.11	1.46
Duncan	9.43	1.72	4.58	4.21
Islands Trust	12.99	3.13	8.32	6.21
Nanaimo	7.57	2.10	1.90	0.98
Parksville	8.59	1.61	0.76	1.26
Port Alberni	3.99	2.51	2.64	1.64
Port Hardy	2.27	2.28	6.52	6.86
Powell River	3.64	1.04	2.61	2.42
Qualicum Beach	6.65	1.67	5.55	5.55
Sechelt	2.31	2.66	2.42	3.52
Victoria	3.27	1.63	0.57	0.57

Fundamentals of Forest Harvesting Practices Program

How to Apply

The application process is the same as Trades.

Requirements: 19 years of age, completed grade 12, successful completion of assessment testing, provide personal profile and resume, be physically fit.

You are also required to submit your resume with our application.

Once your application has been received and reviewed, you will be contacted to complete an Assessment Tool. The Assessment Tool consists of Mathematics, Reading Comprehension and Combined Reasoning.

You will also be contacted to attend a 30 minute interview. Shortly thereafter, you will be notified if you have been admitted to the program.

For more information go to:
viu.ca/programs/trades-applied-technology

PENDING FINAL APPROVAL



About Vancouver Island University

Vancouver Island University is a comprehensive post-secondary institution located on beautiful Vancouver Island in British Columbia. Our main campus is located in Nanaimo, a city of approximately 90,000 people. We have regional campuses in Duncan and Powell River, and a campus in Parksville. More than 14,000 full-time and part-time students are enrolled in academic, applied, career/technical, vocational, trades and developmental programs leading to certificates, diplomas and degrees.

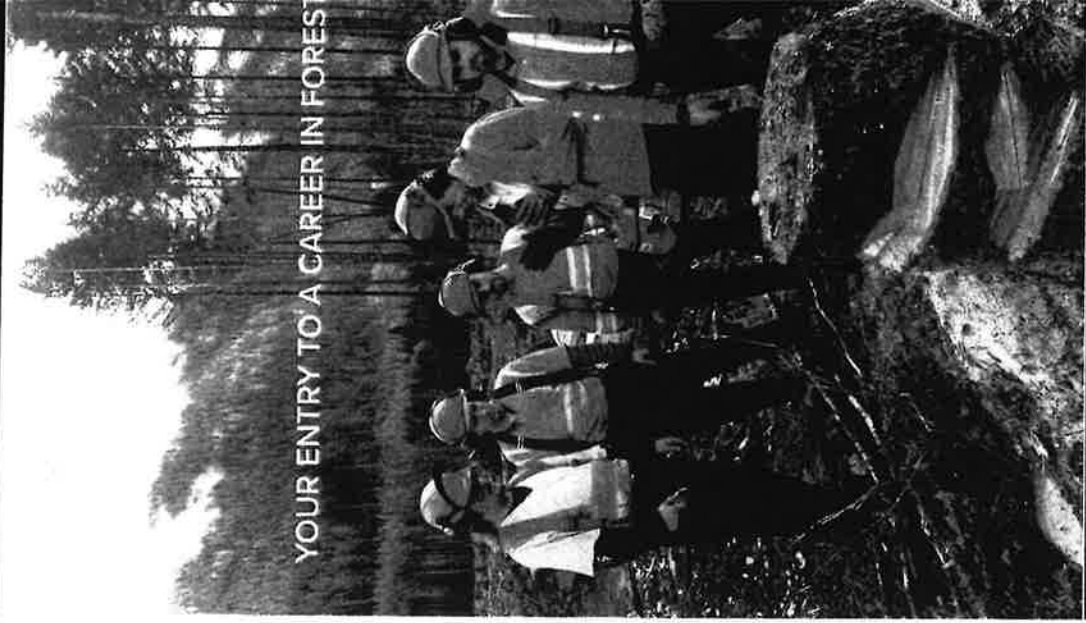
Vancouver Island University
900 Fifth Street | Nanaimo, BC V9R 5S5
Switchboard: 250.753.3245 | Toll-free: 1.888.920.2221
Financial Aid & Awards: 250.740.6423
Registration Tel: 250.740.6400 | Fax: 250.740.6479
viu.ca

For more information on the Fundamentals of Forest Harvesting Practices Program at VIU email heo@viu.



VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

The information contained in this guide is accurate at the time of printing. Vancouver Island University reserves the right to make such changes as necessary, including cancellation and adjustment of courses. Sept 2018



YOUR ENTRY TO A CAREER IN FORESTRY



VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Trades & Applied Technology

From: Abassi, Dominic <Dominic.Abassi@VIHA.CA> on behalf of Island Health Communication <Communication@viha.ca>
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2021 12:57 PM
To: Island Health Communication
Subject: Island Health News: Island Health expands COVID-19 vaccination clinics to central and north Vancouver Island

islandhealth.ca/news



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 7, 2021

Island Health expands COVID-19 vaccination clinics to central and north Vancouver Island

Central and north island — Island Health is administering COVID-19 immunizations to health care workers in long-term care in the central and north Vancouver Island regions beginning today.

This week, Island Health received an additional 3,900 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, allowing us to expand our immunization clinics outside of the greater Victoria area. Clinics will be held in Nanaimo and Campbell River, with care, support, and medical staff who work or volunteer in long-term care being eligible to receive the vaccine. Eligible individuals will receive direct communication from Island Health on how to book an appointment.

"Our number one goal throughout this pandemic has been to protect our residents," said Sharron Traub, Manager of Dufferin Place long-term care home in Nanaimo. "Providing the vaccine to frontline health care workers in long-term care is a critical line of defence to keep this virus out, and an important show of support for those caring for and protecting some of the most vulnerable members of our community."

"Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine gives all of us working in long-term care renewed hope and a sense of relief after many months of vigilance," said Jae Yon Jones, Manager of Yucalta Lodge long-term care home in Campbell River. "While our entire team is weary, they are resilient and heartened by the added layer of protection the vaccine will provide for both themselves and the residents they care for."