

5.19 Affordable Housing

INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES

Housing affordability is key to maintaining a healthy inclusive community. A diverse range of citizens, including those of various ages and economic levels, creates a dynamic and resilient community. For the Village, housing affordability can also assist with ensuring a strong permanent population.

Housing affordability can be addressed in many ways, including providing a diversity of housing types, government sponsored housing projects, creating tax incentives to ensure adequate supply, adopting policies and zoning that encourages affordable housing, and reducing fees and charges for affordable housing projects. However, for Port Alice the lack of development activity is the largest impediment to housing affordability, since without new construction the quantity of housing units will drop and prices will rise. Kick-starting the local housing economy is a key to maintaining the Village's relative affordability.

POLICIES

- 5.19.1 The Village should consider incentives for creating and maintaining affordable housing, using available means such as: waiving, reducing, or deferring applicable charges fees, or taxes where appropriate; and creating supportive policies and Zoning regulations.
- 5.19.2 The Village should review its Zoning Bylaw for opportunities to enable and encourage construction of affordable housing and a diversity of housing types, including:
 - i. permitting a greater diversity of housing types within most zones;
 - ii. allowing more than one dwelling unit on most residential parcels of land, including up to three units;
 - iii. encouraging more home-based business opportunities so that citizens can afford to stay in their homes; and
 - iv. supporting accessory dwelling units.
- 5.19.3 The Village should commission production of 4-5 accessory dwelling unit designs that are pre-approved and/or maintain a directory of construction contractors who can build accessory dwelling units.
- 5.19.4 The Village will support government and non-government agencies and organizations in the creation of affordable housing in the Village.
- 5.19.5 The Village and/or developers shall work with local agencies to provide amenities and services that complement supportive age in place and seniors housing.
- 5.19.6 The Village supports partnerships within the community that facilitate residential infill development for affordable, rental, supportive and/or seniors housing needs.



6 DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS

6.1 What is a DPA?

The Local Government Act (LGA) allows municipalities to designate certain areas within the Village boundaries as Development Permit Areas (DPAs). A DPA identifies locations that need special treatment for purposes such as protection of development from hazards, establishing objectives for the form and character of an area, or revitalization of a commercial use area.

As per the LGA, within a DPA a property owner is required to get a development permit prior to: subdividing land; or constructing, adding to or altering a building (see the LGA for full legal details). A local government may also issue a development permit that varies or supplements a subdivision or zoning bylaw, but it must not vary the use or density permitted in the bylaw.

The following DPAs are hereby established in the Village as shown on **Map 9**.

Environmental Protection DPAs:

- a. Coastal or Shoreline Areas Protection
- b. Riparian Areas Protection
- c. Open Slope Hazard

6.2 General DPA Policies

- 6.2.1 Unless exempted within Section 6.3, within all Development Permit Areas, property owners and developers must obtain a Development Permit prior to:
- i. subdivision, which means creating one or more vacant parcel(s) where any portion of the parent parcel under application is located within any DPA;

- ii. construction, which means new builds or addition to or alteration of a building or structure where any portion of the proposed development footprint is located within any DPA; or
- iii. stripping and grading, which includes removal of trees, vegetation, stripping and grading of land for the purposes of development, where any portion of the proposed development is located within any DPA.

6.2.2 Construction of public trails are subject to the following:

- i. The trail will be built to BC Parks standards for the type of trail proposed and built using established best management practices.
- ii. The trail must be a maximum 1.5 metres in width.
- iii. The trail's surface must be pervious but may be constructed with materials that limit erosion and bank destabilization (certain structures may require a building permit).
- iv. The trail provides the most direct route of feasible passage through the DPA.
- v. Sensitive habitat will not be impacted by the presence of the trail.
- vi. The ground must be stable, i.e., erodible stream banks or other erosion-prone areas must be avoided.
- vii. No trees greater than 5 metres in height and 10 centimetres in diameter are to be removed. Limbing, pruning and topping of trees may be done; however, a minimum of 60% of the original crown of any tree must be retained to maintain tree health and vigour.
- viii. No motorized vehicles are permitted.

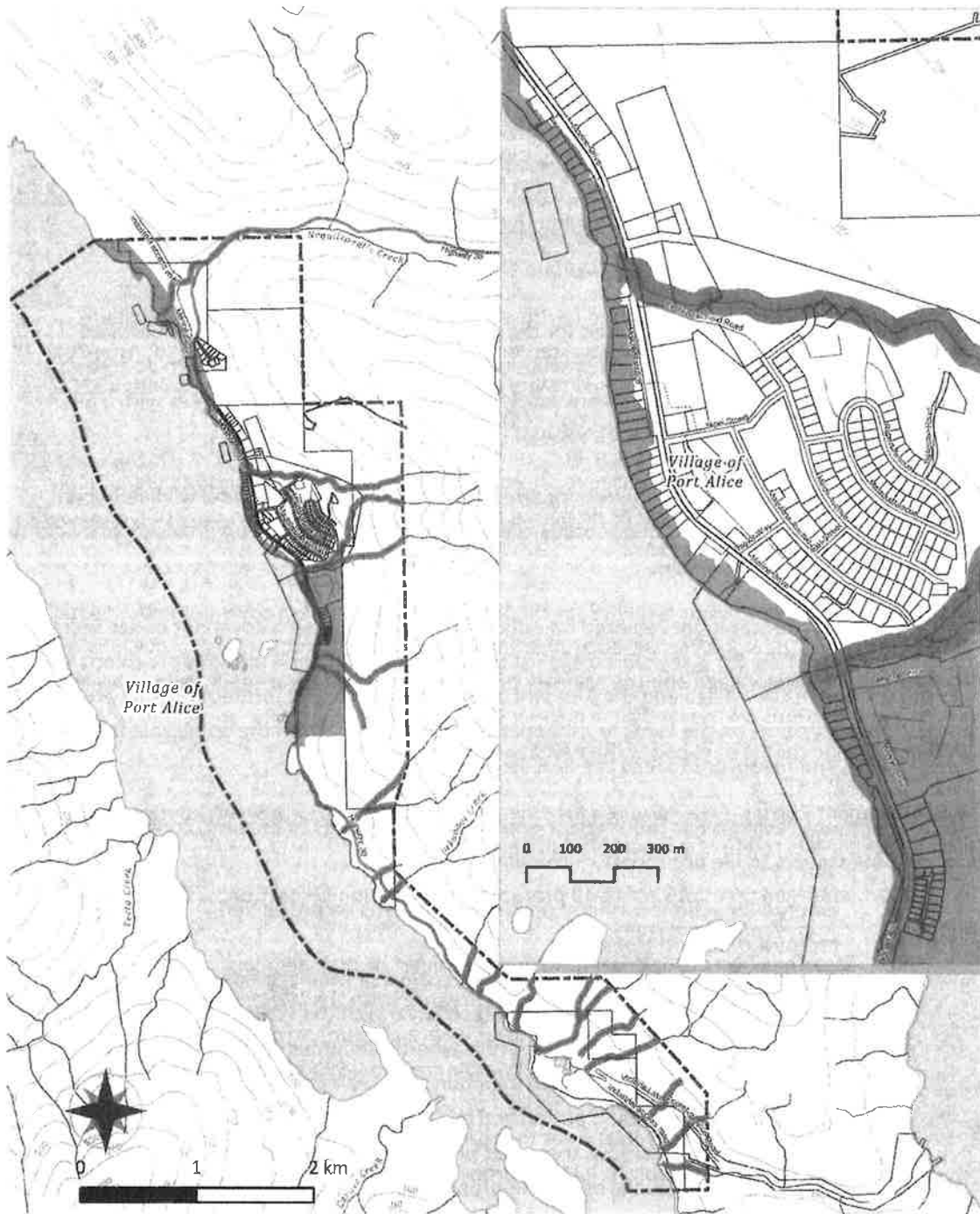
6.3 General DPA Exemptions

The following activities are exempt from requiring a development permit. Despite the exemption provisions, it is the owner's responsibility to research and meet the requirements of any applicable federal or provincial regulations.

- 6.3.1 A Development Permit is not required for residential, commercial, institutional and industrial development that is shown to be outside of all designated DPAs on a plan prepared by a BC Land Surveyor.
- 6.3.2 A Development Permit is not required for decks, accessory buildings / garden sheds less than 47 m² (500 ft²), interior or structural exterior alterations, renovations or repair to a permanent building or structure on an existing foundation to an extent that does not alter, extend or increase the building's footprint or height.
- 6.3.3 A Development Permit is not required for planting or replanting of native trees, shrubs or ground cover for slope stabilization, habitat improvement or soil stabilization or erosion control.

- 6.3.4 A Development Permit is not required for routine maintenance of existing landscaping, lawn, paths or developed areas and, with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) authorization, maintenance of vegetation within the DPA or within the Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA) as established by a qualified professional.
- 6.3.5 A Development Permit is not required for the removal of invasive plants or noxious weeds including, but not limited to Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, morning glory and purple loosestrife, provided that measures are taken to avoid sediment or debris being discharged into the watercourse or onto the foreshore and the area is replanted with native species as recommended by the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee priority list.
- 6.3.6 A Development Permit is not required for the removal of trees determined by a Certified Arborist or Registered Professional Forester, or another professional certified to do tree-risk assessments, to represent an imminent safety risk. In addition, removal of trees with a SPEA must be done with the prior authorization of DFO.
- 6.3.7 A Development Permit is not required for stream enhancement and fish and wildlife habitat restoration works carried out under provincial or federal approvals and on provision of evidence of such approvals to the Village.
- 6.3.8 A Development Permit is not required for subdivision of land where a covenant under Section 219 of the *Land Title Act* is registered against the title to the land and includes provisions which, in the opinion of the Village and the Ministry of Environment (MOE), protect riparian areas or sensitive ecosystems on the lands in a manner that is consistent with the applicable DPA designation and meets or exceeds the RAR assessment requirements.
- 6.3.9 A Development Permit is not required for emergency procedures to prevent, control or reduce immediate threats to life or property including:
- i. emergency actions for flood protection and erosion protection;
 - ii. removal of hazard trees;
 - iii. clearing of an obstruction from bridge, culvert or drainage flow;
 - iv. bridge and safety fence repairs in accordance with the *Water Act*;
 - v. limbing, pruning, and topping of trees where a minimum of 60% of the original crown of any tree is retained to maintain tree health and vigour as prescribed by a professional arborist and authorized by DFO; and
 - vi. the removal of hazardous trees that present a danger to the safety of persons or are likely to damage public or private property as prescribed by a professional arborist.
- 6.3.10 A Development Permit is not required for forestry activities on private lands that are managed under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*.
- 6.3.11 A Development Permit is not required for activities permitted by the provincial government on Crown forestry lands.

Map 9 | Development Permit Areas



Development Permit Areas

- Development Permit Area 1 - Coastal or Shoreline Areas Protection
- Development Permit Area 2 - Riparian Areas Protection
- Development Permit Area 3 - Open Slope Hazards



6.4 DPA 1 – Coastal Shoreline Areas Protection

CATEGORY

Pursuant to Section 488(1)(b) [protection of hazardous conditions] of the *LGA*, the shoreline of Neroutsos Inlet is designated as **DPA 1 – Coastal Shoreline Areas Protection**, as generally shown on **Map 9**, for the protection of hazardous conditions for areas subject to flooding, land slip, erosion, and tsunami.

The land covered by this designation extends a distance of 30 metres from the high-water mark or natural boundary of the sea inland, as determined by a certified land surveyor or by the municipal Approving Officer. The DPA establishes objectives for the protection of the natural environment and protection of development from hazardous conditions pursuant to the *Local Government Act*.

INTENT

The intent of this DPA is to increase the resiliency and sustainability of Port Alice in the face of climate change through protection of sensitive coastal areas and regulation of land uses within hazardous areas. Disturbance of the marine foreshore and the construction of erosion-control features along the waterfront often accelerate shoreline erosion on adjacent areas, reduce stability and degrade the ecological function and aesthetic of the shoreline. Shoreline armouring or hardening may also result in accretion in other areas. To protect the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity and to ensure that the stability of the marine foreshore slopes and shoreline is maintained, alteration of adjacent lands should be regulated. Furthermore, there is a strong probability of higher water levels as a result of climate changes and more extreme weather conditions thus reinforcing the requirement for coastal and shoreline protection.

EXEMPTIONS WITHIN THIS DPA

In addition to the exemptions within Section 6.3, the following exemptions are also applicable to this DPA:

- 6.4.1 Any exterior renovations to a Building or Structure within the existing footprint of the Building or Structure, as of the date that this Bylaw is adopted and was legally developed.
- 6.4.2 Additions of up to 25-percent (25%) of the total Floor Area of the subject building(s), subject to the addition being above or at the elevation of the legally approved existing Building or Structure and is no closer to the existing natural boundary of the sea, than the existing Building or Structure.

POLICIES & GUIDELINES

The following policies apply to lands identified as **DPA 1 – Coastal Shoreline Areas Protection** as shown on **Map 9 | Development Permit Areas**.

- 6.4.3 Lands within this DPA must remain free of development and in their current condition except where development is permitted by an approved Development Permit and is undertaken in compliance with all conditions contained within the approved Development Permit.

- 6.4.4 Development within this DPA shall only be permissible in accordance with information provided by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) or Professional Engineer (PE) certifying the land may be safely used as intended. To certify the land may be safely used and developed, the applicant shall submit a professional Risk Assessment report signed and stamped by a QEP/PE that includes, at a minimum, the following:
- i. A detailed Site Plan (e.g. 1:2000 or larger) identifying all current and proposed Buildings and Structures on the site, and specifying the setback distances from the potential hazard area(s). All setback distances shall comply with setback distances recommended by the QEP/PE.
 - ii. A quality-assurance statement with the signatures and seals of all qualified professionals. Some assessment reports may require the involvement of one or more qualified professionals and a peer review process.
 - iii. Completion of the **Flood Assurance Statement** as outlined in the *Professional Practice Guidelines; Legislated Flood Assessments in a Changing Climate in BC*, published August 28, 2018 as amended from time to time;
 - iv. Completion of **Table 4-1 Zoning for Risk Areas**, as outlined in page 19 of *Climate Change Adaption Guidelines for Sea Dikes and Coastal Flood Hazard Land Use, Guidelines for the Management of Coastal Flood Hazard Land Use*, dated January 27, 2011 as amended from time to time;
 - v. an assessment and impact statement describing effects of the proposed development on the natural shoreline;
 - vi. Recommendations to reduce any potential risk of damage to all existing and future Buildings or Structure, as applicable; and
 - vii. Flood Construction Levels, where applicable, prescribing an elevation above the natural boundary of the potential coastal flooding event.
- 6.4.5 Where the land may be safely used subject to conditions set out in a QEP/PE report, those conditions shall be set out in the Development Permit and upon completion of the development, the owner shall provide the Village with a statement certified by the QEP/PE that the construction was carried out in compliance with the conditions specified in the development permit.
- 6.4.6 No septic tank, drainage and deposit fields, or irrigation or water systems shall be constructed in this DPA.
- 6.4.7 Protection devices or works, as permitted, signed and sealed by a qualified and licensed professional engineer, must be located within the applicant's property boundary.

- 6.4.8 No development or alteration of land may occur where a geotechnical engineering report indicates that an unacceptable hazardous risk condition would result.
- 6.4.9 Development permit applications should include a shoreline vegetation management plan, indicating the extent of proposed buffer areas and the proposed management of vegetation in these areas.
- 6.4.10 A biophysical assessment of a site within this DPA affected by a development may be required. Based on this biophysical assessment of the site within an area designated in this DPA, works or protective measures such as the planting or retention of trees or vegetation may be required to preserve, protect, restore or enhance habitat or shoreline areas.
- 6.4.11 The Village may require the applicant to enter into a restrictive covenant.

6.5 DPA 2 – Riparian Areas Protection

CATEGORY

Pursuant to *Section 488(1)(b)*[protection of hazardous conditions] of the LGA.

DPA 2 - Riparian Areas Protection areas include all of the lands within 30 metres of mapped and unmapped streams and include watercourses, lakes, streams, ponds, and wetlands identified as fish-supportive habitat or connected to watercourses. These lands are shown on **Map 9**. Stream alignments from Provincial databases have been acquired.

Within the OCP these lands include, but are not limited to:

- i. all named and unnamed creeks including but not limited to Juliette Creek, and
- ii. all wetlands.

INTENT

The following DPA guidelines are intended to manage and regulate development to protect riparian areas within the Village. Together, the water and the riparian area form aquatic habitat which are critical for the survival of fish, fish supportive processes, and which are important to maintain biodiversity and essential for many species. Unnecessarily disturbing these sensitive and important aquatic environments may harm their vitality and the ecological services they provide and can have downstream consequences on fish habitat.

Specifically, the following policies are intended to:

1. promote the enhancement and restoration of wildlife and fish habitat, sensitive aquatic ecosystems, water quality and quantity and vegetation in riparian areas, and
2. minimize the risk of damage to human life and property and support the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

POLICIES & GUIDELINES

The following policies apply to lands identified as **DPA 2 Riparian Areas Protection** as shown on **Map 9**.

- 6.5.1 Lands within this DPA must remain free of development and in their current condition except where development is permitted by an approved Development Permit and is undertaken in compliance with all conditions contained within the approved Development Permit.
- 6.5.2 In the absence of a report from a qualified environmental professional, a minimum buffer of 30 metres is required from the middle of any creek as shown on **Map 9** or as confirmed by a QEP/PE and any new building or structure not in existence at the date of adoption of this Plan.

- 6.5.3 Where policies in 6.5.1 or 6.5.2 render a parcel of land undevelopable, a lesser setback may be permissible in accordance with information provided by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) or Professional Engineer (PE) to certify the land may be safely used as intended. Where the land may be safely used subject to conditions set out in a QEP/PE report, those conditions shall be set out in the Development Permit and upon completion of the development, the owner shall provide the Village with a statement certified by the QEP/PE that the construction was carried out in compliance with the conditions specified in the development permit.
- 6.5.4 The proponent of a development shall obtain a QEP/PE to certify that development and associated activities do not impact a stream's flows, natural drainage patterns, and the natural stream channel geometry.
- 6.5.5 Development permit applications that encroach on areas designated as DPA 2 – Riparian Areas Protection should include a report prepared by a qualified environmental professional outlining the following information:
- i. a detailed site plan (e.g. 1:250 scale or larger) identifying the middle of the creek and a 30 metre setback line;
 - ii. an environmental and biophysical assessment carried out by a QEP or PE;
 - iii. identification of an area to be covenanted as a 'no-build area' and registered on title in the Land Registry Office;
 - iv. an inventory of fish species and related habitat;
 - v. an impact statement describing the effects of the proposed development on the natural conditions;
 - vi. measures deemed necessary to protect the integrity of streamside protection and enhancement areas from the effects of development; and
 - vii. guidelines and procedures for mitigating habitat degradation.

6.6 DPA 3 – Open Slope Hazards

CATEGORY

Pursuant to **Section 488(1)(b)**[protection of hazardous conditions] of the LGA. These lands are shown on **Map 9**.

INTENT

DPA 3 – Open Slope Hazards is intended to manage and regulate development to protect residents and property from the potential risk of slope failure, mud flows, land slip, rock falls, avalanche, and debris flows.

POLICIES

The following policies apply to lands identified as **DPA 3 - Open Slope Hazards** as shown on **Map 9**.

- 6.6.1 Lands within the Open Slope Hazards DPA shall remain free of development and in their current condition unless the proposed development is supported by a report from a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) or Professional Engineer (PE) providing proof which demonstrates the land is suitable for the proposed development.
- 6.6.2 Where policies in 6.6.1 render a parcel of land undevelopable, development may occur in accordance with information provided by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) or Professional Engineer (PE) to certify that the land may be safely used as intended. Where the land may be safely used subject to conditions set out in a QEP/PE report, those conditions shall be set out in the Development Permit and upon completion of the development, the owner shall provide the Village with a statement certified by the QEP/PE that the construction was carried out in compliance with the conditions specified in the development permit.
- 6.6.3 A site-specific stormwater management plan undertaken by a QEP/PE shall be designed to manage sediment and run-off, including during and after construction.

6.7 Development Approval Information

Under Section 920.01 of the *LGA*, an Official Community Plan may designate areas or circumstances where development approval information is required. The only available contour mapping is the provincial Terrain Resource Inventory Mapping (TRIM) at a scale of 1:20,000 and 20-metre contour intervals.

In light of the absence of sensitive ecosystem, watercourse, and more-detailed contour mapping information, the Village designates vacant lands identified for potential development as Development Approval Information Areas (DAIAs) as shown on **Map 10 | Development Approval Information Areas**.

This is a tool that is appropriate for the provision of information on the site of a proposed development and its impact on natural features, the natural environment including riparian area protection, and local infrastructure, and to ensure that the proposed development is protected from hazardous conditions prior to its development, particularly with respect to development lands for which little information is currently available.

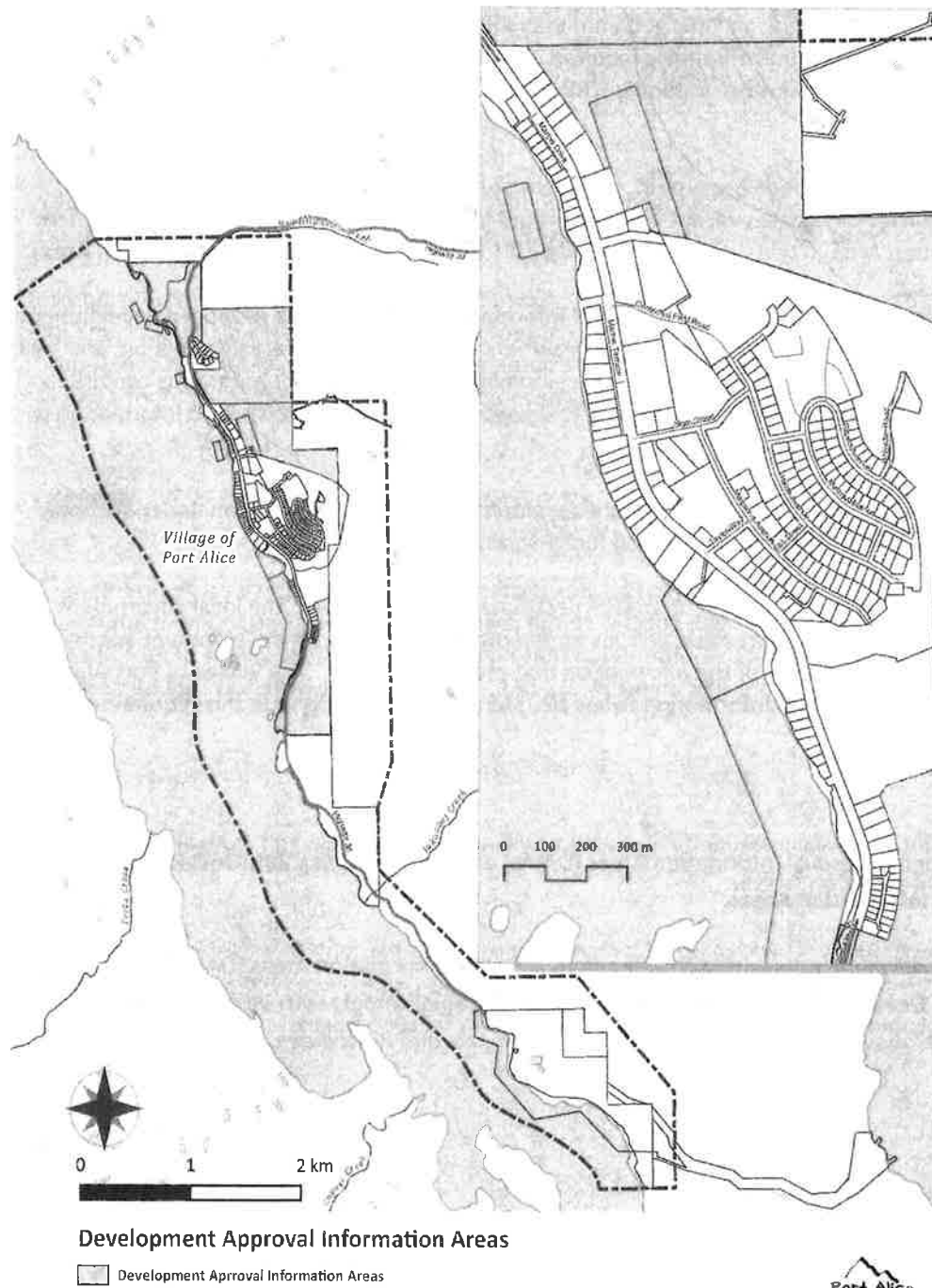
Relevant requirements and procedures to require development approval information under **Sections 920.01 and 920.1 of the LGA** may be developed for DPAs as identified in this Plan.

Section 920.1 of the *LGA* stipulates that, if an OCP designates areas as DAIAs, “the local government must, by bylaw, establish procedures and policies on the process for requiring development approval information ... and the substance of the information that may be required.” The Village of Port Alice has adopted Development Approval Information Bylaw No. 569, 2010, to comply with this requirement of the *LGA*.

POLICIES

- 6.7.1 Development Approval Information Areas (DAIAs) are shown on **Map 10 | Development Approval Information Areas**.
- 6.7.2 Proposed developments within Development Approval Information Areas (DAIAs) as shown on **Map 10 | Development Approval Information Areas** shall comply with *Village Bylaw No. 569, 2010 Development Approval Information Requirements and Procedures*.

Map 10 | Development Approval Information Areas





APPENDICES

Port Alice OCP

69

135

7 APPENDIX A | WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

8 APPENDIX B | OCP MASTER PLAN REQUIREMENTS

9 APPENDIX D | FULL SIZE MAPS & DRAWINGS



INFORMATION ITEMS

From: PAC Aquaculture Engagement / Engagement de laquaculture PAC (DFO/MPO)
<DFO.PACAquacultureEngagement-EngagementdelaquaculturePAC.MPO@dfo-
mpo.gc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 3:16 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Extension of consultation and engagement process for Open-Net Pen Transition Plan
Attachments: Open-Net Pen Transition Phase 3 Discussion Guide.pdf

Subject: Extension of consultation and engagement process for Open-Net Pen Transition Plan

Thank you for your continued interest in Fisheries and Oceans Canada's engagement process on the development of an Open-Net Pen Transition Plan for salmon aquaculture in British Columbia.

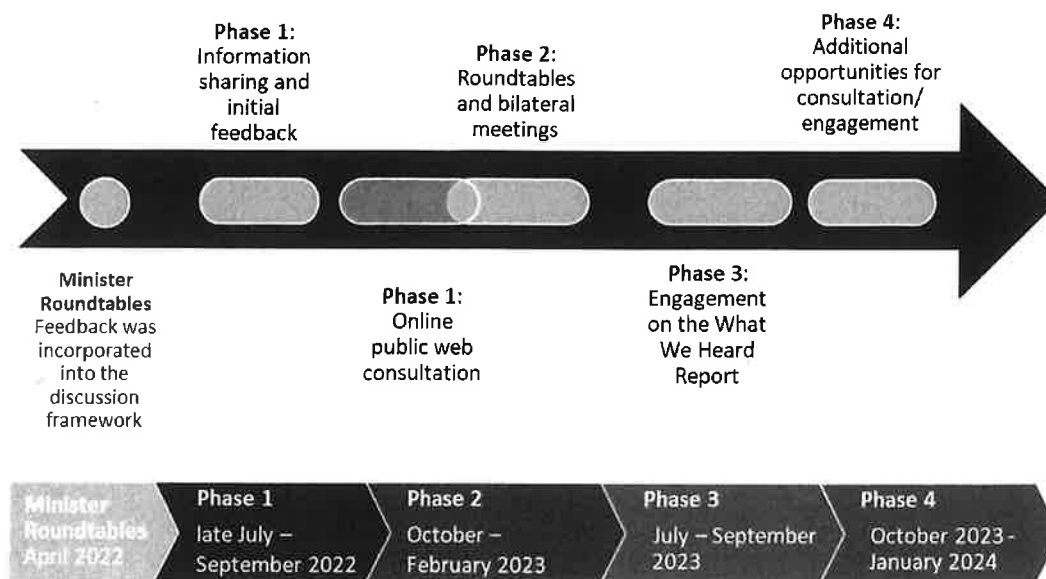
This email provides an update to our May 15, 2023 email on the [Phase 1 and 2 What We Heard Report](#) and ongoing engagement. To respond to requests from First Nations, industry, and stakeholders, we are extending consultation on the open-net pen aquaculture transition to all interested parties through the summer. The next phases of engagement and consultation are described below:

Phase 3 – Engagement on the What We Heard Report (July to September 2023)

Phase 3 will be available for all engaged parties who want to continue their dialogue with DFO to ensure that they are thoroughly engaged and consulted in discussions related to potential outcomes of a transition plan. We have attached a high-level discussion guide for reference.

Phase 4 – Additional opportunities for consultation/engagement (October 2023 to January 2024)

Phase 4 will provide additional opportunities for more targeted engagement on an as-needed basis.



Please contact us at DFO.PACAquacultureEngagement-EngagementdelaquaculturePAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca if you would like to set up a meeting to discuss the What We Heard report in more detail, if you would like to provide feedback, or if you would like more information on upcoming meeting dates with specific communities of interest. We encourage partners and stakeholders to contact us as soon as possible to set up meetings. Written submissions with input on the What We Heard Report can also be shared via email until Friday, September 15, 2023.

We look forward to working with you on the future of salmon aquaculture in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Aquaculture Management Division

Open-net Pen Transition Plan – Phase 3 Consultation

July 2023

The purpose of this document is to provide partners and interested stakeholders with information on the next phase of the open-net pen transition consultation. Phase 3 will run to the end of September 2023. Phase 4 will follow and will involve further targeted engagement.

In 2019 and 2021, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard was mandated to work with the Province of British Columbia (B.C.) and Indigenous communities on a responsible plan to transition from open net-pen salmon farming in coastal B.C. waters by 2025.

In June 2022, the Department released a [Discussion Framework](#) to guide engagement on the development of an Open-Net Pen Transition Plan. The Discussion Framework proposed four main objectives for the Transition Plan: transition from open-net pen aquaculture; trust and transparency; reconciliation and Indigenous partnerships, and growth in B.C. sustainable aquaculture innovation.

During the engagement process, partners and stakeholders shared a variety of views about these objectives. These views are summarized in the [What We Heard Report](#) for phases 1 and 2 of the engagement process. In Phase 3, all participants have the opportunity to reflect on the full scope of what was heard and provide their own perspectives on the points raised.

Participants supported the development of a responsible plan to transition from open-net pen salmon farming in coastal B.C. but with significant variation on what a responsible plan would look like. There was a significant range of perspectives in the objective focused on the transition from open-net pen salmon aquaculture. Input on the rest of the objectives, while less varied, was always based on participant's perspectives on how they viewed the fundamentals of transition. Some participants advocated for the immediate removal of marine salmon aquaculture, while some supported a performance and outcomes-based transition focused on the goal of minimizing or eliminating interactions between wild and cultured fish. Some expressed preference for a rapid transition focused on specific technologies, while other input targeted results.

It is important to better understand the specifics of options that have been put forward by participants in the consultations, as well as the impacts of those options and how they might be mitigated.

The following questions are intended to probe on these issues.

1) Through consultations, some participants recommended an approach to remove open net pens in the near term (e.g. by 2025):

- How would you see that being implemented?
- What specific factors would need to be considered to advance such an option?
- Over what time horizon would you see such an option implemented — i.e. completed by what date? Are there phases or milestones that should be included?
- What would be the potential impacts of a requirement in to remove open net pens in the near terms, for communities, for businesses, for wild salmon, etc?
- For First Nation communities, what are your community's perspectives on this option? How should the Government continue to pursue reconciliation with your community and your broader socioeconomic, financial, cultural and other needs and interests?

- What kinds of alternative economic activities and business development could support employment in communities affected by such an option? What kind of economic transition measures and specific supports could be used to mitigate impacts of this option?

2) Other participants in consultations recommended that a transition focus an approach that mandates more stringent performance outcomes to progressively minimize or eliminate interactions with wild salmon over time.

- How would such an approach be implemented?
- What specific factors need to be considered to advance such an option?
- Over what time horizon would you expect interactions between fish farms and wild salmon to be eliminated? Are there phases or milestones that should be included?
- What would be the potential impacts of such an option, for communities, for businesses, for wild Pacific salmon, etc.?
- For First Nation communities, what are your community's perspectives on this option? How should the Government continue to pursue reconciliation with your community and your broader socioeconomic, financial, cultural and other needs and interests?
- What kinds of alternative economic activities and business development could support employment in communities affected by such an option? What kind of specific economic measures and supports could be used to mitigate impacts of this option?

3) Are there hybrid options that combine elements of the two different approaches outlined in questions 1) and 2)?

- How would such an approach be implemented?
- What specific factors need to be considered to advance such an option?
- Over what time horizon would you see such an option implemented? Are there phases or milestones that should be included?
- What would be the potential impacts of such an option, for communities, for businesses, for wild Pacific salmon, etc.?
- For First Nation communities, what are your community's perspectives on this kind of option? How should the Government continue to pursue reconciliation with your community and your broader socioeconomic, financial, cultural and other needs and interests?
- What kinds of alternative economic activities and business development could support employment in communities affected by such an option? What kind of specific economic measures and supports could be used to mitigate impacts of this option?

4) What is the role of other jurisdictions in facilitating a transition away from open net pens (e.g. municipal, regional, Provincial)?

CITY OF SURREY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

July 4, 2023

Port Alice (Village)
1061 Marine Drive
Port Alice, BC VoN 2No

By email: info@portalice.ca

Dear Mayor and Council,

It is important for local governments to know the impact of the Surrey Police Transition on your city, town or regional district, should it go ahead.

As you may know, Surrey Council voted to keep the RCMP as the police of jurisdiction (POJ). We communicated our decision to the Solicitor General (SG) who, continued to "recommend" that the city stay with the transition to the Surrey Police Service (SPS), but asked that the City choose between two options,

- 1) To continue the transition to the SPS with no evaluation of the SPS model.
- 2) To stay with the RCMP as the POJ with conditions.

The Premier, the SG and the Ministry's report recognize that it is the role of municipalities to choose their policing model. The SGs' authority under the Act is a safety net if the "adequate and effective" policing standard is not met. It does not grant the SG the authority to impose hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of costs into the municipal budget on a political whim.

I am writing to you today for two reasons.

Firstly, is to express my deep concern for the statements made by the provincial government and the Solicitor General suggesting that should Surrey remain with the RCMP would create a public safety crisis; this is not truthful.

In fact, the ministry's own report states *"It is not based on a failure by police to deliver adequate and effective policing nor a failure in public safety. Quite the opposite is true, front-line officers in the SPS and the RCMP are working hard to serve those who reside in and visit Surrey"*. It went on to say *"This Director's Report is not a comparative assessment of the two police models. It is also not intended to provide a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of continuing with the current police transition to the SPS."*

This interference should have significant concern to local government if the SG establishes a precedent of indiscriminately imposing massive costs onto



13450 – 104 AVENUE SURREY BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA V3T 1V8



BRENDA LOCKE
MAYOR

MAYOR@SURREY.CA

604.591.4126

municipal government with no rationale other than vaguely referencing public safety concerns. Adequate and effective policing is in place in our city and our province, and for the Premier and the Solicitor General to infer there is a public safety crisis is not supported by data.

The central fear articulated by the premier and SG is the sudden dissolution of the SPS may lead to a walk out. The SPS Board has provided assurances that the SPS officers will remain on duty. Because the SPS Board reports to the province (not the city), they will take its instructions from the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Public Safety. One simple mandate letter from the province would remove the only concern for this public safety threat.

On the other hand, approving the SPS would create massive pressure on policing in the province, which would not exist if we remained with the RCMP. The only police training facility in the province, the JIBC, was past its capacity to meet the needs of municipal policing in BC even before the SPS was established. It is also important to recognize that police officer training at the JIBC has been under scrutiny. In order to properly address the police training needs in British Columbia would require expanding the JIBC. To date, the provincial budget has not addressed this expensive and time-consuming need. Waiting years for the JIBC training to fill the SPS cadet requirement will not only cost Surrey millions in time delays, but it will also impact other municipal police forces who cannot get seats at the JIBC.

Therefore, the only other route to full capacity for the SPS is hiring experienced police officers from your communities as they have done to date.

If the SG were to impose the SPS on Surrey, I would strongly recommend you communicate directly to the SG that you expect him to impose the same "public safety" restrictions on the SPS hiring from LMD communities as he has placed on the RCMP.

Secondly, and perhaps more important to local governments, is the financial and human resource impact that continuing with the Surrey Police Transition will have on every city, town, transit police and regional district in the province.

The SG's plan to move forward with the SPS will cost you financially if you are currently an RCMP jurisdiction. As RCMP divisional administrative costs are shared costs among all RCMP jurisdictions, so far it is estimated that because of the size of the Surrey detachment, your policing costs will increase by up to 7%.

If you are served by a municipal police force, it is important to know that the provincially appointed Surrey Police Board signed the richest collective agreement in Canada. This agreement will likely impact all future municipal police board negotiations.

The Surrey RCMP requires approx. 170 officers to return to full complement. Over 80 SPS officers have expressed interest in making this move according to the Officer in Charge. Further, the RCMP has stated that they can and will accommodate the human resource needs, not only to Surrey, but throughout the region, with the new recruiting and experienced officer programs.

In contrast, the Surrey Police Service (SPS) requires over 400 additional officers beyond those hired to date, to get to full strength. Although the province recognized the scope of the Surrey police transition from the beginning, they did not increase the funding to the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) in order to accommodate the officer training needed. The reality is that, just as the SPS has done to date, the vast majority of the SPS hires will come by recruiting from the RCMP, TransLink and other municipal forces throughout the province.



In closing,

My concern is the duplicity of the provincial government on this matter. The Ministry report and SG explicitly stated that we had two choices - to remain with the RCMP or the SPS - and conditions to meet with either option.

Based on the facts we examined, we chose the RCMP - with a more significant majority of council than we had originally - and we have committed to meeting the binding conditions.

The SGs' response is to move the goalposts and claim the need to review the plan and potentially overturn the council decision. I have offered to work with the province to ensure the requirements are met, and the province refuses to acknowledge the offer.

As local government leaders, we need to stand up for our authority under the Police Act. Like with your municipality, Surrey Council knows our community best. We cannot allow a "manufactured crisis" to drive a significant and costly public safety decision that will impact generations to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Brenda Locke
Mayor



From: Abassi, Dominic <Dominic.Abassi@islandhealth.ca> on behalf of Island Health Communication <Communication@islandhealth.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 9:33 AM
To: Island Health Communication
Subject: Island Health News: Island Health aims to boost responses to B.C. SPEAK Survey
Attachments: image003.emz

islandhealth.ca/news



NEWS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 5, 2023

Island Health aims to boost responses to B.C. SPEAK Survey

Province-wide – B.C.'s largest population health survey, the SPEAK survey, has been extended and will remain open until July 31 to help boost participation.

Anyone living in the Island Health region can have a say in shaping the health programs and services in their region by participating in the survey on Population Experiences, Action, and Knowledge (SPEAK) and sharing their experiences over the past few years.

Grateful to everyone who has participated in this latest round of the SPEAK survey – your input is vital to help us understand the health of Island Health's populations and regions," says Dr. Réka Gustafson, Island Health's vice president of population health and chief medical health officer. "For those who have yet to take the survey, I encourage you to contribute to this important conversation about the health of our diverse communities. We want to hear from you!"

Earlier this year, in partnership with the BC Centre for Disease Control and health authorities across the province, we launched the third round of SPEAK on April 1. To date, about 85,000 people have responded and we are hoping to hear from 120,000 people of all backgrounds and from all over the province, particularly from under-represented groups, where participation levels are lower, such as:

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit people;
- People from racialized communities; including those of Chinese, South and Southeast Asian, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab and more.
- People living in rural parts of the province;
- Men aged 18 to 34;
- People aged 75 and older;

- People with no post-secondary education;
- People with lower household incomes; and
- People with children and young adults in their lives.

urvey asks how people living in B.C. are doing when it comes to their social, economic, physical health, mental health, and overall well-being, so we can better support communities across the province.

These type of population health assessments help inform public health interventions, practices and policies. Previous survey findings have informed policy and programming priorities, including the reopening plans and safe return to school for kindergarten to grade 12, vaccination interventions in areas with low uptake, and initiatives to improve mental wellness in children and youth.

The survey takes around 20 minutes to fill out and can be accessed at www.bccdc.ca/SpeakSurvey. Members of the public are also encouraged to share the survey with their family and loved ones and help them participate as needed.

If you need any assistance with the survey, please reach out to Island Health's Population Health Assessment, Surveillance and Epidemiology at pophealthsurvepi@islandhealth.ca.

The survey is available in 10 different languages and people's responses will inform future public health initiatives across the province. By responding to the survey people living in B.C. will let their health authority know what resources are needed to improve health and well-being in their community.

The SPEAK survey is funded by the [BCCDC Foundation for Public Health](#).

GROUNDING

Health Columbians 18 years of age and older are encouraged to participate in the latest round of the SPEAK survey. **We would be grateful from people across the entire Island Health region, including those in the following communities:**

1 Island region

West Vancouver Island
Port Hardy/Port Alice
Port McNeill/Sointula
North Vancouver Island

2 al Island region

West Cowichan Valley
Ladysmith
Penelakut and Thetis Island
West Nanaimo
Cedar/Wellington
Alberni Valley/Bamfield
West Coast

3 Island region

Metchosin
Juan de Fuca

Island Health:

Island Health provides health and care services to more than 885,000 people on Vancouver Island, the islands in the Salish Sea and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and mainland communities north of Powell River. With more than 30,000 health-care professionals, including more than 10,000 doctors, nurse practitioners, midwives and dentists that make up our Medical Staff – as well as 1,000 volunteers, and the dedicated support of 12 foundations and 19 active auxiliaries – Island Health delivers a broad range of health services, including: public health services, primary health care, home and community care, mental health and substance use services, acute care in hospitals, and much more across a vast and geographically diverse region.

-30-

Media inquiries:

Minic Abassi

250-755-7966

Minic.Abassi@islandhealth.ca

View online at www.islandhealth.ca/news. If you no longer wish to receive Island Health news, please [click here](#) to request you be removed from the distribution list.

