

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 08, 2023, at 6:00 pm
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VILLAGE OFFICE



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(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 November 8, 2023, be approved; AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence, and other information set to the agenda be received.

(3) DELEGATIONS:

- a.) Ministry of Environment re Update on the Mill Site
October 27, 2023

(4) MINUTES:

- a.) *THAT the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 25, 2023, be approved.*

(5) NEW BUSINESS:

(6) COMMUNICATIONS:

- a.) Request for Support – Nanaimo Regional Health District Key Healthcare Priority Projects
October 25, 2023, Letter from Ian Thorpe Chair of NRHD

- b.) Investment in North Island Tourism Projects will boost Local economy
November 1, 2023, North Island Gazette

(7) REPORTS:

- a.) Economic Development Report VIEA 2023
October 27, 2023, Report from Ryan Nicholson, Economic Development Officer

- b.) Community Passenger Transportation Fund
November 1, 2023 Report from Bonnie Danyk CAO / CFO

(8) BYLAWS:

(9) QUESTION PERIOD:

(11) ADJOURNMENT:

THAT the meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held November 8, 2023, be adjourned

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- a.) October 27, 2023, News Release from North Island College Re Key figure in creation of North Island College sets up Legacy Award
b.) Vancouver Island Regional District Strategic Plan
c.) October 31, 2023, Email from Hon Mitzi Dean, re Adoption Awareness Month

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VILLAGE OFFICE**



Present Mayor Kevin Cameron
Councillor Holly Aldis
Councillor Sean Watson – *arrived late*
Councillor David Stewart
Councillor Russell Murray – *via phone*

Staff Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO
Tanya Spafford, Admin Assistant

Call to order 6:00 pm

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

**89/23
Adoption of
Agenda**

***THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the Village of Port Alice for October 25, 2023, be approved;
AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence, and other information set to the agenda be received.***

DELEGATION:

**90/23
Minutes of
September
13, 2023**

MINUTES:

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Minutes from the Council Meeting of October 11, 2023, be approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Passenger Transportation Fund Application Guide

Staff directed to bring a report to the next meeting with a recommendation for an application towards a Needs Assessment Report.

COMMUNICATIONS:

REPORTS:

Port Alice Volunteer Fire Department - September
October 3, 2023, Report from Jerry Rose, Fire Chief

Accounts Payable Listing for August 2023
October 19, 2023, Report from Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

Summary of Revenue & Expenses for August 2023
October 19, 2023, Report from Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

Fees and Charges Bylaw
October 19, 2023, Report from Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

91/23 *THAT staff bring forth a report regarding the Marina Fees.*

Motion to
have Marina
Fees
Assessed

Link River Lease

October 19, 2023, Report from Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO
Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

92/23 Link *THAT the Village of Port Alice not renew the lease with the Regional District of Mount
River Lease Waddington for the management of Link River Campsite.*

REDIP Grant

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

93/23 REDIP *THAT the Village of Port Alice apply to the REDIP-Fit grant for the completion of a feasibility study
Grant on the redevelopment of the Doug Bondue Arena and FURTHER THAT the Village of Port Alice be
responsible for the overruns on the project.*

BYLAWS:

94/23 Bylaw 685 to Exempt Specific Properties from Taxation for the Year 2024

Bylaw 685,
Tax
Exemptions

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

*THAT Bylaw 685, to Exempt Specific Properties from Taxation for the Year 2024, be given fourth
reading and adoption.*

QUESTION PERIOD:

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

95/23 *THAT the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice held October 25, 2023, be adjourned at
Adjournment 6:34pm.*

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Regular meeting of the
Village of Port Alice Council held October 25, 2023.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

October 25, 2023

Mayor Kevin Cameron
Village of Port Alice
1061 Marine Dr
Port Alice, BC V0N 2N0

Re: Request For Support - NRHD Key Healthcare Priority Projects

Dear Mayor Cameron and Council:

On behalf of the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District (NRHD), I write to share information about our advocacy work to advance a suite of priority projects in the region which will serve residents across the Central and North Island. These interrelated projects include a new patient tower, cancer centre, cardiac catheterization lab and high acuity unit to be located at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) and a new long-term care home in the region. It is our hope that the Port Alice Council will consider approving a motion to write a letter to Minister Dix expressing support for this critical health infrastructure.

These projects were identified by the Province and Island Health in consultation with health care experts and are included in Island Health's major capital plan. Over the last two years, the NRHD has confirmed its commitment to these projects and has developed an advocacy focus and a financial strategy to see them realized.

Over time, there has been progress. In March 2023 the B.C. government approved the new high acuity unit (HAU) to be developed as part of the new intensive care unit at the NRGH, construction is under way. In May 2023 the Province also approved the concept plan for a new cancer centre to be located at the NRGH. Upgrades to the existing community oncology clinic at the NRGH have also been approved which will increase the number of treatment spaces and replace the current cancer outpatient pharmacy. Business planning for the cancer centre is underway. In October 2023 the Province announced its approval of a long-term care facility to be built in Lantzville, with construction to begin in 2025. The NRHD is grateful to the government for approving the HAU, the concept plan for the cancer centre and the long-term care facility to move ahead. However, there is still an urgent need for the other priority projects.

While we recognize that the Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District has its own priorities, we note that the NRGH is the designated tertiary hospital north of the Malahat, providing specialized services to patients not just within the NRHD region but also from across the Central and North Island. The Central and North Island have one of the fastest growing and oldest populations in Canada. In the past five years, the RDN's population has increased by twice the national rate and is growing faster than the population in the South Island. Beyond the RDN, the population and complexity of medical needs across the entire Central and North Island are also growing. The shortage of health facilities is at a critical point, leading to a lower standard of care and poorer outcomes for patients in the Central and North Island, as well as

high costs to the health system. For many patients this creates additional financial and transportation burdens associated with travelling to Victoria or Vancouver for treatment. Delaying these projects will only exacerbate the growing gaps in care, putting patients at increased risk and contributing to worsening health outcomes and greater inefficiencies.

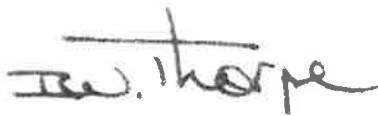
The NRHD is not asking for financial contributions from other municipalities or hospital districts for these projects. We have developed a long-term financial strategy and taken steps to support our financial contribution through a regional tax increase and we are prepared to borrow the difference. The NRHD priority projects will complement your own region's health infrastructure by providing new and enhanced health services, helping to ensure your residents get the care they need closer to their home community.

The NRHD has taken on a strong advocacy role and is committed to investing the resources and energy necessary to work with Island Health and the Province, First Nations, municipal and regional governments, regional hospital districts and other supporters to see these projects through to completion. It is our view that they align with the Province's priorities and will support the government in delivering on its commitments to improving health care for all British Columbians.

I enclose a draft motion and letter of support for the Council's consideration, as well as a fact sheet with more detailed information.

Thank you for your consideration. I am certainly available to provide clarification should you wish further details.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ian Thorpe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line above the first part of the name.

Ian Thorpe, Chair
Nanaimo Regional Hospital District
T: 250-713-9135 | Email: ian.thorpe@nanaimo.ca

**Nanaimo Regional Hospital District Priority Capital Projects
(Fact Sheet)**

The Nanaimo Regional Hospital District (NRHD) is committed to advancing key health care infrastructure for the Central and North Island, including a high acuity unit, a new patient tower, a cancer centre and a cardiac catheterization lab to be located at the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) and a new long-term care facility.

The Projects

These projects were identified by the Province and Island Health in consultation with health care providers and experts and are included in Island Health's major capital plan. The NRHD is committed to advancing key health care infrastructure for the Central and North Island and we have confirmed our own commitment to these 5 projects as priorities for the region.

1. **New patient tower** (concept plan not yet approved) at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) will provide new patient rooms, surgical spaces, labs, and other programs and services to improve care and infection control.
2. **New Cancer Centre** (concept plan approved) at NRGH will provide more technically complex treatments, clinical trials, and research as well as other specialty clinics such as gynecology, dermatology, heredity, and brachytherapy. It will increase capacity for chemotherapy and add radiation therapy for residents of the Central/North Island. Business planning is underway and will determine the scope of the project.
3. **New Cardiac Catheterization Lab** (no mandate from Province) at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (planning not started) – provide cardiac catheterization (insertion of stents, balloons, etc.) plus coronary and cardiac angiography (diagnostic imaging).
4. **New High Acuity Unit** (under construction) at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (approved) – 12-bed facility developed as part of the new intensive care unit being built (construction start – June 2023) to provide care for critically ill patients.
5. **New Long-term Care Home** (pending update from Province) – provide public long-term care beds for seniors. The business plan has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

The Need

The NRHD is grateful to the B.C. government for approving the HAU and the concept plan for the cancer center. However, there is still an urgent need to address critical health service gaps, including the need for a new patient tower and cardiac catheterization lab at NRGH and a new long-term care home. The medical demands of the Central and North Island's will only continue to increase due to a rapidly growing and aging population. Given the positive progress on the HAU and new cancer center we urge the Province to commit to similar action on the other projects. According to our medical leaders, the demands are staggering and continuing to increase. The shortage of appropriate health care facilities and specialized services is reaching a critical point.

The RDN has one of the fastest growing and oldest populations in Canada, and these trends are expected to continue. Our population increased by 9.4% in five years, twice the national rate of 5.2%, and is growing faster than the population of the South Island. Nearly 30% of RDN residents are 65 years or older vs. just over 21% for B.C. overall.

Beyond the RDN, the population and complexity of medical needs across the entire Central and North Island are also growing. Our health system also serves the needs of many vulnerable populations, including 80% of the Island's Indigenous people, who often live in remote communities and experience increased barriers, poorer health status, and have unique health needs and considerations.

Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) is the designated tertiary hospital providing specialized services to patients from across the Central and North Island. The patient tower, built in 1963, is structurally and functionally obsolete, at high risk for system failure, and can no longer meet best practices and modern medical standards, including prevention of infectious diseases. Due to operating at overcapacity, patients are often cared for in inappropriate areas of the hospital.

The population served by NRGH (over 450,000 people) is the largest in Canada without a cardiac catheterization lab. Victoria is the only center on Vancouver Island with this type of facility. Central and North Island cardiac patients must travel to Victoria for heart care which is not available north of the Malahat. Patients might also be sent to Vancouver. Likewise, oncology services are under-resourced. While NRGH provides chemotherapy, Central and North Island cancer patients must travel to Victoria and/or Vancouver for radiation treatment.

With a significant shortage of long-term care beds in the region and long waitlists, many seniors end up in hospital who would be better cared for in facilities dedicated to their complex care needs.

The Benefits

These specialized and enhanced services are essential for providing Central and North Island residents with appropriate, patient-centred, and high-quality health care, when and where they need it. The patient tower will provide critical services to improve care for our patients, optimize wellness, and improve infection control. A cardiac catheterization lab would ensure timely diagnosis and access to interventional cardiology intended to address heart problems and prevent the need for surgery. A new long-term care home will enable local seniors to move out of hospitals, freeing up acute care beds at NRGH, and allowing seniors to age with appropriate care and dignity in or near their home communities.

Vital investments now into these services will benefit our communities for decades to come, improve the standard of care and help improve health outcomes north of the Malahat, as well as health system performance. It is critical these projects move to increase local health system capacity, reduce pressure on health services in other regions, free up beds at NRGH, and provide better value for public health care dollars.

Alignment with B.C. Government Priorities

These key projects will support the provincial government in delivering on its commitments to improving health care for all British Columbians, including strengthening our public health care system with new and modernized hospitals, improving cancer care, addressing service gaps and improving access to medical appointments for rural and remote communities, and delivering appropriate care for seniors through investments in new public long-term care homes.

NRHD's Funding Commitment

The NRHD has put in place funding mechanisms for its share of the project capital costs and is ready to proceed. We have committed to fund 40% of the NRGH patient tower replacement, cardiac catheterization lab, new high acuity unit, and new long-term care facility. Because these projects are vital for our region, we have developed a long-term financial strategy, taken steps to support our financial contribution through a recent regional tax increase, and are prepared to borrow the difference. We ask the province to prioritize the remaining projects and commit the necessary funding to ensuring they are built.

Investment in North Island tourism projects will boost local economy

Black Press Media Staff

Nov 1, 2023 5:10 AM



The Village of Port Alice will be receiving \$609,250 for municipal marina upgrades and repairs. (North Island Gazette file photo)

New Democrat MLA Michele Babchuk says the provincial government's support for North Island tourism projects will bring more visitors to the community and strengthen the local economy.

"Tourists from around the world visit Northern Vancouver Island to explore our coastal communities, beautiful beaches, and all our incredible wildlife," says Babchuk. "This stream of funding not only helps accommodate for our visitors, but provides critical infrastructure for our community members as well."

On North Vancouver Island, the following projects are receiving funding:

Sointula Resource Centre Society: revitalizing the free bike program and expand it to include e-bike rentals and wayfinding signage - \$62,445;

Village of Port Alice: municipal marina upgrades and repairs - \$609,250;

Kwakiutl First Nation: Cluxewe Resort and Campground upgrades to water supply to provide potable water to guests of the resort - \$999,375; and

Echo Bay Development Ltd: revitalization of docks and water treatment system of the K'waxwālawadi Echo Bay marina and lodge - \$403,000.

Across the province 31 projects are benefitting from one-time destination development grant funding, which aims to make communities competitive destinations for tourism and strengthen local economies.

Since 2022, the province has invested \$60 million into the fund to help continue to rebuild tourism levels to pre-2020 numbers by 2024.


In its first year, the fund supported 90 projects in B.C. communities.

These projects have been selected for funding as they demonstrate tourism benefits to communities, including sustainability, accessibility, and economic benefit. These projects are future-thinking, and will support communities for years to come, supporting the Province's CleanBC Plan and Climate Preparedness Adaptation Strategy.

"British Columbia is a world-class destination and tourism is one of the province's greatest economic drivers," said Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. "The past three years have been incredibly challenging for people in the tourism industry, especially after years of economic uncertainty and extreme weather events like the recent wildfires. Investing in tourism infrastructure supports the tourism sector, the people who work in it, and is helping to create vibrant communities for all British Columbians and visitors."

The Destination Development Fund supports tourism businesses by developing and rejuvenating tourism infrastructure. The 31 new recipients will receive nearly \$15 million in 2023-24 with one-time grants.

Since 2021, more than \$60 million has been provided through the Destination Development Fund helping rebuild tourism revenues to 2019 levels and strengthening a year-round visitor economy for people in B.C and for those who work in the tourism sector.

 were chosen for their contribution to communities, benefits to the tourism economy, and support for sustainability and accessibility.

The Province is also supporting the sector with \$3 million through the B.C. Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative. This will support education, assessments, expert coaching, action planning and adaptation to help tourism businesses and communities measure, track and improve sustainable and environmentally responsible practices in their operations.

Led by Destination BC, the initiative will develop climate preparedness and adaptation strategies and action plans to mitigate climate risks, as well as provide a foundation for a long-term sustainability and climate-adaptation approach for people in the B.C. tourism sector.

“The new B.C. Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative provides a tremendous opportunity to bolster our tourism sector’s resilience, preserving natural spaces and making it well-equipped to face and adapt to climate change,” said Richard Porges, president and CEO, Destination BC. “Collectively, the tourism industry has a strong commitment to sustainability and aiding communities and visitors in their readiness for climate-related impacts. This new initiative will pave the way for climate preparedness and adaptation, positioning the tourism industry to proactively mitigate evolving climate risks.”

The B.C. Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative also supports the preservation of B.C.’s natural spaces, responsible travel and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Quick Facts

The Province has invested \$60 million in the Destination Development Fund since 2021.

In the first year of the Destination Development Fund, the Province supported 90 projects throughout the province.

The B.C. Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative supports the Province’s CleanBC Plan and the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.

The B.C. Tourism Climate Resiliency Initiative also builds on the BC Tourism Sustainability Network, a free tourism sustainability program, led by the BC Regional Tourism Secretariat, which has helped more than 160 tourism businesses incorporate sustainability into their operations.

Trending



VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor & Council
From: Ryan Nicholson, Economic Development Officer
Date: Oct 27, 2023
Subject: Economic Development Report VIEA 2023

On October 25 & 26, 2023 I attended the 2023 VIEA Summit in Nanaimo, where I attended several different sessions, speakers, and networked with a variety of individuals and organizations.

While there, I attended the following sessions:

On the trail to success: Enhancing recreation opportunities on Vancouver Island

Unlocking Vancouver Island's creative potential

Indigenous Business & Economic Development: Achievements, Reflections, and future directions

Preparing for the future of Island travel & Regenerative tourism

I also had great opportunities to network in person with WFP, ICET, PacifiCan, NIC, Array, and others.

The economic forecast for the Island over the next year would be best summed up as uncertain. While inflation seems to have reduced to a more acceptable 3-4%, they do not expect to see interest rate reductions until there are clear signs inflation is on track for a more ideal 2%. It is expected that it will be late 2024 or early 2025 before inflation is back within the 2% ideal range. Until then, rate hikes will continue to be a possibility.

Statistically, the Island is doing fairly well considering, however there was some concern for the North Island in particular because of the continued uncertainty around both aquaculture and forestry.

Housing prices have fallen by 7-10%, however most of the Island remains much more expensive compared to other parts of the country. There has not yet been a spike in residential bankruptcies, however there has been a slight increase in the number of businesses seeking protection.



Ryan Nicholson
Economic Development Officer



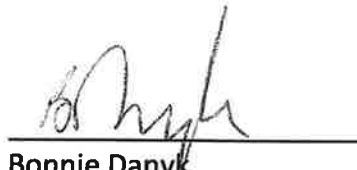
VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and Council
From: CAO / CFO
Date: November 1, 2023
Subject: Community Passenger Transportation Fund

In June 2023 community meetings were held on Vancouver Island regarding passenger transportation challenges, gaps and opportunities. As a result of these meetings a “What We Heard Report” was published and some funding was provided through the “Community Transportation Fund”.

At their meeting on October 25, 2023 the Village of Port Alice discussed the Community Transportation Fund and possible projects. I attended the engagement meeting in Port Hardy in June and one of the things discussed was that there are various transportation providers on the North Island, but they don't all coordinate with each other and they are not well advertised. Due to this lack of coordination, the Village of Port Alice Council decided to apply for funding to further explore available transportation options, look at ways to coordinate them, look at new opportunities for partnerships and create a document to advise residents of what services are available.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Village of Port Alice apply to the Community Passenger Transportation fund for \$20,000 for a study of current transportation options and recommendations for improvement.



Bonnie Danyk
CAO / CFO



INFORMATION ITEMS

MEDIA RELEASE

October 27, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MR23-034

Key figure in creation of North Island College sets up Legacy Award

Hardev Shergill played a crucial role in the formation of North Island College during the 1970s. Now retired in California, he is leaving another legacy to the College.

He is setting up a Legacy Award with the NIC Foundation with a \$100,000 donation. The new award will support students in visible minority groups or refugees to Canada. The award is to be given for the first time in 2024.

Shergill is making the donation in memory of his late mother Mata (Mother) Kartar Kaur Sangha-Shergill, whom he credits for supporting his education, even though her own was limited to a few grades of primary school.

"I come from a family of ancestral farmers, from the time farming was first invented. Nobody in our family attended schools because there were none. In my family I became the second person after my uncle, six years older, to go to school," he said.

He obtained his master's in geography and a bachelor's in teacher training while still in India, then completed a master's in audio-visual education in Bellingham, Wash., before his teaching career brought him to Canada.

It was not an easy trip from the start, and he did experience racism in his new home. For his epic 1960 journey from the Punjab region, his grandfather had given him \$1,200 for a year's expenses at school. He took three months and travelled more than 15,000 miles, including a free voyage on an oil tanker and spending only \$18 while hitchhiking over land to get to the Pacific Northwest. Newspapers in Bellingham and Seattle chronicled the story of his trip, and his backpack and other items from the trip are now part of the Smithsonian Museum collection.

In 1962, the federal government in Canada changed immigration laws to remove overtly discriminatory language based on race, and Shergill headed north. As in other countries on his journey, he experienced discrimination in his new home. However, he persevered. After a few years working on northern Vancouver Island, he moved to Ontario, then came back to British Columbia to work in the college system, eventually back to Vancouver Island.

"I have never in my life given up easily," he said.

In late 1973, the province created the Task Force on the Community College, on which Shergill sat as a representative for the College Faculties Federation of B.C. He put together a lengthy report that provided the basis for creating the



Hardev Shergill has set up a Legacy Award with the NIC Foundation with a \$100,000 donation.

NIC is honoured to acknowledge the traditional territories of the combined 35 First Nations of the Nuw-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish traditions, on whose traditional and unceded territories the college's campuses are situated.

www.nic.bc.ca



MEDIA RELEASE

permanent home for what is now North Island College. He was asked to continue his work after the report, so he served as the first administrative director for a brief time.

"In two years of working non-stop to establish this college and after giving 14 years of my life to Canada's education system, I had achieved the highest position I could. This was enough," he said.

He did not stay in B.C. but returned to the U.S. in 1976, where he moved to California. There, he obtained credentials for the state's college system "but never did try for a job." Instead, he changed careers.

"I settled in my own real estate business where I still am, living in the same house since 1982," he said.

Shergill moved on from education into real estate and insurance, but through his businesses, he has been able to support higher education through his philanthropy efforts—specifically a half dozen endowment funds for schools with which he or his family have been associated, including NIC.

Through the NIC Foundation, he has decided to honour his mother and the emphasis she placed on his getting an education, so he got in touch with the College about setting up the award. He also went through his files to provide some archival material for North Island College, including his report about forming a college in the region.

"We are grateful to Hardev Shergill for his generosity in sharing his story and for his ongoing support of newcomers to Canada," said NIC President Lisa Domae.

For more information, see foundation.nic.bc.ca.

Media Contact

Mike Chouinard

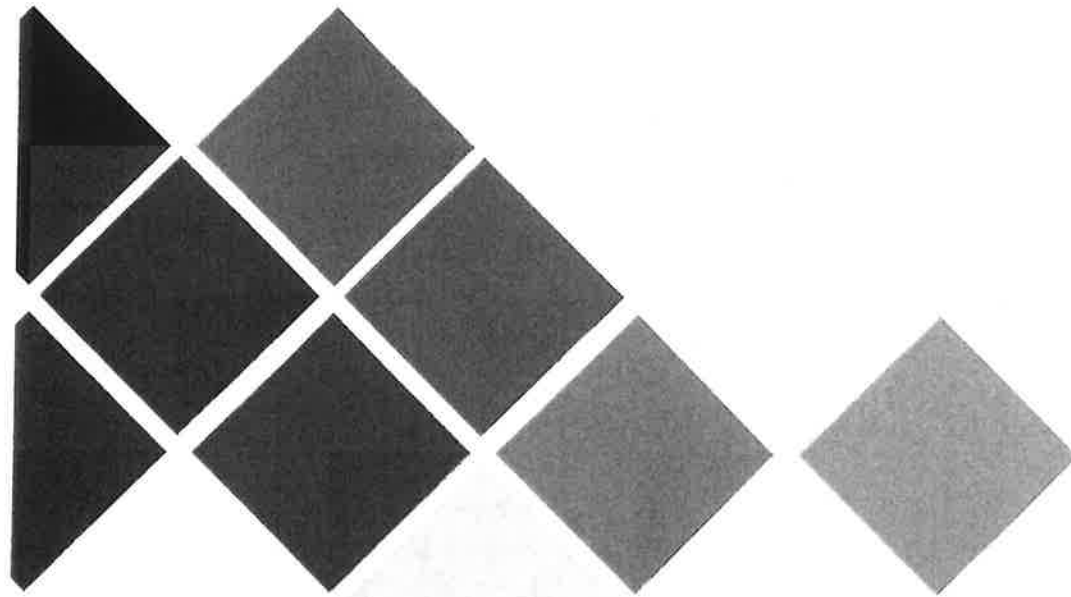
Communications, North Island College

O: 250-334-5081 | C: 250-207-6946

media@nic.bc.ca



VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY
STRATEGIC PLAN

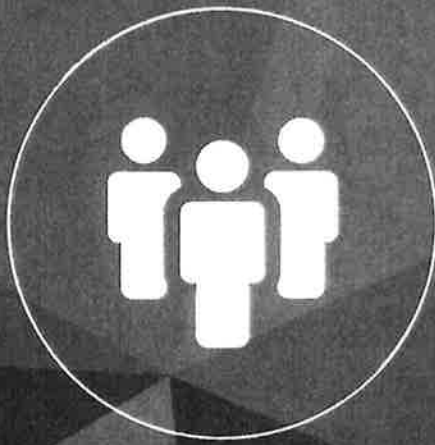




ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge

With great respect, Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) acknowledges that the Coast Salish, Haida, Heiltsuk, Kwakwaka'wakw, Nuuchah Nulth, and Nuxalk people have been the stewards of the lands within our service area since time immemorial. We are privileged and grateful to work within these territories, and in relationship with Inuit, Métis, and all other First Nations in the region. We are honoured by the teachings of knowledge keepers, who reinforce for us that Land is the first teacher and that we must proceed on our journey with Quum quum uy'kskuluwun (good heart, good mind). As we learn to walk in two worlds, our commitments to Reconciliation will only deepen. These multi-generational commitments will align with and transcend this Strategic Plan. In 2023, VIRL is continuing its work on these commitments with an Indigenous-led consultancy.



ED/CHAIR MESSAGE

HUY CEP Q'U / THANK YOU

We have come a long way in developing a new Strategic Plan for Vancouver Island Regional Library. We say "we" because it has been the collective contributions of our library users, community members, partners, Trustees, and staff who got us here today.

Over 3,000 people participated in our public engagement process, which brought new perspectives to light, sparked important conversations, and highlighted areas we need to prioritize.

Your input will remain at the forefront as we move forward with some of the greatest challenges our communities face today and as we continue to do everything we can as creatively and collaboratively as possible to provide barrier-free, region-wide, and equitable access to a unique and critical blend of Collective Services that lift our communities.

Our engagement in the work of Truth and Reconciliation remains a priority. Within our service area, we operate within 53 First Nations in six family groups (Coast Salish, Haida, Heiltsuk, Kwakwaka'wakw, Nuuchah Nulth, and Nuxalk). As we learn to walk in two worlds in this essential work, our commitment will only deepen.

Many have asked how we will address the socio-economic and environmental wellbeing of individuals and communities within our mandate and service area. In response, this plan embraces the principles of Service Design and Social Innovation to ensure the continuous evolution of our Collective Services and further empower our region.

We have set the bar high for ourselves and are committed to reaching it for our communities. Together, we will forge a path that not only meets the needs of today but anticipates the challenges of tomorrow.

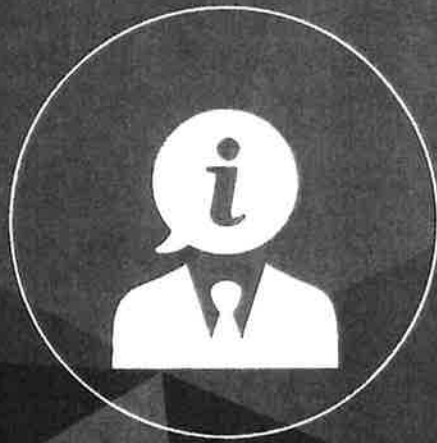
**Over 3,000
people
participated
in public
engagement**



ERIN HEMMENS
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



BEN HYMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INTRODUCTION

WHERE WE ARE

VIRL is a Regional Library District — a public library serving some of the fastest growing urban areas and some of the most rural and remote communities in Canada. In our 87th year, we provide library services to 38 member jurisdictions, across more than 42,000 km² of islands, inlets, forests, and coastal areas. During the development of our Strategic Plan, and the renewal of our Vision, Mission, and Values, we asked our Trustees, staff, partners, and our communities: “What should we look like at 90 years old?”

Our Collective Services

Collective Services are our physical collections and digital content, events, classes, workshops, spaces, and specialized services. These are used by a third of the region's population. They contribute significantly to livability, and we draw on economies of scale and administrative efficiency to maximize their value.

Our engagement efforts verified the importance of our Collective Services. We are proud of our work in communities large and small, and this plan includes goals and actions that build on our strong library service foundations to further empower the region.

Our communities are in transition. Reconciliation is one of the region's greatest opportunities. Economic diversification, climate change, toxic drug and opioid crises, housing, and affordability are among the greatest challenges, along with low literacy levels — 45% of British Columbians aged 16 – 65 have difficulty in accomplishing some daily living tasks due in part to limited literacy skills. Community

partners asked us how we might more specifically address the socio-economic and environmental wellbeing of individuals and communities within our mandate and service area. In response, this plan embraces the principles of Service Design and Social Innovation to ensure the continuous evolution of our Collective Services and further empower our region.



Key Sustainable Development Goal Measures

The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) are the shared measure of Social Innovation worldwide, used by governments, non-profits, and social purpose organizations to define and measure impact. We have chosen nine relevant SDG's as the primary achievement framework for the goals within this plan.



OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

To achieve our Vision and Mission, we have identified five Strategic Goals. These will be measured against nine Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), and we will report on our progress quarterly.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1:

Recommit to improving literacy levels across our region.

Comprehensive literacy includes basic reading and writing skills, and other skills required for daily life, such as finding and assessing information, numeracy, digital competencies, and social and health knowledge. We are uniquely positioned to influence specific literacy objectives, especially among pre-school age children, and adults not in school. To achieve this goal, we will need to be creative, grounded by evidence and research, and work in close collaboration with partners.

ACTIONS

■ Action 1:

Increase the usage of library services in our region.

■ Action 2:

Develop and deploy approaches that focus our Collective Services on comprehensive literacy outcomes.

■ Action 3:

Design and deliver overall collection and literacy-specific resource and service awareness strategies.



Key Sustainable Development Goal Measure:

SDG 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults... achieve literacy and numeracy.





Key Sustainable Development Goal Measures:

11.A Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening ... regional development planning.

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with [relevant] legislation.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2:

Review, innovate and design service models in service to equity.

We commit to leveraging new opportunities and technologies, and to reviewing, designing, or improving our Collective Services.



■ Action 1:

Expand our reach in rural and remote communities.

■ Action 2:

Champion and embrace digital readiness to advance connection and access.

■ Action 3:

Increase the accessibility of our Collective Services.



Bring service and universal design methodologies to our work.



STRATEGIC GOAL 3:

Extend the impact and reach of our services through partnerships and reciprocity.

We commit to working with aligned partners to deepen our impact. The coming years will see VIRL build its capacity to partner and collaborate locally and regionally.

ACTIONS

■ Action 1:

Build relationships with aligned partners to support the diverse needs of our communities and the strategic objectives of our region.

■ Action 2:

Engage non-traditional partners to address service gaps and generate solutions in traditionally underserved communities.

■ Action 3:

Foster the growth of multi-disciplinary Communities of Practice that advance wise practice and Reconciliation.

IMPACT

Actively engage aligned partners in the Galleries, Libraries, Museums and Archives (GLAM) sector, and the Local Government sector in the development of communities of practice.



Key Sustainable Development Goal Measure:

SDG 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.





Key Sustainable Development Goal Measures:

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

4.A Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4:

Foster safe, inclusive, and welcoming spaces, and Collective Services.

We must ensure our Collective Services are delivered in accessible environments where library visitors and staff feel safe, respected, affirmed, and welcome. Our efforts will focus on developing our team and our Collective Services to establish an inclusive foundation for the future.

■ Action 1:

Develop and deploy approaches that enhance the safety, accessibility, and inclusivity of our Collective Services.

■ Action 2:

Design welcoming and resilient places that create a sense of belonging in our communities.



STRATEGIC GOAL 5:

Grow organizational culture and effectiveness.

We are a learning organization operating in a dynamic and complex environment. We strive to embrace wise practices, and to build and support an inclusive and collaborative culture for staff and the Board.

ACTIONS

■ Action 1:

Develop and support our workforce to anticipate and respond to challenges and opportunities.

■ Action 2:

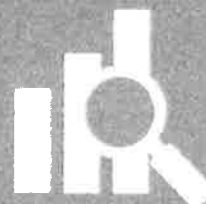
Centre workplace culture in the work ahead.

■ Action 3:

Practice good governance, and explore inclusive governance in the context of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA).

■ Action 4:

Expand organizational infrastructure and capacity for data-informed decision making.

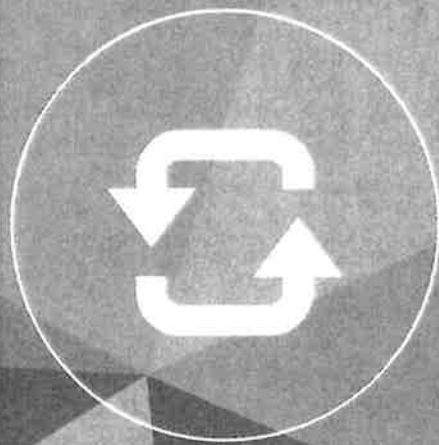


Key Sustainable Development Goal Measures:

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status





VISION, MISSION & VALUES

VISION

A thriving, connected, cohesive, and empowered region of island and coastal communities.

MISSION

We provide barrier-free, region-wide, and equitable access to a unique and critical blend of Collective Services that lift our communities.

VALUES

Relationships with First Nations

We commit to implementing all relevant Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, and to becoming stronger allies and partners on our journey to a more promising and inclusive future. We recognize this is a multi-generational commitment that will inform and transcend this Strategic Plan.

Accessibility

We strive to make our Collective Services accessible to all.

Inclusivity

Through our Collective Services, we strive to affirm, respect, and reflect the rich diversity of our coastal communities and the world around us.

Collaboration

We are an example of effective regional collaboration, and we value the power of partnerships. We know we can achieve more when we work together.

Safety

We recognize the best work, learning, exploration, and growth happens in safe environments, and strive to offer safe workplaces, branches, and services within our complex operating environments.

Affordability

Our Collective Services contribute significantly to livability within the region, drawing on economies of scale, administrative efficiency, and governance oversight.

Intellectual Freedom & Privacy

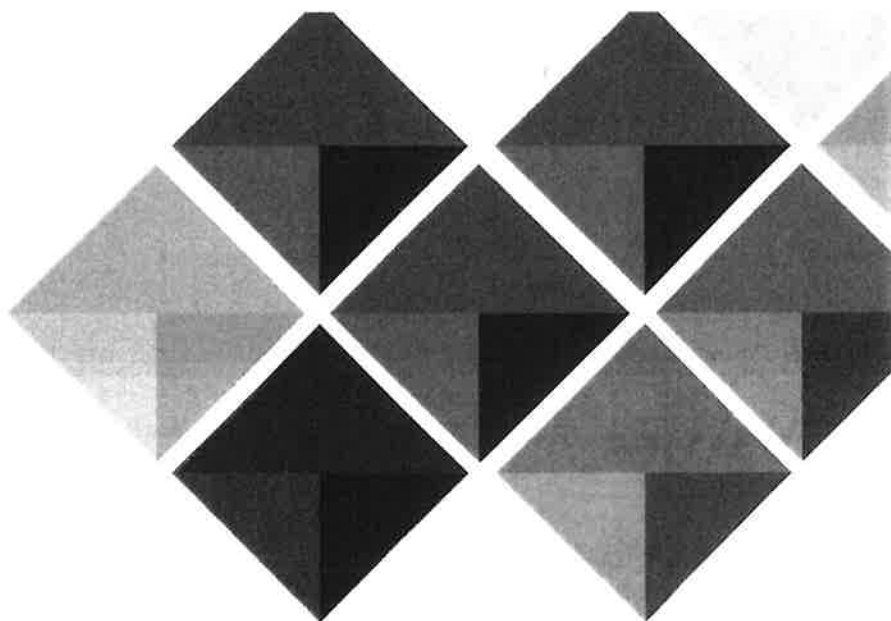
We respect and protect the personal information we are entrusted with and support freedom of expression and the free exchange of information and ideas within the laws of Canada. VIRL endorses the Canadian Federation of Library Association's position statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries.

Equity

Equity is at the heart of our governance and service models and informs our approaches.

Community Connection

We create opportunities for connection and relationships within communities.



Contact us

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VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

From: MCF Info MCF:EX <MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 11:37 AM
To: XT:PortAlice, Village ENV:IN
Subject: Letter from the Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development

VIA E-MAIL
Ref: 282965

Your Worship Mayor Kevin Cameron and Council
Port Alice
E-mail: info@portalice.ca

Dear Mayor Cameron and Council:

As Minister of Children and Family Development, I am once again honoured to declare that November will be recognized as Adoption Awareness Month, and I invite you to celebrate with me and help raise awareness for children and youth still waiting for permanent families.

Adoptive families make a difference in the lives of children and youth by providing care, stability, and a sense of belonging. This month, the province is celebrating the families that give children and youth love and support as permanent members of their family. These families ensure that children and youth have a strong foundation to build their lives and stay connected to their community and culture.

November is also about recognizing that there are children who are still in need of permanent homes. Every child deserves the love and support of a nurturing family. There continues to be a need for more adoptive families in British Columbia to provide children with permanent, secure, and loving homes.

I encourage you to share the following resources with your community members who are interested in becoming an adoptive or permanent family in British Columbia, including:

- The [Ways to Adopt in British Columbia Website](#) provides information on adoption in British Columbia, such as infant adoption, relative and step-parent adoption, and adopting a child or youth from another country;
- [Adopt BC Kids](#) is an online portal that provides British Columbians wishing to adopt children and youth from foster care with information and guidance through their adoption application; and
- The [Adoptive Families Association of British Columbia](#) website provides information and support services for families who wish to adopt now or in the future.

Please join me in celebrating November as Adoption Awareness Month. On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, thank you for your continued leadership in supporting adoptive and permanent families in your community.

Sincerely,

Mitzi Dean
Minister

Sent on behalf of the Minister by:



Client Relations Branch
Executive Operations
Ministry of Children and Family Development

This communication and any accompanying document is confidential and is intended solely for the addressed recipient(s). If you received this e-mail message in error, please delete the e-mail and any attachments and contact the Client Relations Branch, Ministry of Children and Family Development at: MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca.