

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY MARCH 27, 2024, at 6:00 pm
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VILLAGE OFFICE



(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 March 27, 2024, be approved; AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence, and other information set to the agenda be received.

(3) DELEGATIONS:

(4) MINUTES:

Pg 3-4

a.) *THAT the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2024, be approved.*

(5) NEW BUSINESS:

(6) COMMUNICATIONS:

Pg 5-7

a.) 2024 Cops for Cancer
March 8, 2024, Letter from Ashley Boese, Local Contact for CFC Tour de Rock events

(7) REPORTS:

(8) BYLAWS:

Pg 9-11

a.) Bylaw 689-2024 to Amend Rates and Fees Bylaw 687-2024

Recommendation:

THAT Bylaw 689-2024 to Amend the Village of Port Alice Rates and Fees Bylaw 687-2024 be given fourth reading and adoption.

Pg 13-19

b.) Bylaw 690-2024 Financial Plan for Port Alice 2024-2028

Recommendation:

THAT Bylaw 690-2024 Village of Port Alice Financial Plan Bylaw 690-2024 be given first and second reading.

(9) QUESTION PERIOD:

Pg 15-16

(10) ADJOURNMENT:

THAT the meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held March 27, 2024, be adjourned

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- a.) March 12, 2024, News Release, Island Health, Community Wellness Grant Program call for applications
- b.) March 15, 2024, Letter from Duncan Mayor Michelle Staples, re 2024 AVICC Resolution: Fail to Appear Charges in Policing Statistics

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, March 13, 2024
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VILLAGE OFFICE



Present
Mayor Kevin Cameron
Councillor Holly Aldis
Councillor David Stewart
Councillor Russell Murray
Councillor Sean Watson

Staff
Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO
Tanya Spafford, Admin Assistant
Ryan Nicholson, Economic Development Officer

Call to order 6:00pm

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

20/24
Adoption of
Agenda

***THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the Village of Port Alice for March 13, 2024, be approved;
AND THAT all delegations, reports, correspondence, and other information set to the agenda be received.***

DELEGATION:

MOWI

Presentation on Responsible Plan for Transition

21/24
Minutes of
February 14,
2024

MINUTES:

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Minutes from the Council Meeting of February 28, 2024, be approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Travel Expense Amendment

March 13, 2024, Policy Update from Bonnie Danyk, CAO/CFO

COMMUNICATIONS:

Update on the Canada Community-Building Fund Renewal

March 6, 2024, Letter from Brent Felker, Manager of Gas tax Program Services, UBCM

Invitation to Participate in a facilitated dialogue about healthy communities & the unregulated drug poisoning crisis, in Port Hardy April 5th

March 2024, Letter from Janine Stevenson, Director of Special Projects, for Community Action Initiative

REPORTS:

Fire Chief's Report for February 2024

March 5, 2024, Report from Fire Chief, Gerry Rose

22/24
Link River
Improvements

Link River Campground Improvements

March 6, 2024, Ryan Nicholson, Economic Development Officer

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Village of Port Alice increase the budget for Link River Campground improvements from \$20,000 to up to \$40,000.

BYLAWS:

23/24
Bylaw 689
Marina Rates

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

Bylaw 689-2024 to Amend Rates and Fees Bylaw 687-2024

Recommendation:

THAT Bylaw 689 to Amend the Village of Port Alice Rates and Fees Bylaw 687-2024 be given first, second, and third reading.

QUESTION PERIOD:

ADJOURNMENT:

24/24
Adjournment

Moved, Seconded and CARRIED

THAT the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice held March 13, 2024, be adjourned at 7:00pm.

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Regular meeting of the Village of Port Alice Council held March 13, 2024.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

Tanya Spafford

From: Port Alice CFC - Tour de Rock <pacftourderock@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 9:39 AM
To: info@portalice.ca
Subject: 2024 Info
Attachments: 2024 CFC Letter.pdf

Good Morning,

I just wanted to contact you early! The Tour folk will write their letter request closer to the date, but can we please have use of the Community Centre for the CFC 2024 Sept 21st mid-day through Sept 22nd mid-day.

Below & attached is just the info I am sending out to all 😊

Thank you for all that you do!

- Ashley

Good Morning,

Port Alice will be hosting Tour de Rock again this year!

We are looking to do things very similar to last year for the food but a little different for the auction of items.

This year we are going to host an Online Auction from Sept 8th until Sept 15th for the bulk of the items & run a smaller Silent Auction on Sept 21st at the Dinner.

With this change we are hoping to make the Dinner Event more enjoyable and be able to reach more people with the online auction.

On Vancouver Island, Tour de Rock will run from September 21st, through to October 5th, 2024, from one end of Vancouver Island to the other. Since its inception in 1997, Cops for Cancer has raised more than \$54 million directed at life-saving research to change the future of childhood cancer forever. These funds also support vital programs like Camp Goodtimes, which gives families of children diagnosed with cancer the opportunity to spend time together in a stress-free and medically supervised environment.

Our event will be held on Saturday, September 21st, 2024, at the Royal Canadian Legion #180. We are hoping to have a seafood feast. We are estimating to feed 100 people. If you can donate something for the dinner, or an item for the online/silent auction, please contact Ashley. Cash donations can be made through the donation link below.

Please have auction donations delivered before August 30th, 2024

**Thank you,
Ashley Boese**

Lead Contact for Port Alice CFC Tour de Rock Events
Call or Text: 250-284-0015 (No Calls after 8 pm)
PO Box 15, Port Alice, BC, V0N 2N0
pacftourderock@outlook.com

2024 Donation link:

https://support.cancer.ca/site/TR/CopsforCancer/COPS_NW_odd_?px=14660827&pg=personal&fr_id=29673&s_locale=en_CA

Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/150729165127381/>

Tour de Rock Website:

https://support.cancer.ca/site/TR?fr_id=29673&pg=entry

2023 Impact Report:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/150729165127381/permalink/2354324714767804/>

Charitable Registration: 118829803 RR0001



Canadian
Cancer
Society

**COPS FOR
CANCER**

March 8th, 2024

To whom it may concern,

The impact of cancer on our lives, our families and our communities are enormous. Because of it, the Canadian Cancer Society is committed to doing everything it can to save and improve lives. One of the Canadian Cancer Society's most high-profile fundraising initiatives, Cops for Cancer, focuses on families impacted by cancer. It involves committed cops, caring communities, and inspirational kids. Participants from law enforcement and emergency services ride hundreds of kilometres across British Columbia all while fundraising for children and families living with cancer.

On Vancouver Island, Tour de Rock will run from September 21st, through to October 5th, 2024, from one end of Vancouver Island to the other. Since its inception in 1997, Cops for Cancer has raised more than \$54 million directed at life-saving research to change the future of childhood cancer forever. These funds also support vital programs like Camp Goodtimes, which gives families of children diagnosed with cancer the opportunity to spend time together in a stress-free and medically supervised environment.

Our event will be held on Saturday, September 21st, 2024, at the Royal Canadian Legion #180. We are hoping to have a seafood feast. We are estimating to feed 100 people. If you can donate something for the dinner, or an item for the online/silent auction, or make a cash donation please contact Ashley.

Please have auction donations delivered before August 30th, 2024

This will be my 12th year organizing the Tour de Rock Dinner & Auction for Port Alice! Thank you for considering our donation request. It is with donation, help and support from you, we have been able to raise these funds. Together we can help children with cancer and their families right here on Vancouver Island by being involved and supporting the Cops for Cancer – Tour de Rock.

Sincerely,

Ashley Boese

Lead Contact for Port Alice CFC Tour de Rock Events

Call or Text: 250-284-0015

pacftourderock@outlook.com

2024 Donation link:

https://support.cancer.ca/site/TR/CopsforCancer/COPS_NW_odd?px=14660827&pg=personal&fr_id=29673&s_locale=en_CA

Charitable Registration:

118829803 RR0001

Find us on Facebook → Port Alice Cops for Cancer – Tour de Rock

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/150729165127381>

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
BYLAW NO. 689
BEING A BYLAW TO AMEND THE VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
Rates & Fees Bylaw No. 687-2024.

WHEREAS the Village of Port Alice Council considers it desirable to charge for fees and services provided by the Municipality

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Village of Port Alice desires to implement changes to fees and charges relating to the operation of the Marina:

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Village of Port Alice enacts as follows:

1. TITLE

(a) This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "Village of Port Alice Rates & Fees Amendment Bylaw No. 689, 2024".

2. ENACTMENT

(a) This bylaw is in effect April 1, 2024.

3. SCHEDULES

(a) Schedule N attached to and forming part of this bylaw is hereby adopted.

4. SEVERABILITY

If a court of competent jurisdiction declares any portion of this bylaw invalid, then the invalid portion must be severed, and the remainder of the bylaw deemed valid.

Read a FIRST time this	13 th	day of March,2024
Read a SECOND time this	13 th	day of March,2024
Read a THIRD time this	13 th	day of March,2024
FINALLY ADOPTED this	27 th	day of March,2024

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

Certified a true copy of Village of Port Alice Rates & Fees Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 689, 2024 adopted by Council on the 27th day of March, 2024

Chief Administrative Officer

VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE

BYLAW NO. 689

SCHEDULE N – MARINA RATES

The following fees and charges shall be in effect at the Port Alice Municipal Marina and designated parking lots:

Rates Include Applicable Taxes

Daily Moorage Rate for Recreational Vessels per foot per day	\$ 1.10
Monthly Moorage Rate for Recreational Vessels per foot	\$ 13.90
Daily Moorage Rate for Commercial Vessels per foot per day	\$0.57
Monthly Moorage Rate for Commercial Vessels per foot	\$6.82
Vehicle parking permit – Daily (Includes Boat Launch)	\$11.00
Vehicle parking permit – Annual (Includes Boat Launch), Residents Only*	\$88.00
Vehicle parking permit – Annual (Includes Boat Launch), North Island Residents	\$168.00
Service Charge: Any service undertaken to resolve a vessel related emergency or nuisance at the Marina shall be charged to the owner of the vessel at actual costs plus \$150 and shall not be less than \$150.	\$162.50 plus actual costs
Replacement Annual Pass	\$5.50
Secondary Annual Pass	\$5.50
Slip Reservation Fee to be paid annually in advance	\$1,391.25
Trailer Parking after 24 hours	\$5.50 per day
*Resident means a person who is: a) a resident as defined under the Elections Act: or b) A sole shareholder or senior shareholder of corporations that own real property within the Municipal boundaries.	
Fee for Vendors to set up at Marina	
Daily Rate	\$ 10.00
Weekly Rate	\$60.00
Monthly Rate	\$200.00
Kayak Storage Fees	
Individual Monthly Rate	\$25.00
Individual Annual Rate	\$225.00
Business Monthly Rate	\$300.00

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
BYLAW NO. 690, 2024**

BEING A BYLAW FOR THE VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE FINANCIAL PLAN 2024 - 2028

WHEREAS, under section 165 of the Community Charter the Council of the Village of Port Alice is required to adopt a financial plan before the annual property tax bylaw is adopted.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Village of Port Alice, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Schedule "A" attached to and forming part of this Bylaw is the Village of Port Alice Financial Plan 2024 – 2028, Revenues and Expenditures.
2. Schedule “B” attached to and forming part of this Bylaw is the Village of Port Alice Financial Plan 2024 – 2028 Statement of Objectives and Policies.
3. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "Village of Port Alice Financial Plan 2024 - 2028 Bylaw No.690, 2024".

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME THIS 27th DAY OF MARCH 2024.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION HELD APRIL 10th, 2024.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 10th DAY OF APRIL 2024.

RECONSIDERED, AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF APRIL 2024.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

Certified a true copy of Bylaw No.690, as adopted by Council on the 24th day of April 2024.

Chief Administrative Officer

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
BYLAW NO. 690, 2024**

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE FINANCIAL PLAN 2024 - 2028
Bylaw No. 690, 2024 - Schedule 'A' REVENUES**

REVENUES	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Property Taxes	\$759,465	\$805,798	\$843,421	\$907,813	\$934,996
Utility/Grant in Place of Taxes	\$22,000	\$22,660	\$23,340	\$24,040	\$24,761
Total Taxation	\$781,465	\$828,458	\$866,761	\$931,853	\$959,757
Fees and Charges					
Garbage Rates/Penalties	\$90,000	\$92,700	\$95,481	\$98,345	\$101,296
Recreation Supplies and Services	\$15,000	\$15,450	\$15,914	\$16,391	\$16,883
Recreation Facilities Rentals	\$27,000	\$27,810	\$28,643	\$29,504	\$30,389
Licenses/Permits	\$11,610	\$11,958	\$12,317	\$12,687	\$13,067
Water Utility	\$61,000	\$62,830	\$64,715	\$66,656	\$68,656
Sewer Utility	\$142,000	\$146,260	\$150,648	\$155,167	\$159,822
Other Revenue	\$233,525	\$240,531	\$247,747	\$255,179	\$262,834
Total Fees and Charges	\$580,135	\$597,539	\$615,465	\$633,929	\$652,947
Other Revenue					
Federal Govt Grants	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
Provincial Govt Grants -	\$2,406,098	\$478,310	\$489,959	\$501,958	\$514,317
Regional District of Mt. Waddington	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total Other Revenue	\$2,412,398	\$484,610	\$496,259	\$508,258	\$520,617
Appropriation from Reserve					
Appropriation from NICF Funds	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriation from Surplus	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriation from Deferred Revenue:Gas Tax Fun	\$795,000	\$95,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Appropriation from Covid Recovey Funds	\$70,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
Appropriation from Climate Action Funds	\$75,000				
Total Appropriation from Reserve	\$1,020,000	\$145,000	\$80,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Funds Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
BYLAW NO. 690, 2024**

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE FINANCIAL PLAN 2024 - 2028
Bylaw No. 690, 2024 - Schedule 'A' Expenditures**

EXPENDITURES	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Debenture Debt Interest					
Community Centre Upgrades Matures - 2036	\$33,900	\$34,917	\$35,965	\$37,048	\$38,155
Total Debenture Debt	\$33,900	\$34,917	\$35,965	\$37,048	\$38,155
Capital Expenditures					
General	\$2,574,935	\$95,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Water Utility	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sewer Utility	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Capital Expenditures	\$2,574,935	\$95,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Other Municipal Purposes					
General Government, & Fiscal Services	\$509,500	\$474,545	\$501,170	\$502,953	\$517,806
Fire & Protective Services	\$108,000	\$80,340	\$82,750	\$85,233	\$87,790
Public Works	\$461,800	\$475,654	\$489,294	\$504,621	\$519,760
Health & Environmental Services	\$390,500	\$294,065	\$302,887	\$311,974	\$321,333
Recreation Services	\$293,200	\$301,996	\$311,056	\$320,388	\$329,999
Water Utility	\$55,000	\$56,650	\$58,350	\$60,100	\$61,903
Sewer Utility	\$112,200	\$115,566	\$119,033	\$122,604	\$126,282
Total Other Municipal Purposes	\$1,930,200	\$1,798,816	\$1,864,540	\$1,907,873	\$1,964,873
Transfers to Reserves					
General Fund	\$219,163	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
Water Fund	\$6,000	\$6,180	\$6,365	\$6,556	\$6,753
Sewer Fund	\$29,800	\$30,694	\$31,615	\$32,563	\$33,540
Total Transfer of Funds	\$254,963	\$126,874	\$127,980	\$129,119	\$130,293
GRAND TOTAL	\$4,793,998	\$2,055,607	\$2,058,485	\$2,104,040	\$2,163,321
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
BYLAW NO. 690, 2024**

**Schedule B
Statement of Objectives and Policies**

In accordance with Section 165 (3.1) of the Community Charter, the Village is required to include in the Five-Year Financial Plan, objectives and policies regarding each of the following:

1. The proportion of total revenue that comes from each of the funding sources described in Section 165 (7) of the Community Charter;
2. The distribution of property taxes among the property classes, and
3. The use of permissive tax exemptions.

Funding Sources

Table 1 shows the proportion of total revenue proposed to be raised from each funding source in 2024. Property taxes normally contribute to the greatest proportion of the Village’s revenue, however, in 2024 the largest proportion is Grant Revenue which is directly related to Capital Projects. The property tax revenue source offers several advantages. For example, it is simple to administer, and it is easy for residents to understand. It offers a stable and reliable source of revenue for local government services that are simply not practical or undesirable to fund on a user-pay basis. These services include general administration, fire protection, police services, bylaw enforcement, solid waste management, recreation, and local transportation services (i.e) maintenance & upkeep of local roads and streets.

User fees and charges form the fourth largest portion of planned revenue. Many services can be measured and charged on a user-pay basis. Services that are effectively charged on a user fee basis include water and sewer services, garbage collection, building permits, and the sale of other goods and services such as recreation and cemetery services. Village Council and Staff support the value of user fees that are relative to the cost of the service to avoid the service being subsidized by taxation.

Objective

Over the next 5 years, the Village of Port Alice will review the proportion of revenue that is received from user fees and charges and increase current levels as required.

Policies

The Village will annually review all user fee levels to ensure they are adequately meeting the delivery costs of service.

Where possible, the Village will endeavor to supplement revenues from user fees and charges, rather than taxation, to lessen the burden on its limited property tax base.

Table 1: 2024 Sources of Revenue

Revenue Source		Revenue: Percentages of Total Budget	Dollar Value
Taxation		16%	\$781,465.00
Fees, Charges & Other Revenue		12%	\$580,135.00
Government Grants		50%	\$2,412,398.00
Approp. from Surplus & Deferred Rev.		21%	\$1,020,000.00
Total		100.00%	\$4,793,998.00

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
BYLAW NO. 690, 2024**

Schedule B Continued

Distribution of Property Tax Rates

Table 2 outlines the distribution of property taxes among the property classes. Historically the major industrial property class provided the largest proportion of property tax revenue. This was appropriate as this class formed the largest portion of the assessment base and was the main reason for the existence of the community. BC Assessment changed the Class of the Major Industrial property to Business in 2020 and significantly reduced the value.

Objectives

The Village Council continues to work with all levels of government and local business to attract additional economic opportunities.

The Village also recognizes the need to maintain the property tax rate for business (class 6) at a low rate.

Policies

Supplement, where possible, revenues from user fees and charges to help offset the tax burden on all property classes.

Council will continue to maintain and encourage economic development initiatives designed to attract more retail and commercial business to invest in the community. New business investments will help offset revenue dependency on all taxpayers by providing a broader tax base.

Align the distribution of tax rates among the property classes with the social and economic goals of the community, particularly to encourage a range of employment opportunities

Regularly review and compare the Village’s distribution of tax burden relative to other BC municipalities.

**Table 2: 2024 Distribution of Property Tax Rates
Based on Preliminary Values**

Property Class			Percentage of Total Property Taxation	2024 Dollar Value
Residential (1)			80.73%	\$613,143.00
Utilities (2)			7.4%	\$56,380.00
Major Industrial (4)			0.00%	\$0.00
Light Industrial (5)			4.51%	\$34,287.00
Business (6)			7.26%	\$55,148.00
Recreation (8)			0.067%	\$507.00
Total			100%	\$759,465.00

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE
BYLAW NO. 690, 2024**

Schedule B Continued

Permissive Tax Exemptions

The Village of Port Alice Council reviews all existing permissive tax exemption bylaws on an annual basis. Council bases their consideration on the following criteria:

The tax exemption must demonstrate benefit to the community and residents of Port Alice by enhancing the quality of life (economically, socially and culturally) within the community.

The goals, policies and principles of the organization receiving the exemption must not be inconsistent or in conflict with those of the Village of Port Alice.

The organization receiving the exemption must be a registered non-profit society, as the support of the municipality will not be used for commercial or private gain.

Permissive tax exemptions will be considered in conjunction with: (a) other assistance being provided by the Village; (b) the potential demands for Village services or infrastructure arising from the property; and (c) the amount of revenue that the Village will lose if the exemption is granted.

Objective

The Village of Port Alice will continue to provide permissive tax exemptions to non-profit societies that contribute social, economic and cultural benefits to the community.

Policies

Council will continue working with all the non-profit societies for the betterment of the Community.

Reviewed and adopted by Council on 27th March 2024.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer



INFORMATION ITEMS

Tanya Spafford

From: Island Health Communication [ISLH] <Communication@islandhealth.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:03 AM
To: Island Health Communication [ISLH]
Subject: Island Health news release: Community Wellness Grant Program call for applications

islandhealth.ca/news



NEWS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 12, 2024

Community Wellness Grant Program call for applications

D-WIDE - People and communities on Vancouver Island and surrounding coastal communities will benefit from up to \$800,000 in Community Wellness Grants being provided by Island Health to improve the health and well-being of Island residents.

In its seventh year, Island Health's Community Wellness Grant program provides the opportunity for not-for-profit organizations, government organizations and Indigenous Nations and organizations to apply for one-time funding for community-led wellness projects to address barriers and increase supports.

"This is determined by more than health services. Each year I am inspired by the positive health impacts achieved with the assistance of the Community Wellness Grant Program," said Kathy MacNeil, Island Health's President and CEO. "We know that upstream wellness interventions, like those made possible through this program, are an essential part of keeping people well and healthy."

The focus of the 2024/2025 funding cycle is community resilience, promoting connected, diverse, safe, active, and nourished communities. Organizations may apply in either the individual grants category (up to \$12,000 per project) or the partnership grants category (must be a partnership amongst a minimum of 3 partner organizations, up to \$50,000 per project).

"The Community Wellness Grant Program is highlighting community resilience again this year, which is a key priority for Island Health," said Anika Gustafson, Vice President Population Health and Chief Medical Health Officer. "These grants provide an opportunity for local organizations to improve the social determinants of health in their communities in creative and community-specific ways."

In addition to funding community-based wellness initiatives, the Community Wellness Grant program makes a positive contribution to the health and well-being of diverse groups of Island residents. Projects that received funding in 2023 included an Indigenous lifeguard training program in the North Vancouver Regional District in collaboration with the We Wai Kai and Nuchatlaht Nations; a discussion and education series on the

environmental impacts of wood burning led by the Thetis Island Community Association; and an intergenerational food security learning program for children run by the LifeCycles Project Society in Victoria.

For more information on how to apply for a Community Wellness Grant and for updates on some of our previous grant recipients, please visit communitygrants.islandhealth.ca/.

-30-

For media inquiries

Andrew Leyne

778-370-8908

andrew.Leyne@islandhealth.ca

View this email 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.



March 15, 2024

Mayor Kevin Cameron and Councillors

Village of Port Alice
1061 Marine Drive
Port Alice BC V0N 2N0

Dear Mayor Cameron and Councillors:

RE: 2024 AVICC Resolution: Fail to Appear Charges in Policing Statistics

I am writing to bring to your attention a resolution that will be considered at the upcoming Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities Annual General Meeting and Convention, and to respectfully request your support when the resolution is presented.

As described in the attached backgrounder, Fail to Appear is a Criminal Code charge brought against an individual who fails to attend a scheduled court appearance. These charges do not impact police resources because they are simply an additional charge against the individual.

Despite having no impact on police workload, these charges are counted alongside all other Criminal Code charges attributed to municipalities with courthouses, regardless of where the original offence occurred. Particularly in smaller jurisdictions, this practice significantly inflates the policing statistics for communities with courthouses. In the case of the City of Duncan, 80% of the Fail to Appear charges attributed to our community originated from outside of our jurisdiction, representing a 23% increase in the City's total 2023 Criminal Code cases. This inflated number has a significant and corresponding impact on the requests for the number of officers, particularly when a community is transitioning past the 5,000 and 15,000 population thresholds.

The City of Duncan recognizes that the impact of the Fail to Appear charges is felt differently across BC communities. We appreciate your consideration of the disproportionate impact of including Fail to Appear charges in policing statistics for jurisdictions in which courthouses are located, and respectfully request your support for our resolution to remove these charges from policing statistics.

Sincerely,

Michelle Staples
Mayor

Encl. Backgrounder: Fail to Appear Charges

cc: Duncan City Council

CITY OF TOTEMS



BACKGROUNDER

Fail to Appear Charges

REQUEST

The City of Duncan respectfully requests delegates' support for our resolution requesting that the Province of British Columbia exclude Fail to Appear charges from the workload data of municipalities where courthouses are located:

WHEREAS 100% of Fail to Appear charges at provincial courthouses are assigned to the policing statistics of the municipality in which the courthouse is located, having a disproportionate impact on the policing costs assigned to small municipalities with courthouses that serve a much broader area outside their jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS this inflates the Criminal Code case load for all municipalities with courthouses within their jurisdiction and results in an unfair burden to the taxpayers of those municipalities, especially considering that Fail to Appear cases have no effect on the workload of the local detachment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of British Columbia be urged to direct that Fail to Appear charges be excluded from the policing statistics of municipalities with courthouses.

BACKGROUND

The City of Duncan recognizes that the impact of the Fail to Appear charges is felt differently across BC communities. BC local governments with a courthouse in their jurisdiction with populations over 5,000 will likely be aware of the impacts of these calculations on their policing costs.

Duncan is a small urban municipality (population 5,047) that serves a much larger population outside of its jurisdiction. The population surpassed 5,000 in the 2021 census, and is now required to pay 70 percent of RCMP policing costs, with the federal government paying the remaining 30 percent, in accordance with the *Policing Act*. Duncan has negotiated with the province to determine how many police officers will be included in the policing agreement, which the province based on the number of Criminal Code offences within the City's policing statistics as part of ensuring "adequate and effective" levels of policing and law enforcement. The province was very inflexible with this methodology.

Through these negotiations, Duncan learned that Fail to Appear charges, a Criminal Code charge brought against an individual who fails to attend a scheduled court appearance, for the Duncan Courthouse (Provincial Court) are attributed to the City's policing statistics, regardless of where the original offence occurred. However, prior to 2022, Fail to Appear charges were simply added to the originating Criminal Code offence, as only the most serious offence was counted for statistical purposes. Now these Fail to Appear charges are added as a new charge because they were created on a different date.

The inclusion of Fail to Appear charges has inflated the policing statistics and consequently the number of officers required for not only Duncan, but likely for other jurisdictions where courthouses are located; particularly when transitioning past the 5,000 and 15,000 population levels. Furthermore, these charges do not impact police resources because they are simply an additional charge against the individual.

DISCUSSION

In the City of Duncan context, the inclusion of the Fail to Appear charges equates to two additional officers to address these charges. In 2023, the City is allocated 100% of the 325 Fail to Appear charges, whereas only approximately 65 of these cases (20%) originated from within the City of Duncan, versus 260 of these cases (80%) originated from other jurisdictions. These Criminal Code cases originating from other jurisdictions inflated the City's 2023 Criminal Code cases from 1,152 to 1,412; this was an increase of 23%. This inflated number has a significant and corresponding impact on the number of required officers.

Our secondary concern, confirmed by multiple senior RCMP officials, is that Fail to Appear cases have no effect on the workload of the local detachment; they are simply an additional charge against the individual.

If Fail to Appear charges are not excluded from the policing statistics of municipalities with courthouses, they should at least be tracked separately like Criminal Code traffic offences, so that their impacts on local policing can be appropriately considered.

KEY BENEFIT

Our hope is that delegates will recognize the disproportionate impact of including Fail to Appear charges in policing statistics for jurisdictions in which courthouses are located, particularly on small municipalities that serve a much larger population outside of their boundaries. If these charges are eliminated from the policing statistics used to calculate the number of officers, the jurisdiction in which courthouses are located could see dramatic impact on the cost of policing. By supporting this resolution, delegates can ask Province to remove Fail to Appear charges from the policing workload calculations of jurisdictions with courthouses for a fairer distribution of costs.

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