

Ginny Gemmell

From: Terri Brennan
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 12:20 PM
To: Council
Subject: AVICC at UBCM / Transport Canada - OPP - Request for Feedback

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: AVICC Info <info@avicc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 9:51 AM
To: Theresa Dennison <tdennison@avicc.ca>
Subject: AVICC at UBCM / Transport Canada - OPP - Request for Feedback

Please forward to elected officials, the CAO and Corporate Officer

AVICC AT UBCM

The primary function of AVICC is as an advocacy organization for our members specifically targeting advocacy for the unique needs of our coastal region. The 2024 UBCM Convention was an opportunity for us to connect with our members, and to advocate on their behalf to upper levels of government. It was a pleasure to connect with many of you, and on behalf of the AVICC Executive, we applaud your commitment and efforts to advocate in the best interests of your communities.

2024 AVICC LUNCHEON AT UBCM – Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure

AVICC hosted our annual luncheon at UBCM, with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Hon. Rob Fleming conducting a Q & A with President Geselbracht on Vancouver Island and Coastal transportation

Issues, such as safer roads and Active Transportation Plans in rural and remote communities, transit expansion, and the future of the Island Rail Corridor. Minister Fleming is not running in the next Provincial election, and we took the opportunity to thank him for his years of service in our communities. Thank you to all who attended!

MINISTRY OF WATER, LANDS and RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP – Watershed Security and Land Conservation on Vancouver Island

Also at UBCM, the AVICC Executive requested and organized a meeting with the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Hon. Nathan Cullen to convey three regional resolutions relating to watershed security and land conservation, endorsed in 2023 and 2024:

- 2024-R2: Conservation of Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region – City of Parksville
- 2023-R3: Watershed Security Strategy and Fund – Village of Cumberland; and
- 2023-R4: E&N Land Grant Biodiversity and Restoration – Regional District of Nanaimo

The meeting, attended by representatives of all three resolution sponsors, focused on crucial topics related to conservation efforts in the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR), within the E & N Land, and other watershed security and land conservation initiatives on Vancouver Island, highlighting the Province's commitment to environmental preservation and sustainable land management practices. AVICC members in attendance reminded the Minister of the unique biodiversity of the region, and also that much of the lands on the Island are privately owned – making land purchase more expensive than in other areas of the Province.

Minister Cullen reiterated the Province's dedication to conserving 30% of lands by 2030, with a substantial budget allocated towards this goal, including the BC Conservation Fund and the \$100 million Watershed Security Fund. Discussions emphasized the urgency of identifying and protecting critical lands to safeguard safe drinking water for all residents and conserve biodiversity, particularly in regions impacted by the E & N Land Grant with unique land ownership contexts. Investments in conservation efforts, including the BC Conservation Fund and the Watershed Security Fund, were identified as essential tools to support environmental protection initiatives. The revision of the [Private Managed Forests Land Act](#) (last updated in 2003) was discussed as a key step towards enhancing land conservation practices and safeguarding biodiversity in the region. Recommendations were made to engage with industry stakeholders and seek partnerships with First Nations to explore opportunities for strategic land acquisitions.

RESOURCES

- **BC Conservation Fund:**
 - [Funding Announcement 2023](#)
 - [Submit your Expression of Interest/ Apply for Funding](#)
- **Watershed Security Fund:**
 - [Fall Grant Intakes November 12 – December 11, 2024](#)
 - [November 21, 2024 – Grants Program Webinar](#) (REGISTRATION)
 - [Sign Up for the Watershed Security Fund Newsletter](#)
- **[BC's Draft Biodiversity & Ecosystem Health Framework](#)**
- **Nature Trust BC:**
 - [Priority Projects](#)
 - [Sign Up for the Nature Trust BC Newsletter](#)

MINISTRY OF HOUSING MEETING – Secondary Suite Incentive Program Expansion

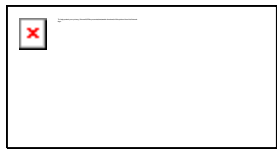
AVICC Electoral Area Representative, Donna McMahon attended a meeting with Ministry of Housing Staff to support members from the qathet RD (qRD), alongside members from Daajing Giids, and the North Coast Regional District, regarding an issue consistent with AVICC endorsed Resolution 2024-R12 calling for the expansion of the Secondary Suite Incentive Program (SSIP). The Electoral Area residents of the qRD and other areas in the Province are not eligible for the SSIP because the impacted communities do not have building permitting services – the concern is that the Province does not wish to distribute grants to build secondary suites that may not be built to the BC Building Code. A recommendation was made suggesting that the Ministry of Housing can adjust their SSIP requirements for areas that are not currently eligible, so that a Licensed Residential Builder can submit the application to the Ministry of Housing for the SSIP. The Ministry could rely on the certified professional to ensure code compliance and province-wide eligibility for the SSIP. Although Ministry Staff could not commit to anything at the meeting, there were no potential barriers identified with the proposed solution.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE MEETING – BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax

The NCRD, having joined AVICC membership fairly recently, was thrilled to be supported by the AVICC Executive and membership on the endorsement and advocacy for Resolution 2024-R36 – BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax. Not only was the Resolution supported by membership, but members of the AVICC Executive, Past President Penny Cote and EA Representative Donna McMahon were able to attend the NCRD’s meeting with Minister of Finance, Hon. Katrine Conroy to lend support to its advocacy efforts. Minister Conroy ensured the NCRD that this issue would continue to be raised with the next Minister responsible for this file.

Please also see below for an invitation from Transport Canada – Oceans Protection Plan to provide feedback on a [Discussion Paper](#) on proposed regulations to increase access to marine emergency services and to improve response to pollution incidents. You can share your feedback by emailing OPP.EMEM.HNS-PPO.AGUM.SNPD@tc.gc.ca before **January 31, 2025**.

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
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The AVICC acknowledges that we are grateful to live, work, and play on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish, Nuu-Chah-Nulth and Kwak-Waka'wakw Peoples

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From: "TC PAC Regional Hub / Hub Regional PAC (TC/TC)" <TC.PACRegionalHub-hubregionalPAC.TC@tc.gc.ca>

Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 3:07 PM

Subject: Discussion paper on potential regulations to increase access to marine emergency services and to improve response to pollution incidents – document de discussion sur les règlements potentiels visant à améliorer l'accès aux services d'urgence en mer et à a

UNCLASSIFIED / NON CLASSIFIÉ

** Le texte français suit l'anglais**

Transport Canada is starting new regulatory development to help increase access to marine emergency services and improve response to pollution incidents. As an initial step, we have published an [online discussion paper](#) to seek input to help determine the scope and key features of these potential regulations.

This work is the next step following [amendments to the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 completed in 2023](#). Potential regulations would:

- identify the types of vessels that should have emergency services arrangements and what should be included in the arrangements
- identify the types of vessels and handling facilities that should have plans to respond to hazardous and noxious substance incidents and what should be included in the response plans
- introduce a response coordinator role to help implement vessel pollution response plans on behalf of the vessel owner

You can share your feedback by emailing OPP.EMEM.HNS-PPO.AGUM.SNPD@tc.gc.ca before **January 31, 2025**. Your comments will help us refine the proposed regulatory approach and develop more details which we will share for further discussion as we continue through the regulatory development process.

Through the Community Participation Funding Program (CPFP), eligible Indigenous organizations, communities, and not-for-profit organizations can apply for funding to support their participation in discussions related to OPP initiatives and marine transportation. Short-term, eligible activities may include preparing for, travelling to, and participating in meetings as well as reviewing documents such as this discussion paper and providing written comments. For more information, please visit [Apply for CPFP funding – Marine Transportation Component \(canada.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions or would like to further discuss the topic, please contact OPP.EMEM.HNS-PPO.AGUM.SNPD@tc.gc.ca.

Transports Canada commence l'élaboration des nouveaux règlements visant à améliorer l'accès aux services d'urgence en mer et améliorer l'intervention en cas d'incidents de pollution. Dans une première étape, nous avons publié un [document de discussion en ligne](#) pour recueillir des commentaires afin de nous aider à déterminer la portée et les caractéristiques clés de ces règlements potentiels.

Ces travaux est la prochaine étape après les [modifications apportées à la Loi sur la marine marchande du Canada de 2001, achevées en 2023](#). Les réglementations potentielles permettraient de :

- identifier les types de navires qui devraient avoir des ententes de service d'urgence et ce qui devrait être inclus dans ces ententes
- identifier les types de navires et d'installations de manutention qui devraient avoir des plans d'intervention en cas de pollution par des substances nocives et potentiellement dangereuses et ce qui devrait être inclus dans les plans d'intervention

- introduire un rôle de coordonnateur d'intervention pour aider à mettre en œuvre les plans d'intervention en cas de pollution des navires au nom du propriétaire du navire

Vous pouvez nous faire part de vos commentaires en envoyant un courriel à OPP.EMEM.HNS-PPO.AGUM.SNPD@tc.gc.ca avant le **31 janvier 2025**. Vos commentaires nous aideront à affiner l'approche réglementaire proposée et à élaborer davantage de détails que nous partagerons pour de plus amples discussions à mesure que nous poursuivrons le processus d'élaboration des règlements.

Dans le cadre du Programme de financement de la participation communautaire (PFPC), les organisations autochtones, les communautés et les organisations à but non lucratif admissibles peuvent demander un financement pour soutenir leur participation à des discussions liées aux initiatives de l'PPO et au transport maritime. Les activités admissibles à court terme peuvent comprendre la préparation, le déplacement et la participation à des réunions, ainsi que l'examen de documents comme ce document de discussion et la formulation de commentaires écrits. Pour plus d'informations, veuillez consulter la page [Faire une demande de financement au PFPC – Composante Système de transport maritime](#).

Si vous avez des questions ou si vous souhaitez approfondir le sujet, veuillez contacter OPP.EMEM.HNS-PPO.AGUM.SNPD@tc.gc.ca.

Thank you,
Transport Canada OPP Engagement

North Cowichan is situated on the traditional territories of the Quw'utsun Nation, which includes the Cowichan Tribes, the Halalt First Nation, the Lyackson First Nation, the Penelakut Tribe, and the Stz'uminus First Nation. The Municipality also sits on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

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