

**VILLAGE OF PEMBERTON
-COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AGENDA-**

Agenda for the **Committee of the Whole** of Council of the Village of Pemberton to be held **Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.** at Council Chambers, 7400 Prospect Street. This is meeting No. 165.

“This meeting is being recorded on audio tape for minute-taking purposes as authorized by the Village of Pemberton Audio Recording of Meetings Policy dated September 14, 2010.”

Item of Business	Page No.
1. CALL TO ORDER	
In honour of the Lil'wat7ul, the Village of Pemberton acknowledges that we are meeting within the unceded territory of the Lil'wat Nation.	
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	1
Recommendation: THAT the agenda be approved as presented.	
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
a) Committee of the Whole No. 164 – Tuesday, June 20, 2017	2
Recommendation: THAT the minutes of Committee of the Whole Meeting No. 164, held Tuesday, June 20, 2017 be adopted as circulated.	
4. Delegations	
a) 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	
Vancouver Coastal Health – Dr. Mark Lysychyn, Karin Olson, Chief Operations Officer, and Suzanne Scott	
b) 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	
Air BnB Presentation – Dan Wilson, Whistler Centre for Sustainability Village of Pemberton Short Term Vacation Rental Materials and Survey Air BnB Public Input Session	
5. Corporate Quarterly Update – Resolutions	4
6. UBCM Minister Meetings – Discussion	7
Recommendation: THAT Committee of the Whole provide direction on the Draft Briefing Notes for the 2017 UBCM Convention.	
7. ADJOURNMENT	

**VILLAGE OF PEMBERTON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes for the **Committee of the Whole** of Council of the Village of Pemberton held Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., at Council Chambers, 7400 Prospect Street. This is meeting No. 164.

ATTENDING: Mayor Mike Richman
Councillor James Linklater
Councillor Ted Craddock
Councillor Jennie Helmer
Councillor Karen Ross

STAFF: Nikki Gilmore, Chief Administrative Officer
Sheena Fraser, Manager of Corporate & Legislative Services
Tim Harris, Manager of Operations and Development Services
Shelley Termuende, Legislative Assistant

PUBLIC: 0

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 1:04 p.m. Mayor Richman called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded

THAT The agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a) Committee of the Whole No. 163 – Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Moved/Seconded

THAT the minutes of Committee of the Whole Meeting No. 163, held Tuesday, June 6, 2017, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Street Naming and Addressing Bylaw – Draft for Discussion

Sheena Fraser, Manager of Corporate and Legislative Services, provided an overview of the history of street naming and the policies and procedures surrounding street naming in the Village of Pemberton.

Ms. Fraser addressed the regulations outlined in the proposed bylaw including:

- The detailed criteria for potential street names;

- Street naming suffixes;
- Process for having a street name approved or a street renamed;
- Fees and cost recovery mechanisms; and
- Requirements for civic address numbering and signage.

Moved/Seconded

THAT Street Naming and Civic Addressing Bylaw be supported as presented with the addition of First Nations Traditional History to the street naming criteria;

AND THAT the bylaw be referred to Council for consideration at the July 25, 2017 Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

Moved/Seconded

THAT the development of a Street Name Listing in cooperation with the Pemberton and District Museum is supported and referred to staff to coordinate.

CARRIED

Moved/Seconded

THAT staff develop messaging to the public in regard to identifying suites for the purposes of improving local emergency response.

CARRIED

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Mike Richman
Mayor

Sheena Fraser
Corporate Officer

Date: July 25, 2017
To: Nikki Gilmore, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Sheena Fraser, Manager of Corporate & Legislative Services
Subject: Committee of the Whole Outstanding Resolutions Listing

PURPOSE

To present for Council a listing of the outstanding resolutions from previous Committee of the Whole Meetings on which Council has not yet risen with report or for which action on the matter has not been completed or is in progress.

BACKGROUND

As a means of keeping track of outstanding resolutions or action items staff has in place a resolution/action item tracking list. This list is updated after each Committee of the Whole meeting and as matters have been actioned or resolved the issue/matter/item is removed from the list. This list is used for internal and administrative purposes and assists staff with work plan reviews.

Council has requested that staff prepare a list of outstanding items or resolutions from Committee of the Whole meetings for review by the Committee so that they may be kept informed as to the status of the matter.

DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

Pursuant to Section 47 (a) of the Village of Pemberton Council Procedure Bylaw No. 788, 2015, all resolutions adopted by a Committee must be presented to Council for ratification except in the following instances:

- i. Resolutions referring items to staff
- ii. Resolutions deferring an item
- iii. Resolutions receiving a report for information
- iv. Defeated resolutions

As a means of keeping the Committee updated on the outstanding action items, Staff will bring forward a report on a quarterly basis. The current listing of outstanding items is attached as Appendix A.

COMMUNICATIONS

There is no communications element required.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

As noted above, the Council Procedure Bylaw requires that resolutions adopted by the Committee of the Whole must be ratified by Council except in certain circumstances. The resolutions currently on the outstanding list meet with Section 47 (a) (i) and (ii). Council may rise with report and bring the matter forward to Council for ratification at any time as may be required.

IMPACT ON BUDGET & STAFFING

There is no impact on budget or staffing.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL IMPACT & APPROVAL

There is no interdepartmental impact or approvals required.

IMPACT ON THE REGION OR NEIGHBOURING JURISDICTIONS

There is no impact on the region or neighbouring jurisdictions

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

There are no alternative options for consideration.

POTENTIAL GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Presentation of the listing of outstanding resolutions meets with Theme Four: Good Governance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report be received;

AND THAT the Committee of the Whole provide direction to staff.

Attachments:

Appendix A: Committee of the Whole Outstanding Resolution Listing as at June 30, 2017

Submitted by:	Sheena Fraser, Manager of Corporate and Legislative Services
CAO Approval by:	Nikki Gilmore, Chief Administrative Officer

APPENDIX A
Committee of the Whole Outstanding Resolutions – as at June 30, 2017

Mtg No	Date	Item	Resolution	Comments
136	21-Jul-15	Nuisance Bylaw	THAT further review and discussion on the draft Nuisance Bylaw be deferred to a future Committee of the Whole meeting.	This item has not been incorporated into Staff workplan.
156	17-Jan-17	Video Recording of Council Meetings	THAT Staff research options and the cost of video recording and bring back a report to the Committee of the Whole for review and consideration	That Council provide direction.
158	27-Feb-17	Remuneration Rate for Council	THAT Staff investigate options for establishing a remuneration rate for Council Members attending meetings held by other agencies or organizations outside of meetings held for Village of Pemberton Council business and bring forward as a part of 2018 budget discussions	Staff will research and include in the 2018 budget deliberations for consideration by Council.
160	11-Apr-17	Affordable Housing	THAT a Committee of the Whole working session be held on housing and include discussion related to the following: Social Housing Opportunities, Review of the Affordable Housing Plan, Incentives for Developers, Temporary Use Permit for a work camp, density	Staff is preparing a work plan for consideration and incorporation into the 2018 budget deliberations.
162	16-May-17	Affordable Housing	THAT staff prepare a listing of properties within the Village of Pemberton that could accommodate affordable housing opportunities and report back to a future Committee of the Whole meeting	Same as above.
164	20-June-17	Suite Identification – Addressing	THAT staff develop messaging to the public in regard to identifying suites for the purposes of improving local emergency response.	Staff are developing messaging that will be distributed to the community through the Village’s social media channels, incorporated into the Fire Department Public Education Program and Building Permit application review. This will be done upon adoption of the new bylaw in September.

Date: July 25, 2017
To: Nikki Gilmore, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Wendy Olsson, Executive Assistant
Subject: Draft UBCM Minister Meeting Briefing Topics

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Committee of the Whole draft Briefing Notes for Minister Meetings at the 2017 UBCM Convention.

BACKGROUND

At the Committee of the Whole meeting No. 163 held on June 6, 2017, following discussion of requests and meeting topics to be brought forward at the 2017 UBCM Convention, Committee made the following resolution:

Moved/Seconded

THAT staff develop draft Briefs for meetings with the following Ministers at the September UBCM Conference:

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure:

- Potential topics include: Cycling Safety, Road Improvements, Passenger Rail Service Option

Ministry of Health:

- Potential topics include: Nursing shortages at Pemberton Health Centre, need for a safe room in Pemberton, Ambulance Service concerns, continuation of funding for the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative – Pemberton Local Action Team

Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Responsible for Housing:

- Potential topics include: Affordable Housing opportunities

Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

- Potential topics include: Increased Policing for Pemberton

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

- Potential topics include: Request to take responsibility to manage the impacts of increased visitor volumes in the area

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

- Potential topics include: Request to take responsibility to manage the impacts of increased visitor volumes in the area

Premier

- Potential topics include: Health issues, support to see the Province take responsibility to manage the impacts of increased visitor volumes in the area

AND THAT Briefs be brought forward at the July Committee of the Whole for review.
CARRIED

DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

Staff has prepared draft Briefs for the following topics, attached as Appendices to this report as follows:

1. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
 - a. Road Safety Improvements for Bike Tourism
 - b. Passenger Rail Service between Lower Mainland and Northern Communities
2. Ministry of Health
 - a. Nursing Shortages at Pemberton Health Care Centre
 - b. Ambulance Service in the Pemberton Valley
 - c. Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative
3. Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Premier
 - a. Impacts of increased tourism in the Pemberton area

Staff suggests that the topic of the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative also be submitted to the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, and the Minister of Children and Family Development.

Staff suggests that the topic of Passenger Rail Service between Lower Mainland and Northern Communities also be submitted to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Ministry of Tourism.

Briefs have not been developed for the following proposed potential topics as the issues are currently being managed at a staff level, are felt to be already addressed in the ask in an existing Brief, and/or there is insufficient information to develop a brief at this time.

- Need for a safe room in Pemberton: Staff feels that this issue will be addressed by the continuation of the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative as well as the planned continued cooperation with the local RCMP.
- Affordable Housing Opportunities: Staff has created an Affordable Housing Plan but having not yet developed an Affordable Housing Strategy. This has been placed on the workplan for 2018, pending budget. It is recommended that this item be deferred and to be brought forward at the 2018 UBCM Convention.
- Increased Policing for Pemberton: Staff have resumed monthly meetings with the local RCMP, to address the concerns of cycling safety, enforcement, and the RCMP's current staffing resources.

COMMUNICATIONS

There are no communications considerations at this time.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed Briefing Notes topics do not require legal review.

IMPACT ON BUDGET & STAFFING

The draft Briefing Notes for the 2017 UBCM Convention has been prepared in-house and has been incorporated into the operations of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. Preparation of Briefs is considered a part of staff's regular scope of duties and responsibilities and thus will not impact budget or staffing costs.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL IMPACT & APPROVAL

There are no impacts to other departments.

IMPACT ON THE REGION OR NEIGHBOURING JURISDICTIONS

There are no impacts on the region or neighbouring jurisdictions at this time; however, it should be noted that the Briefing note to continue funding for the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative aligns with LMLGA Resolution brought forward by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) and the Corporation of Delta. In addition, the Village and SLRD have committed to working collaboratively, with the possibility of joint Minister Meetings on the topics of the impacts of increased backcountry and bike Tourism, including installation of permanent shoulders on highways.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

There are no alternative options presented at this time.

POTENTIAL GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

The topics of the Briefing Notes meet the Village's Strategic Priority One of Economic Vitality whereby the Village values and supports a competitive and diversified economy with engaged corporate citizens.

Additionally, the topics align with the Village's Strategic Priority Four of Social Responsibility, to create a strong and vibrant community recognizing the importance and benefits of both healthy and engaged citizens as well as an accessible and well managed natural environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Committee of the Whole provide direction on the Draft Briefing Notes for the 2017 UBCM Convention.

Attachments:

- Appendix A: Briefing Notes for Road Safety Improvements for Bike Tourism
- Appendix B: Briefing Notes for Passenger Rail Service between Lower Mainland and Northern Communities
- Appendix C: Briefing Notes for Nursing Shortages at Pemberton Health Care Centre
- Appendix D: Briefing Notes for Ambulance Service in the Pemberton Valley
- Appendix E: Briefing Notes for Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative
- Appendix F: Briefing Notes for Impacts of increased Tourism in the Pemberton area

Submitted by:	Wendy Olsson, Executive Assistant
CAO Approval by:	Nikki Gilmore, Chief Administrative Officer

Committee of the Whole



UBCM BRIEFING NOTES

PO Box 100, 7400 Prospect Street, Pemberton, British Columbia
CANADA V0N 2L0

To: Honourable Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI)

From: Mayor Mike Richman

Key Topics of Discussion: Road Safety Improvements for Bike Tourism

Background: Bike tourism has become very popular in the Sea to Sky Corridor. However, many areas along this route do not have permanent bike lanes or road shoulders, presenting a public safety hazard for both cyclists and motorists. The safety of our residents and visitors is of the utmost importance to the Village of Pemberton Council.

Discussion:

With the increase in popularity of road cycling, both recreational and commercial with events such as Grand Fondo and Ironman, the cyclist/vehicular traffic conflicts on the Sea to Sky highway have grown exponentially. The Village of Pemberton supports bike tourism as it brings both financial and environmental benefits to the Sea to Sky Corridor. Unfortunately, due to the lack of adequate bike lanes/shoulders on Highway 99 and through to the Pemberton Meadows, road cycling has the potential for incidents that may result in serious injuries and even fatalities.

As a result of these public safety issues, Village Council did not give their support of the three (3) year renewal of the IRONMAN Canada – Whistler event, which would take place from 2018 to 2020. Many residents of the Pemberton Meadows attended a Special Meeting of Council to discuss the Event. The overwhelming response was that there were too many vehicle (Transport, Resource, Farming, Commuter) conflicts with cyclists. Cyclists often ride three (3) to four (4) abreast across on the narrow, curvy road that has minimal to no shoulder allowances and only gravel beyond the white delineator line. Residents are frustrated and share Council's concern with the potential for injury or fatalities as a result of these conflicts.

To mitigate the risk of such tragic incidents and satisfy the need for cyclist safety, the Village of Pemberton requests that funding be allocated towards the creation of adequate and permanent bike lanes and/or road shoulders along this route.

Request:

The Village of Pemberton requests that MOTI allocate funds for the creation of adequate and permanent bike lanes and/or road shoulders on the Pemberton Meadows Road as well as throughout the Sea to Sky Highway.

Contact

Nikki Gilmore

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VILLAGE OF PEMBERTON

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UBCM BRIEFING NOTES

PO Box 100, 7400 Prospect Street, Pemberton, British Columbia
CANADA V0N 2L0

To: Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure – suggested also to Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Ministry of Tourism.

From: Mayor Mike Richman

Key Topics of Discussion: Passenger Rail Service between Lower Mainland and Northern Communities

Background: In 1972, the Pacific Great Eastern Railways became the British Columbia Railway, which operated the “Budd Car”, a passenger rail service which took travelers from North Vancouver to Prince George. In 2002, this service was discontinued when the BC Rail Line was leased to CN Rail. The loss of the “Budd Car” was a loss of economic, social and environmental investment for the Province.

Discussion: The restoration of the passenger rail service between North Vancouver and Prince George is an important initiative, connecting neighbouring communities and supporting rural economies. On a larger economic scale, the rail service would provide a boost to the tourism industry as visitors gain access to new destinations in British Columbia, showcasing not only the Sea to Sky Corridor but the entire province.

A passenger rail service on this popular route also represents a positive move towards climate change. Rail travel has been proven to be a greener form of travel than vehicle traffic, representing a small fraction of worldwide carbon dioxide emissions. Last but not least, passenger rail option could reduce road congestion on the Sea to Sky Highway, increasing the safety of the highway as well as reducing wear and tear on the infrastructure.

As such, the Village of Pemberton urges MOTI to reinstate the passenger rail service between North Vancouver and Prince George, boosting the local and provincial tourism industry, supporting the social development of rural communities and promoting a greener form of travel.

Request:

The Village of Pemberton requests that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure restore passenger rail service along CN Rail between the lower mainland and northern communities, for the social, economic and environmental benefit to the Province.

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**UBCM BRIEFING NOTES**

PO Box 100, 7400 Prospect Street, Pemberton, British Columbia
CANADA V0N 2L0

To: Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health

From: Mayor Mike Richman

Key Topics of Discussion: Nursing Shortages at Pemberton Health Care Centre

Background: The Pemberton Health Centre (the Centre) provides emergency and urgent care to Village of Pemberton residents as well as residents in our neighbouring communities, the Lil'wat Nation and Area C of the Squamish Lillooet Regional District. The Centre has suffered staffing shortages, particular of nurses qualified to work the on-call after hours position, meaning a reduced number of personnel available to support the medical needs of the community.

Discussion:

Outside the daytime operating hours of the Health Centre Emergency Department, the only method for those in need of medical attention is through on-call personnel. Currently the Centre requires that nurses possess their RN First Call certification before being offered a position as an after-hours on-call staff member. This certification is only obtainable from the University of Northern British Columbia, and represents both time and financial commitment including attendance to a week-long practicum in Prince George.

The nurse licensing body, Canadian Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC) does not mandate RN First Call as a requirement for nurses to work on call after-hours shifts. The Centre has determined that due to the satellite nature of the facility, the RN First Call is a requirement due to the scope of work nurses may be required to perform. The requirement is supported by the Local Health Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH).

Council appreciates that nurses working in satellite communities often have a more in-depth scope of work than those in larger municipalities; however with nursing staffing shortages a frightening reality in rural communities, the requirement of additional certification imposed on RNs now represents a barrier to staffing the small facilities. This challenge was recently exemplified when, due to staffing shortages, night shift service provision severely suffered when on several occasions no on-call personnel were available during night hours.

To mitigate this problem, Council proposes a phased hiring approach, whereby the Centre allow Registered Nurses to hold positions as on-call personnel without the RN First Call certification, on the proviso that upon hire they enroll in the RN First Call program, and that the Centre or local health authority provide new nurses with the necessary resources to complete the program.

Request:

The Village of Pemberton requests that the Ministry of Health direct the Pemberton Health Care Centre to allow Registered Nurses to obtain positions as on-call personnel and allocate the appropriate resources for them to complete the RN First Call certification through a phased approach upon hire.

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UBCM BRIEFING NOTES

PO Box 100, 7400 Prospect Street, Pemberton, British Columbia
CANADA V0N 2L0

To: Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health

From: Mayor Mike Richman

Key Topics of Discussion: Ambulance Service in the Pemberton Valley

Background: The emergency response area of the Pemberton Valley is considerable, encompassing the Village of Pemberton as well our neighbouring communities, the Lil'wat Nation and Area C of the Squamish Lillooet Regional District, however the area does not possess a permanent full-time ambulance. Due to a centralized ambulance dispatch system, the two ambulances based in the area can be completely removed from our community for extended periods of time, leaving our residents vulnerable and forcing a costly dependency on the Village of Pemberton Fire Department to provide first responder care.

Discussion: Village Council is very concerned about the impacts that the lack of consistent and dependent ambulatory service has on personal and community health in the Pemberton Valley. With a centralized dispatch system and no ambulance dedicated to the area, the two vehicles based in Pemberton are often temporarily lost to other communities following delivery of a patient to the lower mainland. When ambulances are diverted to attend calls elsewhere, it leaves our residents in peril of not receiving the vital pre-physician care in times of need.

To highlight the need for a dedicated ambulance in the area, we need only look to a recent incident where a child was injured while playing in the school playground and became unconscious. There was no ambulance available to provide emergency transport to the child and as a result, a member of the public had to transport the child to the nearest clinic. Fortunately, the clinic was only a few hundred meters from the school. This event, however, is not unique; there have been several instances where a resident was injured, in need of urgent medical care, but with no ambulance coming to help. This lack of service in our area is frightening, and unacceptable in a remote community with no other source of emergency transport.

Relying on the Village of Pemberton Fire Department is costly in terms of personnel, who are mainly volunteers, administration and training. During the past summer season, our Department was thankfully able to extinguish several human-caused fires, mitigating the serious threat of wildfire. Given the wildfire state of emergency that the Province experienced this summer season, it is crucial that our firefighters are not constantly being pulled away to first responder calls.

To address these serious issues, the Village of Pemberton appreciates your consideration of a full-time permanent ambulance dedicated to the Pemberton Valley and a decentralized dispatch system for our area so that the ambulance is not lost to other regions. This will result in the proper provision of urgent care to our residents, and the reduction on dependency on the Village of Pemberton Fire Department.

Request: The Village of Pemberton requests that the Province decentralize ambulance service dispatch in the region, and provide a full-time ambulance to care and provide emergency transport to residents of the Pemberton Valley.

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UBCM BRIEFING NOTES

PO Box 100, 7400 Prospect Street, Pemberton, British Columbia
CANADA V0N 2L0

To: Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, suggested also to be submitted to Honourable Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, and the Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development

From: Mayor Mike Richman

Key Topics of Discussion: Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative

Background: Doctors of BC introduced the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative (CYMHSUC) in 2013. Funding currently comes from the Shared Care Committee, General Practice Service Committee, joint committees of Doctors BC and the Ministry of Health. Since its inception the program has grown exponentially, from Local Action Teams in eight (8) communities to sixty-four (64) teams across the province. Sadly, funding for the Collaborative is set to be discontinued in 2017.

Discussion: The CYMHSUC was founded to explore new ways of working together to increase the number of children, youth and families receiving timely access to integrated mental health and substance abuse services and support systems across the Province. The work performed through the Collaborative has resulted creative and inspiring actions to increase mental health literacy, improve access to services and provide more coordinated care for those struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues. These initiatives can be life-saving for children and youth.

British Columbia is currently suffering from an opioid crisis and the impact has been devastating to families and communities. In this time of crisis, initiatives which provide assistance to those battling mental health and substance abuse issues are all the more vital.

The Village of Pemberton requests that the Province continue to fund the CYMHSUC, to continue to improving the lives of our Province's children, youth and families both in prevention of, and support with, mental health and substance abuse issues.

Request:

The Village of Pemberton requests that the Province continue to provide funding for the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative beyond 2017.

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UBCM BRIEFING NOTES

PO Box 100, 7400 Prospect Street, Pemberton, British Columbia
CANADA V0N 2L0

To: Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, the Ministry of Forests and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

From: Mayor Mike Richman

Key Topics of Discussion: Impacts of increased tourism in the Pemberton area

Background: The Village of Pemberton appreciates the investment that the Province has made towards the promotion of tourism in the Sea to Sky area. The increase in popularity of outdoor recreation has brought positive economic impacts to our community as well as to the Province. Sadly, the increase in visitors has also brought negative impacts, such as human/wildlife conflicts, the closures of popular destinations due to unmanageable volume, and impacts on the environment and public safety from the associated spike in vehicular traffic.

Discussion: The rapidly increasing popularity of adventure tourism has brought, ironically, threats to the natural environment that draws visitors to our area, as well as to the safety of the highway used to access it. Events such as the recent closure by the Province of Keyhole Falls hot springs due to increased human/wildlife conflicts and the safety challenges presented by the shocking parking overflow at Joffre Lakes in 2016 and again in 2017 serves to highlight the problem.

The Village of Pemberton Council is equally committed to the preservation of our natural environment and the safety of our visitors as it is to the economic sustainability of our community. Though our surrounding natural area has the capacity to draw a significant boost to the tourism industry in British Columbia, as a small community we have a very limited capacity to mitigate the consequences.

The additional volume without adequate resources to supervise and maintain the popular areas mentioned above, as well camping areas down the In-SHUSH-ch highway along Lillooet Lake, such as Strawberry Point, pose equally great concerns such as overflowing garbage receptacles, inadequate restroom facilities and most importantly campfires that are not properly extinguished and pose a serious risk of wildfire, given the remote forest areas where sites such as this exist. Given the wildfire state of emergency that the Province experienced this summer season, it is crucial that additional resources be allocated to patrol, monitor and enforce Provincial regulations in the backcountry.

As such, we request that the Province (Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, the Ministry of Forests and Natural Resource Operations and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure) match the investment made in tourism marketing with an investment in mitigating the resulting challenges of increased visitor volume.

Request:

That the Province match the investment made in tourism marketing with the allocation of funds for improvements to infrastructure, ensuring the protection and maintenance of the environment that supports the local and Provincial tourism industry.

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