

Tofino Ratepayers Association



April 5, 2020

Re: Proposed Changes to 2020-2024 Financial Plan due to Covid

Hello Members

It has come to our attention, via Facebook postings, that discussions of proposed changes to the District of Tofino 2020-2024 Financial plan, considering the Covid 19 emergency, are to occur April 13/14, 2020. That meeting, as we understand, will be by electronic participation.

We have currently received no response from Mayor and Council to our previous letter dated March 14, 2020. (the letter was to be on the agenda of the next meeting which was cancelled due to the Virus) However we feel this is the right time to let Mayor and Council hear directly from you regarding your concerns about the current situation and how it impacts you.

Federal and Provincial gov'ts have announced various programmes to help folks bridge this time of serious economic instability. Largely through deficit spending. Municipalities are not allowed by Provincial Law to run deficits. However, what they can do is make cuts to nonessential spending to lower the tax burden.

What might be considered as an "essential programme, service or project" in an environment of relative economic surplus must be reconsidered in a time of economic deficit. In plain language, most people and businesses do not currently have the money to pay their taxes at levels based on existing budgets and spending. We don't know when we will get back to normal. So, we expect Mayor and Council will do their part to help everyone get through this crisis.

Each of you will be experiencing this in your own way. Please help by sharing your experience directly with Mayor and Council. They need to understand your situation to make the best decisions.

Thanks, and keep well, Jack Gillie

Send an email today. (I know many of you have extra time on your hands these days)

To

corporateservices@tofino.ca

Mayor and Council