

Tofino Ratepayers Association



Nov. 15, 2019

Re: Bus Proposal

Hello Ratepayer Members,

You may or may not be aware that a bus service is being proposed for the West Coast Communities to be partially funded through property taxes based on property assessment. Because Tofino's property assessments are the highest of all the subject West Coast communities, the greatest financial burden would be on the Tofino taxpayers. Some residents are in favour of a transit service but are very concerned about the costs. The proposed cost of the transit service per property is \$0.294 per \$1000 of assessed value, \$167/year for a \$570,000 property which is the average for Tofino. Keep in mind that property taxes over the next 5 years are expected to rise by approximately 53%, mainly to fund the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The transit cost will be an annual addition to this increase. Approximately 3/4 of the cost of operating the system is proposed to be by government subsidy. And 1/4 by user fees.

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board has made a decision not to go to a referendum regarding adoption of Bylaw E1062 to establish the service, but instead to follow an Alternative Approval Process (AAP). The rules for the AAP require that the ACRD receive 602 signed forms (10% of the estimated west coast communities eligible electors) to oppose. Signed forms must be received by the ACRD by the deadline of November 29th. If the ACRD receive the required number of forms, the proposal may go to a referendum or the bylaw may be completely restructured or dropped.

There are obviously differing opinions about this proposal. Some in favour and some opposed. Some are not opposed to some kind of bus service but don't like the model proposed. Others don't like the amount of money or the manner in which it is to be raised. **Remember this bylaw is about a particular proposal for taxation.**

Whatever you feel, I think it worth remembering that the process is in place for you to determine how you feel and in particular if you are opposed. Some want to reduce your decision to a sense of social or moral obligation to others. However, many will have to view this in the context of the recently passed Tofino 5-year financial plans for 53% tax increases and will have to consider their own financial situation. This is your opportunity to make a decision that is right for you, for you and your family.

Please use the following link for the Elector Response Form and background information on the proposal and approval process.

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/cms/wpattachments/wpID571atID3306.pdf>

If you oppose this tax you need only complete the first page with your name, address and signature and forward it to the ACRD per the instructions on the form. Remember, an easy way to submit the form is to photograph the completed form using your cell phone and email it to the ACRD.

If you are not a Tofino resident, please provide the Tofino property address on the form and in addition to that complete the Non-resident Property Elector Consent Form

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<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/cms/wpattachments/wpID571atID3307.pdf>

If you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact the Ratepayers association at this gmail address.

Thanks,

Jack Gillie

p.s. Thanks to Carol Gagne for parts of the summary.