

# Tofino Ratepayers Association

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Dec. 21, 2020

Re: Budget Response 2021-2025

Hello ratepayers.

News Item. The Tofino Ratepayers Assoc. will be helped by the addition of three new Directors to its board. Tammy Shymko, Steven Thicke and Harold Sadler have offered their time. This is good news. There is lots that we can do and the additional energy, views and ideas will be most welcome. We continue on with Kevin Midgely as treasurer. Mike Dauphine as secretary, and Lore Rowland as Director and myself, Jack Gillie acting as President in Jarmo's absence.

So, lets get right at it.

I am sending everyone a link for input into the Tofino budget planning process. <http://tofino.ca/budget>

I encourage everyone to submit on this subject. In the past, many have felt that their views were not adequately represented in the assembled summaries that were presented to council by staff. Your specific submission did not go directly to council. I agree with this concern. So, I have provided the following list of councillors' email addresses, so you can send your concerns to them directly and unfiltered. I encourage everyone to follow the official process and also send your views to council directly.

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Councillor Al Anderson     | anderson@tofino.ca |
| Councillor Britt Chalmers  | chalmers@tofino.ca |
| Councillor Dan Law         | dlaw@tofino.ca     |
| Councillor Duncan McMaster | mcmaster@tofino.ca |
| Councillor Andrea McQuade  | mcquade@tofino.ca  |
| Councillor Tom Stere       | stere@tofino.ca    |

Some of the input that is asked for is around the idea of pay parking. Pay parking could play an important role in fundraising. Raising money from tourists to directly offset many costs the Tofino taxpayers are currently burdened with. That is why pay parking was discussed at previous Ratepayers meetings. But there are concerns. The plan for pay parking is not yet known. The information provided with the budget survey suggests the "as yet to be achieved money" could be used for expansion of current parking facilities and other related uses. In my view, monies generated from pay parking should not go to yet more tourist promotion.

I offer that the following principles be used to guide the development of any pay parking schemes. A version of this was released in the fall. As such this proposal is open to your views, additions and deletions. Please respond directly to the ratepayer's Gmail account and we will disseminate the

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information to our board members. Soon we will want to submit a final version to council either directly or in the form of a petition.

## Principle #1

It has been our position that pay parking money has to pay for itself first, after that, excess funds or “profits”, should be used to offset the current costs, the already existing costs, of servicing the visiting tourists. The servicing of existing bathrooms, showers, garbage and litter collection and parking facilities that the taxpayers already support should be paid for by visitors through parking fees. Some of these facilities have been created through RMI grants, but their maintenance upkeep and operation are currently paid for by local taxation. Water use at public facilities should be metered and monitored.

The increasing need for bylaw enforcement of all kinds, and monitoring of parking, should also be paid for by the visitors themselves through these parking fees.

Once these costs to the taxpayer are alleviated going forward, then consideration can be given to additional work, be it parking improvements or additional facilities.

## Principle #2

Local people, residents and workers should get a yearly pass, either for free or a minimal amount to cover the administrative cost of issuing the pass. It would be counter productive to the community to have to pay for daily parking costs simply because we are increasingly overrun by tourists.

## Principle #3

We do not support the proliferation of parking meters as has been attempted in the past. The system needs to be modern and unobtrusive. Strategically located machines for use of credit cards and or the use of cell phone “apps” seems the desirable way to go.

## Principle #4

Future expansion of the physical parking system and all tourist servicing proposals requires extensive public consultation and capacity analysis. There is no amount of parking that won't be fully utilized at peak times. “Build it and they will come”. It does not matter how much parking we provide; it will never be enough.

A lot more parking is probably not what we want and will not be good for the overall attractiveness of the community for either locals or tourists. We do not want to turn Tofino into a giant asphalt surface. At times we feel we are already at capacity. Additions must be limited and strategic.

## Principle #5

The pay parking scheme must apply to the whole of Tofino. A “figurative” parking day ticket should be valid for use anywhere in the community for the day. Visiting tourists who arrive and are able to park on private facilities either at resorts, motels or VCRs may not require a parking pass. Parking on the streets of Tofino anywhere and in parking lots should require either a local's pass or a visitor paid for “ticket”.

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## Principle #6

Frequent visitors may be offered a pass, on a weekly, monthly and calendar year basis.

In the future we will want to press on with the subjects of MRDT funds, the use of RMI funds, VCR's, housing, infrastructure, temporary use permits for seasonal housing and other subjects, but for now I draw your attention to Parking.

Looking forward to hearing from you. What do you think needs to be the strategy going forward in the next few months?

Thanks for your attention.

Cheers Jack Gillie