



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORT

From: Councillors Boardman, Cavens, Helliwell, Morrison and Rotchford

Council Meeting: June 19, 2023

Subject: **Report on AVICC 2023 Conference**

Councillors Boardman, Cavens, Helliwell, Morrison and Rotchford attended the Association of Vancouver Island and Coast Communities Conference (AVICC) in Nanaimo from April 13-15 2023.

The conference was attended by mayors, councillors and area directors from municipalities and regional districts across Vancouver Island and the coast of British Columbia.

The conference provided a platform for local elected officials to learn from each other, share ideas and experiences, and explore ways to work together to build stronger communities. The conference featured keynote speakers, panel discussions, workshops, and breakout sessions covering a range of topics related to local governance, affordability, reconciliation, and climate action.

Some of the notable sessions included a plenary session "RECONCILI-ACTION: Developing Meaningful Relationships in our Communities" which discussed practical ways to advance relationships with our neighbours in indigenous communities. There were also panel discussions on attainable housing, risk management, climate action and the role of public libraries in our communities. The conference provided a forum for delegates to discuss and exchange innovative ideas and best practices on these topics.

Furthermore, the conference also provided an opportunity for delegates to engage in networking, socializing and team-building. As delegates, Councillors voted on a number of motions put forward by Vancouver Island Communities - lively debates were had on resolutions pertaining to balancing environmental concerns with Indigenous rights, the role of fossil fuel companies in municipal conferences, and adjustments to the provincial home owner grant program, amongst others. Successful resolutions will be brought forward to UBCM for province-wide debate.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Cavens for Councillors Boardman, Helliwell, Morrison and Rotchford