



# CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

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## MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORT

**From:** Councillor Meagan Brame

**Council Meeting:** May 6, 2019

**Subject:** AVICC Report – 2019 Conference

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This year's Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Conference was held in beautiful Powell River. My very first conference with Council was in Powell River 10 years ago and I must say the town has changed. Their arts and culture scene appears to have increased greatly and they have an amazing array of restaurants and shops now.

The following are some of the workshops and plenaries I attended.

### **Blanket Exercise**

- What an amazing and powerful experience this was; it created a deep emotional reaction for many in the room
- Would love to see Esquimalt Council and Community do one with the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nation
- Things I heard during the exercise: we must hear what truly happened, they are stories hard to tell and not always told, we cannot forget but we do need to heal and move towards a better relationship
- Language Map of BC – <http://maps.fphlcc.ca/taxonomy/term/1>
- Wise Practices: wise practices for life promotion, indigenous leadership for living life well – <http://wisepractices.thunderbirdpf.org>
- First Nations Education Steering Committee Authentic Resource List: <http://www.fnesc.ca/authenticresources/>

### **Role of BC Ferries in Coastal Communities**

- The Convention began with a presentation and conversation with BC Ferries' President & CEO, Mark Collins.
- 36 vessels, 47 terminals, 470 daily sailings, 8.7 million vehicles, 22 million passengers – it is in the global top 5
- Mr. Collins shared information about how the company is preparing for the future and contributing to a sustainable environment. The days of the old oil dripping, lumbering and smoke belching ferries is over. The Green Technology Adoption Plan is in year 3 of 5. Underwater Noise Mitigation Plan – they believe they have a responsibility to mitigate noise. BC Ferries has been developing this concept and reductions with DFO for the past 3 years. New ships – Salish of the Seas – is the quietest and greenest. Moving all ships to LNG – cleaner than diesel

- On the question of why not electric yet, they stated that the technology is just not here yet. On a small scale it is starting, but not at this level. The Inter-Island routes (Island Class) will have a ferry by January 2020 that is an electric/diesel hybrid
- He shared the company's plans to add capacity to our coastal ferry system to meet demand and to build resiliency for the millions of customers who rely on BC Ferries each year. They are working on a better reservation system for the larger routes – moving to free reservation system
- Discussed the ways BC Ferries is moving to more closely align its vision and strategic plan with the aspirations of ferry customers and the communities served by ferries. They are making strong relationships with the First Nations and the Communities they are in. Due to the relationships they are developing, both with the First Nations and local communities, they are seeing lower occurrences of vandalism of BC Ferries properties. BC Ferries is working at becoming part of the communities they connect
- BC Ferries - Listening, Learning, Leading

### **Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia**

- Believes that our marine highway needs to be efficient, affordable and on time
- They are a new government and new governments are open to new ideas, not the same old path but willing to try something new
- Putting a lot of money into child care, health care and housing
- Lowest unemployment rate in the country
- Understands that the province needs more workers in all sectors – and wants to eliminate barriers for Canadians to go to school to further our workforce

### **Island Health Update**

Presenter: Leah Hollins

- Supports community-based health networks – there are 8 in Island Health Authority
- Very little on any updates or new projects regarding the issues really hitting our region: mental health, measles, doctor shortages and opioid crisis

### **Building Universal Child Care for BC Together**

Presenter: Michelle Kirby, Manager, Partnerships and Engagement, Childcare BC and former Oak Bay Councillor

- With a one-billion-dollar commitment made in Budget 2018, the Provincial Government is seeking to build partnerships with local governments to support the creation of new child care spaces in their communities
- Provided an overview of opportunities open to local governments to connect them with provincial resources and supports to build child care in your community
- Highlighted successful project examples, and shared insights into the vision taking shape for a universal child care system for BC
- 10-year vision is for child care that is available to every family that wants or needs it – there are three pillars to their plan: Affordability, Accessibility and Quality
- 54 pilot sites across BC to test the \$10/day child care plan

- They are offering bursaries for people to take the Early Childhood Education program
- There have been 33 successful Island and Coastal Communities granted funds for the Community Child Care Planning Program
- 100% provincial funding program now available – up to \$1 million per facility for public-sector applicants with non-profit child care provider
- Application process for Childcare BC New Spaces Fund is open continuously with no arbitrary deadline – but they must be open for 15 years
- Biggest concern I raised with Michelle was that in some areas they are opening so many centres, centres that would need in excess of 40 qualified staff and yet there are no staff; expressed the concern that they are missing the last pillar of their plan – quality

### **Let's Talk Trash**

Presenters: Abby McLennan, and Tai Uhlmann, Let's Talk Trash Team Members

- Talked about their region's shoreline clean-up initiative and how we can integrate a similar volunteer-driven program that diverts 90% of what is collected in our community.
- For the shore cleanup collection of items, communities can partner with Ocean Legacy Foundation Recycling – beach styrofoam and plastic cannot go into local recycling but there is free shipping from the island to get it to Ocean Legacy.
- Plastic without Boarders is a Westcoast group that helps with shore cleanups.
- It was interesting that they talked about the issues around textiles and how they are a large source of waste. I was quite proud of how Esquimalt is doing some fabulous things around this issue with things like the grassroots led clothing swap that occurs and the Esquimalt Buy Nothing pages.
- I talked to them about our plastic bag ban and they said it does make people nervous but there are work arounds and business and residents need to be creative; maybe we will need to do a FAQs sheet and post it on our website.
- They also discussed zero waste events, displaying zero waste stations that are available for use in the community, a mobile dishwashing trailer to facilitate the use of real dish-ware at outdoor events, and other resources that can help event coordinators integrate zero waste efforts into event planning. They have a Zero Waste Event Food Vendor Guide, Tips for Event Coordinators form. It does take more volunteers to use the real dishes and dishwashing trailer.
- <http://letstalktrash.ca>
- I have sent the links to the Manager of the Farmer's Market for information.

### **Provincial Active Transportation Strategy – Hearing from Your Community**

Presenters: Allan, Project Manager, Active Transportation Project, MoTI Jesse Skulmoski, Director, Strategic Initiatives, MoTI and BikeBC

- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is developing an Active Transportation Strategy to be released later this year – June 2019.
- This is a Provincial Strategy not a Ministry Strategy.

- It aims to increase the use of active transportation (including walking and cycling) by British Columbians of all ages and abilities.
- It is part of the CleanBC Plan and is a Priority Initiative.
- Active Transportation is any human-powered mobility that moves people from place to place.
- The Netherlands' active transportation = 27% cyclist mode share vs BC's 2.5%. BC is one of the top 5 in Canada.
- They are in the engagement part of their strategy. They would like the strategy launched by mid-June 2019. They had 8 regional forums, internet platform with comment section on EngageBC, met with the Planning Institute and Engineers Associations, and Indigenous Communities
- Active Transportation Themes: building, encourage and educate, safety and leadership
- Themes from the engagement: increased dedicated funding for active transportation, cultural shift toward embracing active transportation, improving safety both perceived and actual with policy and infrastructure, recognize the differences in needs between rural and urban areas.
- Leadership – entails both determining and communicating vision and continuing to tangible action.
- Shifting Priorities – we still have a very car focused society, connecting sidewalks and trails into comprehensive networks, stronger integration of other modes, such as transit or ferries, improving connections between communities and jurisdictions can help shift that focus.
- Design Guide:
  - Intended for release in time for the BC Active Transportation Summit scheduled for June 17-18, 2019
  - Done in consultation and collaboration with local governments, key stakeholders and academics
  - Free, public document for all to use
- <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/active-transportation/>

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Meagan Brame