



**Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce**

admin@esquimaltchamber.ca

Sept 25th, 2025

Mayor Desjardins and Members of Council  
Township of Esquimalt  
1229 Esquimalt Road  
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

**RE: Support for Economic Development Initiatives and September 29th Council Report**

Dear Mayor Desjardins and Council Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our support for the Township's ongoing efforts under the 2023–2025 Economic Development Action Plan.

We appreciate the comprehensive and strategic work undertaken across the priority areas of place branding, business support, and community revitalization. The progress made to date reflects a strong commitment to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient local economy.

We would like to take this opportunity to voice our support for several of the anticipated recommendations in the upcoming report to Council:

- **Continued Participation in the South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP):** We recognize the value that regional economic collaboration brings to Esquimalt's businesses and broader community and encourage Council to maintain its investment and participation in SIPP as a key regional partner. As the only organization of its kind, SIPP plays a vital role in harnessing regional collaboration and continues to provide a high level of excellence in its research across numerous important issues that are best addressed from a regional perspective. The work done by SIPP cannot be duplicated at the individual municipal level, and the benefits of this work will last well into the future.

- **Preparation for the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT):** With a new locally based hotel now operating in Esquimalt, we see a timely and strategic opportunity to explore the implementation of the MRDT. We support the Township of Esquimalt serving as the eligible entity and recommend that Township staff oversee the allocation and management of any resulting funds, with guidance and oversight from Mayor and Council.
- **Future Planning and Resourcing:** We also express our support for the development of a revised or new economic development strategy and associated budget considerations. This will ensure that the momentum achieved to date continues to build in alignment with community priorities.

Lastly, we wish to extend our thanks to Terése Finegan for her leadership and responsiveness in her expanded role. Her dedication to inclusive engagement and economic development is clearly reflected in the progress to date, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with her and the Township.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. We look forward to the Council discussion on September 29th and to continued shared progress on Esquimalt's economic development goals.

Sincerely,

**Holly Courtright**

President, Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce  
on behalf of the Esquimalt Chamber Board of Directors