



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORT

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

Council Meeting: June 24, 2024

Subject: Report on AVICC Conference April 12-14, 2024

Councillors Cavens, Boardman, Helliwell, Morrison, and Rotchford attended the 2024 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) conference from April 12-14 at the Victoria Conference Centre. The event featured informative sessions, networking opportunities, and collaborative discussions with colleagues from across the island, providing numerous takeaways for local governance.

The conference began with pre-convention workshops on April 12, notably the Housing workshop, which tackled housing affordability and availability. It covered the Short Term Rental Accommodation Act and BC Builds Overview, presenting potential housing initiatives tailored for small communities.

A key part of Municipal conferences is the voting on resolution- although there is seldom enough time to explore an issue in depth in plenary, many provoked thoughtful discussions with councillors across the region.

Sessions included discussions on Open and Closed Municipal meetings, where a main takeaway was that Esquimalt continues to be a leader in open and transparent decision making- many of the suggestions and best practices are already embedded in the Township culture and practices.

Another key discussion was with senior management at Fortis BC and BC Hydro where they discussed municipal approaches to meeting climate goals in terms of energy supplies and challenges. It confirmed that Esquimalt is again at the forefront of following best practices by involving utilities in the discussions of how best to reach our climate targets.

Overall, the AVICC 2024 conference was a valuable platform for exchanging ideas, learning from peers, and gaining insights into effective local governance. The diverse sessions and networking opportunities with municipal representatives were useful in provoking ideas and discussions about policies and issues affecting Esquimalt.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Cavens for Councillors Boardman, Helliwell, Morrison and Rotchford