



**REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL  
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 @ 3:30 PM  
George Fraser Room, Ucluelet Community Centre,  
500 Matterson Drive, Ucluelet**

**LATE AGENDA**

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1. LATE ITEMS	
1.1. Fire Emergency Equipment Funding for Small Rural Communities <i>Dennis Dugas, Mayor, Port Hardy</i> <a href="#">2021-02-09 Mayor Dugas</a>	3 - 6
1.2. Requesting a letter from the District of Ucluelet <i>George Hanson, President, VIEA</i> <a href="#">2021-02-09 VIEA.1</a>	7 - 9



**Joseph Rotenberg**

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**From:** Joseph Rotenberg  
**Sent:** February 9, 2021 12:01 PM  
**To:** Joseph Rotenberg  
**Subject:** RE: Fire Emergency Equipment Funding for Small Rural Communities

**From:** Dennis Dugas <[ddugas@porthardy.ca](mailto:ddugas@porthardy.ca)>  
**Date:** February 9, 2021 at 10:58:57 AM PST  
**To:** Mayco Noel [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** **FW: Fire Emergency Equipment Funding for Small Rural Communities**

Good morning Mayco:

Please see below minutes of our meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please also approve letter attached. When we send the letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs we would like to attach your logo as well.

We are hoping to send the letter February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks again for your support greatly appreciated.

Dennis Dugas

Mayor District of Port Hardy

*Honourable Josie Osborne Minister Municipal Affairs*

*Dear Ms. Osborne*

*We are looking for your support regarding a critical public safety issue in our small rural communities, specifically the lack of Provincial funding for essential local fire and road rescue services, which would include apparatus, equipment, training and facilities.*

*As you are aware the cost of protecting our communities has increased significantly over the years. The cost of apparatus, equipment, training, and facilities are putting the small rural communities in a critical financial bind, taxing the residents beyond what is affordable and without provincial support we feel our financial situation will be unsustainable.*

*This request for Provincial funding assistance has been presented to the Province through endorsed resolutions to the UBCM for over 27 years, to date the provincial response has been "NO". We feel we cannot accept this answer anymore.*

*Through the Insurance Premium Tax, the Province has collected a 4.4% tax revenue through residential / commercial fire insurance and automobile insurance since 1921, which we now believe goes into the government's general revenue fund. The estimated revenue collected is in the hundreds of millions annually, we are asking for some of this revenue to be available through grant programs or another form of assistance to support our communities so we can provide an affordable, reliable, and sustainable essential fire protection and road rescue service for our regional residents and businesses.*

*We look forward to your assistance in setting up meetings with the appropriate Ministers to discuss ways we can leverage reliable funding support for fire and road rescue services in small rural communities.*

*We look forward to your reply.*

*All Mayors names below AVICC members*

**NOTES**  
**PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY**  
**FIRE EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**  
**FRIDAY JANUARY 22, 2021 11:00 AM**  
**VIA ZOOM**

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1. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Dugas welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged that the meeting is virtually being hosted on the traditional territory of the Kwakiutl people, Gilakas'la.

Introductions:

Mayor Dennis Dugas- Port Hardy

Mayor Gaby Wickstrom- Port McNeill

Mayor Bill Beamish- Gibson's

Mayor Martin Davis - Tahsis

Councillor Sarah Fowler- Tahsis

Mayor Mark Baker- Sayward

Director Andrew Hory- RDMW

Mayor Kevin Cameron- Port Alice

Mayor Dennis Buchanan- Alert Bay

Mayor Leslie Baird- Cumberland

Mayor Brad Unger- Gold River

Mayor Julie Colburn- Zeballos

Mayor Mayco Noel- Ucluelet

Mayor Dugas provided the background to the process of the UBCM and resolutions passed or endorsed at those conferences and how the Province has not supported the requests from local governments to help us fund fire services.

The need to form a coalition of small communities to lobby the government to ensure that the service, which yes is listed as a 'may have' in the Community Charter is obviously not a service that people do not want or need.

Mayor Baird communicated to the group the issues they had accessing funding for an upgrade to their Fire Hall in Cumberland. The community had to take out debt in order to fund the service, A referendum was done with 82% support, but the province and the federal government was not able to provide support.

2. Background Discussion, challenges and strategies for small communities

- Access to reliable funding
- Aging infrastructure
- Road Rescue requirements
- Worksafe BC
- Playbook training requirements
- Cost for apparatus and other equipment is high
- Assisting only when there is capacity and need the funding to build the capacity
- Of the small communities in attendance only 3 have paid departments and volunteerism is low
- Insurance funding and the requirement to protect structures in the community. Insurance companies are making money off our ability to respond
- Rescue highway calls turn out to be false alarms with no cell service to call off the responders

- Claims from ICBC will be reduced when we are better equipped and able to respond to save their costs
  - We need cell coverage to ensure we can communicate false alarms.
  - Levels of policing funded through government similar model needed for fire services
3. Draft Letter to Honourable Minister Osborne  
*See attached updated letter*
  4. Next steps  
Letter to be sent to the communities for endorsement and sent to the Minister
  5. Adjournment  
12:15 pm

## Joseph Rotenberg

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**From:** Joseph Rotenberg  
**Sent:** February 9, 2021 12:07 PM  
**To:** Joseph Rotenberg  
**Subject:** FW: requesting a letter from District of Ucluelet  
**Attachments:** SAMPLE LETTER OF COMMITMENT.docx

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**From:** [george@viea.ca](mailto:george@viea.ca) <[george@viea.ca](mailto:george@viea.ca)>  
**Sent:** February 8, 2021 12:57 PM  
**To:** Mark Boysen <[mboysen@ucluelet.ca](mailto:mboysen@ucluelet.ca)>  
**Subject:** requesting a letter from District of Ucluelet

Hi Mark,

I have a request for your assistance.

You may be aware of the recently announced BC government 'Supply Chain Resiliency' grant program.

As you may also know, we have seen the need for improved distribution networks throughout the region for many years and, in fact, addressing this has been in the long-term objectives of both Island Good and FTZVI with the understanding that as we improve sales and market share for Island products, product volumes will increase and exacerbate an already inadequate and expensive patchwork system. Thus, with all of the work we are now doing with rapidly growing numbers of Island Good stakeholders, this opportunity is perfectly timed. We are aware, for instance, that rural communities such as Ucluelet experience many distribution inefficiencies with trucks serving grocery stores and resorts but departing empty and seafood producers doing the reverse getting their products to market, etc. We also wish to include First Nations in this work so that we can be sure to build capacity for Indigenous businesses needing delivery of materials and distribution services for products they may be making.

This is to ask if you will provide us with a 'letter of commitment' from by Friday, Feb 12.

In essence, the proposal is to work with goods producers, under the auspices of Island Good, to assess and improve distribution channels so as to address gaps, inefficiencies, and achieve cost-effective solutions for goods producers (primarily food and beverage) to reach existing and expanding markets. While this will be focused on the movement of goods within the Island region, it will serve to inform us of traffic patterns and product volumes which will eventually play into our larger interest in export markets, backhaul opportunities, and direct imports to the Island. In essence, if we know what and how things move ON the Island, this will help inform what and how to move things TO and FROM the Island...

Attached is a draft sample. Do with it as you please.

Thank you.



**George Hanson** | President  
[george@viea.ca](mailto:george@viea.ca)

**Vancouver Island Economic Alliance**  
P.O. Box 76, Station 'A', Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5K4  
T [250-667-5225](tel:250-667-5225) | [www.viea.ca](http://www.viea.ca)

**Building Alliances for Economic Vitality & Sustainability**

SAMPLE LETTER OF COMMITMENT  
VIEA's application to Government of BC  
Supply Chain Resiliency Grant

February 12, 2021

George Hanson, President & CEO  
Vancouver Island Economic Alliance  
[george@viea.ca](mailto:george@viea.ca)

Re: Letter of Commitment – Supply Chain Resiliency Project

George:

Thank you for taking on this important project to help improve supply chain distribution channels so that goods producers throughout the Vancouver Island and Gulf Island region can have better, more efficient and cost-effective methods of delivering their products to markets throughout the region and beyond. We know that many producers are limited by supply chain gaps that are costly to bridge and deficient in market reach. Your work to address these gaps to facilitate increased sales and production to satisfy volume requirements for broader distribution will greatly benefit these producers and thereby, the BC economy.

Recognizing this, (Your organization) will be pleased to support these efforts in any way we can. We commit to share relevant industry information we may have that is not confidential regarding processors and supply chains with you to support and inform our efforts.

(A short paragraph here about any specific interests this serves your community, business or client base would be good.)

Please convey our thanks to the entire Island Good team for taking on this initiative to assist goods producers in the Island region of BC.

Thank you.