



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT  
REGIONAL DISTRICT

3008- 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Port Alberni, V9Y 2E3

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

January 15, 2020

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### **Alberni Valley Drag Racing Association (AVDRA) Request to Return to the Alberni Valley Regional Airport (AVRA)**

The request from the Alberni Valley Drag Racing Association to return their drag race event to the AVRA was discussed at the January 15, 2020 Alberni Valley & Bamfield Services Committee Meeting. The Committee understands and supports the community benefits of this event. They additionally considered the following factors:

1. Airport Infrastructure – the purpose of the AVRA is for airport purposes and the ACRD has committed to expanding this operation with a recent taxpayer investment in order to expand the operation to allow for greater operating hours and to accommodate high performance aircraft. Closing the airport to allow the drag race event does not support this direction.
2. Insurance – the ACRD has exclusive insurance coverage for the AVRA and while the AVDRA could purchase insurance coverage, there would be a logistical insurance challenge in the event there was an emergency landing at the airport.
3. Crown Grant – the AVRA property has been transferred from the Province to the ACRD with certain conditions tied to airport operations. Closing the AVRA for an event such as this is prohibited under the land transfer agreement.

The Committee, in weighing all the factors, recommended that the ACRD Board of Directors deny the request.

ACRD representatives met yesterday and today with Executive members of the AVDRA to talk about how the various parties could work together going forward in the interest of this popular community event.

For more information, contact:

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