



## Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Zoom/Board Room (Hybrid) – 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

10:00 AM

### Regular Agenda

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Watch the meeting live at: <https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/16-4-2025/>

Register to participate via Zoom Webinar at:

[https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_19tXqhDHQla6oB44LXMsXw#/registration](https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_19tXqhDHQla6oB44LXMsXw#/registration)

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#### PAGE #

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

**Recognition of Territories.**

Notice to attendees and delegates that this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District Website.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff present in the Boardroom and via Zoom.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*(motion to approve, including late items requires 2/3 majority vote)*

3. **DECLARATIONS**

*(conflict of interest)*

4. **MINUTES**

a. **Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting held October 2, 2024**

3-7

*THAT the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held on October 2, 2024 be adopted.*

5. **PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS (10-minute maximum)**

- a. **Michael Pearson, Director, MOTT and Nikki Schneider, Operations Manager, MOTT presenting an update on the Emergency Access Route study.**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION**

- a. **DITIDAHT FIRST NATION** **8-9**  
Secondary Road Access Call to Action

*THAT the Transportation Advisory Committee receives this item for information.*

**7. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS**

**8. REPORTS**

- a. **DRAFT Request for Proposal Overview** **10-16**

*THAT the Transportation Committee recommend advancing with the RFP as presented.*

**9. LATE BUSINESS**

**10. QUESTION PERIOD**

**Questions/Comments from the public:**

- Participating in Person in the Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom meeting
- Emailed to the ACRD at [responses@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:responses@acrd.bc.ca)

**11. ADJOURN**



# Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024, 1:30 PM

Hybrid - Zoom/Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

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### MEMBERS

#### PRESENT:

Bob Beckett, Chairperson, Director, Area "A" Bamfield  
Mike Sparrow, Director, Area "F" Cherry Creek  
Levana Mastrangelo, Director, Executive Legislature, Yuułu?if?ath  
Government  
Cindy Solda, Councillor, City of Port Alberni  
Marilyn McEwen, Director, Mayor, District of Ucluelet  
Dan Law, Mayor, District of Tofino  
Arne Elias, Director, Port Alberni Port Authority  
Zoran Knezevic, President and CEO, Port Alberni Port Authority  
Jolleen Dick, Chief Executive Officer, Alberni Valley Chamber of  
Commerce  
Josh Jenkins, Executive Director, Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce  
Samantha Hackett, Executive Director, Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of  
Commerce  
Judith Sayers, President, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council  
Dean Fauchon, Manager, Contract Services, Tsawak-quin Forestry  
Colin Koszman, Land Use Forester, Mosaic Forest Management  
Marcie Dewitt, Alberni-Clayoquot Health Network  
John McNabb, Member at Large  
Ken McRae, Member at Large

#### REGRETS:

Michael Pearson, District Manager, Transportation, Vancouver Island,  
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure  
Brandy Lauder, Chief Councillor, Hupacasath First Nation  
Ken Watts, Chief Councillor, Tseshah First Nation  
Bella Fred, Tseshah First Nation

#### STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Sailland, Chief Administrative Officer  
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant

The meeting can be viewed on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District website at:

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/2-10-2024/>

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

The Chairperson recognized this meeting is being held throughout the Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

The Chairperson reported this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District website.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff present in the Boardroom and via Zoom.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*MOVED: J. McNabb*

*SECONDED: C. Solda*

*THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

**3. DECLARATIONS**

**4. MINUTES**

**a. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting held July 30, 2024**

*MOVED: C. Solda*

*SECONDED: M. Sparrow*

*THAT the minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held on July 30, 2024 be adopted.*

**CARRIED**

**5. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION**

**7. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS**

**8. REPORTS**

**a. Thomas Bevan, Chief Executive Officer, Island Corridor Foundation, Judith Sayers, Chair, Island Corridor Foundation & Harley Wylie, Island Corridor Foundation (Verbal)**

J. Sayers provided a brief history of the work of the Island Corridor Foundation (ICF) and how the organization is moving forward with the options available, and the stakeholders involved.

T. Bevan provided an update on the work that is currently being done by the Island Corridor Foundation and the public engagement that is being

done by different parties involved. Belief is that the Island Rail could be presented as an alternative, emergency route out of Port Alberni and the West Coast.

Discussion followed regarding the railway options for Parksville to Port Alberni, and the work needed to bring the corridor up to safety requirements for tourism and emergency transportation.

ICF is currently working on updating the business plan, vision study, and condition assessment on the railway. Business plan will be completed when the current study is complete as they need the information from the study to finalize the business plan.

H. Wylie provided an update from a recent All Nations meeting where discussion was had regarding the pros and cons of Island Rail. Unanimous agreement that this continue to be an All-Nation discussion. A motion was put forward to have First Nations, the ICF and MOTI travel to Ottawa to request Federal support on this project. Importance to have Indigenous participation in the business plan, needs to include Indigenous Economic benefits, Indigenous tourism and include both UNDRIP and DRIPA agreements.

D. Fauchon left the meeting at 2:33 PM

Discussion followed regarding whether the end-goal is high-rail or regular rail service on the current line and what the barriers to either are.

Discussion followed regarding how to keep the request for a second route from the Transportation Committee and the Island Rail Corridor separate but still lend support to each initiative.

*MOVED: K. McRae*  
*SECONDED: Z. Knezevic*

*THAT the Transportation Committee recommend the ACRD Board of Directors direct ACRD staff to follow up with MOTI staff to identify steps to secure funding to do the brush clearing along the Island Rail Corridor from the Alberni Valley to Parksville that could facilitate up to a ten-tonne high-rail vehicle (including trestle assessing) noting that the committee lends support to this action but does not see it as the official position for an alternative route to Highway 4.*

**CARRIED**

J. Sayers left the meeting at 2:50 PM

K. McRae & H. Wylie left the meeting at 2:55 PM

**b. Request For Proposals, Daniel Sailland (Verbal)**

D. Sailland provided a review of what was presented by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) at the last Transportation Committee meeting. Final report from MOTI is expected in early 2025. Would like to put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for technical support on this project. Requested input from the committee on how to structure the RFP to ensure a focused response and action plan that will get the Transportation Committee's goals moving forward.

Discussion followed regarding the final report from MOTI and whether that report is needed to pursue a final action plan.

H. Wylie re-joined the meeting at 3:03 PM

D. Sailland provided an explanation on the timeline of putting out the RFP and the reasoning behind beginning the process prior to receiving the final report from MOTI.

Discussion followed regarding next steps, the role of the committee and what falls within the scope to prepare and present the business plan to MOTI.

Discussion followed regarding requirements for the RFP and what the successful applicant should provide for the committee.

Committee requested that ACRD Staff put together a list of involved stakeholders to review and ensure that everyone who should be involved has been contacted.

*MOVED: J. McNabb*

*SECONDED: C. Solda*

*THAT the Transportation Advisory Committee recommend to the ACRD Board of Directors to direct ACRD staff to develop a Request for Proposals to support the committee going forward to provide a secondary route into the Alberni Valley and that the primary considerations be focused on inclusion and participation by all groups that are affected by the lack of a secondary route and primarily First Nations Communities.*

**CARRIED**

**9. QUESTION PERIOD**

Questions/Comments from the public. The Administrative Assistant advised there were no questions or comments respecting an agenda topic from public:

- Participating in Person in the ACRD Board Room

- Participating in the Zoom webinar
- Submissions received by email at [responses@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:responses@acrd.bc.ca).

**10. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is planned for November.

**11. ADJOURN**

*MOVED: Director Solda*

*SECONDED: Director Sparrow*

*THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:27 pm.*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:

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Bob Beckett,  
Chairperson

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Kristin Kerr-Donohue,  
Manager of Administrative Services

# Ditidaht First Nation



## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2025

### **Ditidaht First Nation Urges Immediate Action on Road Conditions and Secondary Access Route Through Nitinaht Lake** **Call to Provincial and Local Governments to Prioritize Safety, Economic Resilience, and Treaty Commitments**

**Nitinaht Lake, B.C.** – The Ditidaht First Nation is calling on provincial and local governments to urgently address unsafe road conditions and to take immediate steps toward developing a reliable secondary access route through Ditidaht Traditional Territory. This route would provide a critical link between Vancouver Island’s West and East Coasts—connecting Port Alberni with Lake Cowichan and Duncan.

This urgent call comes in the wake of two events on March 20, 2025:

1. A sudden road closure due to worsening conditions near Nitinaht Lake left residents and travelers completely stranded.
2. The release of a new report by the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce—*Highway 4 Disruption and Resiliency Solutions Report*—detailing the widespread impacts of the 2023 Highway 4 closure caused by the Cameron Lake fire.

That fire-related closure in 2023 severed the island’s main West Coast access route and led to an estimated **\$60.6 million in lost revenue** for communities including Port Alberni, Ucluelet, and Tofino. The economic ripple effects were severe: disrupted supply chains, food shortages, freight delays, medical staff gaps, and critical medical supply shortages. [Highway 4 Disruption and Resiliency Solutions Report | Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce](#)

Just this past Thursday, access to Nitinaht Lake was cut off once again—this time due to the rapid deterioration of gravel road conditions at a bridge at Red Rock, immediately outside the community. This incident highlights the chronic vulnerability faced by Ditidaht members and travelers who rely on a single, deteriorating access road. [More holes in road to Nitinaht, cutting access to remote village | Ha-Shilth-Sa Newspaper](#)

“Once again, our people and neighboring communities were held hostage by a single, fragile road,” said **Chief Councillor Judi Thomas** of Ditidaht First Nation. “We cannot wait for another disaster to act. The solution is clear—and the Province has already made a commitment.”

In the **2019 Ditidaht Agreement-in-Principle (AIP)**, the Province of British Columbia acknowledged the need for improved road access and committed to reclassifying temporary permit roads—currently managed by timber licensees—as **Forest Service Roads** under provincial responsibility. That process, Chief Thomas says, must start now. *(Read the BC Government release: [2019IRR0043-001364](#))*

“This is about safety and economic resilience,” she added. “Reliable infrastructure is not a luxury—it’s essential. The Province must honor the commitments outlined in the AIP, now.” Chief Thomas also stressed the need for the Province to properly staff and resource the Ditidaht treaty negotiation table to avoid further delays.

“Without appropriate staffing and follow-through, implementation of critical commitments—like road improvements—will continue to stall,” she said.

At the **2025 B.C. Cabinet Ministers & First Nations Leadership Gathering**, Chief Thomas raised these concerns directly with representatives from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) and **Minister of Health Josie Osborne**. Similar concerns were shared in 2024 with then-Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob Fleming, MIRR, and other provincial officials.

“We’re calling on local businesses, municipal leaders, and all levels of government to act—now,” said Chief Thomas. “We must work together to ensure safe, sustainable access for everyone who lives, works, and travels through Ditidaht territory.”

For decades, the Ditidaht First Nation has shouldered the consequences of neglected infrastructure—affecting not only its members but the broader regional economy. Establishing a **safe, all-season secondary access route through Ditidaht Traditional Territory** is no longer a matter of discussion—it is essential.

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Judi Thomas  
Chief Councillor, Ditidaht First Nation  
E: [jthomas@ditidaht.ca](mailto:jthomas@ditidaht.ca)

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Mailing Address: PO Box 340, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M8 O: 250-745.3333

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**About Ditidaht First Nation:** The Ditidaht First Nation is located on the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. We are the stewards of our Traditional Territory, which includes lands, waters, and resources that have sustained our people for millennia. The Ditidaht First Nation is committed to protecting our cultural heritage, environment, and the well-being of our members and all who travel through our lands.



**To:** ACRD Transportation Committee

**From:** Daniel Sailland, CAO

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2025

**Subject:** DRAFT Request for Proposal Overview

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**Purpose:**

To provide the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Transportation Committee with an overview of the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for lobbying and community consultation services. The intent would be to issue the RFP once the details of the provincial emergency route report are received.

**Background:**

At the October 2024 transportation committee meeting, the committee agreed that the ACRD should advance with an RFP once we had certainty around when the province would be releasing their emergency route report. Originally, we anticipated receipt of the provincial report for December 2024. The report was delayed; however, this gives the committee additional time to discuss and review the high-level details regarding the RFP that will be released in the coming months. The discussion below contains the details of the draft RFP.

**Discussion:**

The following includes five main areas regarding the RFP for Lobbying and Community Consultation Services. In addition to discussing the five main areas, the committee may want to provide comment on the process for selecting the firm we should work with. Although the Board will be tasked with the final awarding of the contract by way of Board resolution, the committee may wish to recommend how the selection and recommendation to the Board should take place. A selection committee could be formed, composed of a smaller number of committee members; a special transportation committee meeting could be held to include all committee members; staff can review and report to the committee; or another variation not yet described.

**1. Introduction**

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) is requesting consulting services from qualified lobbying firms to assist in securing government funding for a new highway project. The selected firm will also be responsible for engaging with community stakeholders to build broad-based support for the initiative. The ACRD has undertaken this RFP with the intention to enter into an agreement with one Proponent. This RFP does not constitute an offer and does not give rise to any Contract A-based tendering law duties, and the ACRD will not have any liability or obligation to anyone in connection with this RFP unless an agreement is approved by the ACRD Board of Directors and executed and delivered in writing.

The ACRD may, among the submissions received, deal or negotiate with any party as the ACRD sees fit, and with more than one such party concurrently. In no event will the ACRD be required to offer any modified terms to any other party. The ACRD shall incur no liability to any person as a result of such negotiations or modifications.

The ACRD reserves the right to use and include any ideas, concepts, alternate solutions, extra features, enhancements and performance concepts presented in any proposal.

The evaluation of responses will be based on a number of factors, weighted according to the needs and judgment of the ACRD. Any Proposal will not necessarily be selected. Any implication that the lowest cost or any Proposal will be accepted is hereby expressly negated. The ACRD reserves the right to accept the Proposal which it deems most advantageous, and the right to reject any or all Proposals, in each case without giving any notice. In no event will the ACRD be responsible for the costs of preparation or submission of any Preliminary Submission or Proposal.

## 2. Background

Established in 1966, the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) is situated in the heart of Vancouver Island and encompasses 6,589 km<sup>2</sup>. Serving a population of 33,521, the ACRD is a federation consisting of member Municipalities; Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet, Treaty First Nations; Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government and Toquaht Nation and six electoral areas; “A” - Bamfield, “B” - Beaufort, “C” - Long Beach, “D” - Sproat Lake, “E” - Beaver Creek and “F” - Cherry Creek. The ACRD is within the territory of 10 First Nations, being Ahousaht, Ditidaht, Hesquiaht, Hupačasath, Tla-o-qui-aht, and čišaaʔatḥ (Tseshah First Nation) in addition to the four Treaty First Nations that are ACRD federation members. The ACRD is governed by a 14-member Board of Directors that represent the member jurisdictions.

This alternative highway project is overseen by a select committee (the Transportation Committee) which is tasked with examining and prioritizing transportation options in the Region, specifically an alternative route to Highway 4, to help inform the ACRD Board and then collectively advocate for these options to higher levels of government. The committee Terms of Reference (TOR) are attached.

## 3. Scope of Work

The selected firm will be required to:

- **Lobbying Services:**
  - Review, access and synthesize existing materials relevant to the highway proposal. This includes but may not be limited to technical reports, government planning documents, economic visioning documents, and community plans.
  - Identify gaps and strategic areas of focus for the ACRD and its partners to address.
  - Develop and help the ACRD implement a lobbying strategy to secure funding from the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Canada.
  - Engage with key government officials, legislators, and relevant agencies.
  - Monitor and report on legislative and regulatory developments that may impact the project.
  - Provide regular updates and strategic advice to the ACRD and its regional partners.

- **Community Consultation Services:**
  - Design and implement an ACRD region specific government to government consultation plan.
  - Design and support the implementation of a comprehensive community consultation plan in collaboration with ACRD partners.
  - Identify and engage with interested parties and key parties, including local communities, businesses, and interest groups.
  - Organize and facilitate public meetings, workshops, and other engagement activities.
  - Collect and analyze feedback to inform project planning and implementation.
  - Develop communication materials to keep interested parties informed and engaged.

#### 4. Proposal Requirements

Interested firms should submit a proposal that includes the following:

- **Experience and Qualifications:**
  - A detailed description of the firm's experience in lobbying and community consultation, particularly in the context of infrastructure projects.
  - A description of the firm's experience working with multiple agencies toward singular objectives, with a particular preference for working with local and First Nations government.
  - Case studies or examples of similar projects successfully completed.
  - Resumes of key personnel who will be involved in the project.
- **Approach and Methodology:**
  - A detailed plan outlining the proposed approach to lobbying and community consultation.
  - A timeline for key activities and milestones.
  - Strategies for managing potential challenges and risks.
  - Please include a work plan. A work plan is a written document designed to explain how the proponent will achieve the identified objectives and responsibilities.
- **Budget:**
  - A detailed budget proposal, including a breakdown of costs for lobbying and community consultation services.
  - Any additional costs or expenses that may be incurred.
  - Please include details regarding how the ACRD could phase activities if and where they deem this to be their preferred approach.
- **References:**
  - Contact information for at least three references from previous clients.

#### 5. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevant experience and qualifications.
- Ability to meet the ACRD's needs and objectives.
- Quality and feasibility of the proposed approach and methodology.
- Cost-effectiveness of the budget proposal.
- Social Procurement
- Feedback from references.

**Recommendation:**

THAT the Transportation Committee recommend advancing with the RFP as presented.

Alternative: THAT the Transportation Committee recommend advancing with the RFP with the following amendments:

a) \_\_\_\_\_.

b) \_\_\_\_\_.

Submitted by: *Daniel Sailland*  
Daniel Sailland, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer



## **Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District**

### **Terms of Reference Transportation Advisory Committee**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The Transportation Advisory Committee has been established to consider issues and to make recommendations to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board pertaining to transportation options throughout the ACRD.

#### **2. Duties/Mandate**

- 2.1 The Transportation Advisory Committee is a standing committee of the Board that will work cooperatively with key partners in the region to advance transportation options throughout the ACRD.
- 2.2 The Committee will provide the Board with regular, ongoing updates on different activities and services with the areas defined in section 1.1.

#### **3. Scope of Work**

- 3.1 The scope of the work will be to prioritize transportation options in the Region, inform the ACRD Board and then collectively advocate for these options to higher levels of government. The scope of work could include prioritizing transportation options including a secondary route in and out of the Alberni Valley, the Bamfield Road, the Bamfield/Cowichan Route, and route to the West Coast. Furthermore, the scope of work specific to the Alberni Valley will include an emergency route and a permanent second route.

#### **4. Membership**

- 4.1 Membership on the Committee is as follows:

- One (1) municipal representative (each) from the City of Port Alberni, District of Tofino, and District of Ucluelet
- Three (3) Directors from the ACRD representing Alberni Valley, Bamfield, and West Coast, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Toquaht Nation, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ, Uchucklesaht Tribe

- One (1) Port Alberni Port Authority representative
- One (1) representative (each) from Alberni Valley, Ucluelet, and Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce
- One (1) Ahousaht First Nation representative
- One (1) Ditidaht First Nation representative
- One (1) Hesquiaht First Nation representative
- One (1) Hupacasath First Nation representative
- One (1) Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation representative
- One (1) Tseshaht First Nation representative
- One (1) Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council
- One (1) First Nations Health Authority
- One (1) Health Representative
- One (1) Tsawak-qin Forestry (TFL44) representative
- One (1) Mosaic Forest Management representative
- One (1) Paper Excellence representative
- One (1) Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure representative
- Two (2) Members at large from the business community in the Region

## **5. Appointment and Term**

- 5.1 Appointments to this Committee shall be for the term they are representatives of the organizations listed in Sections 4.1.
- 5.2 The ACRD Board may, at any time, remove any member of the Committee and any member of the Committee may resign at any time upon sending written notice to the Chairperson of the Committee.
- 5.3 Non ACRD members of the Committee serve without remuneration.
- 5.4 Committee appointments are re-confirmed by the Chair of the Board at the Regular ACRD Board of Directors Meeting in January of each year.

## **6. Chair**

- 6.1 The Chair of the Committee will be an ACRD Director as appointed by the Board in January of each year.

## **7. Meeting Procedures**

## Terms of Reference – Transportation Advisory Committee, 2024

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- 7.1 The meetings of the Committee shall be held quarterly or at the call of the Committee Chairperson.
- 7.2 A majority of the Committee members shall represent a quorum, one of whom must be a Director of the ACRD Board.
- 7.3 Meetings of the Committee shall be conducted and held in accordance with the ACRD's Procedures Bylaw.
- 7.4 Staff or contracted resources will provide support to the Committee including preparing agendas, coordination of research and reports, recording minutes of all meetings and ensuring Committee agendas, minutes, etc. are forwarded electronically for circulation to all members.

### **8. Reporting to the Board**

- 8.1 The Committee Chair will report to the ACRD Board on the activities of the Committee.
- 8.2 Recommendations from the Committee to the Board must be adopted by the Committee prior to presentation to the ACRD Board.

### **9. Resources**

- 9.1 On behalf of the Committee, staff or contracted resources will provide advice and professional assistance to the Committee including writing letters and preparing reports to the ACRD Board.
- 9.2 Staff or contracted resources will provide support to the Committee including preparing agendas, recording the minutes of meetings and ensuring Committee agenda's, minutes etc. are circulated electronically to all Committee Members and the ACRD Board.
- 9.3 ACRD staff will coordinate the engagement of all and any contracted services.

<b>Adopted by the ACRD Board:</b>	July 26, 2023
<b>Amended by the ACRD Board:</b>	August 23, 2023
<b>Amended by the ACRD Board:</b>	February 9, 2024