

Kaley Pugh

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Port Alberni, BC. V9Y 8N3

March 10, 2025

ACRD Board of Directors,
Board of Directors
3008 5th Ave
Port Alberni, BC. V9Y 2E3

Dear ACRD Board of Directors,

I've made my home in the ACRD and Port Alberni since 2018 after moving from Saskatchewan with my husband in 2018. I was dismayed to hear that the Port Alberni Visitor Center is closed due to funding shortfalls.

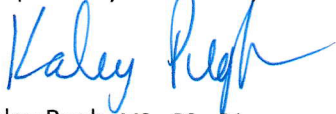
When we were shopping for our new home, we traveled much of Vancouver Island, open to whatever possibilities might present themselves. The Port Alberni Visitor Center was instrumental in our decision to explore the Port Alberni area in depth; we were directed warmly to hotels and restaurants, campgrounds and parks, and introduced to the wide variety of amenities and activities the valley and region have to offer.

On a trip out to Stamp River Provincial Park, we spotted a real estate sign and stumbled on the piece of land where we would build our home and set up our little acreage for horses and gardening. My husband and I both work from home, volunteer for a local non-profit organization, and preferentially support locally owned businesses in the city and regional district.

I believe that the Visitor Center is a vital part of our community and contributes to its ability to thrive and grow into the future. We entertain guests from across the country (PEI, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and BC, so far) throughout the year and knowledgeable, accessible visitor information services have helped us direct people to various businesses, parks, and services in the ACRD.

I strongly support the Visitor Center in its bid to secure interim funding, as well as ongoing, stable financial support so they can continue their invaluable contributions.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kaley Pugh, MSc, BSc, BA
ACRD Electoral Area E

March 11, 2025

To the Directors of the Alberni Valley and Bamfield,

We write this letter in support of funding the Visitor Information Services through Grant In Aid in 2025.

BC's economy is changing; Canada's economy is changing. For years many BC communities like ours have experienced a decline in the natural resource-based industries upon which they were founded. As the number of jobs in forestry, fishing, and agriculture decreased, local businesses struggled to survive, and some residents were forced to leave. Today, we see a new energy in our valley like never before! Look around the Valley at the vibrancy and new families building their businesses and lives. Every new resident, every investment begins as a visitor.

With the current tariff chaos, there is a golden opportunity to connect with Canadians and encourage them to visit our region as they seek adventure closer to home. We are dumbfounded, that at present with no funding visitors will arrive in our community and see a closed sign at the visitors' centre.

Tourism does diversify and strengthen our economic base and viability. We have so much to celebrate, the beauty of the area, our Indigenous culture, language and heritage, our new and existing businesses, our growing food and beverage base, our history, lakes, rivers and west coast. We all benefit from increased income from direct sales of homegrown and locally made products. We now need Electoral Area Directors to step up to the plate and for the City to continue to fund the Visitors Centre. Success builds on success.

We ask that all members of the Alberni Valley Committee support the request of Jolleen Dick, CEO of the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce. And fully fund visitor information services in 2025.

We, Russell and Jennifer Dyson, along with our son and his family own and operate two farm businesses Coleman Meadows Farm and Dyson Dairy. We manage lands throughout Sproat Lake, Beaver Creek and the City of Port Alberni. With a long-term lease at the Somass Estuary we are taxpayers within the City of Port Alberni and the rural area of ACRD.

Thank you for your consideration.



Russell and Jennifer Dyson