



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

COVID-19 COMMUNITY RECOVERY TEAM MEETING

JULY 21, 2020, 9:00 AM

Via Zoom Video Conferencing

AGENDA

- | | PAGE # |
|--|-------------|
| 1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u> | |
| Recognition of Territories. | |
| 2. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u> | |
| <i>(motion to approve, including late items requires 2/3 majority vote)</i> | |
| 3. <u>RECEIVING OF MINUTES</u> | |
| a. COVID-19 Community Recovery Team Meeting held June 17, 2020 | 2-3 |
| <i>THAT the minutes of the COVID-19 Community Recovery Team meeting held on June 17, 2020 be received.</i> | |
| 4. <u>CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION</u> | |
| 5. <u>REPORTS</u> | |
| a) Community Stakeholders Group Survey results summary – Heather Zenner | 4-18 |
| <i>THAT this report be received for information.</i> | |
| 6. <u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u> | |
| 7. <u>ADJOURN</u> | |



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE COVID-19 COMMUNITY RECOVERY TEAM MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020, 10:00 AM

Via Zoom Video Conferencing

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Jack, Chairperson, ACRD Chairperson & Councilor Huu-ay-aht First Nation
Sharie Minions, Mayor, City of Port Alberni & ACRD Director
Tim Pley, CAO, City of Port Alberni
Stephanie Bruvall, Environmental Health Officer, Island Health
Heather Zenner, Protective Services Manager and EOC Director, ACRD
Alex Dyer, Planner and EOC Recovery Planning Unit Coordinator, ACRD
- REGRETS:** Douglas Holmes, CAO, ACRD
Julia Martin, Administrative Assistant

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:01.

The Chairperson recognized the meeting this afternoon is being held in the Coast Salish, Tseshaht First Nation and the Hupacasath First Nation Territories.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated, with the addition of late item: Recent mail out omitting the ACRD.

AGREED BY CONSENSUS

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- a. **COVID-10 Community Recovery Team Meeting – June 2, 2020**

THAT the minutes of the COVID-19 Community Recovery Team Meeting held on June 2, 2020 be received.

AGREED BY CONSENSUS

4. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION**

5. **REPORTS**

- a) Community Stakeholder Group (CSG) membership – Heather Zenner
- 16 confirmed and 1 tentative attendees to the first CSG meeting
 - Resend CSG spreadsheet to the CRT members with those attending highlighted
- b) Community Stakeholder Group meeting update – Alex Dyer & Heather Zenner

- Previewed draft presentation for the June 23rd CSG meeting
- Would recommend using a survey to obtain feedback from participants
- Gather questions through chat in Zoom

THAT the Community Recovery Team receives Reports a-b.

AGREED BY CONSENSUS

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. LATE BUSINESS

Mail out that referenced the Path to Recovery Plan and omitted the ACRD was sent out. Believed to be a mix-up in the wording used. Alex Dyer will check in with Pat Deakin for clarity in future endeavors.

8. ADJOURN

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 10:49 am.

AGREED BY CONSENSUS

Certified Correct:



John Jack,
Chairperson



Heather Zenner,
Protective Services Manager
EOC Director



INFORMATION REPORT

To: COVID-19 Community Recovery Team
From: Heather Zenner & Alex Dyer
Meeting Date: July 21, 2020
Subject: COVID-19 'Path to Recovery' Survey Results

Recommendation:

THAT the COVID-19 Community Recovery Team committee members receive this report for information.

Report:

Following the first meeting of the Community Stakeholder Group (CSG) on June 23, 2020, the COVID-19 Community Recovery Team (CRT) launched a survey to gather stakeholder feedback on the implementation of the ACRD-CPA COVID-19 Path to Recovery Plan. Attached to this report is a copy of the survey and a summary analysis of each question.

The survey was completed by 42 respondents; however, only seven of the respondents attended the June 23, 2020 Path to Recovery Stakeholder meeting. Just over ¼ of the respondents represented local governments, with the remainder of the respondents representing many other sectors as identified in the survey analysis.

Common Survey Themes

Economic

A common theme that developed from this survey, was strong support for small businesses and agriculture producers. Many comments reflected a need to provide specific supports to businesses but to also advocate on their behalf (for deferrals on payments, access to loans, new investment opportunities). Additional comments also relate to COVID-19 economic impacts including determining what the true long-term impact is, including a feeling of 'the worst is yet to come'. There were a few comments related to encouraging investment, as well as promoting the Alberni Valley as a COVID-19 safe haven, to those in more densely populated areas who can work from home.

Mental Health

The mental health impact of COVID-19 was highlighted throughout the survey with a lens that the impact is profound and likely not fully understood at this point. Comments related to mental health were identified in many sectors including; First Nations, seniors, children, vulnerable population, and employees.

Social Concerns

A common theme that developed from this survey, regardless if the question was health or economic related, was the concern for social issues in the Regional District. Poverty, opioid crisis, drug & alcohol treatment centers, public safety, homelessness, and lack of suitable housing were raised frequently. Although the majority of respondents felt that services & resources to the vulnerable sector were adequate during the COVID response, many comments highlighted social issues that were prevalent prior to COVID, with COVID exasperating these issues.

Food Security

A secondary theme that emerged from the survey was the important of food security. The survey noted supports for agriculture producers to maintain as well as increase production, an abattoir, and accessibility of local produce to lower income earners.

This committee has the opportunity to make recommendations to the ACRD Board of Directors at their regular board meeting on July 22, 2020.

Submitted by: 

Heather Zenner, MA, RPF, Protective Services Manager

Approved by: 

Douglas Holmes, BBA, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

COVID-19 Path to Recovery Survey. ACRD & City of Port Alberni

1. Which geographic area do you represent? (select multiple areas if you represent more than one)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Port Alberni | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Beach Electoral Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alberni Valley Rural (Beaver Creek, Cherry Creek, Sproat Lake, Beaufort) | <input type="checkbox"/> District of Ucluelet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bamfield Electoral Area | <input type="checkbox"/> District of Tofino |

Other (please specify)

2. Did you attend the June 23 'Path to Recovery' Stakeholder Meeting?

- Yes
- No

* 3. What sector do you represent? (select your primary sector if you represent more than one)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation Provider | <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Support Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Retail Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Agency for Vulnerable Population |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government | <input type="checkbox"/> School District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Nation Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Industry | |

Other (please specify)

* 4. From your perspective, what are the **three** most important issues facing Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District residents in the next year?

- Food Security
- Poverty
- Opioid Crisis
- Homelessness
- Environment
- Mental Health
- Education
- Taxes
- Crime/Public Safety
- Job Opportunities
- COVID-19 Economic Impacts
- COVID-19 Health Impacts

5. Rank the following **health-related** strategies outlined in the 'Path to Recovery Plan' in order of importance to you.



Highlighting mental health supports for residents.



Providing supports to vulnerable un-sheltered residents that need to self-isolate.



Promoting information related to residential backyard gardening & food production.



Advocating for social inequities highlighted by the pandemic event (eg. Housing, basic needs, food security).



Compiling and sharing info on workplace safety (eg. WorkSafe BC Info).

6. Do you feel the services & resources provided to the vulnerable sector during the COVID-19 response were adequate?

Yes

No

If you selected no please identify services & resources that are needed.

7. Are there **Health** related strategies that are missing from the 'Path to Recovery Plan'?

8. Rank the following **Business** economic-related strategies outlined in the 'Path to Recovery Plan' in order of importance to you.



Support businesses applying for financial recovery assistance & advocating for businesses that don't meet criteria for financial supports.



Supporting "Shop Local" Campaign (Alberni Valley).



Supporting businesses with their WorkSafe BC COVID-19 Safety Plans.



Supporting local farmers.



Identifying shovel ready projects in anticipation of government infrastructure grants opportunities.



Develop City of Port Alberni & ACRD payment extensions & interest free deferrals for user fees and leases for commercial & industrial operators in the Region.



Attract new investment into the community and promote opportunities for economic diversification.

9. Are there other **Business** economic-related strategies that should be addressed in the 'Path to Recovery Plan'?

10. Supporting **Agriculture** producers was identified in the 'Path to Recovery Plan'. Rank the following in order of importance to you:



Support to locate agriculture workers.



Support to develop COVID-19 Safety Plans to remain operational.



Promotion of locally grown products.

11. Are there other **Agriculture** related strategies that should be addressed in the 'Path to Recovery Plan'?

12. Given that the ACRD and City of Port Alberni have allowed for extensions and interest-free deferrals on user fees, for residents and property owners, are there other **Resident** economic-related strategies that should be addressed in the 'Path to Recovery Plan'?

13. The 'Path to Recovery Plan' focuses on **Economic Recovery** and **Health Recovery**. Are there other areas of recovery that we have missed?

14. If an **Economic Recovery Working Group** is formed would you be interested in participating?

Yes

No

15. If a **Health Recovery Working Group** forms would you be interested in participating?

- Yes
- No

16. Have you seen communication from the ACRD and/or City of Port Alberni regarding the COVID-19 'Path to Recovery Plan' via the following methods? (select all that apply)

- Print ads
- Facebook Live events with EOC Spokesperson Mayor Minions
- Radio ads
- Social Media
- Radio Interview with EOC Spokesperson Mayor Minions
- Did not see any communication

Other (please specify)

17. Evaluating the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic is an important part of the recovery process to help us plan for future events. Please rank the importance of the following items:



Evaluate the coordination between EOC's in the ACRD (Bamfield, Alberni Valley, District of Ucluelet, District of Tofino, Tseshah, Hupacasath, Ditidaht, Huu-ay-aht, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government, Toquaht Nation, Yuułu?i?atḥ Government, Tla-o-qui-aht, Ahousaht, Hesquiaht).



Establish guidelines for best practices during future pandemic events.



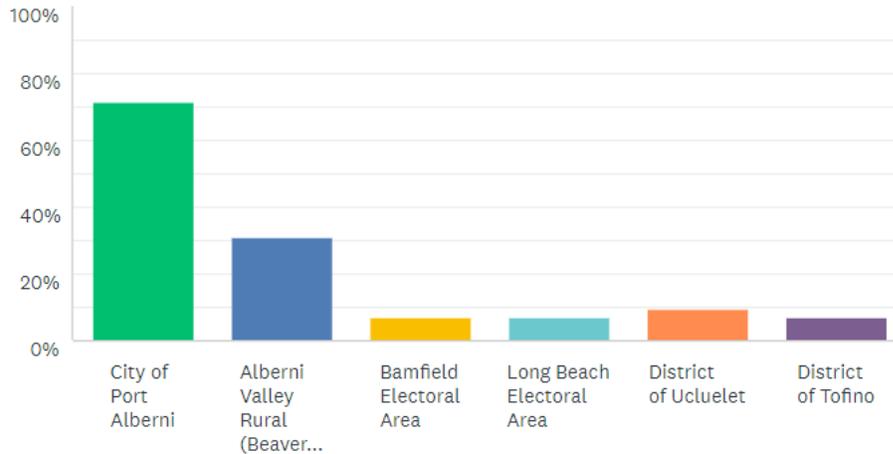
Coordination with local health administrators to discuss capital investments required to respond to a pandemic event (ventilators, PPE, hygiene stations).

18. Are there other aspects of the COVID-19 response phase that you think should be evaluated to be better prepared for a future pandemic?

COVID-19 Path to Recovery Survey Results, July 17, 2020

Which geographic area do you represent? (select multiple areas if you represent more than one)

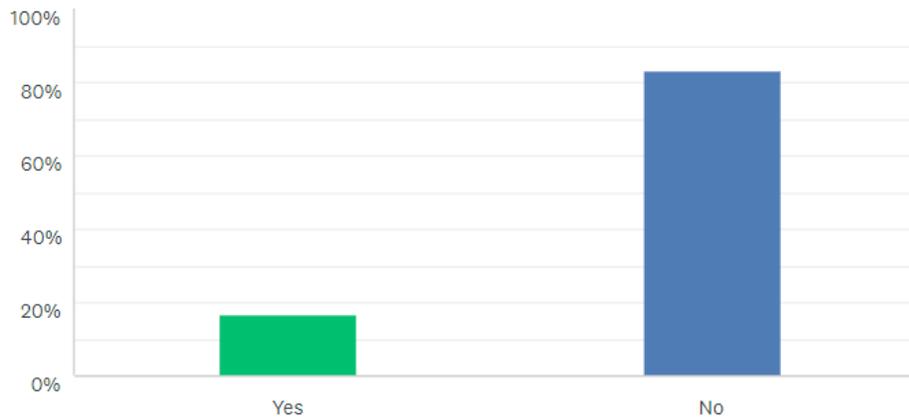
Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



Analysis: None

Did you attend the June 23 'Path to Recovery' Stakeholder Meeting?

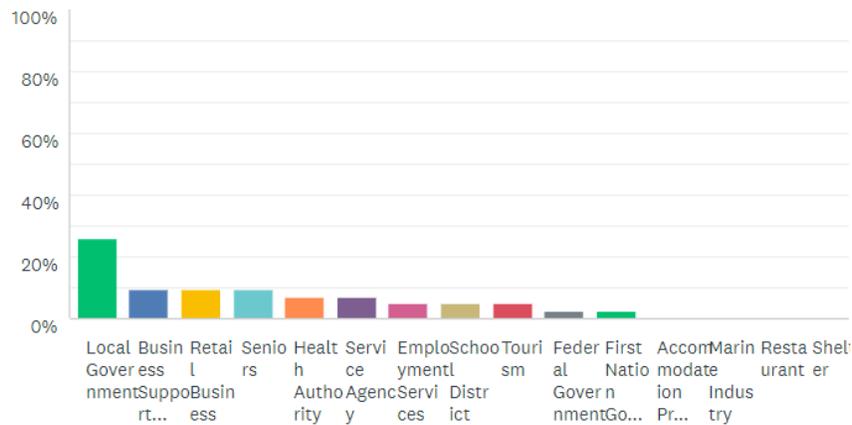
Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



Analysis: Only seven of the 42 survey respondents attended the June 23rd Path to Recovery Stakeholder meeting. This is a relatively low number to analyze their survey results separately; however, these seven responses were reviewed in detail and specific responses from this group are noted.

What sector do you represent? (select your primary sector if you represent more than one)

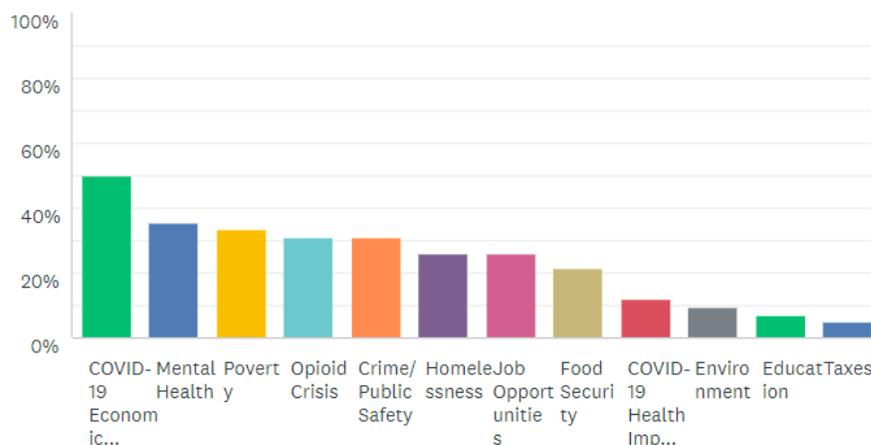
Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



Analysis: 26% of the responses were received from those that represent Local Government. The remainder of the responses were received relatively evenly from Business Support Services, Employment Services, Federal Government, First Nation Government, Health Authority, Retail Business, Service Agency for Vulnerable Population, School District, Seniors, and Tourism.

From your perspective, what are the three most important issues facing Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District residents in the next year?

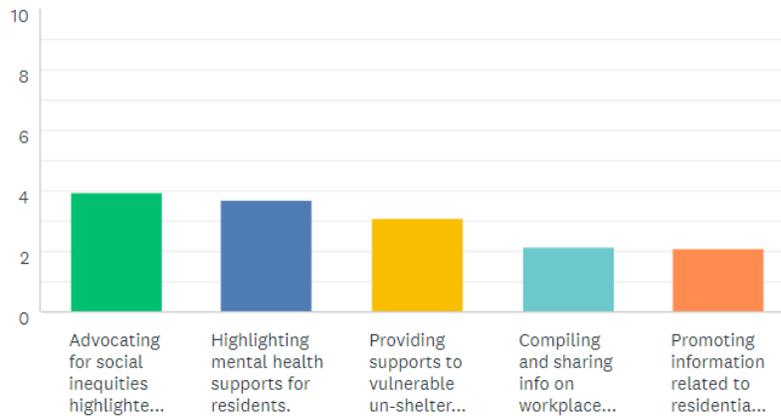
Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



Analysis: Responses to this question reflected that COVID-19 Economic Impacts are the major concern for survey respondents. The next five issues that were identified are related to mental health and social issues (poverty, opioids, crime/public safety, homelessness). Individual responses from the respondents that attended the June 23rd Stakeholder meeting support similar selections; however, 'job opportunities' was selected more frequently than the remainder of the responses.

Rank the following health-related strategies outlined in the 'Path to Recovery Plan' in order of importance to you.

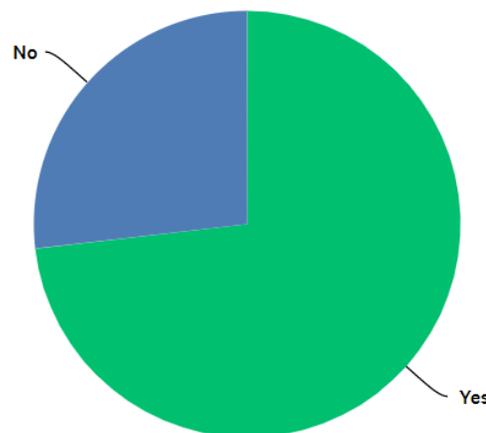
Answered: 41 Skipped: 1



Analysis: Responses to this question rank 'advocacy for social inequities' as the most important *health-related* strategy in the plan, followed by 'highlighting mental health supports' for residents. The third highest ranking is 'providing supports to vulnerable un-sheltered residents that need to self-isolate'. Individual responses from the respondents that attended the June 23rd Stakeholder meeting support similar selections; however, 'compiling and sharing info on workplace safety (eg. WorkSafe BC info)' was ranked higher.

Do you feel the services & resources provided to the vulnerable sector during the COVID-19 response were adequate?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 1



Analysis: 73% of respondents indicated that they felt the services & resources provided to the vulnerable sector during the COVID-19 response were adequate. This question provided space for respondents to provide additional comments, highlighting the need for the difficult to house population (those who are not welcome at the shelter or do not feel safe there), there is still an unmet need for personal hygiene, and food support. One

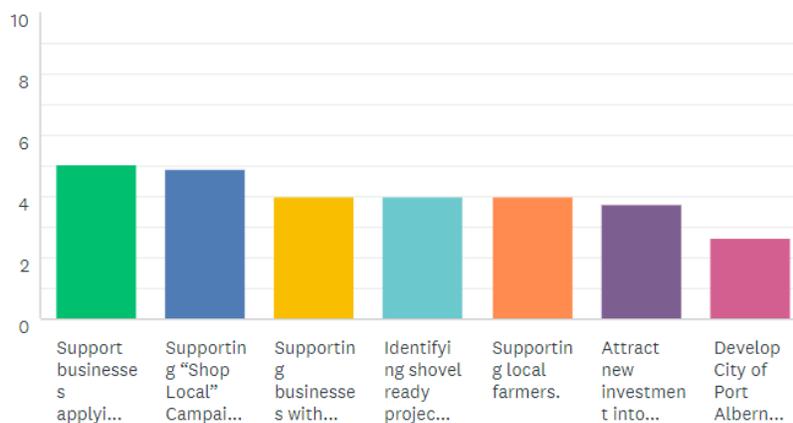
respondent indicated that this question should be posted toward the vulnerable population. There is a consensus for more mental health supports.

Are there Health related strategies that are missing from the ‘Path to Recovery Plan’?

Analysis: This question allowed for comments only. 55% of the respondents who answered this question indicated that there were no *health-related* strategies missing. Food security was raised, one respondent indicated that “local government has done their part thus far and expect the same moving forward”. Seniors issues and transportation issues were also noted. There was reference made to separate health systems between the different communities in the ACRD being different and should be treated separately. Mental health was raised again by multiple respondents, with mention of need for drug and alcohol treatment facilities.

Rank the following Business economic-related strategies outlined in the 'Path to Recovery Plan' in order of importance to you.

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



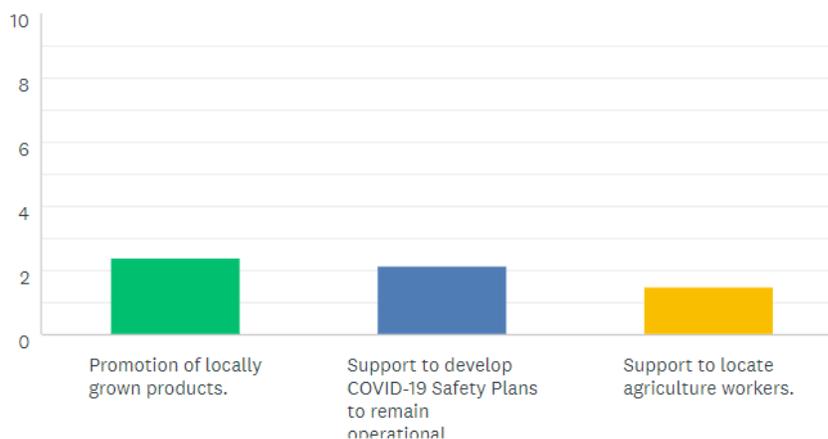
Analysis: The two highest ranked *economic-related strategies* outlined in the plan included ‘support businesses applying for financial recovery assistance & advocating for businesses that don’t meet criteria for financial supports’, followed closely by ‘supporting the shop local campaign in the Alberni Valley’. The next four strategies were ranked equally and could imply that they are all equally important strategies.

Are there other Business economic-related strategies that should be addressed in the ‘Path to Recovery Plan’?

Analysis: This question allowed for comments only. Supporting, advocating, waiving rent for small businesses (for West Coast in addition to Alberni Valley) and agriculture businesses. Concern with some businesses not being able to survive financially through the pandemic. Unique ideas included: Training hospitality industry workers to social service projects, encouraging investment in industries where workers’ transferrable skills match the project (or where training can be provided) & Promoting the Alberni Valley as a safe alternative to their current situation (supporting business).

Supporting Agriculture producers was identified in the 'Path to Recovery Plan'. Rank the following in order of importance to you:

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



Analysis: Promotion of locally grown products was ranked highest, followed closely by providing support to agriculture producers to develop COVID-19 safety plans to remain operational, followed by providing support to located agriculture workers.

Are there other Agriculture related strategies that should be addressed in the 'Path to Recovery Plan'?

Analysis: This question allowed for comments only. Response rate on this question was low and answers were unique. One respondent supported loans for farmers to expand production, supporting food security. Another respondent supports the promotion of grown local campaigns but also identified that families in poverty have difficulty accessing locally grown products. One responded supported the fast tracking of an abattoir.

Given that the ACRD and City of Port Alberni have allowed for extensions and interest-free deferrals on user fees, for residents and property owners, are there other Resident economic-related strategies that should be addressed in the 'Path to Recovery Plan'?

Analysis: This question allowed for comments only. Two comments were related to the delay of splitting of tax payments. Searching for funding for affordable and accessible housing project for vulnerable populations was identified by one respondent. Rent support (from Federal & Provincial governments) was identified. As identified in a previous question, one respondent suggested that those living in major centers (and work from home) could consider relocating to the Alberni Valley. One comment indicated that the City and ACRD need to maintain their financial strength. Two comments were related to improving public safety.

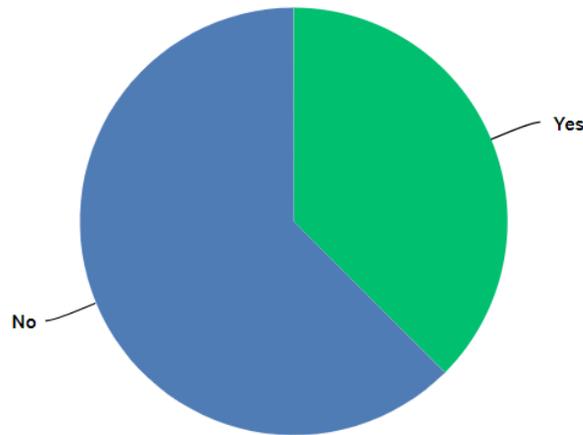
The 'Path to Recovery Plan' focuses on Economic Recovery and Health Recovery. Are there other areas of recovery that we have missed?

Analysis: This question allowed for comments only. Responses acknowledged that recovery is going to take significant work and it needs to be sustainable. Two comments referenced 'social recovery'. One respondent

indicated support for First Nations communities who are not prepared for visitors, similarly, other comments references cultural awareness and limited interaction within family groups (including First Nations). Two respondents indicated more support is needed for small businesses and specifically the hospitality industry.

If an Economic Recovery Working Group is formed would you be interested in participating?

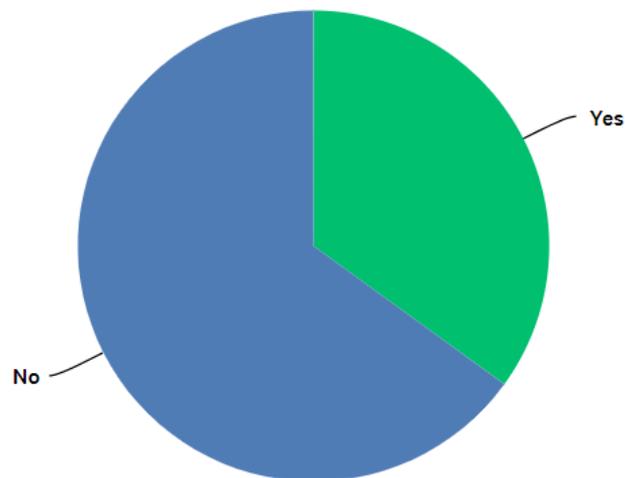
Answered: 40 Skipped: 2



Analysis: 25 of the respondents indicated that they would participate in an ERWG, and 15 declined.

If a Health Recovery Working Group forms would you be interested in participating?

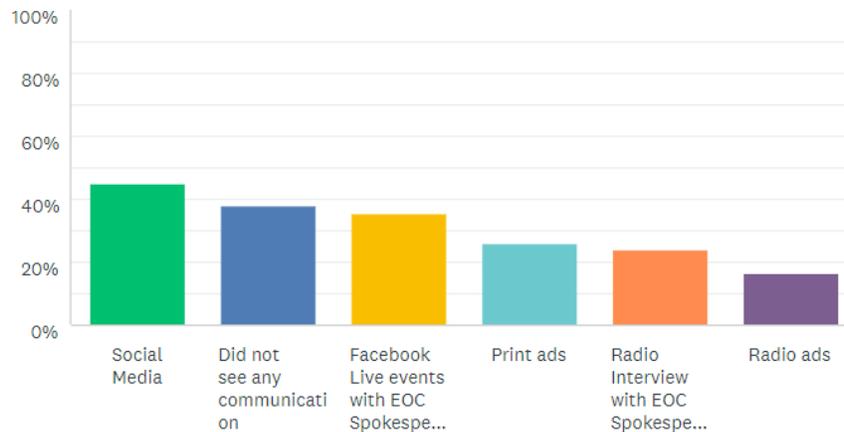
Answered: 40 Skipped: 2



Analysis: 26 of the respondents indicated that they would participate in an ERWG, and 14 declined.

Have you seen communication from the ACRD and/or City of Port Alberni regarding the COVID-19 'Path to Recovery Plan' via the following methods? (select all that apply)

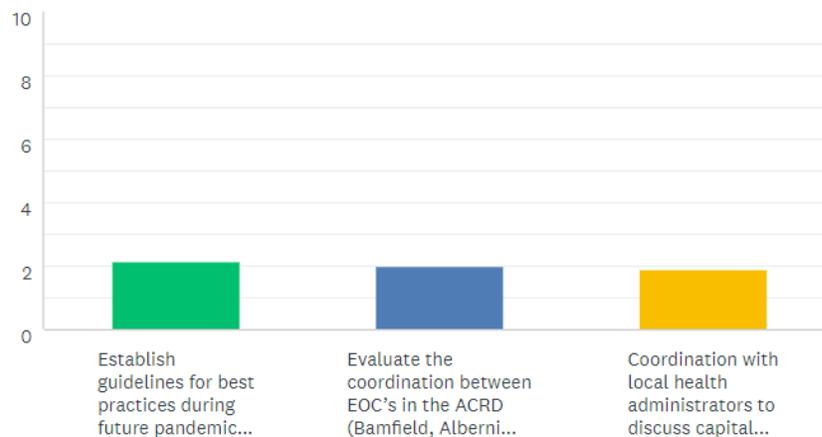
Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



Analysis: The variety of communication methods that the EOC used to promote the plan were received in a variety of ways; however, 16 respondents indicated that they did not see any communication on this topic.

Evaluating the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic is an important part of the recovery process to help us plan for future events. Please rank the importance of the following items:

Answered: 41 Skipped: 1



Analysis: The response to this question did not vary significantly between responses.

Are there other aspects of the COVID-19 response phase that you think should be evaluated to be better prepared for a future pandemic?

Analysis: Responses included learning from this emergency to be ready for other emergencies, promote the stockpiling of essentials, criticism towards the method in which COVID-19 cases are reported (not by specific

community), criticism towards BC Ferries. One respondent indicated that “the worst is yet to come” referencing the fall out financially, personally and emotionally. Housing the vulnerable population was raised once again in this question. One comment applauded the positive communication from health and policing agencies, and a second comment highlighted the need for communication. One respondent encouraged that stimulus and infrastructure spending should go towards extending the reach of social services to support future emergencies.