



# Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021, 1:30 PM

Due to COVID-19, the meeting will be held via Zoom Video Conferencing  
and will be livestreamed on the ACRD website at:

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/3-3-2021/>

**Public Attendance:** the public are welcome to attend the meeting via Zoom Webinar by  
registering at:

[https://portalberni.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_uhEwom83QkW7EAXJSksvQg](https://portalberni.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uhEwom83QkW7EAXJSksvQg)

## AGENDA

|  | PAGE #     |
|--|------------|
| <b>1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u></b>   |            |
| <b>Recognition of Territories.</b>   |            |
| Notice to attendees and delegates that this meeting is being recorded and<br>livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District Website.                   |            |
| <b>2. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u></b><br><i>(motion to approve, including late items required ALL VOTE 2/3 majority vote)</i>                              |            |
| <b>3. <u>CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION</u></b>  |            |
| <b>a. Minister of Municipal Affairs - Josie Osborne</b>  | <b>4-5</b> |
| BC Parks plans for 2021 Camping Season   |            |
| <b>b. AVICC Resolution Submission</b>  | <b>6-7</b> |
| Unauthorized Camping Crisis  |            |
| <i>THAT the Committee of the Whole receive reports a-b for information.</i>  |            |
| <b>4. <u>ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS</u></b>  |            |
| <b><i>Suggested matters for each stakeholder to cover:</i></b>   |            |
| 1. How has your agency been affected by Unauthorized Campers?  |            |
| 2. What challenging behaviors and effects have you observed and what<br>makes the behaviors challenging (e.g. life safety or environmental<br>concerns)? |            |
| 3. What beneficial effects or activities have you observed?  |            |
| 4. What actions do you think should be pursued?  |            |

5. Do you have the authority to take that action (e.g. do you have regulatory role)? If not, who do you think does?
6. Will the reopening of provincial campsites improve the situation?
7. What else do you think is important to add to this conversation from your perspective?

***List of stakeholders:***

- a) Hesquiaht First Nation
- b) Ahousaht First Nation
- c) Tla-o-qui-aht First nation
- d) Toquaht First Nation
- e) Yuułu?it?ath Government
- f) District of Tofino
- g) District of Ucluelet
- h) Tofino RCMP
- i) Ucluelet RCMP
- j) Parks Canada
- k) BC Parks
- l) KUU-US Crisis Services (West Coast)
- m) Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources
- n) Tseshaht FN
- o) Hupacasath FN
- p) Uchucklesaht Tribe
- q) City of Port Alberni
- r) Port Alberni RCMP
- s) Mosaic
- t) Weyerhaeuser
- u) Interfor
- v) Ministry of Transportation
- w) Ministry of Environment
- x) MLA Office
- y) Other agencies

***Next steps?***

- a) Minutes will be distributed
- b) Collected information and input received will be included in discussions with the MLA at the COW meeting on March 5, 2021
- c) Determine next steps

**5. LATE BUSINESS**

**6. QUESTION PERIOD**

**Questions/Comments from the public participating in the Zoom meeting.**

Questions/Comments from the Public, respecting an agenda item, can be emailed to the ACRD at [responses@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:responses@acrd.bc.ca) and will be read out by the Corporate Officer at the meeting.

7. **ADJOURN**

I would like to provide you with an update regarding some highly anticipated 2021 plans from BC Parks. As we all seek to serve our fellow British Columbians, I am pleased to share important information relating to the 2021 camping season in our provincial parks, including: opening dates, park occupancy guidelines, information on BC Parks' refund policy, and more—together with a [Government News Release](#) sent out today.

### **Reservation Opening Dates**

- Starting **March 1, 2021 at 7am PT** the Berg Lake Trail and Bowron Lake Canoe Circuit will be released for the entire 2021 season.
- Starting **March 8, 2021 at 7am PT** the Discover Camping website and call centre will begin accepting frontcountry and backcountry reservations. Discover Camping will continue to allow bookings on a two-month rolling window (reservations can be made up to two months in advance of an arrival date).

### **Priority Access for British Columbians**

- Due to the ongoing pandemic, **B.C. residents will be provided with priority access to camping reservations throughout the summer.**
- Reservations can be made no further than two months out from arrival, and the reservation system will be limited to people who live in B.C. until July 7, ensuring they have first access to the core season of reservations through to the Labour Day weekend and end of the traditional summer holiday period.
- Starting July 8, non-residents of B.C. will be permitted to make reservations for any remaining arrival dates in the season, pending orders that may allow travel.
- For accessing priority reservations, a B.C. resident is someone with a B.C. address.
- Visitors will need to confirm they are a B.C. resident before booking a campsite.
- Non-residents of B.C. are still allowed in parks, as travel orders permit, whether for day use, first-come first-served camping, or for reservations made after July 7.

### **Site Occupancy Guidelines**

Provincial Health Officer (PHO) guidelines for gatherings may change between the time of booking and the scheduled arrival date. All camping parties **MUST** meet current PHO guidelines for gatherings, even if those numbers are less than BC Parks' maximum site allowance.

### **Refund Policy/Cancelations**

- It is the responsibility of camping parties to ensure their plans are consistent with PHO guidelines before bookings are made. Speculative bookings made in anticipation of health guideline changes should be avoided, as requests for exceptions to BC Parks refund policies will not be accepted, except as noted in [BC Parks refund policy](#) and supported by the required documentation (for example, a medical note). Reservation policy can be found at [www.bcparks.ca/reserve](http://www.bcparks.ca/reserve).

### **Day Use Facilities, Picnic Shelters and Halls**

- To meet current PHO guidelines, reservations for day use facilities, including picnic shelters and halls, remain closed for the 2021 season.

All of this information, along with user guides, FAQs and park-specific status updates, is available at [www.bcparks.ca](http://www.bcparks.ca). The BC Parks website is the most up-to-date source of news and information from BC Parks.

I hope this information is helpful as we prepare to open parks in your area. Should you receive questions or comments from your residents or others, you are welcome to redirect them to [parkinfo@victoria1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:parkinfo@victoria1.gov.bc.ca), where BC Parks has additional staff available to support the public throughout the summer. BC Parks will continue working with partners and stakeholders to ensure the upcoming season is a safe and successful one.

Sincerely,

Josie Osborne  
Minister of Municipal Affairs



## Unauthorized Camping Crisis

*WHEREAS unauthorized camping has affected in negative ways residents, businesses, the environment and, in many cases, those experiencing homelessness throughout the province and significantly in and around Island and Coastal Communities for many years;*

*WHEREAS the COVID-19 Pandemic has exacerbated the effects of and very significantly increased the occurrences of unauthorized camping;*

*THEREFORE be it resolved that the Province prioritize working with local governments in understanding the effects on all parties and actively participate in mitigating those that are deleterious to the health and welfare of people, to the environment and to business.*

## **Background**

### **Unauthorized Camping Crisis**

Unauthorized camping is reaching crisis levels. Problems being experienced include the interruption of industry by campers blocking industrial roads, campers themselves creating unhealthy living conditions for themselves, access to homes being blocked by campers both in remote communities and in small urban centres, pollution through garbage and human waste, and increasing points of conflict between campers and those whose lives, perceived security and livelihoods are affected by the unauthorized camping.

Much of this is occurring on Crown lands including near first nations treaty lands and reserve lands. Multiple tools will need to be developed and resources will need to be contemplated to contend with this escalating situation. This can only be addressed through a partnership that starts with multiple provincial ministries, RCMP, first nations, and local governments.