



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 10:00 AM

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

- DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Debbie Haggard, Vice-Chair, Councillor, City of Port Alberni
Bob Beckett, Director, Electoral Area "A" (Bamfield)
Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area "B" (Beaufort)
Vaida Siga, Director, Electoral Area "C" (Long Beach)
Penny Cote, Director, Electoral Area "D" (Sproat Lake)
Susan Roth, Director, Electoral Area "E" (Beaver Creek)
Mike Sparrow, Director, Electoral Area "F" (Cherry Creek)
Sharie Minions, Mayor, City of Port Alberni
Kirsten Johnsen, Member of Council, Toquaht Nation
Jenny Touchie, Member of the Legislature, Yuułu?if?atḥ Government
- REGRETS:** John Jack, Chairperson, Huu-ay-aht First Nation
Marilyn McEwen, Mayor, District of Ucluelet
Tom Stere, Councillor, District of Tofino
Wilfred Cootes, Councillor, Uchucklesaht Tribe Government
- STAFF PRESENT:** Daniel Sailland, Chief Administrative Officer
Wendy Thomson, General Manager of Administrative Services
Janice Hill, Executive Assistant

The meeting can be viewed on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District website at:
<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/22-3-2023/>

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Vice-Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

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

The Vice-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.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED: Director Roth

SECONDED: Director Sparrow

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Ron Merk, Co-Chair, Port Alberni Community Action Team, regarding Presentation on the Poison/Overdose Crises in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.**

The delegation conducted a presentation on the positioned drug crisis in the Alberni-Clayoquot Region, 2016 to 2023. In British Columbia in 2022 there were 2,272 deaths, 70% were males aged 30 to 59. In the Alberni-Clayoquot Region, 26 people died in 2022, this is a 104% increase since 2017. In 2022, the ACRD was the 7th highest in the region for deaths from poisonous drugs. The delegation recommended Directors read the following reports with recommendations from the Province: Pathway to Hope Plan, BC Corner's Special Death Panel Review Toxic Drug Deaths, March 2022, BC Legislative Select Standing committee on Health – Toxic Drug and Overdose Crisis Report, November 2022. The delegation expressed the need for a recovery and detox centre in the Alberni Valley funded by the Provincial Government in order to make a difference.

The delegation discussed what the Regional District could do to address the poison/overdose crisis in the region including:

- Advocating – For government funded recovery and detox, services and policy reform;
- Sharing Information to Reduce Harm and Stigma – Share harm reduction strategies and strategies to reduce stigma in Regional District messaging, including monthly newsletters; and,
- Send a letter to the Province, agreeing with the recommendations in the three reports and encouraging the Province to act on the recommendations as soon as possible.

There was discussion with the Committee of the Whole regarding the benefits of a regional based approach, working together with the Regional District, municipalities, and First Nations in the region to develop an advocacy plan. There was also discussion regarding advocating Island Health to implement the LOUD Stigma program at West Coast General Hospital.

4. LATE BUSINESS

(requires 2/3 majority vote)

5. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions/Comments from the public. The Corporate Officer 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.

6. **ADJOURN**

MOVED: Director Roth

SECONDED: Director Sparrow

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 11:31 am.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

Debbie Haggard

Debbie Haggard,
Vice-Chairperson

Wendy Thomson

Wendy Thomson,
General Manager of Administrative Services