

DATE: November 23, 2020

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TO: Chair and Directors
Regional District Board

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Submitted by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: Economic Recovery Task Force

Purpose

Seek the boards support for the Comox Valley Regional District to liaise with various levels of government to action some recommendations developed by the Economic Recovery Task Force (Task Force) (Schedule A).

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT the board endorse the Economic Recovery Task Force proposed communications with the Union of BC Municipalities, the provincial and federal governments as highlighted in Schedule A; writing letters of support for the following initiatives:

- Tax credit for buying Canadian Artworks;
- Access to reliable, affordable, high capacity internet;
- Expanding permissive tax exemptions to child care sector;
- UBCM to create a child care pandemic response team;
- Wage increase for front-line workers;
- Develop more specific health and safety guidelines;
- Consider support for international tourism, as it applies to international education;
- Student employment support;
- Lobby to waive permit fees for 2020 park and crown land permits;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back on the actions specific to the Comox Valley Regional District through the budget process.

Executive Summary

- The goal of the Task Force is to set strategic direction for a strong and resilient economy for the Comox Valley throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In an effort to create strategies to help our business community recover and adapt during and after the COVID-19, the Task Force, with the support of the Comox Valley Economic Development Society, developed a Business Case Action Plan, with recommendations, based on feedback from economic stakeholder groups.
- Senior staff reviewed the Task Force list and provide the attached preliminary response. Staff will continue to process these recommendations and report back to the board through the budget process or with specific reports as time and resources permit.

Government Partners and Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

CV Economic Development Society	✓	Village of Cumberland	✓
City of Courtenay	✓	K'ómoks First Nation	✓
Town of Comox	✓	Department of National Defense	✓

**Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF)
Industry Advisor Business Case Action Plan – Submissions Summary Report (123 total tasks)**

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	ERTF Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
SECTOR: Business, Development, and Partner Organizations			
Business Development Bank of Canada	Immediate - Advocacy		
	1. Encouraging entrepreneurs to future proof their business by adopting more efficient operational practices and digitizing their operations	Explore a partnership with the Innovation Island Technology Association for an increased focus in the Comox Valley via their Digital Economy Restart, Recover, Re-imagine Program (DER3) . DER3 provides one-to-one business and technical expertise for companies that need to consider changes to their business models, or action plans to better engage with the digital economy.	
	2. Dedicating municipal staff time, or employing 3rd party contractors, to assist local businesses with digitizing their businesses.	Request Comox Valley CAO's to investigate capacity and potential for their IT to provide a meaningful contribution such as support for workshops.	This is best delivered by a third-party that specializes in digital commerce and information security standards. CVRD staff are IT professionals but are not specialists in these aspects or web development generally. CVRD staff could provide general advice on data security as part of a workshop or program but this would likely be covered as an ancillary point to the digital commerce topic. Exploring the concept of a communal tech workshop is a CVRD proposal for the CVEDS work plan. The program could be delivered by a consultant supported by CVRD as appropriate.
	3. Helping older entrepreneurs transition their businesses to a younger generation.	Add to CVEDS 2021 work plan discussions and review Innovate 2030 Economic Development Master Plan for strategies referring to business retention and attraction.	Not one of the seven CVEDS work plan proposals of the CVRD.
	4. The valley as a whole needs to review its process of property development and redevelopment so that the process can be streamlined and more business owners can be incentivised to invest in the community.	Request further information from the Comox Valley Developers and Construction Association and the Vancouver Island Construction Association.	While this initiative as not highlighted for the CVRD, it is agreed, further information required. A dialogue could be supported with valley planners through the RGS technical advisory committee.
5. Dedicating resources to help younger entrepreneurs form businesses.	Add to CVEDS 2021 work plan discussions and review Innovate 2030 Economic Development Master Plan for strategies referring to business retention and attraction.		

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
	Long Term – Funding		
	6. Expand the Comox marina to enable more boats.	Refer to the Town of Comox for further consideration in future strategic planning sessions - note that a broader submission is expected from the Marine Tourism industry and Comox Valley Harbour Authority.	
	7. Build a number of backcountry cabins for ski touring, bike packing and hiking.	Request CVRD Parks input on this potential and other partners and agencies that may need to be involved (ie. BC Parks, Mount Washington Alpine Resort, Forestry Companies)	This concept may align well with the spine trail initiative. The Komoks First Nation should be consulted. Potential partners include Mosaic, Mount Washington, FLNRO and BC Parks. A complex project that will require a coordinator and lead. Propose the concept be brought back for the Boards consideration upon completion of the spine trail tenure.
	Long Term – Advocacy		
	8. Look at transportation issues in the Comox valley and encourage more use of public transit, biking, and walking.	Request an update on Transportation planning from the CVRD.	CVRD will undertake a Regional Active Transportation Network Plan as part of the larger efforts to address the Board’s strategic priority of achieving an integrated, multi-modal transportation network. Consulting firm selected to assist in this work with project target for completion in early spring of 2021.
	9. Please consider closing 5th street in Courtenay to motor vehicle traffic and Dunsmuir Ave in Cumberland.	Refer road closure request to City of Courtenay and Village of Cumberland.	
Community Futures Strathcona	Immediate – Marketing		
	1. Help with promoting to shop local.	Request CVEDS to explore options for increased support and partnership with Small Business BC (SBBC) on their BC Small Business Marketplace .	
	2. Create a Shop Comox Valley/Campbell River/etc. rather than each individual trying to set up online.	See above	
	Long Term – Advocacy		
	3. Assistance with business startup and development process information and support for entrepreneurs.	Add to CVEDS 2021 work plan discussions and review Innovate 2030 Economic Development Master Plan for strategies referring to entrepreneurship and services to business.	

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce	Immediate – Advocacy		
	1. Governments to acknowledge that businesses are still falling through the cracks.	The Economic Recovery Taskforce Steering committee was establish to recognize and address the critical economic issues facing small business in the Comox Valley. Request CVRD and local government staff to work with CVEDS to support increased local government communication on the ERTF process.	CVRD to communicate its actions from this ERTF initiative, including reaching out to the sector participants to explain its plans and continue dialogue where appropriate.
	Long Term – Advocacy		
	2. City of Courtenay’s OCP is a very important step in this process. Continuation of the OCP process still needs to happen, we need to keep moving forward.	ERTF to send a letter of support to the City of Courtenay recognizing the importance of the OCP process to the business community and to long term economic recovery.	
Comox Business In Action (BIA)	Immediate – Marketing		
	1. Staycation packages for our locals to enjoy the tourism businesses that we have to offer in the Valley, as well as marketing campaigns to larger areas such as Vancouver and Victoria to come vacation in the Comox Valley	Included as part of MRDT 5 year business planning process.	
	Immediate – Advocacy		
	2. Create a larger voice from all Small Businesses in the Comox Valley area that have not been able to receive any support. Have the team write letters or make phone calls to our MP to communicate that more support may be needed.	Refer to the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce for input and comment.	
Cumberland Economic Development	Immediate – Advocacy		
	1. Support in securing supply chain of ppe and/or cleaning supplies	Refer/advocate for provincial support of ppe supply chain. Utilize communications to identify and connect businesses with local ppe manufacturers/distributors.	The matter has been referred to the CVRD emergency program.
	2. Support in creating additional space for consumers within commercial areas	Recommend the incorporation of COVID health measures within existing event permitting processes (ie street markets) to ensure public safety and increased consumer confidence in visiting local commercial areas.	
	3. Improved COVID related public health signage and messaging	Recommend that public health/safety signage is provided within all high traffic commercial areas.	Referred to CVRD Occupational Health and Safety manager and staff of each of our facilities.
4. Certainty in availability of relief benefits (rent / employment support)	Ensure a consistent communication of, and access to provincial/federal relief benefit information.		

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
Comox Valley Airport Commission	Immediate – Advocacy		
	1. Provincial governments need to work with each other using the advice of their public health experts to determine when travel between provinces is considered safe. They should also ensure that a public statement outlining plans for the eventual elimination of travel restrictions is included in the published phased recovery.	Request further information from the CVAC that can be circulated to local governments and Provincial MLA's.	
	Long Term – Advocacy		
	2. YQQ acquisition of adjacent property; need assistance in completing the purchase (permission for subdivision)	Refer to the Town of Comox and provide a letter of support that recognizes the importance of the Comox Valley Airport expansion in economic recovery.	Queen's ditch catchment study work should be referenced for the Town of Comox and YQQ
	3. Increase to BC government Air Access Program funding.	CVEDS to work with the CV Airport Commission on Provincial and Federal advocacy requirements and provide further recommendations for ways local governments can engage in advocacy of these initiatives.	
	4. Federal Government needs to define a clear set of health standards and procedures that align with internationally recognized protocols.	See above.	
5. Federal government should also increase the funding of the Airport Capital Improvement Program.	See above.		
Puntledge Business Area	Immediate – Funding		
	1. Traffic light at the corner (Puntledge / 5 th).	Refer to the City of Courtenay.	
	Immediate – Marketing		
	2. Marketing campaign to drive customers to the area.	Add Business Improvement Association business plan to CVEDS 2021 work plan discussions.	
	Immediate – Advocacy		
3. Need incentives for new businesses to come to the area; need to market available space (e.g. old blockbuster building, red cross space).	Add to CVEDS 2021 work plan discussions and review Innovate 2030 Economic Development Master Plan for strategies including entrepreneurship and business attraction.		
Long Term – Marketing			
4. Bring the Puntledge Days back; all the business used to have a "Customer Appreciation Day"; with music, raffles, food and a customer's passport.	See above.		

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
	5. Have a “Meet the businesses Poster” all the businesses interested will create poster with their information and have it displayed in every store involved on the promotion.	See above.	
	Long Term – Advocacy		
	6. Puntledge area needs a structured, practical way of presenting a united voice to City Hall.	Request CVEDS to explore the steps required to create a Business Improvement Association.	
	7. Floodplain risk needs to be addressed.	Refer to the City of Courtenay.	CVRD climate mitigation work being prepared and shared with each jurisdiction including the City.
	8. The City should turn the empty lot where The Courtenay Hotel used to be into a parking lot.	Refer to the City of Courtenay.	
SECTOR: Agriculture			
	Long Term - Funding		
Mid Island Farmers Institute	1. The sector needs to come together with processors and other buyers to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Make better connections between demand and supply; b) See where the gaps in infrastructure lie, and; c) Organize on a systems level. d) Additionally, coordination of local food aggregation and distribution is also needed. e) Estimated \$10,000 cost 	That the CVRD be asked to prioritize the review of agriculture sector strategies completed during the Innovate 2030 Plan and, consider a request to the Province and other granting bodies for funding to support implementation of the specific recommendations.	Investment agriculture funding opportunity delayed, CVRD staff to review options for considering the agriculture specific actions from the task force and report back to the Board through the 2021-2025 financial planning process on options for actioning with or without grant funding Propose \$30,000 in the 2021 budget (Long Range Planning) to hire a contract position (Agricultural Extension Position). This contract position would help build connections to the entire farming community and help inform the CVRD what the farm community needs an Agricultural Plan to consider. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVRD would still make an application to Investment Agricultural Foundation once the grant application opportunity becomes available. Latest information is Spring/Summer of 2021. If grant application is successful, work on the Agricultural Plan could start late 2021 or 2022.
	Long Term – Advocacy		
Comox Valley Farmers’ Institute	1. Grow and improve the agri-food value chain; a unified, representative, forward looking agriculture strategy should be in place for the Valley.	Request the CVRD to consider a long-term, forward looking update of the Comox Valley Agriculture Plan which would contemplate and incorporate the recommendations from the agriculture sector and take into consideration the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic on the industry.	See above

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
	2. Local government needs access to independent, non-political professionals, who are knowledgeable about the larger picture, agriculturally trained, connected locally and who understand the complexities of the agri-food chain as well as the regulatory environment that farmers and processors are expected to work within.	Included in updated agriculture plan process.	See above
	3. Agri-food incubator; allow for the testing and refining of small batches of new value added products.	Included in updated agriculture plan process.	See above
	4. Explore with partners options for food storage and food storage/aggregation infrastructure within the valley.	Included in Innovate 2030 Master Plan implementation.	
	5. Explore with partners options for local food procurement policy for institutions and organizations.	Taskforce to support, encourage and advocate for local food procurement policy for institutions and organizations.	
	6. Explore with partners the planning and development of a regional food hub.	Included in Innovate 2030 Master Plan implementation.	
	7. Explore how to open up agricultural land and how to attract/keep a younger generation of farmers.	Refer to the Young Agrarians Organization for additional information on potential solutions.	
	8. Engage with CVFI, CVEX and the CV Multiplex Association on concept of a Comox Valley Agri-plex which could potentially house some of the infrastructure around incubators, food storage and processing needed.	Refer to CVRD to engage with all farm groups on the concept of an agriculture facility that would suit the needs of the sector and, not affect or impact the ALR.	Exhibition grounds circulation plan and Stonehenge concept being planned to be forwarded to board. Next steps will be considered at this time.
Comox Valley Farmers' Market	Immediate – Advocacy		
	1. The biggest immediate concern for the Farmers' Market is an adequate indoor space to accommodate physical distancing and other COVID-19 measure during the fall and winter months when we are unable to be outside.	ERTF to refer CVEDS to work with the Farmers Market, local governments and the private sector to arrive at temporary or permanent solution for the coming winter.	Confirm current winter accommodated and consider long term options through the processes identified above.
	Long Term – Advocacy		
	2. Collaboration between farmers, labourers, processors and buyers to ensure that the food is harvested, processed and distributed in a timely manner. Of immediate importance for our region is: a) Increase in meat processing and packaging b) Increased storage (cold and dry) c) Need Commercial kitchen space d) Need for more farm labour e) Need availability of supplies for producers (seed, amendments, fertilizers and farming supplies)	Included in the updated agriculture plan process. Note that commercial options for small scale meat processing, cold storage and commercial kitchen space are occurring. Demand continues to increase for added value processing within the Valley and region.	See above

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
Comox Valley Exhibition Society	Immediate - Advocacy 1. CVEX requests exemption from the Municipal Grant application deadline.	Refer to local government.	Staff developing new grant program and process at direction of the Board. Report coming in early 2021.
SECTOR: Arts and Culture			
Comox Valley Community Arts Council	Immediate - Funding		
	1. Mortgage/tax/rent relief for commercially zoned venues and facilities so they can continue to be used or continue to exist until things change	Refer to local governments with facilities and venues that are capable of accommodating events to consider immediate options for fall/winter.	Refer to municipalities
	2. Microgrants for artists and orgs to support transition to digital (equipment, training and tech acquisition)	Refer to CVRD with a request to consider if micro grants are an option for the grant in aid program.	Staff developing new grant program and process at direction of the Board. Report coming in early 2021.
	Immediate - Advocacy		
	3. Adapted rules for gathering in outdoor spaces to allow more flexibility	ERTF to request that a meeting be convened of Local Government staff responsible for Arts, Culture and Heritage facilities and programs to discuss and explore options for indoor and outdoor gathering spaces during COVID-19 and until the Pandemic is over.	Refer to recreation staff to work with municipal partners and provide messaging to relevant organizations. Meeting will be set for January 2021 to discuss options
	Long Term - Marketing		
	4. Promotional support: assistance with joint promotions and marketing/coordinated promotional initiatives around Arts and Culture	Refer to the CVRD to consider a potential framework for Regional Arts, Culture and Heritage Funding where new programs, services and special events that support regional goals and deliver benefits to the entire region receive funding from the CVRD as part of the 2021-2025 Financial Planning Process.	Staff developing new grant program and process at direction of the Boar; report coming in early 2021. Additionally, staff encourage art sector to reach out to consider promotional opportunities in public facilities.
	Long Term - Advocacy		
	5. Mitigation of public liability insurance costs or underwriting liability for events on public property	Refer recommendations #5 - 10 to local governments to determine options for flexibility in events on public property or in public facilities during the Pandemic.	Staff will request art sector meeting in 2021 to discuss the importance of a strategic regional planning process to address these issues.
6. Major overhaul to funding processes and limitations to allow for ongoing fluidity and nimble response to major events	See above.	See above	
7. Reduced or free use of public facilities to present my/our work	See above.	See above	
8. Regular street closures to allow for easy creator markets in dense neighbourhoods, or downtowns	See above.	No action by CVRD	
9. Partnerships for special events	See above.	See above	

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
	10. Community Access Programs to local theatre	See above.	No action by CVRD
	11. Creating a tax credit for buying Canadian Artworks (any genre) to stimulate sales.	See above.	Propose that CVRD Board lobby federal government for consideration of this initiative.
	12. Access to reliable, affordable, high-capacity internet is a significant barrier. Any way that government can mandate/encourage/incentivize providers to increase service and affordability would be a huge benefit to the entire community.	See recommendation #1 in IITA re technology strategies.	Propose that CVRD Board lobby federal government for consideration of this initiative.
	13. Overall, the creative community would like to be acknowledged as a priority and be recognized for the contribution they make to our economy, our community wellness and our exceptional quality of life.	Steering Committee to respond with letter CVCAC acknowledging the request	
Sid Williams Theatre Society	Immediate - Advocacy		
	1. Assist with timely delivery of information on new emergency/special funding programs from other levels of government and major foundations.	Ongoing via Provincial associations and CVEDS.	
	2. BC Gaming grant timelines currently do not aid our sector in responding to the pandemic. The Community Gaming Grant deadline was very early in the pandemic (April) when many Arts and Culture organizations had not had time to assess their needs. More responsive timelines are needed from the Gaming Branch.	ERTF to request information from the BC Gaming Grants on application deadlines during the Pandemic.	
	3. Because the Theatre/Live-Performance Sector is especially hard hit by the public health restriction on mass gatherings, it is important that programs like CEWS/CERB are extended for members of this sector as long as possible until the virus is no longer a threat.	ERTF to send a letter to appropriate Federal Government Ministry	
	4. Perhaps if CEBA loans could be used for equipment purchases (so that the loan was attached to an asset) rather than just “non deferrable operating expenses”, more groups would make use of it.	Same as above	
	Long Term - Funding		
	5. Create a local/regional cultural granting program to assist local organizations.	Refer to recommendation #3 in CVAC to convene a meeting and/or report to discuss a regional funding framework.	
6. Increase subsidies for use of public spaces/facilities by local non-profit organizations	See above.		

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
	Long Term - Marketing		
	7. Support marketing/communication efforts by local performing-arts venues/producers.	See above.	
	Long Term - Advocacy		
	8. Create opportunities for work hubs to share resources and expertise	CVEDS to include a review of work hubs (maker space/ co-location work spaces) in 2021 work plan.	
	9. Modernize outdated/restrictive signage by-laws to allow local organizations that operate venues to install contemporary digital signage with advertising revenue potential.	Refer to local government.	CVRD planning staff to monitor requests and bring forward recommendations if identified.
	10. Expand the street-entertainer program and share application (audition?) information with live-event organizers looking for performers (e.g. opening acts);	Refer to City of Courtenay.	
	11. Consider tax incentives for local businesses that sponsor live-performances/festivals etc.	Refer to local government.	CVRD finance staff to discuss with municipal staff the need for communications on this matter. Local governments restricted from providing assistance to business.
	12. Create opportunities for local youth “work-learn-earn” in local live performance industry	Refer to local government.	
	13. Work with other levels of government and local businesses to create incentives for local youth to volunteer in our community (rec passes, gift cards, course credit)	Refer to local government.	Refer to recreation service.
SECTOR: Aviation / Aerospace			
	Long Term - Marketing		
Courtenay Airpark Association	1. The City of Courtenay should mention the Airpark on their website.	CVEDS to work with the City of Courtenay and local governments to improve online awareness of the Airpark.	CVRD to provide link from website.
	Long Term - Advocacy		
	2. Need advocacy to Tourism Vancouver Island and Destination BC for inclusion in visitors guides to the Comox Valley and websites to include the Airpark information and all it has to offer; currently the Airpark is underutilized/valued.	CVEDS to include the Airpark in the update of the 5 year MRDT renewal plan.	

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
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SECTOR: Childcare

Comox Valley Children's Day Care Society	Immediate - Marketing		
	1. Raising the awareness to Valley employers that they will need to be flexible with their staff who have young children.	For discussion and direction	
	Immediate – Advocacy		
	2. Encouraging suppliers to offer /sell cleaning supplies to child care programs.	Forward request for Chamber of Commerce	
	3. Consider expanding permissive tax exemptions to the child care sector.	ERTF to refer to CVRD and request letter be drafted to go to UBCM	With Board resolution letter to be sent to province and UBCM to address each of these initiatives.
	4. Create a child care pandemic response team within the UBCM.	Same as above	
	5. Increase wages of front-line workers.	Same as above	
	6. Work with the sector to develop more specific health and safety guidelines.	Same as above	
	Long Term - Funding		
	7. Create municipal pandemic response grants for child care.	Forward to local governments	
Long Term - Marketing			
8. Raising public awareness about the need for increased and sustained funding for child care.	Forward to local governments		
Long Term - Advocacy			
9. We are very grateful to the Comox Valley Community Foundation who were able to arrange for a large supply of hand sanitizer from Wayward Distillery – so supporting initiatives such as this would be helpful.	Forward to local governments		
10. Senior Government Advocacy; \$10/Day Child Care Plan, fully funded National Pandemic response plan for Child Care, National Child Care Plan, timely release of Federal transfer payments to the Province to meet local needs.	Forward to CVRD with request to craft letter to Provincial and Federal Government	With Board resolution letter to be sent to provincial and federal governments to address this initiative.	

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
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SECTOR: International Education

North Island College	Immediate - Marketing		
	1. Consider 'open CV' campaign for 2021 social media etc.	Refer to CVEDS for 2021 Work Plan for consideration.	
	2. Consider a branding system that welcomes newcomers/students.	See above.	
	Immediate - Advocacy		
	3. Support for accommodation providers providing quarantine options for arriving students that align with provincial health guidelines.	Refer to the BC hotel Association for consideration and input.	
	4. Encouraging province/feds to ease travel restrictions where appropriate to allow for 'country bubble' movement.	ERTF to provide letter of Support to Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training supporting the economic importance of International Education to the Comox Valley.	
	5. Relaxation of on-line content policy at ministry of education level for K - 12 sector.	Refer to the School District 71 for further input.	
	Long Term - Advocacy		
6. Consider supports for international tourism sector as they may apply to international education.	Request CVRD to write a letter to applicable provincial and federal ministries.	With Board resolution letter to be sent to provincial and federal govts to address this initiative. Will require further background from NIC.	
7. Student employment support (post-secondary).	Refer to CVRD with a request to write and send a letter of support for the expansion of student hiring programs to applicable Provincial and Federal Ministries	With Board resolution letter to be sent to federal govt to address this initiative.	

SECTOR: Technology

Innovation Island Technology Association	Immediate - Advocacy		
	1. Greater emphasis should be placed toward digital technology adoption.	CVEDS to provide a summary report of the recent regional and local technology strategies to local government and include specific recommendations for increased digital technology adoption within local government and economic development programs.	
	2. Changes to business models should be encouraged and supported with respect to tax breaks, zoning or rent assistance.	Request to CAO's to prepare joint briefing note on limitations on tax break assistance to business.	CFO to action by reaching out to GFOABC and Comox Valley CFO's and sharing information with the community.
	Long Term - Advocacy		
3. Regional solutions should be considered to address regional challenges.	Request more information from the IITA.		

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
	4. Digital literacy programs should be enhanced within district schools to increase a wider base of knowledge with all G12 graduates.	ERTF to endorse and refer to SD 71.	
SECTOR: Tourism – CVEDS is currently in the process of updating the 5 year MRDT long term marketing plan with a COVID - 19 lens. CVEDS to consider initiatives below in this process.			
Bed and Breakfasts	Immediate - Funding		
	1. Funding for tourism businesses, including (but not limited to) tax relief	Refer above to recommendation #2 in Technology sector.	CFO to action by reaching out to GFOABC and Comox Valley CFO's and sharing information with the community.
	Immediate - Marketing		
	2. More ads to either "staycation" or visit the Comox Valley (for BC residents)	Refer to recommendation #1 from Comox BIA.	
Beverage	Immediate - Advocacy		
	3. There are so many choices that won't ask a traveler to spend an additional 16% (5 + 8 + 3), such as home exchanges or other jurisdictions, many will choose to go elsewhere. I don't disagree with MRDT in the long run, but not in a year of recovery.	CVEDS to work with Tourism industry in understanding MRDT applicability.	
	Immediate - Funding		
	1. Grant/incentives to buy local.	CVEDS to forward to Chamber of Commerce for consideration of running a buy local campaign.	
	2. Lower taxes to stimulate economy.	Refer above to recommendation #2 in Technology sector.	
	Immediate - Advocacy		
	3. Ensure all government purchases, contracts and tenders buy local first, region then province than other provinces and territories.	Refer above to recommendation #5 in Agriculture sector (CVFI); ERTF to support, encourage and advocate for local food procurement policy for institutions and organizations.	
	4. Extended patios and off-sales should continue.	ERTF to approve and refer to local government planning departments.	Municipal matter
5. Incentives to employees to get off CERB and get back to work.	Not applicable as federal government has transition program EI		
6. Wave property taxes rather than defer	Refer above to recommendation #2 in Technology sector.	CFO to action by reaching out to GFOABC and Comox Valley CFO's and sharing information with the community.	
Long Term - Marketing			
7. Need a strong marketing campaign to Buy Canadian.	Provincial and Federal Mandate.		
Long Term - Advocacy			

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
	8. Liquor Distribution Branch to have an appeal board. Stop changing the Terms and Conditions with no warning or rationale. LDB should only exist for government stores.	Direct CVEDS to review recommendations 8-13 in conjunction with appropriate provincial ministries, jurisdictions and report back.	
	9. Stop increasing minimum wage. Allow a farm wage.	Forward to CVRD with a request to create and send a letter to applicable Federal and Provincial Ministries and/or agencies	
	10. PST reform, too many bulletins that don't make any sense.	Forward to CVRD with direction to seek Clarity on PST regulation relating to the beverage industry, and have CVEDS engage with the provincial industries association including the BCRFA, ABLE BC, BC Craft Brewers, BC Wine Institute for feedback.	Staff report to be generated for early 2021 regarding taxation and local government revenue sources, with proposal for Board correspondence to the province.
	11. Federal government should take control of trade between provinces and allow free movement.	As directed by ERTF Steering Committee	
	12. Excise Tax reform - there should not be excise tax on spirits made in Canada. Unable to compete with import spirits in your own country.	Request CVRD to send letter to applicable ministries	As above
	13. Get rid of carbon tax in Canada, and charge on imported items only.	For information only	
	Long Term - Funding		
Festivals and Events	1. Support "arts" with a dedicated funding strategy	Refer to recommendation #3 in CVAC to convene a meeting and/or report to discuss a regional funding framework.	Refer to recreation services
	2. Budget line in local/regional budget; dollars used to develop new or enhance existing events/organizations	See above.	
	Immediate - Advocacy		
Mountain Biking	1. Expanding or renewing partnerships with the Mountain Bike Tourism Association of BC.	Included as part of MRDT planning process.	
	Long Term - Funding		
	2. Local investments into capital projects such as multi-use pathways would be a major asset to the community and create important tourism infrastructure.	Forward to local government	CVRD to assess communications on current policy and performance with respect to social procurement and local supports. Report back in 2021.
	Long Term - Marketing		
	3. A specific mountain biking tourism strategy that supports and promotes local, regional, and provincial tourism within BC	Forward to CVRD for consideration in CVEDS workplan and direction to explore options for a destination development mountain bike plan with UROC and the Mountain Bike Tourism Association of BC.	
	4. Support from local agencies to lobby the Province of BC to waive permit fees for 2020 Park and Crown Land Permits	Forward to CVRD for consideration and direction to CVEDS to work with BC Parks and CVRD staff to determine option and capabilities	With Board resolution letter to be sent to provincial govt to address this initiative.

Submission (linked)	Submitted Recommendations	Recommended Actions	CVRD Proposed Actions
Restaurants	Immediate - Advocacy		
	1. Flexible, Innovative and Expedited Patio permitting is essential.	Refer to BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association to determine alignment with Provincial and Federal advocacy initiatives.	
	Immediate - Marketing		
	2. Destination Marketing to unite all Vancouver Island residences and local visitors to Tour Local Stay Local Stay Safe	Refer to recommendation #1 from Comox BIA.	
	Long Term - Advocacy		
BC Restaurant and foodservices	3. CECRA - Advocate to introduce a TIER system for those business that are 60% or 50% etc. down to be included in the program.		
	4. Food Sovereignty and Food Security: We seek Government assistance in facilitating our food supply locally, provincially and federally. Our food chain system needs to unify and collaborate with other sectors.	Refer to Agriculture Plan recommendation #1 as noted in Agriculture sector (CVFI) recommendations.	
	Immediate- Advocacy		
BC Restaurant and foodservices	1. Expediting applications for businesses to winterize patios in public and private spaces to provide operators with the opportunity to capitalize on the confidence of outdoor space.	Refer to August 26, 2020 letter submitted to BC municipalities by the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association, Alliance of Beverage Licensees, and BC Craft Brewers Guild	Municipal matter
	2. Approving temporary patios for summer 2021 now, so operators are able to plan ahead.	Same as above	
	3. Creating a program for designated pick-up zones so that businesses enhance contactless curbside pick-up in the fall and winter months.	Same as above	