

**REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA
LATE ITEM
Tuesday, February 2, 2021**

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 11.3. Request for Letter of Support from The Wilson's Group of Companies for a Short-Term Emergency COVID Recovery Contract with the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

Recommendation:

That Council consider providing a letter of support to The Wilson's Group of Companies for a short-term emergency COVID recovery contract between Tofino Bus and the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to continue essential bus service until ridership is restored, as requested in the correspondence from The Wilson's Group received February 1, 2021.



Dear Mayor Aaron Stone,

It is with great urgency that I write to you today seeking a letter of support from you and your council for a short-term emergency COVID recovery contract between Tofino Bus and the Province of BC and its Ministry of Transportation to continue our essential service until ridership is restored.

Intercity bus service provides the same essential service as public transit. It takes people to medical appointments, essential work, school, childcare and to get their prescriptions and groceries. It is particularly critical for those with low income and in remote communities. On Vancouver Island, twenty-nine communities and twenty-one First Nations and First Nations organizations are served with intercity busing by Vancouver Island Connector and Tofino Bus. In 2019 we provided 82,500 trips. Your community is among those we serve daily (see page 2 and 3 for locations).

Due to COVID 19 work and travel restrictions, revenue on these routes has been down 95% since March 2020. Tofino Bus has no more financial reserves, it has received all available government subsidies and grants and will be forced to close this service within the next four months if it does not have a source of revenue to operate them. With that many riders who rely on our services will have no other options to transport themselves.

The Solution:

To avoid the disruption, cost and public safety risk created by cancelling intercity busing on Vancouver Island, we have requested from Transportation Minister Rob Fleming a short-term emergency COVID recovery contract to continue this essential service until ridership is restored. This solution will prevent a gap in service for these communities, it will avoid government having to take on the cost of intercity busing on the island and it will ensure Tofino Bus is still around to serve these communities during economic recovery from COVID 19.

If you require any additional information at this time, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team. We know how important this service is to the communities on Vancouver Island and greatly appreciate whatever support you can offer us.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

John Wilson
President and CEO
The Wilson's Group of Companies



VI Connector and Tofino Bus
Serviced Communities

Victoria	Qualicum Bay
Saanich	Fanny Bay
View Royal	Buckley Bay
Langford	Union Bay
Mill Bay Langford	Royston
Cobble Hill	Courtenay
Cowichan Bay	Merville
Duncan	Black Creek
Chemainus	Oyster River
Ladysmith	Campbell River
Nanaimo – South	Coombs
Nanaimo - Central	Whiskey Creek
Nanaimo - North	Port Alberni
Parksville	Ucluelet
Qualicum Beach	Tofino



**First Nations and Provincial Ministries Served Through Contract with
Tofino Bus**

-
- 1 Ahousaht Band Council
 - 2 Alberni Clayoquot
 - 3 Ditidaht First Nations
 - 4 Ehattesaht/Chinehkint
 - 5 First Nations Health Authority
 - 6 Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations
 - 7 Hesquiaht First Nation
 - 8 House of Himwitsa
 - 9 Huu-ay-aht First Nations
 - 10 ITHA - Inter Tribal Health Authority
 - 11 Kayuk't'/Chektles7et'h' Nation
 - 12 Kwakiutl Band Council - Health
 - 13 Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nations
 - 14 Kyuquot First Nation
 - 15 Ministry of Justice
 - 16 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General - Victoria
 - 17 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General-Nanaimo
 - 18 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
 - 19 Nuchatlaht Tribe
 - 20 Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council
 - 21 Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council; Usma Nuuchahnulth Family & Child Services
 - 22 Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations
 - 23 Tsewulhtun Health Centre
 - 24 Ucluelet First Nation
 - 25 Wei Wai Kum First Nations

**WILSON'S TRANSPORTATION
SOLUTION FOR CONTINUING ESSENTIAL BUSING FOR FIRST NATIONS AND SMALL
COMMUNITIES AND FIRST NATIONS
FOR DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER FLEMING, JANUARY 18, 2021**

The Public Safety Risk:

Intercity bus service provides the same essential service as public transit. It takes people to medical appointments, essential work, school, childcare and to get their prescriptions and groceries. It is particularly critical for those with low income and in remote communities.

On Vancouver Island, twenty-nine communities are served with intercity busing by Wilson's Tofino Bus and Vancouver Island Connector (see attachment). Many of these communities are small, isolated communities with no other transportation services.

Wilson's has contracts with 21 First Nations, Tribal Councils and First Nations Health Organizations (see attachment) on the island to provide essential travel to their members, who have no other means of transportation.

82,500 riders on Vancouver Island used Wilson's intercity busing services in 2019.

Due to COVID 19 work and travel restrictions, revenue on these routes has been down 95% since March, 2020. The service was suspended on December 7th due to public health orders. Wilson's would like to restart it on February 12th but will be unable to do so unless it has an adequate source of revenue. The federal COVID related subsidies and grants are inadequate to operate this service.

If this essential service is permanently cancelled by Wilson's, these communities will turn to the Minister of Transportation to provide the service. BC Transit is being subsidized by the federal and provincial government in recognition that busing is an essential service and that there is a 60% drop in riders and loss of fare revenue.

In addition, when intercity bus routes were cancelled by Greyhound, the BC and federal government stepped in to create and fund BC Bus North and service along Highway 16 through BC Transit in recognition of the public safety risk created by the loss of bus service.

Wilson's planned to transition to electric buses for this service using the CleanBC subsidy but cannot do so with no revenue.

The Solution:

To avoid the disruption, cost and public safety risk created by cancelling intercity busing on Vancouver Island, Wilson's is requesting a one-year emergency COVID recovery contract with the Ministry to continue this essential service until ridership is restored.

This solution will prevent a gap in service for these communities, it will avoid government having to take on the long-term cost of intercity busing on the island and it will ensure Wilson's Transportation is still around to serve these communities during economic recovery from COVID 19.

Wilson's is flexible with regard to the terms and conditions of an emergency COVID recovery contract for this essential service. The contract must cover the **operating costs** of this essential service as described in the attachment. Wilson's would then submit all fares to government and as ridership recovers the cost of the contract to government would decline. Wilson anticipates being fully recovered by **early 2022** and no longer in need of this assistance.

Wilson's looks forward to working productively with you to save this essential service for island communities and First Nations.



VI Connector and Tofino Bus
Serviced Communities

Victoria	Qualicum Bay
Saanich	Fanny Bay
View Royal	Buckley Bay
Langford	Union Bay
Mill Bay	Royston
Cobble Hill	Courtenay
Cowichan Bay	Merville
Duncan	Black Creek
Chemainus	Oyster River
Ladysmith	Campbell River
Nanaimo – South	Coombs
Nanaimo - Central	Whiskey Creek
Nanaimo - North	Port Alberni
Parksville	Ucluelet
Qualicum Beach	Tofino

First Nations and Provincial Ministries Served Through Contract with Tofino Bus

Tofino Bus Services Inc. Sales by Customer Summary

January - December 2019

No.	Clients
1	Ahousaht Band Council
2	Alberni Clayoquot
3	Ditidaht First Nations
4	Ehattesaht/Chinehkint
5	First Nations Health Authority
6	Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw Nations
7	Hesquiaht First Nation
8	House of Himwitsa
9	Huu-ay-aht First Nations
10	ITHA - Inter Tribal Health Authority
11	Kayuk't'/Chektles7et'h' Nation
12	Kwakiutl Band Council - Health
13	Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nations
14	Kyuquot First Nation
15	Ministry of Justice
16	Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General - Victoria
17	Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General-Nanaimo
18	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
19	Nuchatlaht Tribe
20	Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
21	Nuu-Chah-nulth Tribal Council; Usma Nuu-chah-nulth Family & Child Services
22	Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations
23	Tsewulhtun Health Centre
24	Ucluelet First Nation
25	Wel Wal Kum First Nations

Tofino Bus Cashflow
2021 Operations Budget

Expenses	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Fixed Expenses													
Admin Wages	\$ 38,992.07	\$ 38,992.07	\$ 38,042.80	\$ 41,839.90	\$ 46,206.58	\$ 46,206.58	\$ 46,206.58	\$ 46,206.58	\$ 46,206.58	\$ 46,206.58	\$ 46,206.58	\$ 46,206.58	\$ 527,519.49
Rent/Depot Operations	\$ 55,939.83	\$ 55,939.83	\$ 55,939.83	\$ 53,490.10	\$ 53,490.10	\$ 53,490.10	\$ 53,490.10	\$ 53,490.10	\$ 53,490.10	\$ 53,490.10	\$ 53,490.10	\$ 53,490.10	\$ 649,230.39
Utilities/Phone...etc	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 36,000.00
Driver Supplies/Software Expenses	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Business Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
Management Fee	\$ 20,833.33	\$ 20,833.33	\$ 20,833.33	\$ 20,833.33	\$ 20,833.33	\$ 20,833.33	\$ 20,833.33	\$ 20,833.33	\$ 20,833.33	\$ 20,833.33	\$ 20,833.33	\$ 20,833.33	\$ 250,000.00
Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,000.00
Benefit-Sunlife	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 30,000.00
Bus Lease Costs	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 24,000.00
Parking	\$ 654.00	\$ 654.00	\$ 654.00	\$ 654.00	\$ 654.00	\$ 654.00	\$ 654.00	\$ 654.00	\$ 654.00	\$ 654.00	\$ 654.00	\$ 654.00	\$ 7,848.00
Bank Fees	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 3,000.00
Variable Expenses													
Fuel	\$ 25,342.41	\$ 25,342.41	\$ 25,342.41	\$ 25,342.41	\$ 25,342.41	\$ 25,342.41	\$ 25,342.41	\$ 25,342.41	\$ 25,342.41	\$ 25,342.41	\$ 25,342.41	\$ 25,342.41	\$ 304,108.88
Driver Wages	\$ 41,753.92	\$ 41,753.92	\$ 41,753.92	\$ 41,753.92	\$ 41,753.92	\$ 41,753.92	\$ 41,753.92	\$ 41,753.92	\$ 41,753.92	\$ 41,753.92	\$ 41,753.92	\$ 41,753.92	\$ 501,047.04
Advertising/Promotion	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000.00
PPE/Cleaning Budget	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
Vehicle Insurance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Moneris Charges	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 9,000.00
Maintenance Expenses	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 240,000.00
Professional Fees	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 18,000.00
Driver Overnight Expenses	\$ 3,954.17	\$ 3,954.17	\$ 3,954.17	\$ 3,954.17	\$ 3,954.17	\$ 3,954.17	\$ 3,954.17	\$ 3,954.17	\$ 3,954.17	\$ 3,954.17	\$ 3,954.17	\$ 3,954.17	\$ 47,450.00
Other Expenses	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 30,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 240,469.73	\$ 240,469.73	\$ 239,520.45	\$ 240,867.83	\$ 245,234.51	\$ 245,234.51	\$ 263,234.51	\$ 245,234.51	\$ 245,234.51	\$ 245,234.51	\$ 245,234.51	\$ 245,234.51	\$ 2,941,203.79