

Contact: Pete Bourke

Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce
executivedirector@cvchamber.ca
Phone 250.342.2844
Fax 250.342.3261

PO Box 1019
Invermere, BC V0A 1K0



Press Release

Chamber Seeks Public Feedback on Transit Service in the Columbia Valley

July 31, 2019 : Through funding from the BC Rural Dividends Fund, the Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce has commenced a study to determine the costs and independent transportation options that currently exist in the Columbia Valley in order to develop a comprehensive strategy for an economical transportation system that supports all resident in the Columbia Valley who would prefer to use or need to use public transportation.

“We recognize the limitations of the current BC Transit service in our Valley.” said Pete Bourke, Executive Director, “We’ve heard that the current system impedes the ability of residents to access affordable housing options, education, shopping and employment. Additionally, we know that a number of employers are providing shuttle service to address some of the needs of their own workforce which is at best a patch work solution.”

The study seeks to understand the needs of transit users, across the Valley as well as the needs and the amount of private funds currently being spent by industry to move their workforce throughout the area. The collected data will inform how we can develop a transportation system that will service not only the Columbia Valley but also connect to other communities in the RDEK and beyond.

It is clear that the Columbia Valley needs an expanded transportation system and the study will provide the information about what a new system could look like and how it can be funded. We expect that a new system would either enable an existing transportation business to grow or a new one to emerge. Thereby jobs may be created and the businesses may increase the need for ancillary services such as fuel, vehicle service, bookkeeping etc.

From the collective work of the study’s steering committee, there are now two surveys available to collect input from both individuals and organizations. The surveys will be open until September 16th, 2019 and can be found on the homepage of the Columbia Valley Chamber Website, www.cvchamber.ca.

The Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce is an organization within the business community promoting and supporting responsible commerce through effective advocacy, communication, networking and education on behalf of its membership.

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