



Friday, May 01, 2015

Mr. Russell Dyson, CAO
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
3008 Fifth Avenue
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 2E3

Dear Russell;

We are very pleased to learn of your commitment to push forward with plans to develop and expand the Alberni Valley Regional Airport.

During the Business Retention Survey conducted by the **Chamber of Commerce** over the first six months of 2013 it became very evident to us that the absence of an operating airport was detrimental to the Business Community. Many Local Owners commented that they often opted out of valuable meetings and conferences simply due to the time involved to reach other airports. Others pointed out that our community does not present an 'Open for Business' model due to the absence of a Regional Airport, and because of that they believe that their own businesses are at a disadvantage compared to those in other airport serviced communities. During the survey of more than 175 businesses we also heard of Recruitment Challenges which many felt was directly attributable to the lack of a local operating Airport.

The Chamber of Commerce fully supports the Airport Development and Improvement Initiatives and encourages all parties to continue along this path so that we can compete Provincially, Nationally, and Internationally through competitive Air Transportation Services.

We thank you for working hard to promote the Alberni Valley with your funding applications for the Alberni Valley Regional Airport.

Yours truly,
ALBERNI VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Bill Collette
Executive Director

President
Teresa Bird

Vice President
Jan Lavertu

2nd Vice President
Kris Patterson

Secretary
Gordie Groves

Treasurer
Deb Haggard

Past President
Neil Malbon

Directors
Bob Kanngiesser
Les Toth
Jonathan Cross
Kevin Wright
Cherie Williams
Peter Wienold
Heather Graydon
Nicole Mitchell
Brad Minton

Executive
Director
Bill Collette

