



Friday, December-20-13

Mr. Ken Watson
City Manager
City of Port Alberni
4850 Argyle Street
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 1V8

Dear Mr. Watson

Re: Business Licenses

Thanks to you and Scott Smith for meeting with me on November 26 to discuss City Business Licenses.

As you will recall my visit was prompted after learning that the City of Langford is implementing a perpetual Business License beginning in 2014. I wondered if such a program would be appropriate for the City of Port Alberni.

Following our meeting, the City Business License program was discussed by the Civic Affairs Committee of the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Committee offers the following comments:

We understand that approximately \$128,000 is raised each year from the city business licenses. Should the City implement a perpetual business license we accept that the lost revenue would likely be recovered from the business community if the form of increased business taxes. A flat business license fee would be replaced by revenue based on assessment which would penalize larger (higher assessed) businesses. Thus we support the continuation of the present flat fee annual business license at least until City finances improve and the funds can be found elsewhere in the City revenue stream.

We support the implementation of the Inter-Community Business License Program which will be implemented in 2014. We believe many Port Alberni based businesses will see the advantage of this program. The inclusion of Ucluelet and Tofino in the program will be an increased benefit to local businesses.

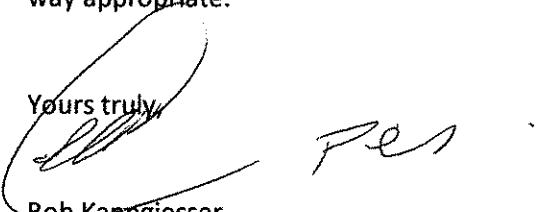
We suggest that the City increase enforcement of the Business License Program. Perhaps staff in the city finance department could monitor local business advertising in the media, check against the list of current business licenses and report variances to the By-Law Officer to investigate.

It is suggested that the business license revenue be earmarked towards business enhancement activities in the City.

May the AVCOC obtain a listing of current business licenses and the list be updated quarterly? We would use the list as a contact point for Chamber information and membership recruitment.

The Chamber of Commerce remains available to assist the City in the Business License program in any way appropriate.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Kamngiesser', is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bob Kamngiesser
Chair, Civic Affairs Committee
Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce