



Tuesday, November 19, 2019

**President**  
Sarah Jones

**Vice President**  
Carol-Anne Phillips

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
Terry Deakin

**Secretary**  
Peter Wienold

**Treasurer**  
Jan Lavertu

**Directors**  
Gail Horvath  
Michael Moore  
Teresa Bird  
Dave Heinrichs  
Krista McKittrick  
Daniel Savard  
Carley Bowyer  
Lori Kerr

**Past President**  
Taurean Seib

**CEO**  
Bill Collette

Mr. Bart Wojtkiewicz,  
Safety Officer,  
Technical Safety BC  
Suite 600 – 2889 East 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC  
V5M 4T5

via E-Mail [Bart.Wojtkiewicz@technicalsafetybc.ca](mailto:Bart.Wojtkiewicz@technicalsafetybc.ca)

Dear Mr. Wojtkiewicz:

We are writing to you today citing our concern regarding the ongoing shutdown of the Alberni Valley Multiplex.

While we appreciate, and fully respect the services offered by Technical Safety BC we are becoming increasingly worried about the impact this is having on our community. At first we considered the 'ripple effect' but now after the loss of hockey tournaments, figure skating programs, old-timers hockey, minor hockey, public skating, and of course the Alberni Valley Bulldogs we can't help but consider this to be more like a 'Tsunami effect.'

Since early November we have monitored all reports surrounding the initial leak during which time we've been fully satisfied with the actions and remedies as coordinated by the City of Port Alberni. To our understanding the City quickly identified the problem(s) and through consult with your organization, and the manufacturer, the necessary & mandated repairs were completed, and tested, resulting in what we believe should have been an approval to restart the ice-plant.

This problem presents huge economic challenges for many in Port Alberni. Our primary user of the Multiplex – The Alberni Valley Bulldogs are in limbo and to date have lost valuable practice time, and several games have now been postponed, or relocated to other communities. The long planned Parents Weekend was lost to this issue and while on the surface that may seem minor to some, it was anything but. A major tournament was canceled and others are following suit. Each of those brings people to our community resulting in off-season revenues for our Businesses community – the very organizations that donate generously to the ice-user groups, such as those listed above (Minor Hockey, Figure Skating, Old-Timer's Hockey, Men's / Women's leagues, Winter Wonderland, & the AV Bulldogs).

The users of the Multiplex are now scrambling to provide the expected services with

some taking their programs to other communities and by default relocating their spending habits away from Port Alberni, away from the very organizations that sponsor them. In other cases the users are simply out of luck.

Businesses directly affected include our Hotels, Motels, B&B's, Restaurants, Coffee Shops, and many Retailers. In one case a hotel employee is quoted as saying *"We went from full capacity during the long-weekend to pick a room."* Thousands in revenues lost – One business, One day.

With respect, we are requesting that Technical Safety BC grant the required operating permit for the ice-plant ***unless*** there is clear evidence that the system will fail again. By no means are we suggesting a risk to public safety but we do encourage a committed effort to both operate the Multiplex while working with all stakeholders to ensure that the system is indeed safe to operate for years to come.

Finally, on behalf of the local business community we ask that you provide us with updates on this matter until such time as it's permanently resolved.

Yours truly,  
ALBERNI VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Bill Collette  
CEO

[bill@albernichamber.ca](mailto:bill@albernichamber.ca)

Cc: Paige Hill – Technical Safety BC - [Paige.Hill@technicalsafetyby.ca](mailto:Paige.Hill@technicalsafetyby.ca)  
Phil Gothe – Technical Safety BC - [Phil.Gothe@technicalsafetybc.ca](mailto:Phil.Gothe@technicalsafetybc.ca)  
Sharie Minions – Mayor of Port Alberni  
Hon. Scott Fraser – MLA – Mid-Island Pacific Rim