

Please forward to elected officials, the CAO and Corporate Officer:

1. Forest Enhancement Project – Identifying Potential Projects

The Forest Enhancement Society of BC has issued a document describing its [Project Planning Process and Selection Criteria](#) for 2016 and 2017. The Society was created with an initial provincial contribution of \$85 million to advance a suite of forest health and safety objectives, including wildfire prevention and mitigation. Eligible applicants should contact their local [Forest District office](#) as soon as possible to discuss proposals.

2. Social Procurement

At the AVICC convention in Nanaimo last April, the membership passed a motion calling on AVICC and UBCM to advance the use of social procurement practices. Building on an informal meeting at the convention, since April, a number of local elected officials have put together a working group and project plan for a “Community Benefit Hub”. The Hub could help AVICC member local governments with building community benefit procurement into their procurement policies through:

1. Educating and building awareness among elected officials (and public sector institutions)
2. Training staff
3. Communicating and networking: collect and tell stories of success and challenges
4. Educating and building awareness amongst suppliers
5. Training suppliers

The Hub idea is in very early stages. Anyone interested in helping the working group to develop the concept is invited to contact Mayor Teunis Westbroek at mayor@qualicumbeach.com

3. Clear Seas – Call for Expressions of Interest to Participate in Study

Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Marine Shipping is a not-for-profit organization that provides impartial and evidence-based research about marine shipping in Canada, including risks, mitigation measures and best practices. Their Board of Directors includes former AVICC President Christopher Causton.

Clear Seas is undertaking a study to investigate responses to vessel drift incidents. They are seeking the participation of a multidisciplinary team including representatives from coastal communities and government. The Call for Expressions of Interest to participate in the study is attached, and includes background, the timeline and how to get involved. A workshop is being planned for the Fall.