



August 21, 2025

The Honourable Terry Yung, MLA  
Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Sent via email: [MSPSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MSPSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**RE: Report of the Study Commission of Inquiry into Community Event Safety**

Dear Minister Yung,

The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) is the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) area association representing the interests of local governments and member First Nations in the British Columbia region of Vancouver Island, qathet, the Sunshine Coast, Central Coast and North Coast.

Having reviewed the recently released [Report of the Study Commission of Inquiry into Community Events Safety](#), I am writing on behalf of the AVICC Executive to raise concerns identified by our many small and rural community members.

The Independent Commission of Inquiry into Community Events Safety has recommended: *"That all public events be supported by a risk assessment that could be prepared by event organizers, local governments or both, depending on local capacity."*

The proposed risk management form provided in the report is six pages long and would require significant effort to complete. Most volunteer groups in small and rural communities do not have this capacity. We emphasize the need for flexibility and consideration by avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach to this issue.

The report itself states the following about Rural Events (page 23):

*"Given limited resources, most events rely on modest funding, the goodwill of volunteers, and the community's familiarity with each other to avoid any security threats. Those involved in the planning of rural events stated that, without additional funding, any additional regulatory mandates regarding security will likely be the end of most of their community events. Rather than more safety*

*regulations, rural organizers suggested they need centralized and easily accessible reference resources and advice to help them consider and plan for safety at their events."*

We entirely agree with this assessment. Community events are already struggling with increasing bureaucratic requirements and costs (such as event insurance) coupled with a decline in available volunteers. Raising the barriers even higher could be the final straw, causing many small and rural communities to cancel their events. Of course, this would ensure public safety since the safest possible event is no event. However, in times of increasing isolation and divisiveness, events that bring our communities together are more important than ever before. Local events boost economies, celebrate culture, and build communities.

We hope that the Minister will appreciate the risks of over-regulation and opt to make risk assessments optional, or mandatory only for very large or complex events. This will support the continuation of such beloved traditions as *Tahsis Days Family Fun Run*, the Roberts Creek *Higgledy Piggledy Parade*, and Gambier Island's *Commotion on the Ocean*, to name only a few.

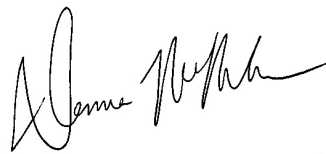
**We look forward to hearing from you on how the Province intends to advance the recommendations in the report, considering the varying capacities of our diverse communities.**

If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact Theresa Dennison, AVICC Executive Director, at 236-237-1202 or at [tdennison@avicc.ca](mailto:tdennison@avicc.ca).

Sincerely,



Ben Geselbracht  
President, AVICC  
Councillor, City of Nanaimo



Donna McMahon  
Electoral Area Representative, AVICC  
EA Director, Sunshine Coast RD (Area E)

cc: Hon. Nina Krieger, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Hon. Brittny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities