



P.O. Box 186, Bella Coola, BC V0T 1C0
Phone (250) 799-5291 Fax (250) 799-5750 Email: info@ccrd-be.ca

Board Meeting 10

NOV 14 2013

CCRD ITEM

B(1)(a)

Encompassing the Coastal Communities of Ocean Falls, Bella Bella, Denny Island, Oweekeno and the Bella Coola Valley

29 October 2013

Mr. Quentin Smith
President
Pacific Coastal Airlines

Via email: Quentin.Smith@pacificcoastal.com

Dear Mr. Smith

Bella Coola Airport – Pacific Coastal Airline Scheduled Services

At its meeting of 10 October 2013, the Central Coast Regional District's Board of Directors heard a delegation from Chief Wally Webber (Nuxalk Nation) expressing concerns with air travel and the scheduled flights provided by Pacific Coastal Airlines.

Chief Webber explained he wished to bring concerns to the Board table in order to foster dialogue toward finding solutions.

During discussion it was established that, at both our regional airports, there are frustrations with passengers or luggage being repeatedly bumped to other flights; the inability to successfully reserve airline seating for medical trips; irregular flight times; and reduction of the number of flights during summer from two to one also impacts on our fishing lodges and other tourism facilities.

People throughout the region are reliant on the services of Pacific Coast Airlines. For many, who are unwell, your service is the only way in and out of the region, when they must make the trip to attend specially organized medical appointments in Vancouver.

Since the Board meeting, we had Tweedsmuir Travel in attendance at our office, advising that four seats on the Bella Coola run aircraft are now left vacant. We were advised the reason for this was as a result of what they said are safety concerns, regarding trees at the end of the runway.

This raises two issues: 1. CCRD needs to look at the raised safety concern and 2. The regional public needs to be aware of such a business decision to reduce the number of seats as it impacts on their decisions of when to book flights and the availability of flights. To the best of my knowledge no public communication or media release has been done.

We are cognizant such a decision by Pacific Coastal Airline to reduce the number of seats being filled on the Bella Coola run, will impact on the economics of the run. Equally, the reduction in seats available on the run also has a serious impact on the community/region. To move toward a positive outcome for all, we would like the opportunity to discuss these concerns further.

So you are aware, with respect to the safety concerns raised by Pacific Coastal Airlines regarding trees at the end of the runway – my staff has now familiarized me with this issue which I've established has been a concern for some time. I can also advise that during our recent Transport Canada inspection of the Bella Coola Airport - both our Airport Manager and I raised this matter with them. We discussed options to establish levels of risk and possible remedial actions. Subsequently, my staff will be doing an assessment of the trees and will prepare recommendations once the assessment has been completed. We will keep you informed of the outcome of this assessment.

What is evident to me, as a new comer to the region, is the people of this region do value their relationship with Pacific Coastal Airlines. And, on behalf of the residents of this region, the CCRD Board wishes to work with your organization to ensure we continue to build that relationship. Accordingly, at its meeting 10 October 2013 the CCRD Board of Directors resolved:

13-10- 4 ...that a senior representative from Pacific Coastal Airlines be formally invited to a forthcoming CCRD meeting and that the invitation be extended to Chief Webber of the Nuxalk Nation, Chief Slett of the Heiltsuk Nation and Chief Frank Johnson of the Wuikinuxv Nation so the board can express air travel concerns.

CARRIED

You are therefore, cordially invited to attend a forthcoming CCRD Board meeting to discuss various issues and possible solutions that work for all concerned. Our next two Board meetings prior to Christmas are: 14 November 2013 or 12 December 2014. If you are unable to attend either of these meetings our Board will reconvene after Christmas on the 13 February 2014. Please choose a meeting date that you are able to attend and let me know so I can send the necessary invitation to the various Chiefs, in accordance with the resolution.

I look forward to meeting your personally, as do our Board and invited guests.

Yours sincerely
CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT



Darla Blake
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Cheryl Waugh, Transportation Service Coordinator
Ken McIlwain, Public Works Manager



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COPY

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Encompassing the Coastal Communities of Ocean Falls, Bella Bella, Denny Island, Oweekeno and the Bella Coola Valley

30 October 2013

**Chief Webber of the Nuxalk Nation,
Chief Slett of the Heiltsuk Nation and
Chief Frank Johnson of the Wuikinuxv Nation**

Via email:

chiefcouncil@nuxalknation.org
MSlett@heiltsuknation.ca
johnson.f.a50@gmail.com

Dear Chief

Pacific Coastal Airline Scheduled Services

At its meeting of 10 October 2013, the Central Coast Regional District's Board of Directors heard a delegation from Chief Wally Webber (Nuxalk Nation) expressing concerns with air travel and the scheduled flights provided by Pacific Coastal Airlines.

Chief Webber explained he wished to bring concerns to the Board table in order to foster dialogue toward finding solutions.

During discussion it was established that, at both our regional airports, there are frustrations with passengers or luggage being repeatedly bumped to other flights; the inability to successfully reserve airline seating for medical trips; irregular flight times; and reduction of the number of flights during summer from two to one also impacts on our fishing lodges and other tourism facilities.

People throughout the region are reliant on the services of Pacific Coast Airlines. For many, who are unwell, the service is the only way in and out of the region when making the trip to attend specially organized medical appointments in Vancouver.

At the conclusion of the discussion the CCRD Board of Directors resolved:

13-10- 4 ...that a senior representative from Pacific Coastal Airlines be formally invited to a forthcoming CCRD meeting and that the invitation be extended to Chief Webber of the Nuxalk Nation, Chief Slett of the Heiltsuk Nation and Chief Frank Johnson of the Wuikinuxv Nation so the board can express air travel concerns.

CARRIED

Administration have contacted Pacific Coastal Airlines and invited them to attend the 14 November 2013 meeting of the CCRD Board, to which they have accepted. Mr. Quentin Smith and Mr. Spencer Smith will attend the meeting and are scheduled to be heard at 1.00pm.

In accordance with the Board decision, please advise this office if will be attending the 14 November 2013 CCRD Board meeting, at 1.00pm, in our Board Room located at 626 Cliff Street Bella Coola, during the discussions with Pacific Coastal Airlines.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and you wish to add comment to the conversation, please forward your comments directly to cao@ccrd-bc.ca for inclusion in the agenda.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Yours sincerely
CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT



Darla Blake
Chief Administrative Officer

Darla Blake

From: Darla Blake <cao@ccrd-bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 2:45 PM
To: 'chiefcouncil@nuxalnation.org'; 'MSlett@heiltsuknation.ca'; 'johnson.f.a50@gmail.com'
Subject: Pacific Coastal Airlines attending 14 November 2013 CCRD Board meeting at 1.00pm
Attachments: LTR - Chief Wally Webber Chief Slett and Chief Johnson invitation to attend Nov meeting - 30 October 2013.doc

Good Afternoon

Please find attached a letter of invitation to attend the CCRD Board meeting of 14 November 2013 at 1.00pm , to discuss with Pacific Coastal Airlines any areas of concern regarding the services provided by the airline. If you are unable to attend, please forward your comments directly to me via email cao@ccrd-bc.ca and I will ensure these are included in our discussions with Pacific Coast

Yours sincerely

Darla Blake
Chief Administrative Officer
Central Coast Regional District
Box 186
Bella Coola, BC V0T 1C0
Tel: 250-799-5291 Fax: 250-799-5750
cao@ccrd-bc.ca www.ccrd-bc.ca

Delegation 1pm

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Darla Blake

Subject: Discussion with CCRD Board of Directors regarding airports and service
Location: CCRD Board Room - CCRD office 626 Cliff Street Bella Coola
*Item
4b (a)*

Start: Thu 11/14/2013 1:00 PM
End: Thu 11/14/2013 2:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Darla Blake
Required Attendees: Quentin.Smith@pacificcoastal.com

Good Morning Quentin

Thank you for speaking with me this morning about the letter I sent yesterday, inviting you to attend our Board Meeting to discuss various issues at the regional airports.

I am pleased you and Spencer will be available to attend our CCRD Board meeting on 14 November 2013. Should you arrive a little earlier than 1.00pm you are welcome to come to the office, we will most likely still be having our lunch.

I look forward to meeting you both, on the 14th November 2013

Darla Blake
Chief Administrative Officer