



Inter-Community Business Licence Program for 2014

Twelve municipalities from Campbell River to Duncan will participate in a new program to make obtaining a business licence easier and less costly for businesses which provide services in more than one central Vancouver Island community. This will save a business from obtaining a separate business licence from each community in which the business wishes to do business or provide services.

In partnership with the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, many communities in British Columbia have worked together to create an inter-community business licence program for their region. Municipalities participating in the central region of Vancouver Island include Campbell River, Comox, Courtenay, Cumberland, Duncan, Lake Cowichan, Ladysmith, Nanaimo, North Cowichan, Parksville, Port Alberni and Qualicum Beach.

This initiative which will start with the 2014 business licence year, will allow mobile businesses to obtain a licence from their home municipality to do business in communities from Duncan to Campbell River without having to obtain a licence from each municipality. An inter-community business licence is valid for the same term as the regular business licence issued by the community from which the inter-community business licence is purchased. A business holding an inter-community business licence must comply with all bylaws and regulations of each community in which they operate.

The program is set up so that the inter-community business licence would be an additional licence to the existing principal business licence. The annual fee for the inter-community licence would be \$150 for all participating municipalities and would be paid in full at the time of application and retained by the participating municipality that issues the licence. The fee for an inter-community business licence will be separate and additional to any municipal business licence fee that may be required.

An inter-community business is defined as a business that performs a service in more than one community by moving from client to client rather than having a client come to a fixed place of business. Such a business may or may not have a storefront or physical location in a community. This includes but is not limited to trades, plumbers, electricians, cleaning services, pest control or other similar businesses. An inter-community business does not include businesses selling goods or services from fixed or semi fixed locations where customers come to them. Examples of excluded businesses include fruit stands, roadside vehicle vendors, mobile stores, flea markets, concession stands and trade shows.

Businesses that are not mobile businesses or are not eligible for an inter-community business licence must obtain a separate business licence from each community in which they do business.

For more information contact the Town of Lake Cowichan at 250-749-6681

QUOTES:

“The Inter Community Business License Programme will allow local mobile businesses to operate outside the current existing business area at reduced costs. The removal of trade barriers between communities is something we must strive for and support. It is our hope that this programme triggers additional economic growth for all of the participating communities.”

Mayor Ross Forrest, Town of Lake Cowichan

“This new licence could potentially save businesses hundreds of dollars in licencing fees, as well as be much more convenient for them. Now with one stop at their local government office, they will be able to take care of their business licensing needs for a large part of Vancouver Island. Supporting business is good for our economy and our community.”

Mayor Larry Jangula, City of Courtenay

“The City of Duncan is committed to the creation of a business friendly environment and we are very pleased to participate in the inter-community business licence initiative. This program will make it simpler and less expensive for mobile businesses to do work in the central island.”

Mayor Phil Kent, City of Duncan

“This initiative will make obtaining a business licence easier and less costly for businesses which work, conduct business or provide services in more than one community in our region. We are pleased to support initiatives which prove helpful to businesses such as construction companies and trades people working in several mid Island communities.”

Mayor Chris Burger, City of Parksville