

To whom it may concern,

June 7, 2021

RE: SUPPORT OF EBUS INTERCITY SERVICES CONNECTING BRITISH COLUMBIA TO ALBERTA

On behalf of the Salmon Arm & District Chamber of Commerce and our business membership we are writing to you in support of Ebus extending its current intercity bus service to connect British Columbia (BC) and Alberta (AB). We believe that the Ebus service in BC has provided intercity transport through the City of Salmon Arm and smaller communities along route in the Thompson-Okanagan region since 2019.

When Greyhound ended service in 2018 through our region, this left a critical gap in transportation options which link Salmon Arm to major centres in the interior, Vancouver, and into AB. We are not aware of an existing service that provides this linkage across the majority of the two provinces, that offers the superior customer service, supports the communities that they service, and ensures a sustainable business for residents and visitors.

One of our members Jennifer Kent commented: "As the province reopens to tourism, I think the Ebus Route Expansion to Sicamous, Revelstoke, Golden, Lake Louise, Banff, Canmore and Calgary would be of incredible value to Salmon Arm and have positive ripple effects through both the Shuswap and Okanagan regions. This is a fantastic way to help bring more tourism dollars into the community and stimulate the economy. It also provides a more affordable and scenic form of travel between these destinations for many people who would not otherwise have the chance."

We believe that there is a high demand for visitors and residents alike that need cross provincial access to medical, employment, educational, social, and tourism opportunities. Further, we believe that this service would help our community by bring more people to it and contributing to the local economy. Local owners, Susan and Doug Toop, from Master Locksmith Services Inc. agree there should be a reliable form of transportation that provides a link for those who cannot drive or need to travel a distance without the use of their own vehicle.

The Salmon Arm Chamber of Commerce and our members strongly support the application by Ebus to expand intercity services connecting British Columbia to Alberta. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and appreciate Ebus being a loyal Chamber Member and contributing to the economic future of Salmon Arm.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Rennie, MSc.

Executive Director

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