



VILLAGE OF BELCARRA

"Between Forest and Sea"

4084 BEDWELL BAY ROAD, BELCARRA, B.C. V3H 4P8

TELEPHONE 604-937-4100 FAX 604-939-5034

belcarra@belcarra.ca • www.belcarra.ca



October 23, 2018

Dear Neighbors,

I am humbled and excited to begin the journey as Mayor of Belcarra. The first step of this journey however must be to recognize how we got here.

It is with profound gratitude that I wish Mayor Ralph Drew a relaxing and rewarding retirement from leadership of Belcarra. For more than 35 years Ralph led us to become the jewel that we are now. I'm certain I can speak on behalf of every resident when expressing our heartfelt appreciation for all of Ralph's time and effort.

Second, I would like to share how proud I am of Belcarra for having the highest voter turnout of any municipality in British Columbia. 85% of Belcarra's qualified voters cast ballots in this election, a staggering metric considering that the second highest turnout was Anmore with an impressive 52% participation themselves. Congratulations Belcarra for setting the Gold Standard for British Columbia!

Third, to our departing Councillors, I would also like to express gratitude on behalf of the entire Village for your contributions. There is a fitting quote attributed to Bernard de Chartres: "If we can see further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants". We are forever in your debt.

Fourth, I would like to share my respect and admiration for all candidates in this recent election. Public office is a family investment and commitment. Your offers to lead Belcarra and your energies during the campaign helped to educate, catalyze and define our way forward. I sincerely hope that you continue to contribute your expertise and energies as we go forward.

And lastly, I would like to congratulate our elected Councillors. I look forward to working with you all to support Belcarra for the next 4 years. We have been awarded an immense responsibility, one that I know you all embrace. I can't wait to get started together.

Moving forward, I would like to reconfirm my commitment to Belcarra of embracing transparency, engagement, respect and trust. Our entire leadership team will be providing ongoing communications of our progress during this period of transition and for all our steps forward together. Please note that our immediate priorities include:

- Completing a successful transition of responsibilities, information and training
- Auditing Belcarra's economic position, water system, service providers, consultants, people, processes and projects under way
- Setting up a new website that will support Belcarra-wide communications
- Setting the schedule for the Town Hall open forums
- Building relationships with our neighboring municipalities, leaders, governments and partners

Once again, and on behalf of our whole Council, thank you for trusting us to lead Belcarra forward.

Best Regards,

Neil Belenkie

Please Note: My cell number is 604 839 5313. My new village email will be published as soon as it is available.