

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **BC TRANSIT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE IN COMOX VALEY**

**COMOX VALLEY, B.C.** – On July 23, 2010, BC Transit celebrates 20 years of service in the Comox Valley.

“The Comox Valley is grateful for the great service BC Transit has provided for the past 20 years and I look forward to their continued contributions as our community grows,” said Comox Valley MLA Don McRae.

“In 20 years, BC Transit service in the Comox Valley has increased significantly to meet the growing demand for alternative forms of transportation,” said Manuel Achadinha, President and CEO of BC Transit.

The Comox Valley Transit System was implemented on July 23, 1990. In its first year of full service, the system provided conventional and paratransit service to over 200,000 riders with 5 buses. In 20 years, ridership has grown to more than 540,000, served by a fleet of 18 buses on 13 routes. Watson & Ash has been the operator for both conventional and paratransit service since the system’s inception.

“Public transit is going to play a very important role in shaping the future of the Comox Valley, as we address issues of sprawl and climate change,” said Greg Phelps, chair of the Comox Valley Regional District. “It’s a vital factor in two major Comox Valley strategies – regional growth and sustainability – that will take us through the next 20 years and beyond.”

Funding for the Transit System is cost shared between the Comox Valley Regional District and BC Transit.

More information on the Comox Valley Transit System can be found at [www.bctransit.com](http://www.bctransit.com).