

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **MORE handyDART SERVICE IN THE COWICHAN VALLEY**

**COWICHAN VALLEY, B.C.** – Starting September 7, BC Transit will introduce an additional 1,600 annual service hours to the Cowichan Valley Custom Transit System (handyDART). Along with these hours, a third custom vehicle will join the existing fleet of two vehicles. The additional hours will be dedicated to the peak service hours for handyDART passengers.

“The handyDART is a very popular service in the Cowichan Valley, so it’s great news that BC Transit is investing in more of these vehicles and boosting the number of hours they’re on the road,” said Ida Chong, Minister of Healthy Living and Sport and MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head. “This investment demonstrates a keen commitment to passenger and community needs.”

“In the last four years, ridership in the Cowichan Valley Custom Transit System has more than doubled,” said Manuel Achadinha, President and CEO of BC Transit. “This expansion will allow us to continue to provide effective service for our handyDART customers in the Cowichan Valley.”

With the expansion, customers will see additional hours provided during peak weekday service from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. daily. handyDART will also extend service hours from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. to provide late afternoon service.

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

For more information on the Cowichan Valley Custom Transit System (handyDART), call the local BC Transit operator, Volunteer Cowichan, at (250) 748-1230 or visit [www.bcstransit.com](http://www.bcstransit.com).

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Link: Volunteer Cowichan <http://volunteercowichan.bc.ca/?about-handydart,27>