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RELEASE: EXTRA SERVICE BEGINS JANUARY 3 ON NANAIMO REGIONAL TRANSIT

NANAIMO, B.C. – Starting January 3, the Nanaimo Regional Transit System will introduce an additional 4,200 hours of service to the community. The hours will be dedicated to increasing service on two popular routes, **#5 Fairview** and **#6 Harewood**.

"The expanded service will support the growing needs of our customers, enhance service, and encourage greater transit use," said Manuel Achadinha, President and CEO of BC Transit.

"These additional resources will allow transit riders to travel more efficiently into the downtown core and help alleviate parking congestion at VIU," said Parksville-Qualicum MLA Ron Cantelon. "The more people we can encourage to use our bus system the less cars we'll have on the road, therefore decreasing Nanaimo's carbon footprint."

The **#5 Fairview** and **#6 Harewood**, which serve about 12,000 residents, will increase its daily service level. The routes will operate every 30 minutes during peak periods (6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) every weekday. Service will run every hour in the evenings and during the weekend. Routes will operate as two separate trips in the evenings instead of the current combined route, reducing travel time for customers. The two routes travel through a number of neighbourhoods, including downtown Nanaimo, Vancouver Island University, and Westwood Lake.

"Increasing service on these two well-used routes will provide transit users with greater flexibility," said Regional District of Nanaimo Transit Select Committee Chair Larry McNabb. "Creating more options for our clients allows us to enhance our customer service while maintaining our commitment to improved regional sustainability by providing convenient, accessible public transportation."

To prepare for your commute and learn more about the updated schedules, visit either www.bctransit.com or www.rdn.bc.ca, or call (250) 390-4531 in Nanaimo, (250) 954-1001 in Parksville, or pick up the latest Rider's Guide.

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Media Inquiries:

Contact: Dennis Trudeau, Regional District of Nanaimo
Phone: 250-390-6505
Email: DTrudeau@rdn.bc.ca

Contact: Joanna Morton, BC Transit
Phone: 250-995-5720
Email: joanna_morton@bctransit.com