



## Statement from Kelowna Chamber of Commerce

On the cessation of Greyhound service in western Canada announced July 9, 2018

### *Tom Dyas, Past President*

“At the Kelowna Chamber, we were as surprised as anyone when we heard the announcement – we know that transportation linkages between Kelowna and surrounding communities are critical for both those living in smaller communities that access services here and for the many businesses that count on customers from around the region to add to their bottom lines.”

“We haven’t heard any feedback from our members yet but we do know some of our members utilize the package service that Greyhound has provided for many years, and will now be finding alternate carriers. Fortunately, there are options, but less competition usually leads to an increase in pricing which is a concern.”

“First and foremost, the loss of the 415 plus jobs is a negative. While it may be felt more in the smaller communities around us, as a regional centre we know there is quite an impact here. It is another sign of the growing rural-urban divide and as a regional centre that is connected to those living in the many small communities up and down the valley, the loss of this service should be a concern to our community leaders.”

“We have no doubt other businesses will step up to help fill the void – so we would recommend that government resist the temptation to jump in with a publicly operated inter-community bus service and instead look for partnerships with the private sector to fill the gap created by Greyhound’s departure.”

“Going forward it is important for governments at all levels to understand why this business decision has been made and work together to ensure community connectivity is addressed. It will require the involvement of the government as well as industry to come up with solutions that result in a service that meets the needs of our communities without creating an undue burden on local taxpayers.”

*For more information:*

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*We help grow the people who power Kelowna*

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