

In his June 27 edition letter David Winter is right about Peachland needing more development and business, but dead wrong about the HWY 97 Task Force Society's motivation being mere "noise reduction".

The reason we have no developers and new businesses moving to Peachland is because the long standing (since 1980) threat of 4 laning highway 97 makes business investment and construction impossible along our 11 kilometer waterfront strip. With turning lanes at several intersections, 4 laning really means 6 laning. Ask any of our City Councillors about how many development/business proponents have been turned away by Ministry of Transportation staff, who have responded to such developers with "we don't know" for three decades.

Make no mistake Mr Winter, Peachland will one day get either 4 lanes or a by-pass, the status quo is not an option.. If we get 4 lanes, watch our remaining businesses exit as Peachland becomes two zones separated by a freeway. Peachland must be the only sunny beachfront city in the world with 11 kilometers of stunning lakefront and no hotels for tourists. Hotels translate into tourists who stay and spend, some of whom fall in love with the City, move here and invest. Right now, most of our "tourists" are motorhomers who park on Beach Ave all day, cook their hotdogs and leave at 4 pm , all without spending a dime in our community.

Our By-pass seeking society has 660 members, which is roughly 15% of the adult population of Peachland. Mr Winter, if you don't support a by-pass then you really support 4 laning. The cost of maintaining existing Hwy 97 through town as a local road will be more than offset by additional property tax revenue from new business and development. Please support our cause by joining our Society (send us an email from our website at [www.hwy97taskforce.ca](http://www.hwy97taskforce.ca))

Peter Warner  
Vice President, HWY 97 Task Force Society.  
[peterwarner444@gmail.com](mailto:peterwarner444@gmail.com)  
107-5300 Huston Rd  
Peachland BC  
Canada V0H 1X2  
778-479-6248 (H)  
250-870-8628