



MARCH 16 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

2017 Operating Budget approved; Grant funding announced for Mackenzie Transfer Station; Regional District lends support to Northwest Invasive Plant Council

2017 Operating Budget approved

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board of Directors has approved the 2017 Operating Budget and Five-Year Financial Plan. Operating expenditures for the Regional District in 2017 will total \$46 million, \$3.2 million more than the 2016 budget. Of the \$45 million, \$18.5 million will be funded through property taxation, which is an increase of \$500,000 (2.8%) over 2016. Most of the other funding for the budget increase for 2017 is coming in the form of grants and use of reserve funds.

Significant 2017 budgeted expenditures provided by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George include Solid Waste Management (\$20.4 million); 9-1-1 Emergency Response Services (\$3.5 million); Protective Services (\$5.7 million) and Recreation & Cultural Services (\$3.6 million)

Regional District taxes per \$100,000 of residential assessment fluctuated in Electoral Areas and municipalities for 2017. Based on current assessment information, Prince George residential taxes decreased 2.7% to \$57.33 per \$100,000 residential assessment. In Mackenzie, the taxes decreased 2.8% to \$69.62. In McBride, the taxes went from \$394.15 per \$100,000 residential assessment in 2016 to \$412.89 in 2017 (4.7% increase). Valemount will see a 2.7% increase this year at \$309.97.

Grant funding announced for Mackenzie Transfer Station

The Provincial Government has announced the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is receiving a grant of \$1,534,666 from the New Building Canada – Small Communities Fund to assist with solid-waste management and the construction of a full service transfer station at the Mackenzie Regional landfill. With this funding, the Regional District will be able to go ahead with plans for the construction of a full service transfer station at the Mackenzie Regional landfill.

Providing one location to residents allows for improved recycling and waste disposal. It provides the opportunity not only for residents to divert materials more conveniently but also helps the Regional District meet the waste diversion goals. The new transfer station design will be coordinated to ensure needs of the local garbage collection services and the community's desire for more convenient disposal and recycling.

Project budget and timeline will be updated, but it is expected to be complete in the fall of 2018.

Regional District lends support to Northwest Invasive Plant Council

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George will provide \$25,000 to support the work of the Northwest Invasive Plant Council. The council provides support and coordination for those involved in the various aspects of invasive plant management including awareness, inventory, treatments and assessment. The funding comes from Community Grants-in-Aid from all seven electoral areas.

Community Grants

The Board approved the following requests for Community and Recreation Grants:

- \$895 to the Ness Lake Recreation Commission for community rink expenses
- \$1400 to the Reid Lake Farmers Institute for insurance
- \$12,000 to the Buckhorn Volunteer Fire Fighters Association for equipment upgrades and first aid supplies
- \$3500 to the Longworth Recreation Association for insurance, utilities and building expenses
- \$3500 to the Sinclair Mills Education and Research Club for operating expenses
- \$4000 to the Autumn Lodge Society for seniors activities expenses
- \$2500 to the McBride Centennial Elementary School for swimming lessons
- \$1500 to the Robson Valley Arts and Culture Council for entertainer expenses
- \$1500 to the Valemount Arts and Cultural Society for performance expenses
- \$6000 to the Valemount Curling Club for insurance.
- \$21,000 to the Prince George Agricultural & Historical Association (thru Community Grants in Aid from Areas A, C, D, E, F, and G)

For further information, please contact

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REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George

1967-2017 50 years of building strong communities