



MARCH 15 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

2018 Budget Approved; Illegal Dumping update; Regional District renews REAPS contract

2018 Budget Approved

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board of Directors has approved the 2018 Operating Budget and Five-Year Financial Plan.

Operating expenditures for the Regional District in 2018 will total \$45.8 million, roughly \$200,000 less than the 2017 budget. Of the \$45.8 million, \$18.8 million will be funded through property taxation, which is an increase of \$300,000 over 2017. Most of the other funding for the budget for 2018 is coming in the form of grants and use of reserve funds.

Significant 2018 budgeted expenditures provided by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George include Solid Waste Management (\$21.4 million); 9-1-1 Emergency Response Services (\$3.9 million); Protective Services (\$4 million) and Recreation & Cultural Services (\$3.7 million)

Regional District Chairman Art Kaehn says the 2018 budget is a reflection of some significant capital projects and purchases, including the Foothills Boulevard Regional Landfill Entrance Re-location project, Mackenzie Regional Landfill conversion to transfer station and equipment purchases for Volunteer Fire Departments. It also reflects a decline in the requisition for waste reduction. "We are excited to move forward on some big projects that will improve quality of life for residents in our region without a significant impact on taxation," says Kaehn.

Kaehn notes that an increase or decrease in the overall requisition does not always translate to what residents will see reflected on their tax bill. The budget can affect communities in the region differently depending on a number of variables such as services provided to that area, fluctuations in property assessments and a change in the amount of residential or commercial properties that share in the funding of a particular service.

Illegal Dumping update

Insp. Mark West from the Conservation Officer (CO) Service was on hand to provide an update with respect to illegal dumping. He indicated illegal dumping poses a health risk and impacts the environment and the economy. He encouraged anyone who sees illegal dumping to report it immediately to the RAPP line (Report All Poachers and Polluters) at 1-877-952-7277. The line is open 24/7 and calls can be anonymous.

Regional District renews REAPS contract

The Regional District is renewing its contract with REAPS (Recycling Environmental Action Planning Society) for promotional and educational services. Since 2007 REAPS has been providing promotion and education throughout the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George on waste reduction and home composting. Since 2015, REAPS has delivered over 600 presentations to more than 14,000 participants ranging from school classes to community groups. The new agreement goes until April 2021.

Community Grants

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

- \$7200 to the Pilot Mountain Recreation Commission for insurance, utilities and program expenses
- \$1000 to the Mud River-Beverly Farmers Institute for the 2018 District D AGM
- \$4000 to the Nadsilnich Lake Community Association for utilities, program costs and maintenance
- \$30,000 to the Tabor Mountain Recreation Society for administrative assistance expenses
- \$3500 to the Longworth Recreation Commission for insurance, utilities and event costs
- \$5000 to the Bear Lake Improvement Society for trees, flowers and supplies
- \$1000 to the Bear Lake Recreation Commission for training and volunteer appreciation
- \$1000 to the Bear Lake Volunteer Firefighter Association for volunteer appreciation and public education expenses
- \$5000 to the Ozalenka Alpine Club for cabin and trail maintenance
- \$3000 to the Robson Valley Spay and Neuter Society for program costs
- \$1000 to the Valemount Secondary PAC for travel expenses
- \$21,000 to the Prince George Agricultural and Historical Association for BCNE expenses

For further information, please contact

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REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George