



**REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George**

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2011

April 21 Board Meeting Highlights

Cancer Lodge Receives Regional District Support; “Beyond the Market: Growing the North” project details shared; Permit for campground at Summit Lake approved; Increased funds for highway rescue sought; Feasibility Study for Robson Valley Transit Service Released

Cancer Lodge Receives Regional District Support

Electoral areas within the Regional District will be contributing \$16,000 to a lodge for patients and family undergoing cancer treatment in Northern BC. All seven electoral areas are contributing. Funding will go to support the construction of the Kordyban Cancer Lodge, which will be operated by the Canadian Cancer Society. The lodge is expected to start construction later this year, and is scheduled to open at the same time as the Cancer Centre for the North, in late 2012.

“Beyond the Market; Growing the North” project details shared

Representatives from Community Futures of Fraser-Fort George provided details about a strategy to strengthen and diversify the produce industry in Northern BC by building and enhancing networks between producers, distributors and consumers. The overall strategy includes initiatives such as local purchasing pilot projects, assessing feasibility of regional storage, distribution and processing infrastructure and exploring value-added opportunities. The overall cost of the strategy is nearly \$200,000, with partial support provided from REDI-BC, Omineca Beetle Action Coalition, and Community Futures. The Regional District has been asked for a \$20,000 contribution.

Permit for campground at Summit Lake approved

A public hearing was held to review an application proposing to open a commercial campground on Summit Lake. An initial public hearing was held on April 5, and then reopened at the April Board Meeting. The proposed site has historically been operated as a Ministry of Forest recreational camp site. The applicant has indicated that they will use the existing layout and infrastructure on the property to operate the campground. The Regional District voted to approve a three year Temporary Commercial Use Permit that includes provisions for noise control, site supervision and security, sewage disposal, and signage regarding the Regional District boat noise bylaw.

Increased funds for highway rescue sought

Regional District will be sending a letter to the Minister of Public Safety and the Solicitor General requesting a meeting to discuss increased funds for highway rescue services.

Feasibility Study for Robson Valley Transit Service Released

BC Transit provided information on a feasibility study it conducted for transit service for Robson Valley. The Robson Valley - Canoe Transit Feasibility Study reviewed the area of Valemount, McBride and Electoral area "H" to determine the suitability of a public transportation service. The study took into consideration travel times, target markets, and coverage. In the end, the study determined a transit service would not be feasible due to high cost of service, travel patterns and demographics, but recommended alternatives such as ridesharing and a volunteer transportation network.

Community Grants

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

- \$6500 to the Ness Lake Fire Fighters Society for jackets
- \$1000 to the Nukko Lake Elementary PAC for a swim program
- \$5500 to the Pilot Mountain Recreation Commission for insurance, swimming lessons, program costs, etc
- \$765 to the Miworth Community Association for Directors' Liability Insurance
- \$567 to the Nadsilnich Lake Community Association for lighting upgrades
- \$3000 to the Pineview Elementary School PAC for a radar sign
- \$1500 to the Pineview Recreation Commission for event costs
- \$35,000 to the Tabor Lake Clean Up Society for weed harvesting program expenses
- \$10,000 to the Longworth Recreation Commission for building renovations, utilities, insurance and event costs
- \$7100 to the Bear Lake Recreation Association for insurance, park landscaping, and volunteer appreciation
- \$7000 to the McLeod's Lake Centennial Club for operating expenses
- \$3000 to the McLeod's Lake Post Historical Society for operating expenses
- \$3800 to the Fraser River Boating Association for start up costs
- \$1200 to the McBride Centennial Elementary for swim program costs
- \$650 to the McBride Farmers Institute for liability insurance

The Board provided a \$50,000 grant to Fort George Highway Rescue to support their operations. Funding was provided from Electoral Areas Area A, E, F and G.

The Board approved a grant of \$16,094 to the Canadian Cancer Society for construction of the Kordyban Cancer Lodge. All seven Electoral Areas are contributing.

The Board approved a grant of \$9000 to the Prince George Exhibition to support the Heritage Lane attraction at the 2011 PG-X. Funding has been provided from Electoral Areas A, C, E, F, G, and H.

For further information, please contact
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