



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2011



December 15 Board Meeting Highlights

Regional District elects Chair and Vice Chair; Regional District expresses support for Invest North Central BC initiative; Regional Grants policy revised; Powder King Resort seeking changes to liquor license;

Regional District elects Chair and Vice Chair

Directors with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George have elected Art Kaehn (Electoral Area E, Hixon-Woodpecker) as the Chair and Dave Wilbur (City of Prince George) as Vice-Chair. Mr. Kaehn has served as Chair of the Regional District since 2007. This is Mr. Wilbur's first term as Vice-Chair. All fourteen directors were officially sworn in for their three year term on the Regional District board.

Regional District expresses support for Invest North Central BC initiative

The Regional District will be sending a letter to Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation to express support the "Invest North Central BC" initiative. The initiative will be patterned after a similar initiative for the North West. The initiative would produce a new regionally focused investment attraction web portal for the north-central interior in 2012. The initiative would partner with Northern Development Initiatives Trust and will be jointly led by community economic development professionals and involve the communities of Prince George, Mackenzie, Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Valemount, McBride and the Regional Districts of Fraser-Fort George and Bulkey-Nechako. This regional web portal would directly enhance investor's access to opportunities in the north-central interior, while also directly building on each communities' capacity to respond to and act on investment inquiries

Regional Grants policy revised

Directors approved revisions to the Regional Grants-in-Aid policy. The revisions help to streamline the process and define the criteria in which applications will be reviewed. The policy sets out that grants up to \$2000 are available to non-profit organizations for activities taking place within the Regional District that have a region-wide benefit. More information and the application form will be posted on the Regional District website shortly.

Powder King Resort seeking changes to liquor license

The Regional District will be supporting an application from Powder King Mountain Resort for changes to their liquor license. Powder King is hoping to amend their license to include the cafeteria area to the licensed area. The change would see another 135 seats added to the current 132 seat license, with the intent of being able to use the extended area during special events, not normal operating hours. They are also looking to add an additional hour to their liquor sales on Friday and Saturdays, and a two hour increase on Sundays. As part of the application process, the local government is asked to provide comment.

Community Grants

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

- \$650 to the Nukko Lake Recreation Commission for community event expenses
- \$5000 to the Hixon Community Association for Seniors' tea and volunteer assisted living program costs
- \$19,000 to the Hixon Community Association for community hall maintenance, program, Rick Hansen relay
- \$10,000 to the Hixon Volunteer Fire Department Society for fire hall and property accessibility improvements
- \$40,000 to the Willow River Recreation Association for community activity centre construction
- \$1200 to McBride Centennial Elementary for swimming lesson expenses
- \$2200 to McBride Secondary School for school trips
- \$1000 to the McBride Model Railroad Society for train station renovations and display tables
- \$500 to Valemount Secondary PAC for student trips
- \$25,000 to the Chilako River-Nechako Community Endowment Fund
- \$42,500 to the Woodpecker-Hixon Community and Term Endowment Fund
- \$5000 to the Miworth Community Association for hall, rink and gazebo repairs

For further information, please contact
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