



## MARCH 21 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### 2019 Budget Approved; Province provides update on land selections process at Summit Lake

#### 2019 Budget Approved

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Board of Directors has approved the 2019 Operating Budget and Five-Year Financial Plan.

Expenditures (operating and capital) for the Regional District in 2019 will total \$51.1 million. Of the \$51.1 million, \$19.3 million will be funded through property taxation, which is an increase of \$450,000 or 2.4% over 2018. Most of the other funding for the budget for 2019 is coming in the form of grants, user fees and use of reserve funds.

Significant 2019 budgeted expenditures provided by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George include Solid Waste Management (\$22.8 million); 9-1-1 Emergency Response Services (\$6.5 million); Protective Services (\$5.8 million) and Recreation & Cultural Services (\$3.6 million)

Regional District Chairman Art Kaehn says the 2019 budget reflects an investment in capital projects in a number of key areas including solid waste management and the 9-1-1 emergency service. "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.

Regional District taxes per \$100,000 of residential assessment decreased in all municipalities and electoral areas for 2019. In Prince George, the taxes decreased 4% to \$53.32 per \$100,000 residential assessment. In Mackenzie, taxes are down 3.8% to \$61.84 per \$100,000 residential assessment. Valemount will see a 3.5% decrease at \$283.05 per \$100,000 residential assessment. McBride will see decrease of 2.9% at \$414.28. However, those decreases may not result in a decrease on the tax bill for many homeowners in the region. The average increase region-wide in property assessment was 6.57%, meaning that the overall amount homeowners are taxed on may have increased.

#### Province provides update on land selections process at Summit Lake

Representatives from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation provided an update to Regional District directors on the Treaty Land Entitlement land selections process for West Moberly First Nations. Provincial and Federal governments are in discussions with five First Nations on compensation for lands owed to them for more than 100 years through Treaty 8 including the West Moberly First Nations. Specific parcels of Crown land have been identified in the Summit Lake area and discussions are ongoing between West Moberly First Nations, Provincial and Federal Government as well as local stakeholders.

---

**Community Grants**

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

- \$1500 to the Lakes Community Horse Club for insurance
- \$662 to the Nukko Lake Recreation Commission for insurance
- \$25,000 to the Red Rock/Stoner Volunteer Fire Department Association for training grounds completion expenses
- \$3500 to the Longworth Recreation Commission for insurance, utilities and events
- \$1000 to the Junior Canadian Rangers Valemount Patrol for training camp equipment
- \$1000 to the McBride Secondary School for basketball championship expenses

**For further information, please contact**

Renee McCloskey  
Manager of External Relations  
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George  
250-960-4453



**REGIONAL DISTRICT  
of Fraser-Fort George**