

FROM THE 'BEAR PIT'



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NORTHERN ROCKIES REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Council Conditionally Supports Centre Road

Mayor Streeper informed Council that the Province was considering reallocating \$50 million dollars from the Sierra Yoyo Desan (SYD) road to a new Centre Road which would cut straight from Fort Nelson into the Horn River Basin. Council recognized that the new road will make transportation for local workers and companies more effective and efficient, but raised some concerns that the new road could be used by the oil and gas companies to further bypass Fort Nelson.

Council took the night to consider the matter and met again the following day. After further discussion, Council came to the unanimous decision to support the development of the Centre Road with the following conditions:

1. That any reallocation of Provincial funds for the project will not diminish the completion of the SYD road project (pavement to Km 30, and a well-maintained, dust-controlled gravel surface from Km 30 to Km 187);
2. That this approval is predicated and tied to the commitments of industry to encourage the workforce to reside in Fort Nelson as outlined in both the HRBPG letter to Minister Coleman dated March 29th, 2011 and the email from Rob Spitzer to Regional Council dated May 20th, 2011 in response to the Regional Council's proposals for local employment and housing incentive programs;
3. That the Regional Council will be fully engaged in all future project design and planning stages for the central access road project;
4. That the explicit understanding that this central access road is seen as integral step in the process of Fort Nelson being established as the service centre for all resource development in the Northern Rockies;
5. That the Centre road be designated as a 'Resource Road' and constructed to a highway standard sufficient to allow logging trucks to travel the route;
6. That the Horn River Producer's Group commit to the maintenance of the Centre Road through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, that includes a provision stating preference shall be given to hiring local maintenance contractors wherever feasible and cost competitive.

Height Allowance increased for Ramada Expansion

Regional Council approved the development variance permit requesting an increase to the height allowance for the Ramada Expansion project (5036 50th Ave North). This increase will allow the expansion to feature a 12 foot grand lobby and a sloped roof.

Also of note...

- Council expanded the arena board signage agreement to include the Minor Hockey Association and the Figure 8s Skating club in addition to the Mile 300 Figure Skating Club.
- Council Approved funding for three pick-up trucks to replace aging vehicles in the Municipal fleet.
- Council gave third reading and adopted NRRM Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 47, allowing for the development of mixed residential/commercial properties at the corner of 52nd Ave W and Simpson Trail.
- Stikine Energy Corporation presented their proposed frac-sand mine and processes to Regional Council.