

August 13, 2018

Council Meets With Fort Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce Members

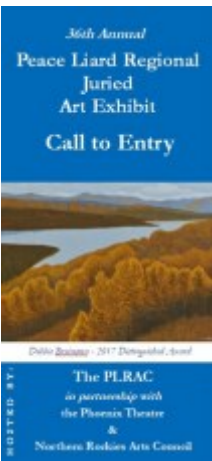
REGIONAL COUNCIL MET WITH Chamber of Commerce members August 13th to discuss a range of current topics such as the Community Forest Agreement (CFA), Revitalization Tax Exemption, local procurement, activities undertaken by the BC Chamber of Commerce and 2018 Visitor Information Centre insights .

During the meeting, the Chamber distributed the findings of a recent survey of members regarding the Community Forest Agreement application, indicating that some aspects require further communication. A good discussion was had about the CFA with next steps and the role of BC Timber Sales being clarified.

A [letter of support](#) for the CFA was presented to Council. [More information.](#)

Regional Council and the Chamber also discussed the proposed Revitalization Tax Exemption Program, with concerns being raised about the short timeline and potential to entice competition for existing businesses.

Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibit Presentation



ON BEHALF OF THE 36th Annual [Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibit](#), Regional Council was presented with an art piece entitled “Curiosity” by Monicque Jacobs. The exhibit was a joint effort by the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council, the Northern Rockies Community Arts Council and the Phoenix Theatre and was on display during the month of May at the theatre.

Jacobs’ artwork, along with that of [11 other regional artists](#), will be included in the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council’s 2019 calendar.



On behalf of Council, Mayor Streeper receives a photographic work entitled “Curiosity” by Monicque Jacobs, from the artist and fellow Northern Rockies Community Arts Council member Kimberly Normandeau.

Council Considers Revitalization Tax Exemption (RTE) Program Details

REVITALIZATION TAX EXEMPTION (RTE) PROGRAMS and bylaws are tools that local governments may use as incentives to advance community goals. In fall 2017, Regional Council indicated interest in implementing a RTE Program with the goals of economic diversification, job creation, industry development and increase to the local tax base.

After reviewing the proposed program and concerns raised by community members, Regional Council resolved to take a two-phased approach to implementing a RTE program in the NRRM. An RTE program designed to specifically entice major industries (such as a forestry mill or gas plant) to the region will continue to be fast-tracked (with implementation planned for this fall), while a second RTE program to more generally attract light industry and commercial ventures will be reviewed in more depth prior to Council’s decision. [More information](#)

2018 4th Quarter Grants-in-Aid

FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER of 2018, Regional Council approved Grant-in-Aid funding/fee exemptions for the following groups/organizations: [Northern Rockies Community Arts Council](#). This was the final application intake for 2018 and this year’s grants were within the 2018 budget of \$20,000. [More information](#)

2018 Grants-in-Aid

Quarter 1	\$5,749
Quarter 2	\$7,523
Quarter 3	\$4,000
Quarter 4	\$523
2018 Total	\$17,795

Also of note...

- REGIONAL COUNCIL RATIFIED AN email poll to provide a [letter of support](#) to the Northern Rockies Seniors Society (NRSS). The NRSS is submitting an application to Employment and Social Development Canada “Enabling Accessibility in Communities” grant fund for the paving of the Heritage Place parking lot and driveway.
- REGIONAL COUNCIL CONSIDERED AN AMENDMENT of the [Procedures Bylaw](#) to limit the number of consecutive meetings that Council members may attend electronically. It was resolved that Regional Council must attend *in camera* (confidential) meetings in person. [More information](#)
- REGIONAL COUNCIL DISCUSSED opportunities to improve [regional signage](#) within the NRRM to better identify and market the area. [More information](#)
- REGIONAL COUNCIL RESOLVED TO issue a letter to lobby the BC government regarding the Employer Health Tax coming in 2019. The additional expense is proving to be substantial for business and [municipalities](#). [More information](#)
- EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2019, the federal government is eliminating the municipal officer’s expense allowance, that currently exempts one third of an elected officials’ stipend from income tax. Regional Council resolved to increase stipends starting in 2019 in an amount to compensate for the increased income tax. [More information](#)

- COUNCIL AWARDED THE Northern Rockies Regional Airport Obstacle Limitation Service (OLS) Clearing Contract to M & M Resources Ltd. in the amount of \$190,360 plus 10% contingency and applicable taxes. [More information](#)
- THE NORTHERN ROCKIES REGIONAL AIRPORT Wastewater Lagoon Fencing contract was awarded to Northern Woodworker Ltd. in the amount of \$81,499.37 plus 10% contingency and applicable taxes. [More information](#)
- COUNCIL AWARDED THE Airport Connector Water Main Phase III Pump Station & Reservoir Upgrades contract to Canadian Western Mechanical in the amount of \$1,173,584 plus 10% contingency and applicable taxes. [More information](#)
- A PUBLIC HEARING WAS held prior to the Regional Council meeting regarding Northern Rockies Regional Municipality [Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 155, 2018 Cannabis-Related Business](#). Hearing no opposition, Council adopted the zoning amendment bylaw, which is a necessary step in building the NRRM’s regulatory framework in light of the pending cannabis legalization. [More information](#)

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Engage Northern Rockies