



Mayor Foster proclaims February 17-23 as Heritage Week in the NRRM, presenting the proclamation to Kathy Schultz and Jayme Unruh of the Fort Nelson Historical Society.

Zoning Bylaw Amendment to Vehicle Storage Regulations Approved

Regional Council adopted the [Zoning Amendment \(Vehicle Storage Regulation\) Bylaw No. 178, 2020](#). This amendment provides Major Home-Based Businesses in Rural Residential areas with greater clarity and consistency in regulations for vehicle storage and impound facilities, as a result of recent public engagement on the issue.



2020 Preliminary Budget Meetings Underway

Regional Council has begun the process of reviewing the 2020 Preliminary Budget.

Starting with a session to discuss BC Assessment's property valuation and the effect on the tax levy, Council is in the process of reviewing operating and capital budgets. An Open House event is scheduled for 4:00pm on **February 20, 2020** at the Recreation Centre Community Hall to allow the public an opportunity to ask questions and provide comment.

Public Comments at Regional Council Meetings

Regional Council has adopted [Regional Council Procedure Amendment \(Public Comment\) Bylaw No. 177, 2020](#). The bylaw change will allow a public comment period near the beginning of regular Council meetings to allow attendees to comment on agenda items prior to Council discussion and voting.

Charge North Initiative

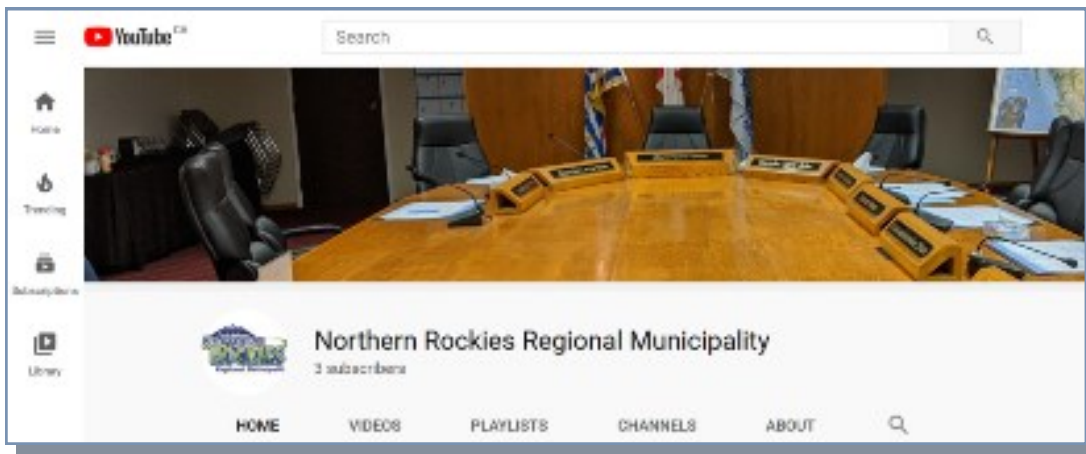
The Charge North Project has a goal of installing a public charging network throughout BC, and has approached the NRRM with an opportunity to install level two charging stations at a reduced cost, through their facilitated project.

Given the recent increase in demand for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, Regional Council asked staff to provide a report regarding participating in the Charge North Project and any other EV charging station funding opportunities. [Administration Report No. 40/20](#) • [Map](#) • [Attachment 2](#) • [Attachment 3](#)

2020 Local Government Intern Program Application Submission

Regional Council approved the submission of an application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) [Local Government Internship Program](#) for a grant of up to \$35,000 to host an intern for 12 months beginning May 1, 2020.

This program allows the municipality to benefit from additional staff capacity, while providing a valuable work experience to a graduate in the local government field. Local government interns have been hosted by the NRRM in the past, and have enhanced several key municipal projects. [Administration Report No. 13/20](#)



Council Meeting Video Recording/Streaming

Regional Council recorded and streamed the February 10, 2020 Council meeting with success. The meeting can be accessed on YouTube by searching NRRM or accessing <https://www.northernrockies.ca/councilcast>. To date, the February 10, 2020 Regional Council has received 205 views.



Mayor Foster at the Association of BC Forest Professionals Conference

Also of note...

- Kristi Leer addressed Regional Council regarding an accessibility program ([StepUp](#)) that is being presented to other jurisdictions and senior levels of government. Ms. Leer specifically requested that Regional Council implement a more enhanced accessibility parking spaces at the Municipal Offices. Regional Council resolved to review options for including enhanced parking spaces at all municipal facilities.
- Regional Council endorsed Jason White's [petition](#) requesting a refund of carbon tax to NRRM residents. The petition is available at the Municipal Office front counter for anyone wishing to add their name.
- Regional Council approved six applications for [2020 Second Quarter Grant-in-Aid Program](#). [Attachment 1](#) • [Attachment 2](#) • [Attachment 3](#)
- Regional Council approved a grant application to UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund-Emergency Support Services Funding Stream to cover 100% of the costs up to \$25,000 for the purchase of supplies and equipment for Emergency Support Services. [Administration Report No. 10/20](#)
- Regional Council resolved to phase-out community rentals of the Municipal Offices after-hours and instead will be reviewing options to have the Recreation Centre used for these rentals.
- [Correspondence](#) was received from Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Mark Zacharias, in response to the December 23, 2019 [NRRM Letter to Deputy Minister Zacharias](#) following up on discussions at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention last September.

