



Aquatic Super Heroes (staff photo)



# From the Bear Pit

## Regional Council Newsletter

November 9, 2020

### First Quarter Grant-in-Aid Requests Approved

A resolution of Council was passed for the 2021 Grant-in-Aid budget be pre-approved for \$20,000 and that the first four applications be approved in principle.

- Fort Nelson Events Society (Northern Lights Festival)
- Fort Nelson Playschool Society (Preschool programming)
- Fort Nelson Rod & Gun Club (clubhouse improvements)
- Northern Rockies Triathlon (annual event)

The program is governed by the [Grant in Aid Policy](#) and has four quarterly intakes throughout the year. All applications can be approved by council in the quarter they are received; regardless of which quarter the event occurs. [Grant-in-Aid program information](#) can be found on the NRRM website.

[Administration Report No. 79/20](#) • [Attachment I](#) • [GIA Review Summary](#)

### Procedure Bylaw Changes

COVID-19 Public Health Orders have led to changes in council meeting formats driven by technology. Modernizations to reflect the new environment were proposed to Council that include:

- A reduction to one council meeting in the month of September to accommodate the Union of BC Municipalities Annual Convention
- A move to making printed agendas optional in favour of online agendas and reducing requirements for other printed documents where they are available digitally.
- Extending current virtual meeting practices to include the streaming of all public meeting
- Consideration of decision-based minutes for recorded meetings, rather than narrative-based.

Council discussed the proposed changes. [Administration Report No. 78/20](#)

Did you know that you can watch Regional Council meetings (even special meetings) from the comfort of your own home?

Click to visit the municipal YouTube channel by searching NRRM or accessing



### NDIT Annual Grant Applications

Regional Council approved submission of the following application submissions to the Northern Development Initiative Trust:

- Grant Writing Support Program for up to \$8000 to offset the costs of providing grant services.
- Economic Development Capacity Building Program for up to \$50,000 to partially fund a Regional Economic Development Officer position
- 2021 Business Façade Improvement Program for up to \$20,000

[Administration Report No. 80/20](#)

### Also of note...

- Staff proposed to draft a modern road renaming bylaw to replace the existing bylaw dating from the 1970s, including a provision for road renaming in light of a 2019 request from Fort Nelson First Nation to rename Reserve Road. Council opted to revisit the bylaw at a later date. [Administration Report No. 81/20](#) • [Village of Fort Nelson Bylaw No. 181, 1979](#)

### COVID-19: Updated Provincial Health Orders

A new Public Health Order requires that all individuals, places of work and businesses in B.C. must significantly reduce social interactions and travel. Masks are now mandatory in all public indoor and retail spaces in B.C. More information on the new requirements can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions>

### Protect yourself, protect each other



### NAV Canada Aeronautical Study Update

NAV Canada is initiating an Aeronautical Study to review the Air Traffic Service and aviation weather requirements at 24 airports throughout Canada including the Northern Rockies Regional Airport (NRRRA).

As a result of the study NAV Canada may reduce service levels on a permanent basis, including flight services, local weather reporting and evening runway lights operations. The Airport is vital to Fort Nelson as it provides for the delivery of essential services.

These services are critical to the NRRM and a reduction would likely shift the financial burden on to the Municipality.

NAV Canada has scheduled a stakeholder meeting for November 13 and is receiving feedback until December 7, 2020. The NRRM is requesting a

### Grant Application to Fund Fire Hall & Public Works Building Structural Repairs

The concrete aprons at the Public Works (PW) and Fire Hall building was to be replaced this year, when significant foundation deterioration was uncovered. A subsequent condition report outlined concerns with poor quality concrete and poor construction methods at the time of construction in 1978, and that the entire foundation be replaced.

A potential funding opportunity exists through the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP)-Community Economic Resilience Stream, and Council approved the submission of an application. The preliminary estimates for replacement of the perimeter and interior foundations total \$994,500, 100% of which is eligible for funding.

[Administration Report No. 82/20](#) • [Administration Report No. 83/20](#)

- Council received a [letter](#) from Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations Deputy Minister John Allan regarding this year's virtual Union Of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention meeting with Regional Council, A similar [letter](#) was received from Deputy Minister of Finance Lori Wannamaker.
- A report on Mayor Foster's discretionary spending from July 1—September 30, 2020 was received for information. [Report Q3](#)

