

Public health orders and restrictions extended to February 5



Non-essential
travel advisory



Socialize with your
household only



Restrictions to
amateur sports



High-risk group
fitness suspended



Masks mandatory in
indoor public places



No events or
gatherings

COVID-19 IN BC



From the Bear Pit

Regional Council Newsletter

January 25 2021

Physician Housing Program

With ongoing nursing shortages the Fort Nelson General Hospital (FNGH) has indicated they would like to continue to utilize the NRRM's rental Property. There is an anticipated need for the 2021 accommodation of health practitioners and locum physicians. FNGH has indicated they have arranged for a \$500 per month stipend towards the accommodations provided by the NRRM which will be integrated to the final NRRHD budget prior to consideration and approval. Regional Council has approved the continuation to provide accommodations for visiting health practitioners, including locum physicians on a month to month basis. [Administration Report #05/21](#)

Cultural Group Projects

Two groups spoke to Regional Council regarding pre-approval for funding of projects they are undertaking.

Regional Council has pre-approved a portion of the Phoenix Theatre Management Society budget for the purchase of a concession delivery car vehicle to facilitate deliveries of popcorn and lemonade. In 2017/2018 delivery of popcorn sales was trialed and grossed \$9400 averaging over a seven day period using personal vehicles. The Society requested pre-approval of \$18,260 to purchase a yellow VW Bug that is currently available and provide for insurance and supplies for the project.

Poplar Hills Golf and Country Club has requested a letter of support and approval of a grant application to NDRIT of up to \$50,000 to purchase two golf simulators. They are also requesting the help of Council to locate an area to house the simulators by searching the commercial areas which may need a zoning amendment. Regional Council resolved to support the grant application and the NRRM staff will assist in helping to find a suitable location for the simulators.

Discontinued Air Service in the NRRM

Regional Council approved a [Letter](#) of Support to Premier Horgan for Central Mountain Air. Due to the impacts on the aviation industry in relation to COVID-19 and with an already suffering tourism sector losing connections to larger centers, suspensions in service put more distance between our community and medical service, training and education, labor force needs and tourism. In 2020 the NRRM made every effort to support the local aviation operators by suspending landing fees and waiving lease fees. To date no relative plan or action from Provincial and Federal Governments has been announced. Mayor Foster has requested a meeting with Minister of Transportation to discuss further these issues the NRRM is facing.

WildSafeBC Community Coordinator Grant Application

In 2019 the NRRM committed to funding towards the WildSafeBC Community Coordinator in conjunction with the WildSafe BC Program. In 2020 the NRRM increased its contribution to enhance the hours within the contract and strengthen the program. Community Coordinator Eglinski presented to Regional Council at the [December 7, 2020](#) meeting an overview of the season's observations, findings and recommendations for the future.

With the desire to become a Bear Smart Community and undertake a Human Bear Conflict Management Plan the need for the NRRM and WildSafeBC to work together is crucial. Regional Council has approved the submission for an application to the 2021 WildSafeBC Community Coordinator Program and pre-approved a budget of \$6000 subject to approval of grant funds. [Administration Report #03/21](#) • [Attachment 1](#)

Grant Application for Public Works Infrastructure Improvements and Repairs

Public Works Director Watson spoke to Regional Council regarding grant funding available through the Federal/Provincial Investing in Canada Infrastructure-[COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream \(CVRIS\) program](#). The program provides 100% funded provincial grants to support infrastructure projects.

An assessment report was received in January 2021 which identified structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical components for renewal. The CVRIS program application in the amount of \$1,877,295 will address the full scope of the project including the structural foundation replacement required and items that need to be address over the next 1-5 years such as the Public Works and Fire Hall mezzanines, electrical, lighting, Fire Hall auxiliary power and mechanical issues such as ventilation.

Regional Council approved the application for submission with a deadline of January 27, 2021. [Administration Report #07/21](#)

Also of note...

- Bylaw No. 188, 2021 Procedure Amendment (Electronic Material and Virtual participation) was adopted by Regional Council. [Bylaw Report #188/21](#) • [Attachment 1](#) • [RM188 Procedure Amendment Virtual meetings](#)
- Regional Council has approved to place and advertisement in the Royal Canadian Legion 2021 Military Service Recognition Book. [Administration Report #04/21](#) • [Attachment 1](#) • [Attachment 2](#)
- Regional Council approved the various Council Appointments for 2021. [Administration Report #06/21](#)

- Regional Council approved a [Letter](#) of support for the Canada Pharmacare Act. [Endorsement of Bill C-213](#)

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

www.NorthernRockies.ca/councilcast

CouncilCast

