

From the Bear Pit

May 10, 2021

B.C.'s Homeowner Grant Centralization

All property owners can **now** claim their current year home owner grant by submitting their application to the Province.

There are **no changes** to program eligibility requirements.

How to apply?

- Apply 24/7 online: gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant
- Apply with an agent: Toll-free at 1 888 355-2700, Monday to Friday from 8:30 am-5 pm.
- Apply 24/7 using a *voice recognition application (active May 17, 2021): Toll-free at 1 888 355-2700

Homeowners can use the voice recognition application if:

Their eligible home is a principal residence, and They are applying for a basic or additional grant

Note: if a property owner uses the self-serve voice recognition option, please note, they can connect with a live agent if they wish at any time.

Municipalities will no longer accept any applications.

Where should homeowners go with questions?

Homeowners can find information about this change at: gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant, or call toll-free 1 888 355 2700



What information do I need?

- To apply you will need the tax roll number or civic address that is listed on your property tax notice.
- Note: Northern Rockies Regional Municipality jurisdiction number is 255.

Sale of 5420 48th Ave

Council were advised that another request to purchase a portion of 5420 48th Ave had been received, and after discussing the options within the Community Charter, and reflecting on their decision at the April 26th Regional Council meeting, Council decided to proceed with the direct sale of a portion of the property to Image Tech Holdings Inc. Council further requested that staff provide guidance and best practices for the disposal of municipal properties.

Also of note...

- Bylaw No.189,2021 [Street Name and Civic Address Bylaw](#) was adopted by Regional Council.
- Bylaw No. 190, 2021 ([Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw](#)) was adopted by Regional Council.
- Bylaw No. 191, 2021 (Northern Rockies Regional Municipality Five Year Financial Plan) was adopted by Regional Council. [RM 191 Bylaw Report - Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw](#)
- Bylaw No. 192, 2021 (Tax Rates Bylaw) be given first, second, third readings and final adoption. [RM192 -Bylaw Report Tax Rates 2021](#)
- Bylaw No. 193, 2021 (Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw) was adopted. [RM193- Bylaw Report- Revenue Anticipation Borrowing](#) • [Attachment](#)
- Regional Council approved of Graduation Street Banners as ratified in email poll.
- Regional Council opted to relieve the landowners from the Off-Street Parking and Loading Requirements and that security in the amount of \$30,918 is returned to the landowners, with additional security in the amount of \$5,000 be retained until the mobile home is removed (on or before June 30,2021). Further, Council resolved to remove the site specific zoning for the property.

STAGE 0 Water Conservation: Every Other Day Watering

Residents may use a watering system such as a sprinkler to irrigation system on the following days according to their address:

Even-Numbered Address

- Watering is permitted on even days of the calendar between the hours of 7:00 am to 11:00 am and 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Odd-Numbered Address

- Watering is permitted on odd days of the calendar between the hours of 7:00 am to 11:00 am and 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm

A person may water newly planted trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables, new sod or newly seeded lawn using a watering system by any method during installation and for the following 7 days but only during the prescribed watering hours.

STAGE 1 Water Conservation: Hand-Watering Only

No use of sprinkler or irrigation systems for watering

STAGE 2 Water Conservation: In-Home Water Use Only

No outdoor watering

Community Sustainability Update

Earth Day, April 22nd provided an opportunity to engage the community about environmental sustainability through a small social media campaign, a short [video](#) on the NRRM's vermicomposting system and a public [survey](#).

The Northern Waste Diversion Survey was open for five days over the week of Earth Day. All Respondents believe waste diversion is important however, common feedback indicates incorporating waste diversion into daily living is inconvenient and not encouraged through current garbage collection process.



Update on Connectivity in the NRRM

At the [March 8, 2021 Regional Council Meeting](#), Council requested that staff prepare a report that identifies the next phase in the [Regional Connective Strategy](#) which would consider potential telecommunication partners eligible for provincial or federal funding. While there are [eligible applicants](#) within the NRRM the applicants should have experience deploying the operating the proposed broadband infrastructure in Canada for a minimum of three years. Due to this requirement, local telecom providers are not eligible to apply. While other efforts have been outlined to encourage competitive services and steps have been take to pursue these steps there has been difficulty met due to Northwestel owning and controlling the existing broadband infrastructure.

Although there has been an extended period of time during communication with Northwestel around the achievement of the Municipality's objective for expanded and improved broadband service that has been largely unproductive. A recent commitment from senior staff with Northwestel for regular and purposeful discussion has been achieved. At this stage NRRM staff are encouraged with the trajectory of these discussions which have moved from being general to more specific in nature. It is anticipated that by mid year it will be clear as to whether current engagement is likely to lead to the Municipalities desired outcomes, or alternatively other measures need to be taken.

[Administration Report No. 23/21](#)

[Admin 25 Bumby Samchuck Paving Security Request](#) • [Attachment 1](#) • [Attachment 2](#)

- Regional Council awarded the 2021 Roadworks Asphalt Contract 2021-14 to Terus Construction Ltd. (DGS Astro Paving) in the amount \$679,134.97 plus 10% contingency and all applicable taxes. [Admin 26 2021 Roadworks Asphalt -Award](#)
- Regional Council resolved to enter into a non-exclusive municipal services agreement with McCuaig & Associates Engineering Ltd, for buildings, facilities, engineering and consulting. Admin 27 Town Hall Engineering Services
- Received for correspondence: [Letter to Minister Beare April 27 2021](#) • [Letter to BC Utilities Commission](#)
- Based on the extreme flooding and state of emergency in Fort Simpson Council has directed staff to reach out and determine what assistance the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality may provide to the community in this time of need.
- Council adopted the 2020 Financial Statements and Auditors reports for the NRRM & NRRHD. [NRRM Financial Statements 2020](#) • [NRRHD Financial Statements 2020](#)