

# News Release

Friday, February 12, 2016  
For immediate release  
16-07

## Gas Tax Grant Confirmed for SKP Pool Upgrade

*Central Cariboo* - The Cariboo Regional District received confirmation that the grant application to the Federal Gas Tax Funding for the Sam Ketcham Pool Upgrade at the West Fraser Aquatic Centre through the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) was approved. A total of \$4 million will be used towards the major renovations of the facility which will take place over the next two years.

“The grant funding will allow us to better deal with potential cost increases to the project, especially due to factors such as the low Canadian dollar and other market forces,” stated CRD Electoral Area F Director and SKP Working Group Co-Chair Joan Sorley. “The funding will enable us to borrow less than the full \$10 million that was authorized under the referendum, which in turn will reduce our annual financing payments and result in a significant savings to the recreation budget.”

“Thank you to the Union of BC Municipalities for this funding; it will provide us with some flexibility to ensure the final design of the project meets everyone’s expectations,” says Williams Lake Councillor and SKP Working Group Co-Chair Laurie Walters. “There can be more focus on the WOW factor and some of the exciting extras are now much easier to consider within the project budget.”

“Through the federal Gas Tax Fund, the Government of Canada is allowing communities in BC, and all across Canada, to make informed decisions about their infrastructure investments and how best to spend federal dollars, “ said Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities. “ Community officials are best positioned to identify their specific needs, and the federal Gas Tax fund supports them in making those strategic investments. These projects will contribute to building the strong, inclusive and sustainable communities Canadians desire to live in.”

“The federal Gas Tax Fund is helping local governments accelerate their capital investment plans. These investments will support improved levels of service for facilities in communities throughout BC. The 189 local governments that we represent appreciate the ongoing commitment of the Government of Canada to improving local infrastructure. We are also pleased with the valued support provided by the Province of British Columbia to deliver this program.” *Al Richmond, President, Union of BC Municipalities*

“These funds will help support the construction of infrastructure improvements that will provide a better standard of living for residents in communities all across B.C.,” said Cariboo-Chilcotin MLA Donna Barnett. “I’m pleased to say that local governments throughout the province are receiving more than \$69 million in funding for 27 capital projects through the Federal Gas Tax Fund, which is administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and provided by the Government of Canada.”

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The SKP Working Group has been working hard to keep this project moving forward and recently provided letters of intent to Williams Lake area contractors RL7 Mechanical and MacKay Electric Ltd for the initial work to prepare portions of the building for demolition. The project is on target to commence with shovels in the ground March 7.

A Facebook page dedicated to helping provide information to residents and an opportunity for residents to ask questions can be found at [facebook.com/SamKetchamPool](https://facebook.com/SamKetchamPool). A Twitter feed can also be found at @SKPProject. Project updates will also be posted on the Cariboo Regional District website at [cariboord.ca](http://cariboord.ca) and on the City of Williams Lake site at [williamslake.ca](http://williamslake.ca).

- This project is one of the 57 projects that are being funded through the Strategic Priorities Fund under the Federal Gas Tax Fund for 2016.
- The Union of BC Municipalities administers the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.
- Each year, the Government of Canada provides over \$253 million in indexed funding for local government infrastructure projects across British Columbia through the federal Gas Tax Fund. The funding can be spent on any eligible project the community prioritizes across a broad range of eligible project categories, or it can be pooled with other communities for regional projects, banked for later priorities or used to pay for financed projects.

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