

March 24, 2017

CCRHD and CRD Budgets Endorsed

The Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District (CCRHD) and the Cariboo Regional District (CRD) adopted the proposed 2017 Budgets and Five-Year Financial Plans.

The CRD's budget for 2017 includes operating expenditures of \$25.9 million and capital expenditures of \$28.7 million for a total of \$54.6 million. Budgeted operating and capital expenditures for 2016 were \$25.9 million and \$22.3 million, respectively, for a total of \$48.0 million. Capital expenditures in both 2016 and 2017 are higher than historical levels due to major recreation and water service capital projects.

The CRD's tax requisition revenues in 2017 will total \$23.3 million (an increase of 0.6 per cent or \$145,000 from 2016) to support the budgeted expenditures. The balance required to fund 2017 expenditures will be provided by grants, existing operating and capital reserves, and debt associated with the major capital expenditure projects.

Significant 2017 budgeted expenditures provided by the CRD include Recreation Services (\$22.9 million); Environmental Services (\$6.6 million); Protective Services (\$5.4 million); and Library Services (\$3.3 million).

For the CCRHD, budgeted expenditures will total \$3.3 million in 2017. The tax requisition for 2017 is \$7.6 million, which is 1.7 per cent or \$134,000 more than 2016. Total revenues from all sources will be \$8.1 million. Revenues in excess of budgeted expenditures will be placed into a reserve for future CCRHD capital expenditure projects.

The CCRHD and CRD Budgets will be posted on the CRD website next week at cariboord.ca.

Congratulations to Dr. Smialowski

The CCRHD Board of Directors will be sending a letter to Dr. Michal Smialowski of Tatlayoko congratulating him on recently receiving the B.C. Medal of Good Citizenship. The Board agrees this honour is well deserved as Dr. Smialowski has been instrumental in bringing improved health care and services to the West Chilcotin.

Board Hears Update on Blackwater Project

Claudette Gouger, Community Manager for New Gold Inc., gave the CRD Board an update on the Blackwater Project. New Gold Inc. is proposing a new open pit gold and silver mine in CRD Area I in the Kluskus area. New Gold anticipates hiring about 1,200-1,500 people during its two to three year construction period and about 500 people during mine operations. The Blackwater Project has historically hired 65 per cent local employees, with 23 per cent of those being Indigenous employees. Currently the project is in the Environmental Assessment and permitting phase.

Community Works Funding Allocated

The Board of Directors approved up to \$12,000 of Community Works funding for the Mountain Spruce Community Centre Society. The Society requested the funding to install a water filtration system and a new fridge at the Mountain Spruce Community Centre in Lone Butte.

Support Given to Gold Rush Trail Marketing

CRD Directors committed \$2,750 to the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association for the marketing of the Gold Rush Trail tourism initiative. The Gold Rush Trail tourism initiative focuses on developing and marketing the historic Gold Rush Trail from New Westminster to Barkerville and includes a number of visitor attractions and points of interest within the Regional District. Promoting the Gold Rush Trail as a travel experience has the potential to increase tourism in the region thereby providing economic benefit to communities and businesses. The CRD intends to reclaim this expense from the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) under the 2017 Economic Development Capacity Building program.

Grants for Assistance Approved

The Regional District Board approved a Grant for Assistance for a total of \$1,000 for the Cariboo Aboriginal Youth Hockey Tournament on April 14-16, 2017. Electoral Areas D, F, G, H, K and I contributed funds towards this grant. The Board also endorsed a \$3,900 grant for the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #260 to fix the roof of their building. The grant funds were allocated from Electoral Area G (\$1,000), Electoral Area L (\$1,000) and the District of 100 Mile House (\$1,900).

CRD Supports MRDT

The CRD will be sending a letter of support for the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association's (CCCTA) application as an eligible entity for three per cent Municipal Regional District Tax (MRDT) collection in the electoral areas of the Cariboo Regional District.

The MRDT is a tax applied to sales of short-term accommodation on behalf of municipalities, regional districts and eligible entities. The CCCTA is applying to become an eligible entity to manage the funding. The tax provides funding for local tourism marketing, programs and projects.

CCACS Arts and Culture Grants Endorsed

Upon the recommendation of the Central Cariboo Joint Committee, the Board of Directors endorsed the Central Cariboo Arts & Culture Society's (CCACS) proposal for recipients of the 2017 CCACS Grants program. The CRD and the City of Williams Lake jointly provide annual funding to CCACS for these grants through the CRD's [Central Cariboo Arts and Culture function](#). The CRD and City provided a total of \$25,000 in funding for the 2017 Arts and Culture grants program. A news release with the list of recipients is available at cariboord.ca.

Next Meeting:

CCRHD & CRD Boards – Thursday, April 13, 2017