



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2011

January 20 Board Meeting Highlights

Five-Year Agreements with Regional Cultural Sites Approved; Committee Appointments Approved; 2011 Census Update;

Five-Year Agreements with Regional Cultural Sites Approved

The Regional District will continue to provide operational funding for six cultural facilities in Prince George, Mackenzie, McBride and Valemount. The facilities are a part of the Regional Cultural Plan, which was approved by the Board in September 2010. The cultural plan aims to engage regional residents in heritage and culture and increase visitation from tourists. Five year funding contracts are a core component of the Board's renewed five-year commitment towards culture and heritage within our region as they provide operating certainty for the funded agencies and enhance their cultural offerings to visitors.

The facilities include the Mackenzie and District Museum, Huble Homestead, Railway and Forestry Museum, Whistlestop Gallery in McBride, Valley Museum and Archives in McBride and the Valemount Museum. In December, the Board approved similar contracts for Exploration Place and Two Rivers Gallery. Over the next five years, the Regional District will invest over \$9.3 million to support cultural facilities in the region.

Committee Appointments Approved

The Regional District approved a number of appointments to standing committees, external agencies, and select committees. Directors appointed to external agencies include:

- Municipal Finance Authority – Mike Frazier
- Fraser Basin Council – Debora Munoz
- PG Treaty Advisory Committee – Terry Burgess
- Columbia Basin Trust – Bob Smith
- Municipal Insurance Association – Kevin Dunphy
- NCLGA – Mike Frazier
- Northern Treaties Treaty Advisory Committee – Stephanie Killam
- Yellowhead Highway Association – Ken Starchuck
- NDIT's PG Regional Advisory Committee – Art Kaehn
- Omineca Beetle Action Coalition – Art Kaehn
- Valemount Area Recreation Development Association – Ken Starchuck

2011 Census Update

A representative from Statistics Canada presented an update to the Regional District on the 2011 Canadian Census. The 2011 Census will count every Canadian and ask ten questions on age, sex, marital status and language. It will be followed by a voluntary National Household Survey that will include questions on education, labour market, housing, religion, income, ethnic origins and Aboriginal origins and status. The 2011 Census takes place in May and will involve the hiring and training of more than 35,000 people. In the BC and Yukon region, 3346 positions are required. Information on how to apply for those jobs can be found on the Statistics Canada website at www.census2011.gc.ca.

Community Grants

The Board approved the following requests for Community and Recreation Grants:

- \$600 to the Ness Lake Recreation Commission for operating and utility expenses
- \$3000 to the Pineview Recreation Commission for Snow Frolics
- \$176 to the Dunster Community Association for Property Use Agreement advertising
- \$5000 to the McBride Big Country Snowmobile Association for snow removal
- \$350 to the McBride Secondary School for the Forum for Young Canadians program
- \$350 to the Robson Valley Support Society for the Pass It On Girls program

For further information, please contact
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