



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 19, 2009**

**November 19 Board Meeting Highlights**

**Regional Hospital District Invests in Urology Table for PGRH; PGSO Requests Inclusion in Regional District's Cultural Plan; Three year Strategic Priorities for RDFFG Approved; Funding approved for PG Treaty Advisory Committee**

**Regional Hospital District invests in Urology Table for PGRH**

The Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District is investing \$698,590 to help fund a new urology table for the Prince George Regional Hospital. The total amount of the table is \$900,000, with the remaining funding coming from Northern Health.

The equipment was needed as existing equipment was outdated and difficult to maintain and repair, causing delays in surgeries and sending patients out of town for procedures which could otherwise be performed locally. The new urology table will provide stability, access, and precise positioning for urology surgical patients.

"The investment we are making today will go a long way in improving the health services for people in our region," says Regional Hospital District Acting Chair Dave Wilbur.

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**PGSO Requests Inclusion in Regional District's Cultural Plan**

Representatives from the Prince George Symphony Orchestra were on hand to ask directors to consider including the PGSO in the Regional Cultural Plan. The symphony representatives outlined plans for outreach into the regional communities, should it be included as part of the plan. One of the initiatives included "Music in Transit" where ensemble concerts would be performed in outlying communities, along with pre-concert talks that provide insight and historical anecdotes about the composer and the music.

The Regional District's Cultural Plan presently provides funding and support for eight different cultural and heritage facilities throughout the region. The five year plan was adopted in 2006 and expires at the end of 2010. The Board directed the matter to the Regional District's Cultural Services Advisory Committee for review and a report back.

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**Three Year Strategic Priorities for RDFFG Approved**

Directors approved a three year strategic priorities document that maps out a course of direction for the organization which allows for the prioritizing of work efforts, development of work plans and greater certainty in determining appropriate service levels and resources to meet identified strategic objectives.

Six key priorities have been identified including: solid waste management; climate change; First Nations relations; economic diversification; integrated community sustainability planning and parks and recreation.

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**Funding Approved for Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee**

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George approved a grant of \$15,000 for the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee. The grant helps cover costs associated with local government participation in treaty negotiations and other related activity. In recent years, the PGTAC has been focused on treaty discussions with Lheidli T'enneh and the Yekooche First Nation near Ft. St. James. PGTAC has also received a \$15,000 grant from the Bulkley Nechako Regional District.

## Community Grants

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

- \$1000 to the Ness Lake Recreation Commission for a volunteer appreciation events
- \$500 to the Ness Lake Recreation Commission for operating expenses
- \$6000 to the Beverly Community Association for community park maintenance and capital improvements
- \$1500 to the Hixon Community Association for a sound system
- \$1500 to the Shell-Glen Improvement Society for Crime-Watch signs and related expenses
- \$3000 to the Shell-Glen Improvement Society for park maintenance, newsletters, community events and insurance
- \$5000 to the McBride Farmers Institute for a viability study for Greenhouse Operations in the Robson Valley

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