



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2010

October 21 Board Meeting Highlights

Regional Hospital District Approves \$1.3 Million Capital Grant to Northern Health; Regional District Supports Efforts to Expand Prince George Community Forest; Fort George Highway Rescue to Receive \$50,000 in Grants; City of Prince George and RDFFG To Enter Into 5-Year Agreement for Fire Dispatch Services; Referendum Set for Willow River; Bear Lake Community Commissioner Appointed

Regional Hospital District Approves \$1.3 Million Capital Grant to Northern Health

The Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District is investing \$1.3 million dollars to fund capital projects for Northern Health. The funds come in the way of a \$1 million global grant for 2010 for capital projects and an additional \$320,000 for smaller building upgrades and the Health Link North project.

The \$1 million global grant will be used to pay for a variety of medical equipment for hospitals and health facilities in Prince George, Mackenzie, McBride and Valemount.

In addition to the \$1 million global grant, the Regional Hospital District approved just over \$320,000 to the Health Link North Project (\$263,500) an improved clinical information system that integrates patient information from a variety of sources including radiology, pharmacy, lab, admitting and emergency. It will also support minor building upgrades (\$56,667) to hospitals and health centres in Prince George, McBride and Valemount

Regional District Supports Efforts to Expand Prince George Community Forest

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George will be lending its support to an application from the City of Prince George to expand and extend the Prince George Community Forest Agreement Crown lands around the City not currently in the working forest. The proposal would further manage the wildfire threat and treat more pine beetle infested forest. Directors have agreed to have the Regional District sign a letter of intent to be submitted to the Province with the City's application. The letter of intent will allow the Regional District to work with the City on how a new Community forest tenure would unfold. The City of Prince George is also seeking the support of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.

Fort George Highway Rescue to Receive \$50,000 in Grants

The Fort George Highway Rescue Society will be receiving \$50,000 in grants from the Regional District. Fort George Highway Rescue is an auxiliary group that is highly trained to provide emergency care at motor vehicle incidents. The Society services approximately 15,000 square miles and covers Electoral Areas A, E, F & G. It also provides back up services to Electoral Areas C and D. A Community Grant in Aid totaling \$40,000 provided from Electoral Areas A, E, F and G. An additional \$10,000 grant was provided from Electoral Area E for rescue equipment and other supplies.

City of Prince George and RDFFG To Enter Into 5-Year Agreement for Fire Dispatch Services

The Regional District and the City of Prince George will enter into a 5-year agreement that will see the City of Prince George provide centralized fire dispatch services to the Regional District 9-1-1 system. Centralized Fire Dispatch Services provide for fire/rescue dispatch and communications services for fire/rescue agencies in the Fraser-Fort George, Cariboo (CRD), and Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS) Regional Districts. These services will soon be expanded to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The value of the agreement is \$6.9 million over the five years.

Referendum Set for Willow River

The community of Willow River will be voting on a proposed sewer and water system at an upcoming referendum. A pre-design feasibility study was completed earlier this year, and residents were surveyed to not only to gauge community support in proceeding to a referendum, but also to gain information in regards to the status of current sewer and water systems. In the survey, 67% of respondents indicated they would vote in favour of a sewer and water system for Willow River. The question will now go to a formal referendum. A date for the referendum is expected to be announced shortly.

Bear Lake Community Commissioner Appointed

Kathy Evert has been appointed as a Commissioner to the Bear Lake Community Commission to complete the term of Mr. Ed Gronning due to his passing. Ms. Evert will fill the position of Commissioner for the Bear Lake Community Commission until the term ends in conjunction with the 2011 General Local Election. The Bear Lake Community Commission provides administration of local services in the community of Bear Lake including fire protection, street lighting, cemetery, ambulance station, recreation facilities and community water services.

Community Grants

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

- \$1266 to the Lakes Cemetery Society for insurance
- \$1600 to the Nukko Lake Recreation Commission for a commercial popcorn popper
- \$3000 to the Pilot Mountain Recreation Commission Block Watch for program expenses
- \$1000 to the Ness Lake Recreation Commission for a volunteer appreciation event
- \$750 to the Beverly Community Association for a Halloween event and fireworks
- \$11,000 to the Beverly Firefighters Association for a vehicle exhaust extraction system and historical pictures expense
- \$6870 to the Miworth Community Association for hockey rink repairs and playgroup expenses
- \$9500 to the Nadsilnich Lake Community Association for furnace installation, roof replacement and repair
- \$1000 to the Pinview Recreation Commission for a Halloween party
- \$500 to the Pineview Tabor Lake Recreation Commission for park fencing
- \$4000 to the Hixon Community Association for an appreciation event, fireworks, cooler and accessories
- \$3000 to the Shell-Glen Improvement Society for insurance, maintenance, fireworks and event expenses
- \$500 to the McBride District Volunteer Firefighters Association for fireworks
- \$100 to the Valemout Arts and Culture Society for flyer and mailing expenses

For further information, please contact
Reneé McCloskey
Manager of External Relations
Regional District of Fraser Fort George
(250)960-4453