



**REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George**

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sept 16 Board Meeting Highlights

Board Approves Regional Parks Plan; Regional Cultural Plan Approved; City of Prince George Official Community Plan Review

Board Approves Regional Parks Plan

There is a new strategy to guide the development and management of parks within the Regional District Fraser-Fort George. Directors with the Regional District have approved the new 10-year plan that provides a framework for the operation and management of Regional Parks, as well as guidance for development and land acquisition of future parks.

The plan identifies two main goals - to provide residents and visitors with a range of outdoor opportunities within developed park areas that are designed primarily for day use, and which are representative of the region's natural environment, recreation and heritage resources; and to create or complete trail-based linkages among regional, provincial and municipal parks and trail systems.

Priority areas for existing parks for the next ten years include road signs and facility improvements at all sites, invasive plant removal at Giscome Portage (Huble Homestead Historic Site) and Kristian Winther; restore steep bank at Cedarside Park; and erosion mitigation at Ness Lake and McMillan Creek; . Future potential parks have been identified in Tabor Lake area, Hixon area, Horseshoe Lake near McBride and McKirdy Road near Valemount.

The cost to implement recommendations from the draft plan has been estimated at \$1.5 million over 10 years, not including staff time.

Regional Cultural Plan Approved

The Regional District has renewed its five year cultural plan. The new plan covers strategies and tactics to guide the Regional District's support of art and culture in the region for the next five years. The plan includes the renewal of 5-year funding contracts for eight different cultural facilities in the region, and the continuation of the Golden Raven joint cultural marketing program. The three main goals of the new plan are to engage regional residents in heritage and culture; increase visitation from tourists; and streamline administration of the cultural services plan. The estimated cost to implement the five year plan is \$9.35 million.

City of Prince George Official Community Plan Review

Staff from the City of Prince George provided an update on plans to review the Official Community Plan (OCP) for Prince George. The OCP is aiming to focus growth more strongly, prioritize walking, cycling and transit in key corridors, encourage better energy systems, more affordable and accessible housing, improve air quality, support food and agriculture and support leading solid waste management. During the fall, the City of Prince George will seek community direction, and starting early next year have a full draft of the OCP, with public hearings expected in March.

Community Grants

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

- \$15,000 to the Willow River Volunteer Fire Department for operating expenses
- \$3500 to the Willow River Recreation Association for insurance and property upgrades
- \$3000 to the District of Mackenzie for services and facilities costs
- \$2000 to the College of New Caledonia for the purchase of MINE simulators

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