



DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE

AGENDA

Council Chambers

Monday, April 11, 2022

First Nations Acknowledgement

The District of Hudson's Hope would like to respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we gather is in traditional unceded territory of the Treaty 8 First Nations.

1. Call to Order:

2. Delegations:

3. Notice of New Business:

Mayor's List:

Councillors Additions:

CAO's Additions:

4. Adoption of Agenda by Consensus:

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

6. Adoption of Minutes:

M1 Regular Council Minutes – March 28, 2022

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7. Business Arising from the Minutes:

8. Public Hearing:

9. Staff Reports:

SR1 Northern Development Initiative Trust
- Recreation Infrastructure Grant – Pool Rehabilitation

Page 6

SR2 Internet Campground Reservation Policy - Revised

Page 8

SR3 Emergency Operations Centre Essentials

Page 14

10. Committee Meeting Reports:

11. Bylaws

12. Correspondence:

C1 Double "H" Saddle Club – Request for Grant in Aid Funds Page 16

C2 Connecting Communities BC Program Page 18

13. Reports by Mayor & Council on Meetings and Liaison Responsibilities:

14. Old Business:

15. New Business:

16. Public Inquiries:

17. In-Camera Session

18. Adjournment



COUNCIL MEETING
District Office – Council Chambers
6:00 P.M.
March 28, 2022

Present: Mayor Dave Heiberg
Councillor Mattias Gibbs
Councillor Kelly Miller
Councillor Pat Markin
Councillor Leigh Summer

Absent: Councillor Travous Quibell (*without notice*)
Councillor Valerie Paice (*with notice*)

Staff: Chief Administrative Officer, Mokles Rahman
Corporate Officer, Jeanette McDougall
Director, Public Works and Engineering, Ruhul Amin
Director, Protective Services, Brad Milton
Deputy Treasurer, Tonia Alexander

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Heiberg presiding.

2. DELEGATIONS

D1 – KPMG 2021 Audit Report – Micaela Roque, Partner (via MS Teams)

Micaela Roque presented an overview of the 2021 Audited Financial Statements and advised that the audit was “clean”.

D2 – Hudson’s Hope Public Library – A. Norton, Library Director & L. Winnicky, Library Board Chair

Amber Norton, Library Director, presented an overview of the 2021 Service Outcomes, 2022-2024 Strategic Plan and Overall Financial Position

RESOLUTION NO. 050/22

M/S Councillors Summer / Markin

THAT the Delegation for the Hudson’s Hope Public Library be extended beyond the 15 minutes as per Council Procedure Bylaw No. 765, 2009, Section 30. Delegations which reads as follows: “(3) Each address must be limited to 15 minutes in length unless a longer period is agreed to by a majority vote of those Council members present.”

CARRIED

M1

3. NOTICE OF NEW BUSINESS

Mayor's Additions: NB1 Blueberry River First Nations – Chief Judy Desjarlais
NB2 Red Cross – Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal
NB3 Mayor - Vacation
Councillor's Additions: None
CAOs Additions: None

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA BY CONSENSUS

5. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

6. PUBLIC HEARING

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

M1 SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 051/22

M/S Councillors Gibbs / Summer

THAT the minutes of the March 14, 2022 Special Council Meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

M2 REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2022

RESOLUTION NO. 052/22

M/S Councillors Miller / Markin

THAT the minutes of the March 14, 2022 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as amended to reflect the following:

Page 38, New Business: wording to read "cost approximately \$5,000".

CARRIED

8. STAFF REPORTS

SR1 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021

RESOLUTION NO. 053/22

M/S Councillors Markin / Miller

THAT Council accept the 2021 Draft Financial Statements for the District of Hudson's Hope as presented and approve as the 2021 Final Financial Statements; and that the Mayor and the CAO be authorized to sign the 2021 District of Hudson's Hope Financial Statements.

CARRIED

SR2 WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT – EVALUATION & AWARD

RESOLUTION NO. 054/22

M/S Councillors Miller / Gibbs

THAT Council accept the bid received from McElhanney for the Assessment of the Water Distribution Systems; and

THAT Council approve awarding the contract for the Assessment of the Water Distribution Systems to McElhanney, and

THAT the source of funds will be the Water Operating Budget for 2022.
CARRIED

SR3 ATV CAMPGROUND PHASE II

RESOLUTION NO. 055/22

M/S Councillors Markin / Summer

THAT Council accept the tender submitted by A.C.L. Construction Ltd. for the ATV Campground Phase II; and

THAT Council approve awarding the ATV Campground Phase II contract to A.C.L. Construction Ltd. and authorize the Mayor and CAO to sign the contract.
CARRIED

SR4 STATISTICS CANADA – 2021 CENSUS

RESOLUTION NO. 056/22

M/S Councillors Gibbs / Markin

THAT Council receive the attached report for information and discussion.
CARRIED

RESOLUTION NO. 057/22

M/S Councillors Miller / Markin

THAT Council direct Administration to prepare a report that outlines what would be required to undertake its own census.
CARRIED

SR5 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER – MONTHLY REPORT

Received for Information.

SR6 CORPORATE OFFICER – MONTHLY REPORT

Received for Information.

SR7 PUBLIC WORKS – MONTHLY REPORT

Received for Information.

SR8 RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS – MONTHLY REPORT

Received for Information.

SR9 SPECIAL PROJECTS – MONTHLY REPORT

Received for Information.

9. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

10. BYLAWS

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- C1 BC HYDRO PEACE TO KELLY LAKE STATIONS SUSTAINMENT PROJECT**
Received for Information.
- C2 ATMs IN CANNABIS RETAIL STORES**
Received for Information.
- C3 BC HOSPITALITY SECTOR – REDUCING RED TAPE RE PATIOS**
Received for Information.

12. REPORTS BY MAYOR & COUNCIL ON MEETINGS AND LIAISON RESPONSIBILITIES

- CR1 REGIONAL COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE**
The Mayor provided an update as follows: that the Rural Roads Coalition gravel presentation to the RCLC went very well and that the Coalition will be following up on key questions being asked of BC Hydro regarding gravel extraction from the Site C pondage prior to flooding.

13. OLD BUSINESS

14. NEW BUSINESS

- NB1 BLUEBERRY RIVER FIRST NATIONS – RACISM AND THREATS**
The Mayor referenced the media releases from the Peace River Regional District and the City of Fort St. John that denounce the recent racist comments and threats directed at the Blueberry River First Nations.

RESOLUTION NO. 058/22

M/S Councillors Miller / Gibbs

THAT Council approve the issuance of a letter of support for the Blueberry First Nations regarding the recent racist comments and threats that were directed at them.

CARRIED

- NB2 RED CROSS – UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS APPEAL**

The Mayor advised that communication from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities indicated that approximately 2,000 municipalities are supporting those impacted by the crisis in Ukraine and that the Red Cross is accepting donations.

RESOLUTION NO. 059/22

M/S Councillors Markin / Summer

THAT Council approve a donation to the Red Cross – Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal in the amount of \$1,000.

CARRIED

- NB3 MAYOR – VACATION**

The Mayor advised that he will be away from April 6th – April 24th; Councillor Summer is Acting Mayor for April and will chair the April 11, 2022 Council Meeting; Councillor Miller is the Alternate for the Peace River Regional District meetings and will attend on April 21, 2022.

15. PUBLIC INQUIRIES

16. NOTICE OF CLOSED MEETING

17. RISE AND REPORT

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Heiberg declared the meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

DIARY

Conventions/Conferences/Holidays

*Commercial Water Rate Increase-annual budget
Consideration*

Diarized

08/04/19

Certified Correct:

Dave Heiberg, Mayor

Jeanette McDougall, Corporate Officer

REQUEST FOR DECISION

RFD#: CC-2022-03	Date: March 21, 2022
Meeting#: CM041122	Originator: Chris Cvik
RFD TITLE: NDIT Recreation Infrastructure Grant – Pool Rehabilitation	

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council support the grant application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) - Recreation Infrastructure program in the amount of \$187,500 for the purpose of replacing the District of Hudson's Hope Swimming Pool Liner, Membrane and Gutters.
2. THAT Council approve the expenditure of a minimum of \$187,500 from the approved 2022 capital budget toward the pool renovation project.

BACKGROUND:

During the Strategic Planning workshop in December 2018, Council identified “*Provide quality Recreational and Cultural opportunities in an affordable manner*” as one of the top priority objectives for the Council during 2019-2022.

In addition, during the Strategic Planning workshop on November 13, 2022 Administration presented three (3) options to Council regarding the swimming Pool to consider in 2022. Option-1: Perform status quo repair/ maintenance at a cost of \$25,000 to \$30,000; Option-2: Perform pool liner replacement at a cost of \$300,000; Option-3: Perform entire rehabilitation of Pool including heating system, water circulation lines, water connections, water heater etc at a cost of \$850,000.

Council directed the administration to perform maintenance of the Pool at the beginning of the season so that Pool can be opened for the coming season. In addition, Council also approved Capital project for liner replacement.

DISCUSSION:

As discussed during the Strategic Planning workshop, if the District does not take on this project, there is a risk the pool may need to shut down at times during the operating season for maintenance and repair due to the loss of water and potential impact on chemical balances in the remaining pool water. Furthermore, our operations and maintenance (O&M) costs will remain high. Water loss in the pool is 1200- 1500 gallon per day. It may be mentioned here that this swimming pool was built in 2002/2003. The life expectancy of many components of the Pool are fifteen (15) years.

SR1

As the project work is required in order to reduce the risk of pool shutdown, Administration has been researching potential funding opportunities to help offset the project costs. One of the potential opportunities is through the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) Community Development Program under the Recreation Infrastructure category. The program is set up to support new construction projects or upgrades and repairs to existing facilities.

The grant opportunity would provides up to \$300,000 to a maximum of 50% for new construction and/or substantial upgrades to existing facilities. A Council Resolution is required for submitting the application.

FINANCIAL:

The project amount included in the 2022 Capital Budget for the project is \$375,000 with the source of funding being the General Reserve Account. The project is identified by staff as the second highest priority capital item. The deadline for submitting the grant application to NDIT for the Spring 2022 Quarterly Intake is May 13, 2022. As the amount of the grant request exceeds \$100,000, the application would be reviewed by the NDIT Board of Directors at its' meeting on July 27, 2022. As the pool liner repair work will likely not commence until the end of August or early September or even next year, the District will be made aware of NDIT's decision on the grant application prior to the commencement of any repair work.

If successful, it is hoped the District would receive \$187,500 in funding with the District being responsible for the remaining \$187,500 cost of the project. It is important for Council to understand that any amounts in excess of the \$187,500 from NDIT if the grant application is successful, would be 100% the responsibility of the District (i.e., any cost overruns).

Prepared by:



Chris Cvik, Special Projects.

Reviewed by:



Mokles Rahman, CAO

REQUEST FOR DECISION

RFD#: 2022RA11	Date: April 11, 2022
Meeting#: CM110122	Originator: Ruhul Amin
RFD TITLE: Revised Internet Campground Reservation Policy	

RECOMMENDATION:

***THAT** Council approve the Revised Internet Campground Reservation Policy.*

BACKGROUND:

During the discussions in the October 12, 2021 Council meeting on Campground- 2021 Year End Report, the following resolution directed staff to review the current Campground Reservation Cancellation Policy and updates on the acceptable maximum number for additional units per campsite.

M/S Councillors Quibell / Summer

***THAT** Staff prepare an updated Internet Campground Reservation Policy to reflect cancellation fees that are more favourable to customers and would help reduce complaints that are time consuming for Staff; and further that Staff update the maximum number of allowed additional units per site.*

DISCUSSION:

The District uses the Internet Campground Reservation system “Checkfront” for the purpose of allowing customers to reserve campsites in the District run campgrounds. Customers will be able to book campsites starting on first day of May.

After a detail review, staff recommended following changes to the Internet Reservation Policy:

- Cancellations more than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled arrival date, will be refunded the full amount, less the non-refundable reservation charges.
- Cancellations 48 hours or less in advance of the scheduled arrival date, will forfeit one nights stay and the non-refundable reservation charges.
- Maximum Four (4) additional camping units may be allowed if space permits, at the discretion of the campground attendants.

FINANCIAL:

The District will be losing small amount of revenues from Cancellation charges, but customers will be happy as they need to pay reduced charges for cancellation.

These updates may encourage customers to stop reselling Campground Passes on social media and contact District for any cancellations. This may result an increase in the number of cancellations and cover some revenue losses due to reduced charges.

SR2

Attachments:

District of Hudson's Revised Internet Campground Reservation Policy.



Submitted By:

Ruhul Amin, Director PW



Report Approved by:

Mokles Rahman, CAO

INTERNET CAMPGROUND RESERVATION POLICY

Council Resolution No. 100/15

Effective Date: May 1, 2015

Revised February 23, 2016, February 15, 2017

Revised:

**Section: Public Works
Administration**

Purpose:

The District of Hudson's Hope Internet Campground Reservation Policy allows you to book a campsite so that you can travel to your favourite park or try something new with the confidence of knowing your site is assured. You can use this program to view site availability and reserve a site.

Definitions:

The Internet Campground Reservations will be run through Checkfront online booking system. The following campgrounds are included in this reservation system:

- King Gething Park.
- Alwin Holland Park.
- Dinosaur Lake Park.
- Cameron Lake Park.

Camping Units mean a tent, camper, trailer, motor home or any other unit constructed, intended, or equipped to be used as temporary sleeping quarters by travellers.

Policy Application:

The District will use the Internet Campground Reservation system for the purpose of allowing customers to reserve campsites in the District run campgrounds. Customers will be able to book campsites for the current year starting on first business day of May. A non-refundable reservation service fee of \$6.00 per night per campsite will be charged to a maximum of \$18.00 per booking. This fee covers the operational costs and ensures the reservation service pays for itself and is not subsidized by the taxpayers.

Procedures or Guiding Principles:

Rules and Regulations:

- Reservations will open for the season on the first business day of May, annually at 9:00 am local time.

- Reservations are taken on a “first come-first served” basis and may be made online at www.hudsonshope.ca.
- Full pre-payment of all camping fees is required.
- The maximum stay in one campsite is seven (7) nights.
- Check out time is 11:30 am. Check-in time is 1:00 pm.
- There is a non-refundable reservation service fee of \$6.00 per night to a maximum of \$18.00 per booking.
- Approximately ½ of the campground’s sites are available for reservation. The remaining sites will be taken on a “first come-first served” basis and cannot be reserved. You can see which sites are reservable on our website.
- Season Pass holders will be provided with a promo code to make reservations but will still be required to pay the \$6.00 reservation service fee to a maximum of \$18.00 per booking.
- *Additional camping units may be allowed if space permits, to a maximum of four (4) additional units, at the discretion of the campground attendants. If allowed, a discounted fee of \$15.00 will be charged for each unit and must be paid by cash.*
- Firewood can be purchased from the campground attendants for \$5.00 per bundle. Cash only.
- A reserved campsite is held until 4:00 pm on the day following the scheduled arrival date. At this time, the original reservation is cancelled, and the campsite is released for resale.
- To help customers to plan their stay, the District have added photos and campsite specific information. Please note there may be minor differences in the campsite information and photos may not be available for every site; these differences are not grounds for refunds.
- Reservations need to be completed at least one day in advance. As the campground attendants are making bookings in the campgrounds at the same time, if there happens to be a double booking on the same day, the online reservation will be fully refunded, or can be moved to an agreed upon site. District will contact customers as soon as possible if this occurs to remedy the situation.
- If need to contact the District Office to have reservation completed by a staff member, an additional \$5.00 service fee will be applied. Customers can avoid this charge by reserving online. District’s contact number is 250-783-9901.
- Changing a Reservation can be made by contacting the District Office at 250-783-9901, during regular business hours:
 - There is a service fee of \$5.00 per change to entire reservation.
 - Changes to date or campsite location can be completed depending on availability but must be requested at least 2 days before arrival.
 - Changing to a different campground is considered a cancellation, the reservation charge will not be refunded, and all cancellation penalties apply. Changing sites within the same park may occur without penalty but must be pre-approved by the Campground Attendant and depends on availability.
- Cancelling a Reservation can be made by contacting the District Office at 250-783-9901, during regular business hours:
 - *Cancellations more than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled arrival date, will be refunded the full amount, less the non-refundable reservation charges.*
 - *Cancellations 48 hours or less in advance of the scheduled arrival date, will forfeit one*

nights stay and the non-refundable reservation charges.

- ~~▪ If you want to cancel your reservation, we require **more** than 7 days' notice for all user fees to be refunded, this does not include the non-refundable fee of \$6.00~~
- ~~▪ If you want to cancel your reservations 7 days or **less** before your scheduled arrival date you will forfeit one night charge and the non-refundable fee of \$6.00~~
- ~~▪ If you want to cancel your reservations **on the day of arrival**, you will forfeit two nights charges and the non-refundable fee of \$6.00~~
- If you do not show for your reservation by 4:00 pm on the day following the scheduled arrival date all fees are forfeited. The campground attendant will have the right to give the site away to another customer.
- Refunds are NOT given for an eviction, vacating your campsite early, or due to inclement weather.
- Refunds will be completed by contacting the District Office at 250-783-9901, during office hours.
- The District will only consider refunding forfeited user fees if:
- The customer attempted to cancel their reservation or notified the District of their circumstances (unless they were unable to) and,
- There are grounds for refund. The following guidelines are intended to provide rationale in terms of what are and what are not grounds for a refund:

Not Grounds for a Refund:

- Wildlife: The presence of interactions with any kind of wildlife (insects, bears, squirrel, etc.), even if the wildlife damages or destroys personal property, are not grounds for a refund. The one exception is if the park is closed or park visitors are advised to stay away due to safety reasons (cougar, problem bear, wolf, etc.). This notice would be posted on the District website and in the park.
- Weather and ambient conditions: No refunds will be considered for inclement weather (cold, rain, hail, snow, heat, flooding, etc.), even if extreme weather warnings are issued. Ambient conditions (such as the presence of smoke, or adjacent wildfires) will not be grounds for a refund unless the conditions prevent access to the park or there is a declared state of emergency. Customers should check the District website for updates in relation to this (if no updates are present, assume the park is open and accepting reservations).
- Park conditions: Request for refunds related to in-park conditions must be directed to the District Office at 250-783-9901, during regular business hours. (Unsatisfactory conditions, poor customer service, etc.)
- Leaving early: Vacating your campsite early is not grounds for a refund.
 - General illness or pre-existing conditions: If someone in the camping party gets ill but does not require medical assistance (see Medical below) or if there are common or expected conditions in the park that trigger an existing condition (i.e., allergic to bees and stung in park, or campfire smoke triggers asthma attack, etc.) would not be considered grounds for a refund.
 - Errors in making a reservation: Refunds will not be granted for errors that customer make on their reservations.

- Penalty window in effect: Making and cancelling your reservation within the penalty window is not grounds for a refund.
 - Vehicle breakdown/issues related to equipment: No refunds will be given for vehicle breakdowns, problems related to vehicles or equipment failure.
 - Change in Plans: A change of plans, included but not limited to getting called into work or if childcare or pet care arrangements fall through.

Grounds for a Refund:

- Incorrect charges: Occasionally the reservation system experiences technical problems which may result in incorrect charges. Refunds will be considered for customers who are incorrectly charged. The refund will only be for the difference between what they were charged and the correct amount owing.
- Park conditions that prevent access or cause evacuations: Refunds would only be considered if customers are unable to enter/approach a park because of emergencies such as road closure or/and natural disaster or if an evacuation is ordered. In such cases, the onus is on the visitor to check the District website for updates.
- Medical: The District will only consider issuing refunds for serious medical reasons that prevent customers from honouring their reservation. Requests for medical refunds require a doctor's note or proof that a member of the camping party was seriously injured or admitted to the hospital (there are no exceptions to this). Dates on the medical note or documents must coincide with the arrival date in order to support the request.
- Death in the immediate family: The District will consider refunding forfeited user fees if there is a death in the immediate family. The District still requires the customer will do their best to cancel their reservation so that other customers can access the inventory. A death certificate or obituary notice that clearly demonstrates the deceased's relationship with the reservation holder must be submitted to the District to review the request.
- Serious motor vehicle accident: If the reservation holder or member of the camping party is involved in a serious motor vehicle accident that prevents them from honouring their reservation, a refund will be considered. An accident report dated near the customer's arrival date is required to support the request for a refund.

More information on regulations can be obtained in the Parks, Campgrounds and Facilities Regulations Bylaw No. 588, 1999 and our District of Hudson's Hope Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 880, 2017.

THE DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE

REPORT TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Jeanette McDougall, Corporate Officer
DATE: April 11, 2022
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE - ESSENTIALS

PURPOSE

For Council information.

GENERAL

The District is in the process of providing emergency training for various Staff in preparation for the possibility of an emergency, such as the Mount McAllister wildfire event that occurred in Hudson's Hope in 2014, which triggered an evacuation.

A 2-day course on Emergency Operations Centre – Essentials was held in Dawson Creek on March 30th & 31st, 2022 through the Justice Institute of BC and is one of the foundational courses needed for more advanced courses in the Justice Institute's Emergency Management Program. There were 24 students in total with most from the City of Dawson Creek and a few from the Peace River Regional District, the Dawson Creek Regional Airport and a few other organizations. The course attendance was organized by the City of Dawson Creek and lunch sponsored by TC Energy.

COURSE OVERVIEW

During large or complex emergency events, such as the Mount McAllister wildfire, the District may have to activate an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to "build capacity for site support and consequence management". The EOC function provides additional coordination, resource management, information management and overall site support for the Incident Command Post.

The course covered the functions of the EOC, including the organizational structure, knowledge, skills and abilities required for each of the functional areas; EOC activities, including guidelines for activating an EOC, staffing considerations, establishing an EOC workspace, managing operational information, establishing Worker Care Strategies and demobilization.

Table exercises were held, with participants arranged in teams according to the functional areas, eg Operations, Planning, Logistics and Finance. Key lessons here centered around the following:

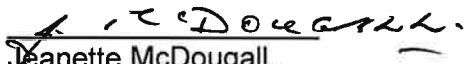
- the need for frequent communications between the various teams;
- that forms, eg resource request forms, need to be filled out properly (including the task number provided by Emergency BC, otherwise the municipality does not get paid); and
- being aware that the emergency event can escalate very rapidly.

SR3

The course instructor emphasized the importance of worker care, citing that workers can experience extremely high levels of stress, not only from the emergency event itself, but also due to issues in their personal life, and anxiety as the workload from their regular job may not be covered during their secondment to the emergency event.

OTHER

The cost of the course was courtesy of Emergency Management BC and available to various organizations in the Peace River Regional District.


Jeanette McDougall,
Corporate Officer

From: [Double H Saddleclub](#)
To: [Jeanette McDougall](#)
Subject: Garry Powell Memorial Dance Hall Project
Date: March 30, 2022 10:13:34 AM
Attachments: [#7983-60 Approval Letter.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

The Double H Saddle Club received wonderful news from Northern Development Initiative Trust. We have been approved for Project# 7983-60 Garry Powell Memorial Dance Hall, please see letter attached.

This project is very important to the Double H Saddle Club and we would like to get started as soon as possible. We are worried that the windy conditions and future rain showers will impact the building negatively within the next few months.

Due to the wonderful and very much appreciated approval of the Hudson's Hope Financial Assistance Grant we are asking to have council's approval to receive the project funding within the next few weeks, if possible.

Approval of this request would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Double H Saddle Club Board of Directors

[WARNING: This message is from an external source]

March 29, 2022

Double "H" Saddle Club
Box 25
Hudson's Hope, BC V0C 1V0

**Attention: Terylee Fieber
President**

**Subject: Garry Powell Memorial Dance Hall
Community Places Program
Northern Development Project Number 7983 60**

Northern Development Initiative Trust was created by the Province to be a catalyst for central and northern B.C. to grow a strong diversified economy by stimulating sustainable economic growth through strategic and leveraged investments.

I am pleased to advise you that the Community Places application from the Double "H" Saddle Club for the 'Garry Powell Memorial Dance Hall' project was approved for a grant up to \$30,000 from the Northeast Regional Development Account on March 18, 2022.

This approval is open for a period of 12 months from the date of approval, during which we expect a funding agreement signed with Northern Development and the project commenced. Our staff will be in touch with you regarding the funding agreement. It is important to note that the agreement must be signed prior to starting the project and expenses incurred prior to signing the agreement will not be reimbursed. Grant funds must be used in accordance with the budget in the signed agreement. No changes in the budget or scope of the project may be made without prior written approval from Northern Development.

We wish you every success and look forward to seeing the positive impact your project has on the local economy.

Sincerely,



Joel McKay
Chief Executive Officer

c: Elisabeth Haagsman, Chair, Building Upgrade Committee, Double "H" Saddle Club



March 28, 2022

Ref: 117088

Dear Mayors, Chairs, and Chief Administrative Officers:

I am writing to invite you to join me and Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Roly Russell in a roundtable discussion regarding our Government's plans to expand internet services to all rural areas of B.C. with internet speeds of less than 50/10 Mbps. This call will be an opportunity to discuss the details of the new Connecting Communities BC program and may be of particular interest to local governments in areas of the province that are underserved, but all are welcome.

I had the privilege of engaging with many of you who attended the March local mayors and regional district representatives virtual meeting with my colleagues Honourable Josie Osborne and Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Municipal Affairs, where we were able to share information on connectivity investments to date, including the \$289 million announced in the Province's Budget 2022. On March 8, the [Governments of British Columbia and Canada announced a partnership to invest up to \\$830 million](#) to support connectivity infrastructure projects that will improve access to high-speed internet for underserved rural communities and First Nations in B.C. Our goal is to maximize these funds and expand high-speed internet services to every household in the province by 2027.

This is exciting news, but we know the areas left that require expansion are more challenging and it will take all levels of government and service providers to work together to make connectivity a reality for all British Columbians.

We want to move quickly and efficiently to make the most of every dollar and finish the job we started. That work has begun as we prepare for our first Connecting Communities BC program intake this the summer. As such, we have launched a Request to Participate (RTP) process which is an opportunity for the Province to obtain regional and market information, validate cost assumptions, and gauge potential market interest in providing connectivity services to underserved regions of the province. The RTP is listed publicly on [BC Bid](#), Item 13183. We encourage you to input into this process; however, please note that it is not essential to do this, nor is this part of an application or intake process.

C2

.../2

On our April 8 call, I will share details about the launch of our Connecting Communities BC program and how our new community-focused approach will benefit your regions. I would like to hear from you on how we can best work together through this new program to connect the remaining underserved areas of rural B.C. to high-speed internet services, and how we can help you work more effectively with service providers in your area.

An invitation for a virtual meeting on April 8 will be sent shortly. I hope you will be able to join the conversation. If you have any questions prior to the session, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Ministry staff in the Connectivity Division](#).

Together, I am confident we can identify collaborative options to advance connectivity to all communities in B.C., and I very much look forward to the opportunity to connect with you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Beare', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lisa Beare
Minister

pc: Roly Russell
Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development

Connected Communities
communityinsights@gov.bc.ca