

Date: February 13, 2024

Report to: Rachelle Willick, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Alexander Bihori, Corporate Officer

Subject: **2023 Fourth Quarter Report: Economic Development**

PURPOSE

To provide an overview of the activities of the Economic Development Officer between October 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023.

BACKGROUND

Council meeting Date	Report Title
October 10, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Needs Report Mural Festival 2024 Tourism Program
December 12, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexander Bihori Oath of Office

Grant Application Title	Funding Org.	Status	Funding Amount
2024 Business Façade Improvement Program (Mural Project)	Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT)	Successful	\$20,000
IMAGINE Community Grant	Northern Health	Successful	\$8,000
Indigenous Learning & Projects Grant for Visitor Services	Indigenous Tourism BC Corporate	Successful	\$10,000
Visitor Services Fund	Destination BC	Successful	\$15,000
2024 Canada Summer Jobs	Government of Canada	Pending	\$12,052
Celebrate Canada	Canadian Heritage	Pending	\$15,350

BC Active Transportation Grants Program	Government of British Columbia	Pending	\$17,500
Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund	Government of Canada	Pending	
Charge North	Community Energy Association	Opted-out	\$22,000
BC Employer Training Grant	Government of British Columbia	On-going grant (reporting up-to-date)	\$3,336
Rural Business and Community Recovery Regional Business Liaison	Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT)	Reporting Completed	\$22,911
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Rural and Remote Communities	BC/Canada	Monthly and Quarterly Reporting in progress	\$2,999,400

Month	Notable Meetings/Events
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDO role filled by Alexander Bihori December 4, 2023 • Fort St. James Corporate Energy & Emissions Plan December 5, 2023 • Bulkley-Nechako Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting December 8, 2023 • Birthday Book Event December 14, 2023 • Fort St. James Corporate Energy & Emissions Plan December 14, 2023 • Joint Events Planning Meeting December 18, 2023 • Charge North meeting December 18, 2023

Tourism

During this quarter the Tourism Committee opted to cancel their 4th quarter, quarterly meeting due to lack of reports and correspondence.

Seniors

The District of Fort St. James inducted the second set of seniors into the Fort St. James Birthday Book, per the *District of Fort St. James Birthday Book Bylaw 1053, 2022*. The seniors enjoyed a

tea party hosted by the District of Fort St. James at the Seniors Centre where seniors were given the chance to speak with Councillor Howell. The Birthday Book is kept in the safe at the District Office and is to remain as a historical record for the contributions of seniors 80 years or older in the community.

Housing and Land Use Planning

The Housing Needs Report (<https://fortstjames.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/150/?preview=104450>) was completed and received by council at Regular Council Meeting 2023-21, which occurred October 10, 2023.

The District of Fort St. James staff are still in the process reviewing updating the Official Community Plan (OCP). The drafted OCP will be brought for council's viewing in the coming regular council meetings. OCP's are a visionary document meant to guide staff and Council in land use planning, decision making, and long-term goals for the community. The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako have given District staff the drafted version of the OCP, which is undergoing review by staff and consultants.

Fort Forum Upgrades

The EDO, Director of Public Works, and Stantec staff have been working closely to finalize the designs of the renovation.

Submitted by:	Alexander Bihori, Corporate Officer
Approved by:	Rachelle Willick Chief Administrative Officer