

Date: April 23, 2024

Report to: Rachelle Willick, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Clyde MacGregor, Economic Development Officer

Subject: **2024 Q1: Economic Development**

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Council receive FOR INFORMATION the Economic Development 2024 First Quarter Report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the Economic Development Department during the first quarter, January 1st through March 31st, 2024.

BACKGROUND

Council Meeting Date	Report Title
March 26, 2024	- Clyde MacGregor Oath of Office

Budget Meeting Date	Report Title
March 27, 2024	- Curling Club Refrigeration Plant Replacement Background on Grants available, timelines, limits and amounts

Grant Application Title	Funding Org	Status	Funding Amount
Firehall & Training Centre Feasibility Study	Green Municipal Fund (Federal)	In process, ready to apply	\$200,000.00
Indigenous Learning & Projects Grant for Visitor Services	Indigenous Tourism BC Corporate	Approved	\$10,000.00

Business Façade Improvement Program	NDIT	Approved	\$20,000.00
Curling Club Refrigeration Plant Replacement	Integrus Community Fund	In application process	\$30,000.00
Curling Club Refrigeration Plant Replacement	RBC	In application process	Up to \$150,000.00 possible
225 th Anniversary Restoration Project (2027)	Legacy Fund (Federal)	Pre-application talks	open
Transit Feasibility Study	Rural Transit Solutions Fund	Approved	\$17,500
Canada Summer Jobs	Government of Canada	Submitted	\$12,052.80
Local Government Development Approvals Program	UBCM	Submitted	\$67,105.50
Regional Business Liaison Program	NDIT	Final Reporting Complete	\$ Amount being reviewed by NDIT

Date	Notable Meeting/Events
January 8, 2024	Planning Meeting
January 9, 2024	Destination BC Meeting
January 10, 2024	ICIP Arena Revitalization Meeting
January 10, 2024	Ministry of Housing: Bills 44, 46, 47
January 16, 2024	Ministry of Housing: Secondary Suites
January 18, 2024	Vista Radio – Advertising Packages
January 19, 2024	Waste Water Meeting
January 22, 2024	Arena Revitalization Meeting
January 23, 2024	Planning Meeting

January 24, 2024	Tourism Meeting with Nak'azdli
March 21, 2024	Policy Review – Purchase and Tender
March 28, 2024	Green Municipal Fund Meeting – Fire Hall and Training Centre Pre-approval

Tourism

Introductions to Provincial and Regional Stakeholders (Destination BC, Northern BC Tourism, Burns Lake, New Hazelton and Vanderhoof VIC) underway.

Re-promoting Tourism Coordinator and Summer Student jobs online and in town.

Investigation into Multimedia Kiosk and television advertising, information systems in VIC. Seeing if it would be a viable revenue source for the VIC.

Networking with Nak'azdli Whut'en Knowledge Keepers re: Indigenous Learning Workshop Grant.

Focus on re-organization of online web presence for District to better promote tourism options for 2024-25.

Infrastructure

Working with Fire Chief McVey and Director of Operations Lowther to explore funding opportunities for renovations and new construction for:

- Fire Hall (Feasibility Study)
- Training Centre and Classroom Space (Feasibility Study)
- Curling Club
- Community Centre
- Arena
- Marina
- Airport
- Spirit Square (Feasibility Study)

Pursuing a strategy of 'Improved, Expanded Infrastructure for a Solid Foundation for Growth' for the District. By strengthening, developing and expanding community infrastructure, promotional activities for development, business, industry and residents will have a material basis in fact.

Industry

Introductions to Centerra/Mt. Milligan new staff and arrangements to attend the Community Sustainability Meeting April 30, 2024 in Prince George. Discussions held with new Recruitment/HR team to be able to promote Mt Milligan employment and retention within the District, to promote the District as a place for new employees to call home.

Community

Discussions with Fort St James Garden Club regarding establishing a Communities in Bloom (CiB) Working Group. Public Works representative Pete Kosmick approved by Director of Operations. 2024 focus will be on increasing volunteer base, establishing a theme and growing areas, promoting residential and business gardens for 2025-26 test year.

2024 Business Façade Program – will promote mural aspect of the project in April before April 30, 2024 deadline. Request from local commercial real estate owner (Fort St James Search & Rescue) for mural support – building lies just outside of the area. Will raise possibility of expanding the area if funds are not completely utilized by deadline.

SIGN OFF

Submitted by:	Clyde MacGregor, Economic Development Officer
Internal Review by:	Alexander Bihori, Corporate Officer
Approved by:	Rachelle Willick, Chief Administrative Officer