

## **Media Release**

February 22, 2024 For immediate release

## **RDCK to host public budget information sessions**

Nelson, BC: Over the next three weeks, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) will be hosting public budget information sessions for all its Municipalities and Electoral Areas. The RDCK invites the public to join for a breakdown of the financial landscape and to understand what goes into the development of the 2024-2028 RDCK Financial Plan. All meetings will have the option of in-person or online.

This is your opportunity to connect with RDCK Directors and staff, ask questions, learn about the RDCK, and find out about projects and initiatives happening in your area.

At the Special Board Meeting on Friday, February 16, the Board reviewed a draft of the 2024-2028 Financial Plan. After accounting for revisions directed by the Board at the meeting, the latest projection is a 9.3% total increase in tax requisitions. This nets down to 7.9% for RDCK property owners after non-market assessment growth is taken into consideration, although this is highly variable depending on the area or municipality the resident lives in. The taxation increase is comparable to projections from other Regional Districts for 2024. The RDCK has over 180 different services, with each service having its own budget and funding. Surpluses from one service cannot be used to fund a deficit in another service.

"Operational cost increases and required maintenance related capital projects in Recreation, Fire Protection and Resource Recovery services are driving the bulk of the increases in taxation," said Yev Malloff, RDCK Chief Financial Officer. "Inflation and supply chain constraints also continue to have a cost impact across many services and projects/initiatives, while higher interest rates are putting pressure on both short-term and longterm borrowing costs with a partial offset from increased investment income. The budget includes a Consumer Price Index increase on staff salaries and Directors stipends of 6.2%. RDCK staff are continuing to identify and implement opportunities to improve efficiencies of operations and administration to help temper inflation effects.

2024-2028 Draft Financial Plan

Here is the complete schedule of RDCK Public Budget Information Sessions:

Sub Region	Date and Time (Local)	Location
Salmo & Area G	Thursday, February 22	Salmo Village Chambers,
	6:00 pm PST (hybrid)	423 Davies Avenue
Kaslo & Area D	Monday, February 26	Kaslo Council Chambers,
	6:00 pm PST (hybrid)	413 4 <sup>th</sup> Street
<u>Slocan &amp; Area H</u>	Tuesday, February 27	Slocan Park Hall,
	6:00 pm PST (hybrid)	3036 Highway 6
New Denver, Silverton, & Area H	Wednesday, February 28	Bosun Hall,
	6:00 pm PST (hybrid)	710 Bellevue Street
Nakusp & Area K	Monday, March 4	Nakusp Emergency Services
	6:00 pm PST (hybrid)	Building, 300 8 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NW
East Shore – Area A North	Tuesday, March 5	Riondel Community Centre,
	6:00 pm MST (hybrid)	1417-1421 Eastman Avenue
Castlegar, Area I & J	Monday, March 11	Castlegar & District Community
	6:00 pm PST (hybrid)	Complex, 2101 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue
Nelson, Area E & F	Tuesday, March 12	RDCK Board Room,
	6:00 pm PST (hybrid)	202 Lakeside Drive
Creston, Area A, B & C	Wednesday, March 13	Creston & District Community
	6:00 pm MST (hybrid)	Complex, 312 19 <sup>th</sup> Avenue N
RDCK Regular Board Meeting	Thursday, March 21	RDCK Board Room,
Financial Plan Adoption	9:00 am PST (hybrid)	202 Lakeside Drive

\*Click on the highlighted link to join the meeting virtually

Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit <u>www.rdck.ca</u>.

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For further information and media inquiries, please contact:

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