



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

# Media Release

March 10, 2018  
For immediate release

## **Creston Community Park to get a major upgrade Project made possible thanks to federal Gas Tax Fund**

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Creston, BC: The Creston & District Community Complex, which is owned and operated by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), is proud to announce a major project to upgrade the outdoor property at the Creston & District Community Complex – Creston Community Park. The project is being funded through the Federal Gas Tax Fund, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

“Our vision is for all residents and visitors in Creston and the surrounding areas, of all ages and abilities, to be able to take advantage of safe, innovative and meaningful recreation opportunities in their community,” said Larry Binks, Director of Electoral Area C and Chair of the Creston Valley Services Committee. “The enhanced Complex will be a ‘destination park’ that will encourage active recreation, build stronger families, and draw tourists. We are grateful to our funders for their support as we work to achieve this goal, and we look forward to including the community as we move forward.”

The Creston & District Community Complex is a major community hub for the region and has more than 200,000 visits annually. The facilities inside the Complex were significantly upgraded in 2010, thanks to an in-depth masterplan/consultation process resulting in a successful referendum. In 2016, public input identified the need to upgrade the Complex’s outdoor spaces to mirror the dynamic, inclusive and intergenerational nature of the inside spaces.

The project will consist of a reconstructed skate park, which will feature 10,000 sq. ft. of innovative functional spaces that skateboarders, BMX riders and scooter riders will be able to enjoy. The area will also include an accessible walkway and seating area for spectators, and a picnic/civic space with seating for social and community gatherings. Other features will include a revitalized playground, horseshoe pits, and beach volleyball courts; the addition of pickleball courts and a multipurpose basketball court; upgrades to lighting, landscaping, parking areas, trailheads and pathways; and enhancements to accessibility between the indoor and outdoor amenities of the Complex.

The project is anticipated to start in April 2018, with an estimated completion date of August 2019, with the total cost estimated at \$3.25 million. Funding of \$3.1 million is provided by the Government of Canada through the Gas Tax Fund, with an additional \$150,000 provided by the Columbia Basin Trust through their Recreation Infrastructure Program.

Each year, the Government of Canada provides over \$278 million in funding for local government infrastructure across British Columbia through the Federal Gas Tax Fund. The Union of BC Municipalities administers the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

“The Creston & District Community Complex is such a valued, well-used centre of community life for the entire Creston Valley,” said Michelle Mungall, MLA for Nelson-Creston and B.C. Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. “Well done to the Regional District of Central Kootenay for securing this funding that will expand and improve the outdoor facilities here.”

“Communities across BC are looking for funding to replace, upgrade and expand local infrastructure,” said Director Wendy Booth, President, Union of BC Municipalities. “The federal Gas Tax Fund is accelerating the pace of infrastructure renewal through the transfer of close to \$3 billion since 2005 for projects in our province. I appreciate the Government of Canada’s longterm commitment to fund priorities identified by BC local governments.”

### Links

- To see all projects funded through this intake, visit <https://news.gov.bc.ca/16553>
- To learn more about the federal Gas Tax Fund, visit: <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/gtf-fte-eng.html>.
- For more information about the Creston & District Community Complex and for updates on the project as it progresses, visit <http://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/recreation/complexes-facilities/creston-complex-info.html>.

*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, and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca).*

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