



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

Media Release

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For immediate release

RDCK encouraged by federal commitment to support transportation solutions

Nelson, BC: The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is encouraged by a recent announcement from the federal Minister of Transport to provide funding to fill gaps in service following Greyhound's cancellation of bus routes. Leah Main, Village of Silverton Municipal Director on the RDCK Board, worked closely with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to develop policy and a resolution to address this issue, which impacts people in rural communities in the RDCK and across western Canada.

"Many people in rural and remote parts of the province rely on inter-city bus services to visit friends and family, access critical services or attend medical appointments," said Director Main. "I am pleased to see the federal government supporting our efforts to find safe, reliable and affordable transportation options."

Since Greyhound announced the cancellation of bus services along routes in western Canada effective October 31, 2018, several private operators have stepped in to replace most of the affected routes. The federal funding will be used to address the remaining service gaps on a cost-shared and transitional basis.

In her report to the RDCK Board dated November 1, 2018, Director Main shared the funding announcement by Transport Minister Marc Garneau, and congratulated the RDCK Board for helping to influence federal policy on this issue.

Director Main has been a strong advocate for improving transportation options in rural communities since Greyhound first signaled their intention to withdraw services. In March 2018, the RDCK Board passed a resolution championed by Director Main, which was subsequently forwarded to the FCM and adopted by their Executive, to advocate for the federal government to work with provincial, territorial and municipal governments to create a national strategy to preserve and enhance rural, inter-city bus services.

"I would like to thank my colleagues on the RDCK Board, the Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for their support on this issue," said Director Main. "Working together, we can come up with long-term transportation options for residents and businesses in under-served communities."

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.

For media enquiries:

Maria Hypponen

Communications Coordinator

Regional District of Central Kootenay

Tel: 250-352-1531

Email: mhypponen@rdck.bc.ca