



## Community Recovery Information Bulletin

### RDCK Community Recovery Information Bulletin - January 31, 2025

Following the wildfire events that impacted our communities in the summer of 2024, it was clear the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) would need to provide support for the recovery process. Guided by the principle of “Build Back Better,” we have focused on understanding the unique needs of our communities and finding the resources necessary to support these efforts.

Recovery work began while the fires were still ongoing, and many residents were displaced. In the initial stages, we opened resiliency centres staffed by personnel from the provincial [Disaster Psychosocial Response team](#), RDCK Community Navigators, and RDCK Emergency Program Coordinators. These centres provided resource lists, cleaning kits donated by the Canadian Red Cross, and an opportunity for residents to share their concerns and needs with us.

From this foundation, we secured provincial funding support to bring on the expertise of Colliers Project Leaders. Colliers Project Leaders has assisted many other communities in British Columbia with their post disaster recovery, most recently they supported the Columbia Shuswap Regional District in their recovery efforts from the 2023 wildfires that impacted their communities. Together, we formed three working groups focused on economics, social-cultural issues, and communications. To keep the size of these groups manageable, representatives from local non-governmental organizations, community organizations, and provincial ministries such as the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness were invited to participate. We invited a broad group of participants to these working groups to ensure we were hearing concerns from as many affected individuals and diverse groups possible. Each group met three times, and through these meetings, we identified and shared the unmet needs our participants were aware of and developed projects to address them. The final meeting took place on January 13, 2025, and we are now transitioning to project teams to begin implementing the projects that have been prioritized based on several criteria including urgency of need, overall impact, and project feasibility. We have already taken significant steps on the implementation on a number of these projects and will continue to work with our community partners on seeing them through to completion.

Our community recovery manager has been and continues to work closely with community groups, concerned citizens, and partner agencies to better understand how we can collaborate and maximize the impact of our efforts. The knowledge and commitment of our community partners have been invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for their continued support. Additionally, we have been in discussions with BC Parks and the BC Wildfire Service to learn about their rehabilitation efforts. As they are responsible for land-based recovery, we have requested updates on their progress so we can share these developments with the community and local businesses.

We will be providing monthly updates on our progress going forward. These updates along with other recovery resources can be found on our website at [RDCK Emergency Management - Recovery](#)

For further information regarding our community recovery planning please contact Ian Briscoe, Emergency Program Coordinator with the RDCK at [ibriscoe@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:ibriscoe@rdck.bc.ca).