



Regional District of Central Kootenay
CRESTON VALLEY SERVICES COMMITTEE
Open Meeting Addenda

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2026
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Creston and District Community Complex - Erickson Room
312 19 Avenue North, Creston, BC

Directors will have the opportunity to participate in the meeting electronically. Proceedings are open to the public.

Pages

1. ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Meeting Time:

9:00 a.m. PT

Join by Video:

<https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/92632670829?pwd=VkcPYOv0WnMTDNowScaJt12nFYz8zN.1>

Join by Phone:

+1 778 907 2071 Canada Toll Free

*6 to unmute or mute

*9 to raise or lower your hand

Meeting ID: 926 3267 0829

Meeting Password: 430277

In-Person Location: 312 19 Avenue North, Creston, BC

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeBoon called the meeting to order at [Time] a.m.

3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION:

The agenda for the May 28, 2026 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The May 7, 2026 Creston Valley Services Committee minutes, have been received.

6 - 11

6. DELEGATE

6.1 DELEGATION: CRESTON DEN SOCIETY

Karen Shannon, Treasurer of the Creston Den Society will present a request in support of the Den's Drop-In program.

12 - 25

6.2 DELEGATION: CRESTON VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Jessica Piccinin, Executive Director Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce will present a request for Community Development Grant Application to the Committee.

26 - 40

7. DIRECTOR REPORTS

7.1 FOR INFORMATION: CRESTON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Director Vandenberghe has submitted the Creston Valley Public Library Annual General Report for the Committee's information.

41 - 59

Note: Late attachment added to the addenda.

7.2 FOR INFORMATION: CRESTON VALLEY TOURISM SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Director Vandenberghe submitted the Creston Valley Tourism Society Annual General Meeting report for the Committee's information.

60 - 76

Note: Late attachment added to the addenda.

7.3 FOR INFORMATION: RCMP CRESTON DETACHMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE

Director Vandenberghe requested to add this item to the addenda.

77 - 79

7.4 FOR INFORMATION: CRESTON COMMUNITY FOREST

Director Vandenberghe requested to add this item to the addenda.

80 - 82

7.5 FOR INFORMATION: KOOTENAY FOOD COUNCIL AGM

83 - 86

Director Vandenberghe requested to add this item to the addenda.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON VALLEY FIRESMART RESILIENCY COMMITTEE** 87 - 89
øuku kqazın WORKING GROUP
The Committee Report dated May 28, 2026 from Nora Hannon, Acting Emergency Program Manager, re: Creston Valley Firesmart Resiliency Committee øuku kqazın Working Group, has been received.
- 8.2 DISCUSSION ITEM: KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY FARMS ADVISORS 2026** 90 - 103
WORKPLAN
Director Vandenberghe requested that this item be added to the agenda.
- 8.3 DISCUSSION ITEM: PHYSICIAN RRECRUITMENT PROGRAM UPDATE** 104 - 105
CAO Horn requested that this item be added to the agenda.
- 8.4 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT CONTRIBUTION** 106 - 108
AGREEMENT UPDATE
CAO Horn requested to add this item to the agenda

RECOMMENDATION:

The Town of Creston recommends that the CVSC:

Direct RDCK staff to negotiate a contribution agreement with the Town of Creston that addresses ongoing funding requirements and mitigates municipal liability exposure associated with the operation of the Creston Valley Regional Airport.

- 8.5 DISCUSSION ITEM: MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT AND RCMP** 109 - 111
STAFFING UPDATE
CAO Horn requested this item be added to the agenda.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- 9.1 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON VALLEY ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY** 112 - 128
The Committee Report dated May 28, 2026 from Chris Gainham, Utility Services Manager, re: Creston Valley Alternative Water Supply Initiative - Business Case and Long-Term Planning Considerations, has been received.

Note: Late attachment added to the addenda.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board direct staff to develop a proposed next-stage workplan associated with the Creston Valley Alternative Water Supply initiative, including:

- comparative business-case analysis,
- refinement of demand and infrastructure assumptions,

- governance and service delivery considerations,
- integration with watershed sustainability and drought adaptation initiatives,
- and exploration of funding opportunities

and that staff report back with proposed scope, budget, and implementation considerations.

9.2 GOAT RIVER WATERSHED WATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 129 - 133
Reoccurring item on the agenda.

9.3 ACTION ITEM LIST 134

10. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair will call for questions from the public and members of the media at 11:45 a.m.

11. CLOSED

11.1 Meeting Closed to the Public

RECOMMENDATION:

In the opinion of the Board - and, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter – the public interest so requires that persons other than DIRECTORS, ALTERNATE DIRECTORS, DELEGATIONS AND STAFF be excluded from the meeting;

AND FURTHER, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, the meeting is to be closed on the basis(es) identified in the following Subsections:

90. (1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

11.2 Recess of Open Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

The Open meeting be recessed at [Time] in order to conduct the Closed meeting.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next Creston Valley Services Committee meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

The Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adjourned at [Time].



**Regional District of Central Kootenay
CRESTON VALLEY SERVICES COMMITTEE
Open Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, May 7, 2026
9:00 am PT
Creston and District Complex – Erickson Room
312 19 Avenue North, Creston, BC

COMMITTEE MEMBERS’ PRESENT

Director A. DeBoon Town of Creston
Director G. Jackman Electoral Area A
Director R. Tierney Electoral Area B
Director K. Vandenberghe Electoral Area C

STAFF PRESENT

S. Horn Chief Administrative Officer
T. Davison General Manager of Community Services
K. Calder Regional Manager – Recreation & Client Services
C. Stanley Regional Manager – Operations & Asset Management
T. Wayling Regional Programming Manager/Community Development
M. Crowe Parks Planner
C. LeBlanc Community Resilience Coordinator
R. Baril Meeting Coordinator

GUESTS

Director A. Watson RDCK Board Chair/Electoral Area D
D. Dumas Creston Town Counselor

1. ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO

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Meeting ID: 926 3267 0829

Meeting Password: 430277

In-Person Location: 312 19 Avenue North, Creston, BC

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeBoon called the meeting to order at 9: 11 a.m.

3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded,
And resolved:

The agenda for the May 7, 2026 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The April 2, 2026 Creston Valley Services Committee minutes, have been received.

FREEDOM OF THE FLOOR

Moved and seconded,
And resolved:

That Freedom of the Floor be granted to Director Watson and Counselor Dumas.

Carried

6. STAFF REPORTS

- 6.1 CRESTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COMPLEX - QUARTERLY PROGRAMMING UPDATE**
Staff gave an overview of the Quarter One (Q1) report comparing 2025 and 2026 for the Creston & District Community Complex to the Committee.

7. DIRECTOR REPORTS

7.1 CRESTON VALLEY CONSERVATION ACTION FORM SUMMARY REPORT

Direction to Staff: Provide background overview and update on Priority Action 5: Perform Fire Maintained Ecosystem Restoration to the Committee.

7.2 FOR INFORMATION: CRESTON VALLEY TOURISM SOCIETY

The Creston Valley Tourism Society Staff Report – March 2026 is received for information.

7.3 GOAT RIVER WATER MONITORING REPORT

The Water Monitoring report was received by the Committee to discuss, the report shows data collected over the last three years on the Goat River. The Committee would like to see this program expanded to include Duck Creek.

The Committee referenced a program doing similar work: North Kootenay Lake Water Monitoring Project, as all inputs are significant information to obtain, showing a steady collection of data year after year to assist decision making processes in the future.

7.4 CRESTON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

The Annual General Meeting for the Creston Valley Public Library report was received for information.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON VALLEY ALTERNATE WATER SUPPLY FEASIBILITY STUDY - UPDATE AND PATH FORWARD

The Committee is wanting more information on the Creston Valley Alternate Water Supply Feasibility Study and how this aligns with the Watershed Sustainability Planning.

Suggestion that this discussion be moved to Water Services Committee meeting.

8.2 DISCUSSION ITEM: BLOSSOM FESTIVAL FREE SWIM

Creston Valley Early Years has requested a free swim event at the Creston & District Community Complex for May 16, 2026 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. This event will proceed to be planned.

8.3 SERVICE S240 CRESTON VALLEY AIRPORT FINANCIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

DIRECTOR ABSENT

Director Vandenberghe left the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Moved and seconded,
And resolved:

That the following motion **BE REFERRED** to the May 28, 2026 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting.

That the Board direct staff to amend the 2026-2030 Financial Plan for Service S240 Airport – Town of Creston, Areas B, C, Defined A to reduce Account Grants Expense and increase Account Contribution to Reserve by the following for each year – \$45,876 (2026), \$48,995 (2027), \$52,327 (2028), \$55,885 (2029) and \$59,685 (2030), AND FURTHER, that a new reserve be set up in Service S240 to retain those funds and that any expenditures from that reserve require Creston Valley Services Committee approval and a recommendation to the Board.

Carried

**RECESS/
RECONVENE** The meeting recessed at 10:55 a.m. and reconvened at 11:03 a.m.

DIRECTOR PRESENT Director Vandenberghe rejoined the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

8.4 SERVICE S224 - FINANCIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

Moved and seconded,
And resolved that it be recommended to the Board:

That the Board approve an amendment to the 2026 Financial Plan for Service S224 Recreation Facility – Creston and Areas B and C and Area A, to Increase Grants Specified by \$5,000, Increase Transfer from Reserves by \$45,000 and Increase Capital Expenditures by \$50,000.

Carried

8.5 DISCUSSION ITEM: SERVICE S224 - CAPITAL PLAN VERBAL REPORT

Staff provided a verbal report for the Capital Plan for Service S224 Recreation Facility – Creston and Areas B and C and Area A. A needs assessment will be done and database created for the Creston & District Community Complex and Rotacrest Hall. A report will be brought back to the Committee to address future use for all user groups.

8.6 SERVICE S201 - FINANCIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

Moved and seconded,
And resolved that it be recommended to the Board:

That the Board approve an amendment to the 2026 Financial Plan for Service S201 Regional Parks – Creston and Areas B and C, to Decrease Contribution to Reserves by

\$60,000, Increase Transfer from Reserves by \$40,000 and Increase Capital Expenditures by \$100,000.

Carried

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 CRESTON NEW HORIZON'S SENIOR SOCIETY AGREEMENT REPORT

Moved and seconded,

And resolved that it be recommended to the Board:

That the Board approve the RDCK enter into a three-year agreement with Creston New Horizons Seniors Society for non-exclusive use of the Rotacrest Hall commencing on June 1, 2026 and ending on May 31, 2029 and that the Board Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized the execute the agreement.

Carried

9.2 GOAT RIVER WATERSHED WATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Staff gave a brief overview of the funding updates and engagement processes. Staff also informed the Committee that an updated survey will be distributed to the public.

9.3 ACTION ITEM LIST

Electoral Areas A, B and C Dangerous and Aggressive Dog Control Service Establishment Bylaw No. 3067, 2026 is by Alternate Approval Process. There will be a public engagement session on Thursday, May 14, 2026 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Creston & District Community Complex.

10. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public and members of the media at 11:45 a.m.

A member of the public asked if data is being collected from the water metering project on the meters already installed. Staff have taken the question and will pass along to water services.

11. CLOSED

11.1 Meeting Closed to the Public

Moved and seconded,

And resolved:

In the opinion of the Committee - and, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter – the public interest so requires that persons other than DIRECTORS, ALTERNATE DIRECTORS, DELEGATIONS AND STAFF be excluded from the meeting;

AND FURTHER, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, the meeting is to be closed on the basis(es) identified in the following Subsections:

90. (1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

Carried

11.2 Recess of Open Meeting

Moved and seconded,
And resolved:

The Open meeting be recessed at 12:03 p.m. in order to conduct the Closed meeting.

Carried

12. NEXT MEETING

The next Creston Valley Services Committee meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and seconded,
And resolved:

The Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Carried

Digitally approved by:

Arnold DeBoon, Chair



Annual General Meeting 2025 Report

The Creston Valley Den Society recognizes and respects that we live, work and play on the unceded traditional territory of the Yaqan Nukiy people of the Ktunaxa Nation.



03 Message from the Board

04 Purposes of the Den Society

05 Our Mission and Values

06 Efforts to Establish a Shelter

07 A Big Thank You

08 2024 - 2025 Financials

10 Daily Den Drop-In

11 CAT Partnership

12 Public Education Materials

13 Community Advocacy

14 Meet Our Board

15 In Partnership With



How did we get here?

The Creston Valley Den Society was officially formed in March, 2024. Our mission grew from the Trinity United Church Out of the Cold shelter program which operated throughout the winter of 2024. Out of the Cold was an emergency overnight shelter in the former Town of Creston Ambulance building, funded through BC Housing and local donations. During the course of its three-month operation, the Out of the Cold shelter provided beds, showers, food, laundry, safety and hope for a total of fifteen individuals through the coldest winter in recent memory. When the shelter closed on March 31, 2024, the newly formed Creston Valley Den Society began the work of advocating for and establishing a homeless shelter in Creston.

Despite the best efforts of the CVDS Board, volunteers, service providers and concerned citizens, we find ourselves eighteen months later, still without a shelter for the unhoused in Creston (see attached timeline). BC Housing has stated a willingness to purchase or lease a building that meets their shelter criteria and the re-zoning requirements of the Town of Creston. The Creston Valley Den Society is ready to engage at any time as a non-profit operator and community advocate.

What have we been doing?

Meanwhile, Creston's unhoused and marginally housed continue to suffer. The Den Society Board began to pivot its services in the summer of 2024 to provide outreach and harm reduction supplies to those in need. By September of 2024, when it became clear that the Town of Creston would not be approving our proposal for a ten bed BC Housing Temporary Winter Shelter in the former ambulance building, we began to focus on helping our citizens survive the winter. What began as a daily sandwich program, made by volunteers and distributed out of the Trinity United Church entryway, had evolved by December into a hot lunch Drop In program. The Den Society assisted those living in tents, campers and vehicles with outdoor supplies, heaters, propane, sleeping bags, harm reduction and clothing. A small tent camp was erected on the parking lot of the former ambulance building with a porta-potty, electricity and garbage pick up supplied by the Town of Creston. Through our volunteer-run Den Drop In, the unhoused and marginally housed could access Rec Center passes for showers and money for laundry and one by one, service providers began to visit Drop In to connect with clients. By January 2025, thanks to a generous donation from Trinity Treasures Thrift Store, we were able to hire an Outreach Worker to run the Drop In program for two hours per day. We have been building services ever since!

As of November, 2025, we have served well over 3000 meals to an average of twelve people per day, six days per week! Creston is drastically underserved in the social and health sectors, particularly for those struggling with severe poverty. Slowly but surely, we have built our Drop In

into a Hub for Service. Please see details under "Drop In Program" for all of the service providers who visit regularly. Thanks to private donations, various grants and thousands of volunteer hours we will continue this service throughout the winter.

Though the Den Society does not receive any direct government funding, we have formed partnerships with many organizations which assist us in carrying out our work and will hopefully help us access grants and funding in the future. One such partnership with Community Action Initiatives and ANKORS has enabled us to create a well-funded Creston Community Action Team titled "Saving Lives in the Creston Valley Through Support and Connection".



Another invaluable partnership with the Creston Valley Public Library allowed us to be part of the community education presentation series "When Homelessness Hits Close to Home" (see details later in this report). Through newspaper articles, radio interviews, the CVDS website, letters, countless outreach emails, phone calls, and conversations around the community, we are all addressing stigma and raising awareness about the needs of the unhoused and marginally housed in the Creston Valley.

Thanks to Trinity United Church and the personal advocacy of a Den volunteer, two unhoused individuals have a safe haven for the winter on church property. We are hoping that other churches, private property owners or the Town of Creston might offer refuge to a few other individuals, so they at least have a secure tent over their heads through another long, cold winter.

Where are we going?

The plight of the unhoused and marginally housed is not unique to Creston. Thousands of Canadians suffer from poverty, lack of affordable housing, family breakdown, isolation, mental health challenges, family abuse, and chronic illness which may include brain injury, alcohol abuse, drug addiction, and disability. We know that at least 50 individuals in Creston are chronically underhoused and a small group are fully unhoused. Such complex issues require thoughtful, compassionate, community-based solutions with support from our local and provincial governments.

YOU are an indispensable part of the equation. Thank you to our more than 160 Friends of the Den who continue to volunteer, attend rallies, donate, write letters and advocate for shelter, support and services for Creston's unhoused and marginally housed. With your help, our advocacy and dedication will continue into 2026 and beyond and The Creston Valley Den Society will continue to be a haven of safety and hope for those who are most in need.

Thank you.
Sincerely, Board of Directors, Creston Valley Den Society

Purposes of the Creston Valley Den Society

- 01** To provide necessary supports for survival to the unhoused and marginally housed in the Creston Valley.
- 02** To provide connections between the unhoused and other community groups and support services (including indigenous, multi-gender and ethnic communities).
- 03** To advocate for the establishment of a homeless shelter in Creston.
- 04** To provide community education to reduce the stigma and increase understanding of the complexities of homelessness.
- 05** To provide supports that enhance the overall emotional, social and physical health and wellbeing of the unhoused and marginally housed and that acknowledge the potential trauma that all unhoused individuals have experienced.

Activities to address each purpose:

To provide necessary supports for survival to the unhoused and marginally housed in the Creston Valley.

- A) Purchase and distribution of survival gear (tents, sleeping bags, heaters, clothing, propane, etc.)
- B) Preparation and distribution of food on a daily basis
- C) Acquisition and provision of harm reduction supplies and Naloxone kits (partnership with Ankors and Interior Health/Public Health)
- D) Establishment of a Drop-In Center for the unhoused and marginally housed to access food, gear and services as above
- E) Apply for grants, donations and build partnerships in order to carry out our activities
- F) Hire Outreach Worker(s) to run the Drop In center and provide outreach into the unhoused community
- G) Enlist support of various agencies to assist clients in accessing benefits, renewing ID and licenses and dealing with tax returns
- H) Access to drug checking supplies and information



To provide connections between the unhoused and other community groups and support services (including Indigenous, multi-gender and ethnic communities).

- A) Establish Den Drop In as a HUB for services and connections where ALL those in need are welcome: have enlisted the partnership of numerous agencies to provide service during Drop In Center hours. These include Kootenay Community Center Society, Kootenay Employment Service, Community Paramedic program, Ankors (East and West), Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Interior Health, Community Public Health and so on.

B) Attend all local and regional meetings pertaining to the unhoused

C) Outreach through website, newsletters, email and in person meetings

To advocate for the establishment of a Shelter for the Unhoused in Creston.

- A) Prepared and submitted detailed proposal for a ten-bed Temporary Winter shelter to Town of Creston with commitment for funding from BC Housing. Not approved.

Our Mission and Values

The Creston Valley Den Society exists to serve, with dignity, the unhoused and marginally housed in our community.

Through access to emergency or transitional housing, programs and education, and fostering a supportive community, we can provide a road to safety and hope.

- Safety:** Seek non-judgmental methods of providing local access to shelter, food, and a supportive environment.
- Community:** Actively combat stigma and stereotypes.
- Connection:** Building trust through transparency, open communication, and compassion.
- Partnership:** Promoting positive relationships and working in collaboration with community, other agencies, and levels of government.
- Inclusion:** Commitment to working in ways which are respectful of human rights, diversity, and self-determination.
- Dignity:** Treat all people as equals regardless of circumstances.
- Opportunity:** Offer programs for clients to enhance their quality of life wherever possible.

- B) Continue communication and advocacy with local, regional and provincial governments
- C) Outreach to local and regional media outlets – newspaper, radio, etc.
- D) Engagement in all formal and informal meetings and forums to advocate for a Shelter in Creston
- E) Maintain regular communication with BC Housing for updates and information sharing

To provide community education to reduce the stigma and increase understanding of the complexities of homelessness.

- A) Partnership with Creston Valley Public Library to establish community education panel presentations
- B) Partnership with Ankors East to provide connections and education for local politicians, municipal workers and RCMP
- C) Creation of Website, Facebook Page and participation in community education events to inform the public and provide resource information
- D) Provide opportunities for community members to volunteer at the Drop In Center and have positive interactions with the unhoused to further their understanding of homelessness
- E) Create "Friends of the Den" community support group which receives regular newsletter updates and invitations to participate in

activities for the unhoused

To provide supports that enhance the overall emotional, social and physical health and wellbeing of the unhoused and marginally housed

- A) Establish a welcoming, friendly, respectful atmosphere at Drop In that is modelled throughout the community; social connections are imperative in overcoming trauma, isolation, illness and abuse as experienced by most homeless individuals
- B) Provide access to showers and fitness facility (Creston and District Rec Center passes) and access to laundry facilities
- C) Accompany clients to appointments and assist with follow-up reminders and transportation
- D) Provide advocacy and support as needed in interactions with by-law, medical personnel, government agencies, etc.
- E) Continue to advocate for enhanced Addictions Counselling, Mental Health supports, access to Substance Use Rehabilitation and other relevant services in the Creston Valley
- F) Establish a Creston Community Action Team (CAT) with membership from all stakeholder groups (including those with lived experience, Indigenous and multi-gender) and funding support through Community Action Initiative and AnkorsEast Project titled "Saving Lives Through Support and Connection"

Our History: Efforts to Establish a Shelter

A Big Thank You

January - March, 2024

Out of the Cold

Winter Shelter started by local citizens through a combination of BC Housing support, charities, and passionate crowdfunding. Located at Ambulance Hall, rented from the Town of Creston.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

March - June, 2024

TOC proposes downtown shelter location. Refused by BC Housing, Den Society, and downtown businesses. TOC's proposal withdrawn.

MARCH

APRIL

TOC press release commits to working with BC Housing & CVDS.

MAY

Creston Valley Den Society (CVDS) strikes a new board, becomes an official non-profit.

June - August, 2024

TOC releases a request for proposal for Ambulance Building.

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

CVDS writes extensive RFP based on provided criteria, supported by BC Housing, social & health non-profits, government agencies. Submitted August 14, 2024. CVDS is the only applicant.

September, 2024

SEPTEMBER

TOC does not follow RFP timeline, does not approve proposal past the stated dates, causing funding to be lost.

CVDS answers additional TOC questions Sept. 30

October - December, 2024

CVDS provides support via food, supplies, and continues partnership building & funding.

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

TOC conducts survey showing 74% support for Extreme Winter Shelter. The Town fails to secure their funding for EWS, briefly opens a warming centre for -10C or colder.

CVDS and the Friends of the Den volunteers help unhoused set up tent camp. TOC allows use of electrical, porta potty, provide garbage pickup.

January - May, 2025

CVDS establishes daily drop-in at Trinity United Church hall thanks to private donations, grants, and supplies from volunteers. Hot lunch, sandwiches, gear, supplies, hygiene options.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

CVDS hires an Outreach worker, organizes service providers (local and regional) to connect unhoused clients with benefits and health care. Seeks support for Creston throughout the region and province; advocates widely for more services in Creston; accesses a Community Action Team Grant with funding.

TOC in meetings with BC Housing. No info shared publicly. No plans for shelter or support for unhouse and marginally housed communicated up until this point.

Food Brigade, Drop In and General Labor

- ♥ Baptist Church Cooks
- ♥ Renee Bayley
- ♥ Jessica Boekelheide
- ♥ Emily Boekelheide
- ♥ Claire Bouchard
- ♥ Brenda Brucker
- ♥ Maureen Cameron
- ♥ Jessica Cashen
- ♥ Ashlene Chadburn
- ♥ Christie Conner
- ♥ Danielle Conolly
- ♥ Phen Crawford
- ♥ Dawna Crogan-Hammond
- ♥ Marena Crosara
- ♥ Tanya Crouse
- ♥ Debbie Currie
- ♥ Susan Davis
- ♥ Nancy DeVuono
- ♥ Leonard DeVuono
- ♥ Sharon Deyotte
- ♥ Sahnte and John Evans
- ♥ Judy Freeman
- ♥ Vicki Gall
- ♥ Echo Giles
- ♥ Paul and Margaret Goldsmith
- ♥ Patricia Hayes
- ♥ Shelley Irvine
- ♥ Laura Johnson
- ♥ Gaylene Keyes
- ♥ Margaret Lavender
- ♥ Joi Leycraft
- ♥ Delaney McBlain
- ♥ Tracy McKee
- ♥ Nancy McLean
- ♥ Robert McLean
- ♥ Emma Middleton
- ♥ Cindi Musa
- ♥ Jean Mutch
- ♥ Niki
- ♥ Pat Patterson
- ♥ Grant Penn
- ♥ Rolando
- ♥ Candy Root
- ♥ Sharon Scott
- ♥ Karen Shannon
- ♥ Sue and Gary Smith
- ♥ Pat Smith
- ♥ Sharyn Speis
- ♥ Janna Weirenga

Organizations and Businesses

- ♥ 7th Day Adventist Church
- ♥ ANKORS
- ♥ Balancing Rock Clinic
- ♥ Clubhouse Restaurant (Sean Stephenson)
- ♥ Creston Valley Bird Fest
- ♥ Creston Valley Caregivers
- ♥ Creston Valley Funeral Services
- ♥ Creston Valley Gleaners
- ♥ Creston Valley Public Library
- ♥ Creston and District Credit Union
- ♥ Fields Forward
- ♥ Jimmy's Pub and Grill
- ♥ Kootenay Community Center Society
- ♥ Kootenay Employment Services
- ♥ KRSS Social Justice Group
- ♥ Ktunaxa Nation
- ♥ Lower Kootenay Band
- ♥ Marks
- ♥ Monday Church Soup Program
- ♥ Mountain Barn Bakery
- ♥ Save On Foods
- ♥ TAPS Kitchen
- ♥ The Sleepy Hedgehog
- ♥ Town of Creston
- ♥ Trinity Treasures Thrift Store
- ♥ Trinity United Church
- ♥ Trinity United Church Celebration Funds
- ♥ Valley Community Services

As a social support organization, the Creston Valley Den Society is unique in that we are not funded through government contracts. Instead, we rely wholly on volunteerism, donations and grants for the vital work we undertake. We would like to send our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals and organizations. Without their support, none of this would have been possible.

Donors – Food, Funds, Expertise and Materials

- ♥ Barb Aguero
- ♥ Ute Bachinski
- ♥ Jesse Berg
- ♥ Brenda Brucker
- ♥ Ashlene Chadburn
- ♥ Katherine Durin
- ♥ Dshamilja Egli
- ♥ John and Sahnte Evans
- ♥ Teresa Fornier
- ♥ Julie Free
- ♥ Joanne and Drew Galius
- ♥ Ernie Gall
- ♥ John Garrigan
- ♥ Paul & Margaret Goldsmith
- ♥ Patricia Hayes
- ♥ Rev Ken Jones
- ♥ Dr. Jeremy Kass
- ♥ Mel Kelm
- ♥ Leslie and Todd Kelner
- ♥ DL Landon
- ♥ Delaney and Jody McBlain
- ♥ Nancy and Robert McLean
- ♥ Jean Mutch
- ♥ Rosemary & Bernhard Niemoeller
- ♥ Shirley Ottley
- ♥ Dr. Rick Page
- ♥ Sergiu Postica
- ♥ Celia Pringle
- ♥ Mike Ramaradhya
- ♥ Ron
- ♥ Michael Schulting
- ♥ Karen and Glenn Shannon
- ♥ Gary and Sue Smith
- ♥ Pat Smith
- ♥ Carey Stephenson
- ♥ Polly Sutherland
- ♥ Allan Gribbin & Heather Suttie
- ♥ Tanya Wall
- ♥ Luanne Warren
- ♥ Darlene White
- ♥ Vivian Winterer
- ♥ Kaitlyn Zolinsky

Special Donations via Glenn Shannon's Memorial Request

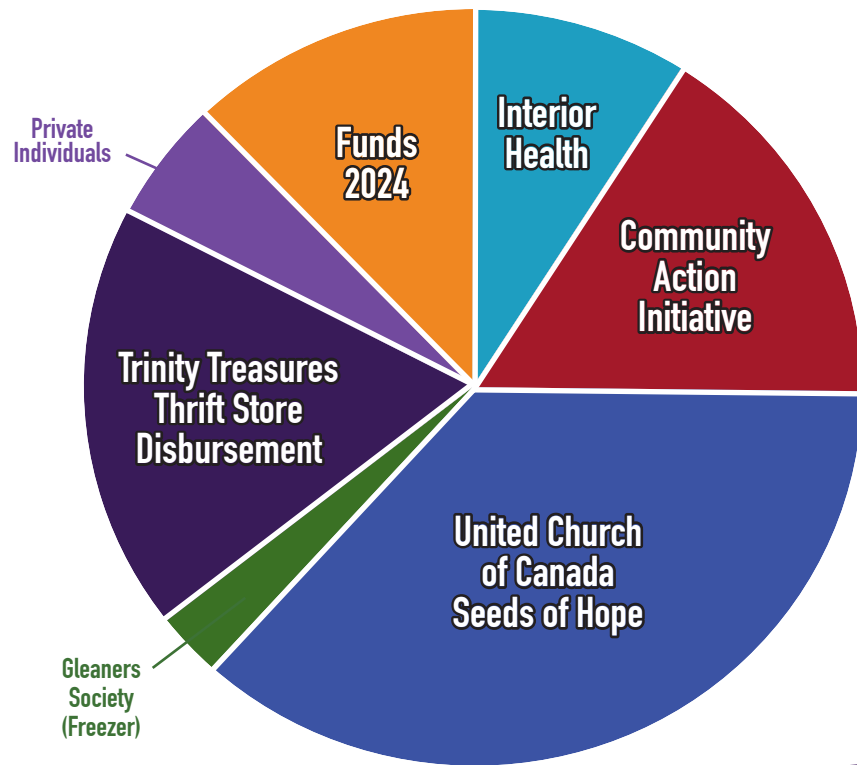
- ♥ Lynn Cooper
- ♥ Arnold and Wendy DeBoon
- ♥ Nancy and Leonard DeVuono
- ♥ Shirley Dupres
- ♥ Vicki and Ernie Gall
- ♥ Paul and Margaret Goldsmith
- ♥ Mary Gualitieri
- ♥ Diana Halliday
- ♥ Sharon Ortega

Thank you to our many Anonymous Donators!

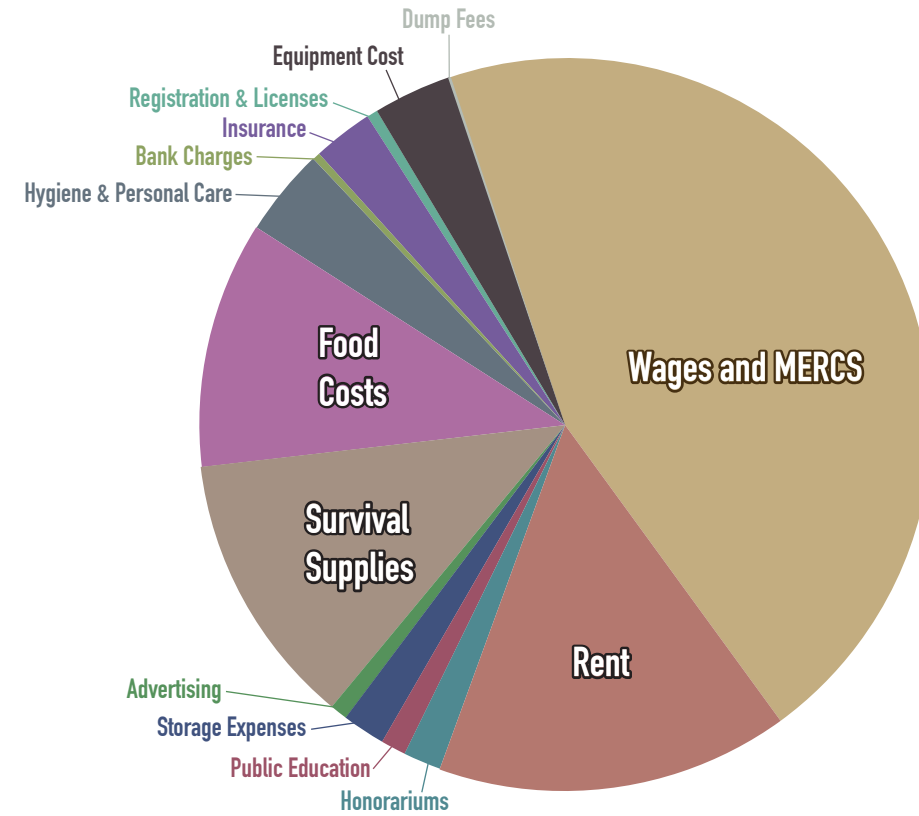
- ♥ Anonymous who donated \$1620 towards our insurance needs.
- ♥ Anonymous who donated \$2000 to pay our August rent.
- ♥ Anonymous man who walked in to donate \$400 to the group who feeds people.
- ♥ Every shopper at Trinity Treasures Thrift Shop who has donated cash to our box at the till.

Income Breakdown: January – Sept. 2025

Expense Breakdown: January – Sept. 2025



12%	Funds Carried Over [2024]
9%	Interior Health Cold Weather
16%	Community Action Initiative
36%	United Church of Canada
3%	Gleaners Society
18%	Thrift Store Disbursement
5%	Private Individuals
Total:	55,216.07



0.7%	Advertising
12.1%	Survival Supplies
10.9%	Food Costs
45.1%	Wages and MERCS
15.7%	Rent
4%	Hygiene & Personal Care
0.2%	Bank Charges
2.9%	Insurance
1.6%	Honorariums
1.1%	Public Education
0.3%	Registration & Licenses
3.4%	Equipment Cost
0.1%	Dump Fees
1.9%	Storage Expenses
Total:	52,146.33

Food Costs

The food costs when broken down for daily expenses amounts to less than \$23 per day to feed 8 – 21 people. Average number per day is 14.

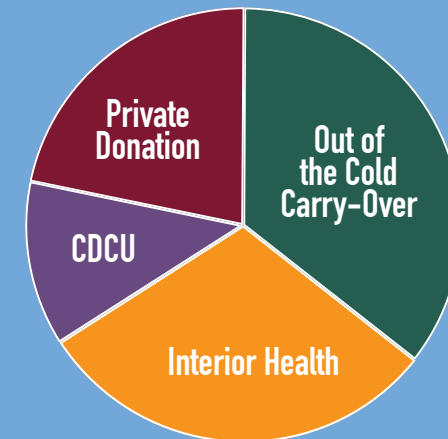
Rental Costs

An additional \$9,000 donated directly to Trinity United Church to help with Rental Costs. Therefore, the rent expense for our Drop In program from January – September is 17,038.00. At the time of writing this report September's rent (\$2,000) remained outstanding.

Supplies

Hygiene and Personal Care includes buying 10 punch passes for our clients at the Rec Centre and laundry costs.

Survival supplies includes all equipment that we need to purchase to help our clients survive while residing on the streets. This includes tents, sleeping bags, propane, hand warmers etc...

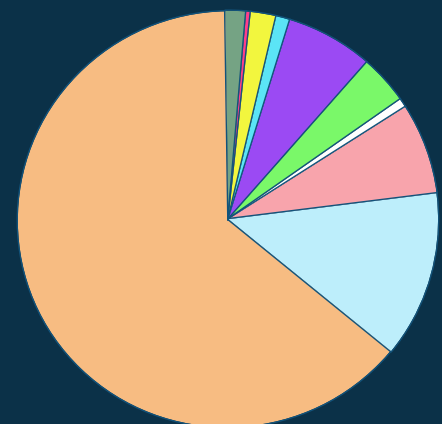


Revenue Breakdown: 2024	
35.5%	Out of the Cold Carry-Over
30.6%	Interior Health Weather Necessities
12.2%	Creston and District Credit Union Grant
21.7%	Private Donation

Total: 16,355.85

Expenses Breakdown: 2024

64.1%	Survival Supplies
12.8%	Food Costs
7.1%	Hygiene
0.7%	Bank
3.8%	Emergency Housing
6.7%	Office Supplies & Photocopying
1.1%	Registration & Licenses
2%	Professional Development
0.3%	Dump Fees
1.6%	Honorariums
Total:	9,549.78





Daily Den Drop In 1pm – 3pm

Located at Trinity United Church Hall every day except Saturday.
Serving the needs of the Unhoused and Marginally Housed

What Do We Do?

- Prepare and serve hot lunch, sandwiches, drinks and food to go.
- Supply outdoor gear, tents, sleeping bags, clothing, sunscreen, insect repellent, harm reduction supplies, access to showers and laundry, etc.
- Provide a point of contact for service providers such as Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Access to Benefits, Community Paramedic, Medical Doctor, Affordable Housing, Indigenous Patient Navigator, KES, etc.
- Provide a safe, welcoming, respectful and climate-controlled haven for the most marginalized in our community.

How Do We Do It?

- With no government funding, we are constantly searching for Grants and Private Donations
- Thanks to a donation from Trinity Treasures Thrift Store and Community Action Initiatives we were able to hire an Outreach Worker to run our kitchen 5 days per week with the help of volunteers (our Sunday program is supervised by a Den Board member)
- Thanks to a generous donation by Paul and Margaret Goldsmith and a newly acquired grant from United Church of Canada “Seeds of Hope” we have been able to rent the Trinity United Church kitchen and hall since December, 2024.
- Thanks to our partnership with ANKORS East we have formed a Community Action Team that supports our Drop In activities with funding for harm reduction, community education and the essentials of living
- Thanks to local supporters like Marks, Gleaners, Jimmy’s Pub and Grill, the Baptist Ladies, Church cooperative Monday “Soup and a Bun” project, The Sleepy Hedgehog Bakery and other local food vendors we are able to supplement our daily lunches.
- Thanks to our dedicated VOLUNTEERS who have signed up for kitchen duty month after month and prepare weekly sandwiches and to our Cooking Bee volunteers who gather to prepare meals ahead for our freezer (freezer donated by Gleaners by the way)
- Thanks to Trinity United for being a willing and compassionate partner in all of the above

What Do We Need?

We will keep going as long as we are able, but without new sources of funding, we will be forced to close our doors.

DONATIONS

Donations are gratefully accepted by:
etransfer at info@crestonvalleydensociety.ca
cheque or cash dropped off at Trinity United Church Office, Thrift Store, or Drop In

ASSISTANCE

ADVOCATE for a Homeless Shelter for Creston
(funding and resources supplied by BC Housing)
JOIN our Friends of the Den email list and volunteer if you can!

Community Action Team (CAT) Partnership



Creston CAT has received a recent grant through Community Action Initiatives, in partnership with the Creston Valley Den Society under the supervision of Ankors East. Approximately \$43,000 has been granted for the following critical project in the Creston Valley!

Community Action Team (CAT) Project Overview:

“Saving Lives Through Support and Connection PART 2” (Providing Services for the Unhoused and Marginally Housed in the Creston Valley)

Addressing the needs of the unhoused and marginally housed:

1. **Necessities of life** – access to tents, sleeping bags, outdoor gear, clothing, food, showers, laundry, harm reduction and so on. All available through the Outreach Worker at the Creston Valley Den Society Drop-In. (There is no Shelter for the Unhoused in Creston and the Town has not applied for an Extreme Weather Shelter)
2. **Access to Benefits, housing applications, employment and training opportunities, etc.** – renew and replace lost ID, determine availability of benefits, assistance with Service BC, subsidized housing and so on. In partnership with Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Kootenay Employment Service, Seniors’ Navigator and the Kootenai Community Center Society. Service Providers attend the Den Drop-In on a regular schedule (the Drop-In provides a “hub for service and support”)
3. **Human connection** – safe, supportive, non-judgemental Drop-In space for assistance, conversation, food, supplies and community; escort to medical, counselling and court appointments as requested
4. **Access to harm reduction/medical supports** – Community Paramedic wellness checks, weekly attendance of local Doctor and Indigenous Patient Navigator, Public Health access, harm reduction supplies and connection to personnel, Naloxone training, drug checking kits and information. All made available at the Den Drop-In.
5. **Community Education and Engagement** – Understanding Homelessness (local context, underlying factors, trauma, addiction, poverty and seniors,

housing crisis, etc.) – in Partnership with Creston Valley Public Library. Connections developed between the unhoused and community volunteers at Den Drop-In; monthly updates from Den Society; Facebook and website resources (www.crestonvalleydensociety.ca); building our CAT team with wide variety of stakeholders and supportive members

6. **Advocate for access to Mental Health and Addictions Counselling**, programs and treatment in Creston. Recognition that lives may be lost through suicide, drug overdose, untreated illness, violence and isolation when individuals are chronically unhoused

7. **Advocate for Permanent Shelter and Transitional Housing in Creston**

Proposed Actions:

1. Maintain all of the above services through continuation of the Den Drop-In. Retention of our Outreach Worker is instrumental in the operation of the daily Den Drop-In Services. Drop-in is run by our Outreach Worker, with support from dozens of volunteers and CVDS Board members. The bulk of our CAT Grant would go towards wages and related costs for our Outreach Worker. Our Society has no government support and CAT is one of the few grants for which we are eligible that will cover the cost of wages.
2. Meet regularly as a Community Action Team – current membership includes reps from the medical community, Youth Addictions Counselling, Lower Kootenay Band, Creston non-profit societies, elders, concerned citizens and individuals with lived experience of homelessness and substance use. We will seek to increase our membership to include local politicians and law enforcement
3. Continue partnership with Creston Valley Public Library to provide public education on Understanding Homelessness and reducing stigma and increasing understanding regarding drug use and its underlying conditions
4. Determine strategies to increase services in Creston for mental health and substance use treatment and counselling
5. Additional activities and partnerships as determined by the CAT.

For more information, visit us online:

www.CrestonValleyDenSociety.ca

Den Society 2025 Board of Directors:

Nancy DeVuono

Chairperson and Secretary – June 2024

Retired Educator: BPhEd, PDP,
MA English and Language Arts
Valley Community Services Vice-Chairperson

Karen Shannon

Treasurer – March, 2024

BA, Psychology Major
28 Years Justice System Background
Current Manager of Trinity Treasures Thrift Shop

Tracy McKee

Director – May 2024

Bachelor of Social Work
Background in Street Outreach,
Harm Reduction, and Emergency Shelters

Gaylene Keyes

Director – July 2024

Bachelor of Social Work, 30 Years Experience
Child Protection Intake Social Worker
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services

Jessica Boekelheide

Director – June 2025

EDUCATIONXX
Community Support Worker/Life Skills Worker
with Interior Health Authority

Renee Bayley

Director – September 2025

Bachelor of Social Work
Youth Addictions Counsellor,
East Kootenay Addiction Services Society

Emily Boekelheide

Director – October 2024

Bachelor in Sociology & Creative Writing
Experience in the Criminal Justice System, Street Outreach
End the Violence Support Worker (KCCS)

Cindy Berdahl

Drop In Coordinator
& Outreach Worker

Practicum Students, Past and Present:

Sergiu Postica
University of Manitoba
Bachelor of Social Work Program

Renee Bayley
University of Calgary
Bachelor of Social Work Program

Steve Morrison
Robertson College
Community Support Worker Program



In Partnership With



Ministry of
Social Development
and Poverty Reduction



Interior Health



East Kootenay
Addiction Services Society



CRESTON VALLEY
PRIDE



CRESTON VALLEY
PUBLIC LIBRARY



BCEHS | BC Emergency
Health Services



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FOUNDATION



Kootenai
Community
Centre
Society

Creston Valley Den Society
Financial Report Covering January 1 – December, 2025
Prepared by Karen Shannon, Treasurer

Revenue:

Funds Carried Over from 2024	
6,806.07	
Grants	1. Interior Health Cold Weather Necessities (January 2025)
5,000.00	
	2. Community Action Initiative Fund (after admin cost)
19,000.00	
	3. United Church of Canada Foundation (Seeds of Hope)
20,000.00	
	4. Gleaners Society (Freezer)
1,500.00	
	5. Creston and District Credit Union Community Grant
2,500.00	
	6. Town of Creston Discretionary Funds
1,500.00	
	7. Regional District A
500.00	
	Total
50,000.00	

Private Donation:

	1. Trinity Treasures Thrift Store
	10,000.00
	2. Private Individuals
	23,445.02
	Total
	33,445.02

Fund Raising:

1. Save On Food Card Fund Raiser		
	960.00	960.00

Miscellaneous:

1. Adjustment to make up for balancing error		
	20.02	20.02

TOTAL REVENUE:
\$91,231.11

Expenses:

1. Advertising	371.38
2. Survival Supplies	7,789.34
3. Food Costs	7,654.56
4. Hygiene and Personal Care	2636.24
5. Bank Charges	326.40
6. Emergency Housing	276.70
7. Office Supplies and Photocopying	671.90
8. Insurance	2,360.00
9. Registration and Licences	130.00
10. Equipment cost (stand-up freezer)	1,861.46
11. Dump Fees	92.95
12. Wages and MERCS	33,296.19

13. Rent	16,038.00
14. Honorariums	800.00
15. Public Education	555.89
16. Storage Expenses (covers next 3 years)	1,000.00
17. Repayment of Save On Foods Fundraiser Loan	3,700.00
18. Miscellaneous	480.87

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$80,041.88

Funds to Carried over to 2026
\$11,189.23

Notes:

1. There were an additional \$9,000 donated directly to Trinity United Church to help with Rental Costs. Therefore, the rent expense for our Drop In program was just over \$25,000
2. The food costs when broken down for daily expenses is just over \$23 per day to feed all of our clients.
3. Hygiene and Personal Care includes buying 10 punch passes for our clients at the Rec Centre and laundry costs.
4. Survival supplies includes all equipment that we need to purchase to help our clients survive while residing on the streets. This includes tents, sleeping bags, propane, hand warmers etc...

Creston Valley Den Society
Budget for 2026 Outreach

	<u>2025</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2025</u> <u>Actuals until</u> <u>Nov 11 and</u> <u>estimated</u> <u>for</u> <u>remainder</u> <u>of year</u>	<u>2026</u> <u>Budget</u>	
Operating Income				
• IH Cold Weather Essentials Grants	15,000	5,000 *		5,500
• Gleaners		1,500 **		
• Town of Creston Discretionary Fund		1,500		
• UCC Seeds of Hope Grant		20,000		
• Trinity Treasures Thrift Shop Outreach money		10,000		<u>1,000</u>
• Other grants	10,000		50,000	<u>32700</u>
• Private Donations (included trinity treasures)	15,000	8,660	10,000	<u>800</u>
• CAT funds	30,000	25,000	30,000	<u>33000</u>
• Fund Raising			5,000	<u>240</u>
Total Operating Income	70,000	71,660	95,000	
Operating Expenses				

• Survival Supplies	13,000	8,000	8,000
• Food Costs	6,000	7,947.04	9,000
• Hygiene and Personal care	4,800	2,568.67	3,500
• Bank Charges	200	310.97	200
• Emergency housing	400	276.70	0
• Admin cost for CAT Program	3000	3000	3000
• Office Supplies and Photocopying	1,000	554.60	700
• Registration and Licensing	200	130	130
• Professional Development	200	0	200
• Dump Fees	100	92.95	100
• Insurance Expenses	1,480	2200	1600
• Wages and MERCS	32,000	33,829.15	41,500
• Rent Expenses	12,000	16,038 ***	24,000
• Advertising and Promotion		371.38	400
• Public Education		555.89	1000
• Honorariums	1,000	800	500
• Equipment costs		1749.47	0
• Misc		240.76	200
Total Operating Expenses	75,380	78,665.58	93,330
Net Income	(5,380)	(7005.58)	1,770
Assets			
• Funds in bank acct at beginning of year	6,806.07	6,806.07	0

Notes			
* This grant appears to have ended.			
** The Gleaners grant was given to cover the cost of the upright freezer in the kitchen dedicated to Den Society.			
*** This amount was supplemented by donations that were given directly to the Church to cover rental costs (\$7000 from Margaret and Paul Goldsmith and \$2000 anonymously donated)			



**Creston Valley
Chamber of
Commerce**

301 Suite Coworking

A Creston Valley Chamber Project

How it began...

Strategic Planning in 2023 led to defined actions

01. ○ **Operational Foundation**
02. ○ **Membership Growth**
03. ○ **Community & Business Engagement**
04. ○ **Financial Stability**

- Sold the building (nest egg), hired Jess (operations), business walks, policies and structure
- 2024 rural collaboration feasibility study funded by Etsi-BC
- Entrepreneurs, remote workers, nonprofits, and creatives all said the same thing and that clarity became our starting point

“

*“We need space.
We need connection.
We need somewhere
to work that feels
good.”*

”

Theory of Change

- We mapped the root problems (isolation, lack of infrastructure, limited avenues for collaboration to name a few)
- We built a Theory of Change to understand the deeper “why”
- Looked at the barriers people face and the outcomes we want for our valley
- Ensured alignment with Chamber mandate and regional economic development priorities

Our Shared Vision and Theory of Change



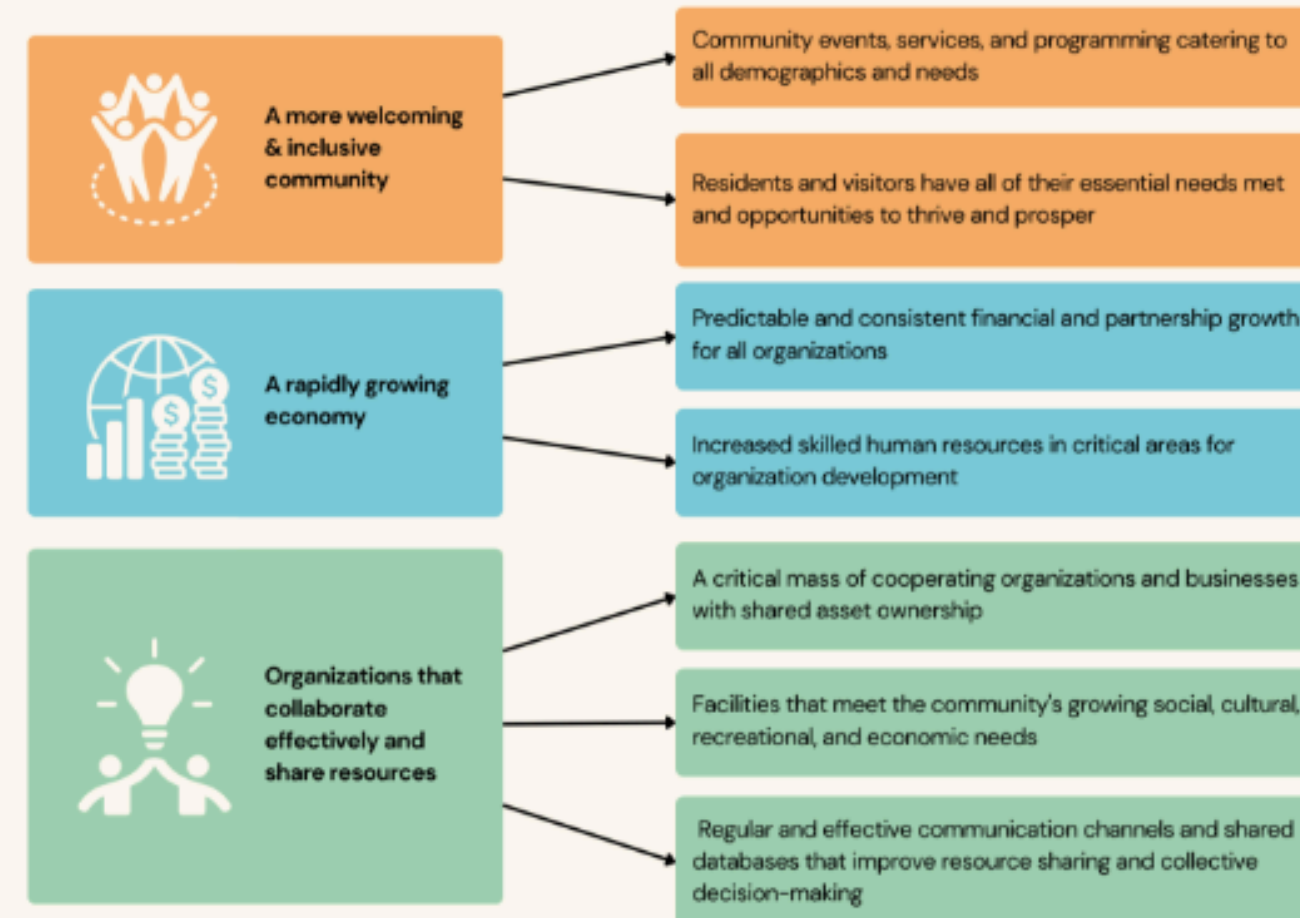
Overview

We are grateful to all participants who generously contributed to the **Creston Valley Community Collaboration Project** through the survey and the brainstorming session. We are excited to present a consolidated **Theory of Change** from your submissions.

Through your invaluable input, we've developed this high-level document that outlines our community's current **landscape, challenges, and aspirations**. This Theory of Change is a strategic blueprint that identifies the crucial **problems** we collectively face, the **resources** we need, the **activities** we must undertake, and the **outcomes** we strive to achieve, all aimed at creating a **resilient, economically diverse, and thriving community**.

This document reflects our collective vision and lays the path toward **sustainable community wealth-building and enhanced organizational capacity**. Thank you for your engagement and commitment to shaping a brighter future for Creston Valley.

Our Vision and Desired Outcomes



Buidling our Social Enterprise Model

- 01.** Developed a business plan that supports the Chamber's financial sustainability with diverse revenue streams
 - memberships, day passes, meeting rooms, programming, business education, asset rentals
- 02.** Anchored the project in Community Wealth Building and a people-first economic model where surplus is reinvested into capacity building, business support, and local economic development
- 03.** A plan to ensure long term resilience without relying on unpredictable grant cycles

3rd Floor Opportunity



The Chamber was approached with the idea of a Creston Business Centre

5,000 sq. ft. of Class A space with high visibility and accessibility that opened the door to imagine something big

Perfect alignment with our research and already a defined community economic development project

Sparked the creation of a flagship asset

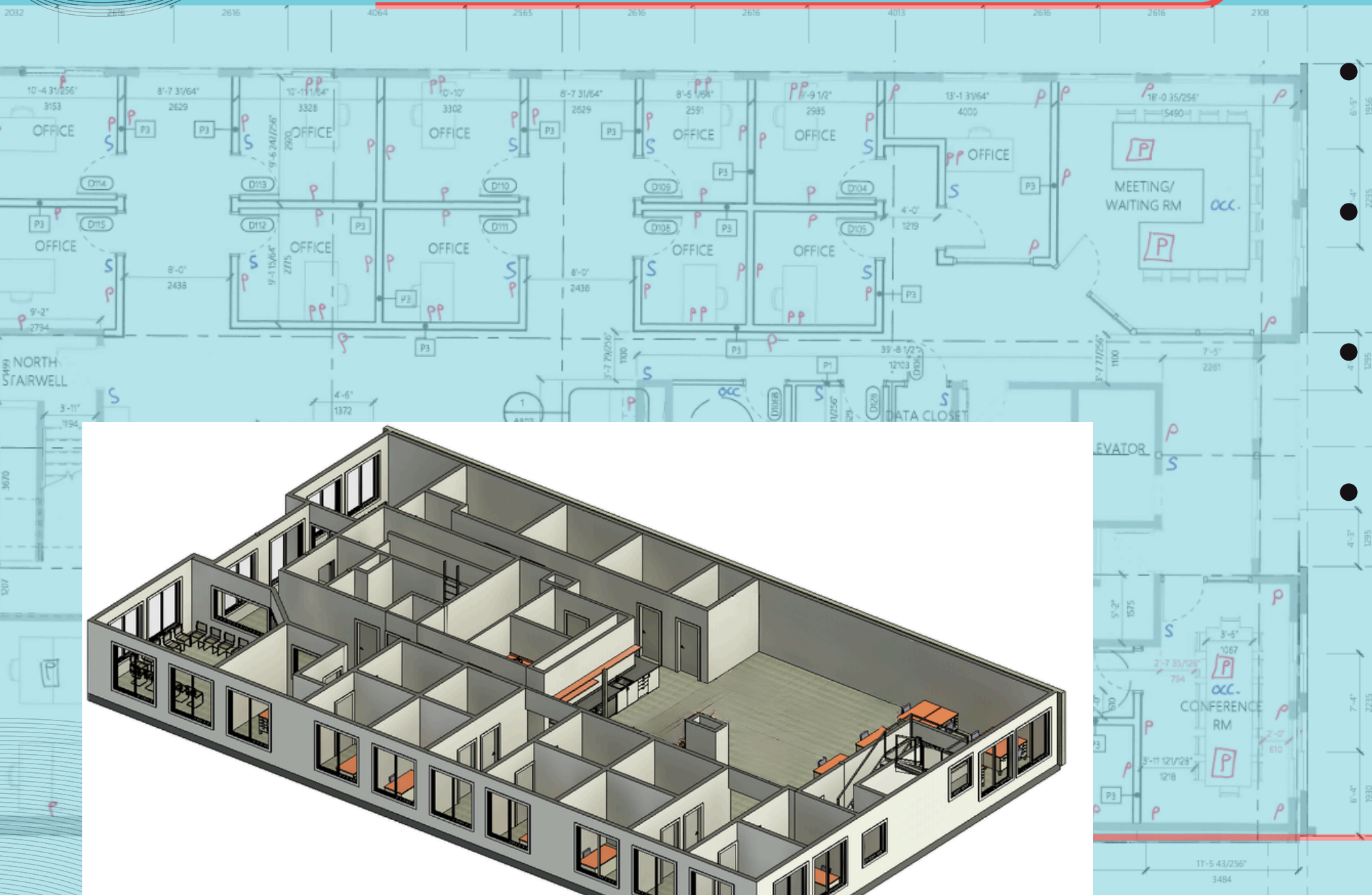
301 Suite Coworking

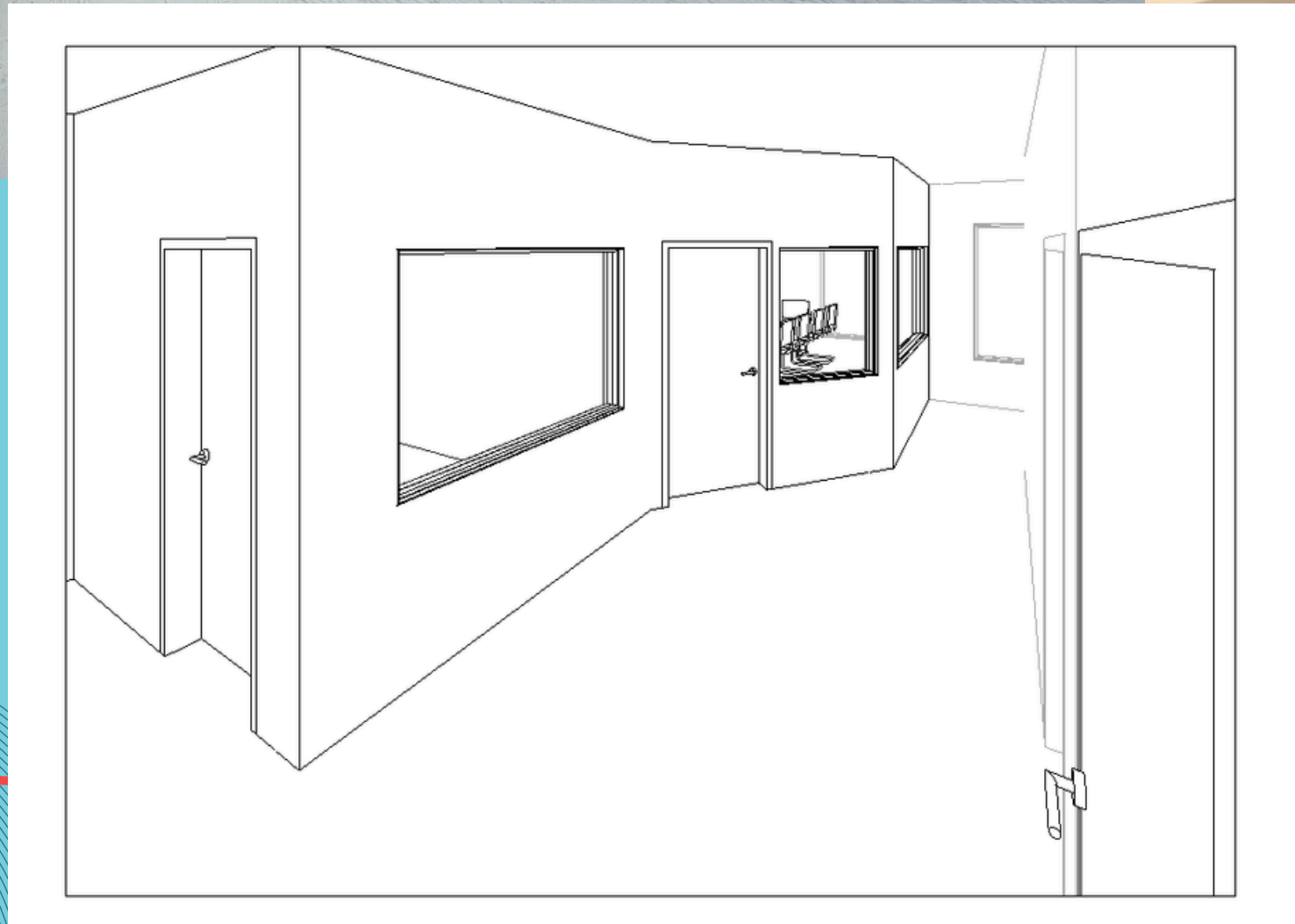
1. Adapted the business plan specifically for this location
2. Balanced revenue generation with true flexible community space
3. Designed for entrepreneurs, nonprofits, remote workers, creatives, and small businesses
4. Ensured accessibility and trauma-informed design principles



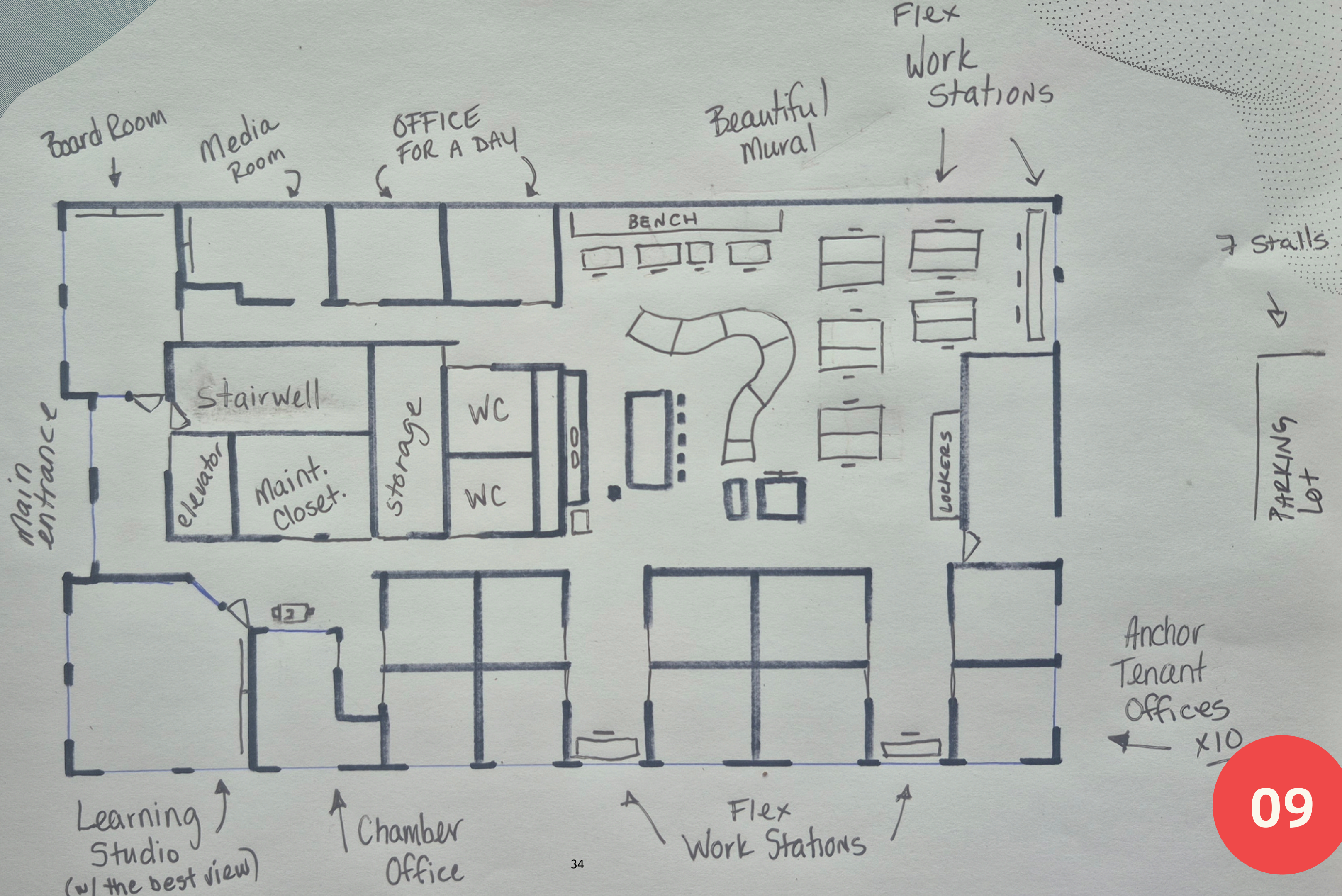
Designing the Space

- Co-designed a floorplan maximizing usage, flexibility, and flow
- Mix of open coworking, private offices, meeting rooms, event space, and quiet zones
- Prioritized natural light, acoustics, accessibility, and multi-use functionality
- Created a space that adapts to community needs over time
- Worked closely with the developer and architects to bring the vision to life
- Every square foot has a purpose





Canyon St.



Board Commitment

- Board voted to invest some of the Chamber's nest egg into tenant improvements and fixturing
- Strategic decision:
 - Strengthens Chamber sustainability
 - Creates a long term revenue generating asset
 - Reinforces our commitment to community directed infrastructure
- This project is not just a space – it's an investment in our region's future

White Coworking
Annual Cash Flow Budget

	START-UP	
	Year 1	Year 2
CASH RECEIVED		
Anchor Tenants	79,200	112,000
Desk Rents	15,780	23,000
Meetings Rooms	52,800	69,000
Ancillary (Virtual/Events)	11,290	20,000
Vending Machines	5,100	12,000
Programing and Fee for Service		16,000
Chamber Repayable Investment	150,000	
Fundraising	8,000	8,000
Start Up Fundraising inc. Grants and Sponsorship	150,000	
Actual Adjustment Line		
TOTAL CASH RECEIVED	472,170	261,000
CASH PAID OUT (EXPENSES)		
Monthly Rent expence	65,425	68,000
Additional Rents	19,050	19,000
Operations	40,860	42,000
Staffing	71,304	38,000
Marketing	4,200	4,000
Licensing/Subscriptions		7,000
Equipment		

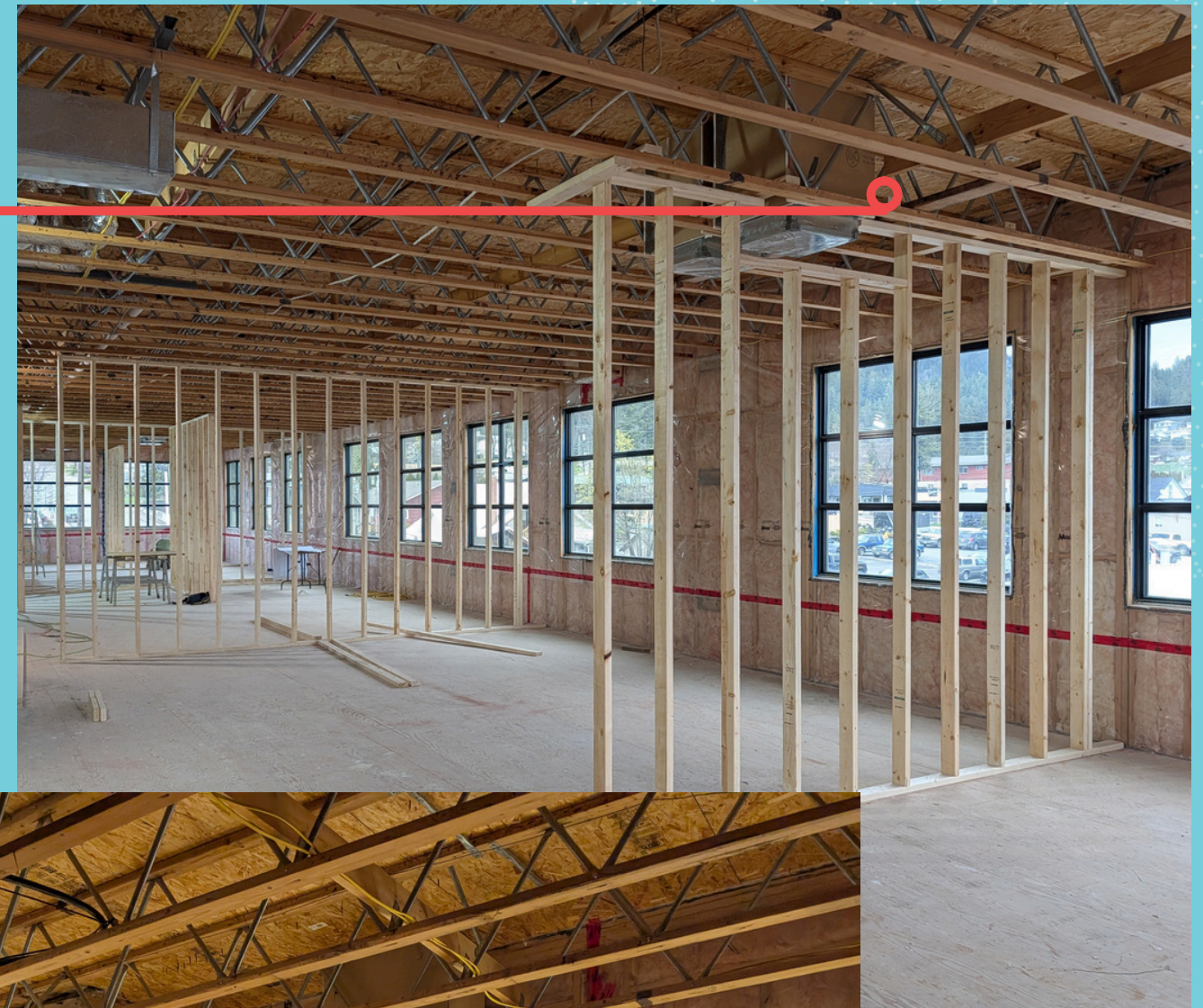
The Dream Takes Shape

“

I honestly thought it would be another year of planning... I can't believe you've come this far already

”

- Construction launched and is now about 50% complete
- Walls, electrical, plumbing, drywall and layout taking shape
- On track for July 2 move in
- Momentum is strong and visible



The Dream Takes Shape



Where we are at now

Operational setup:

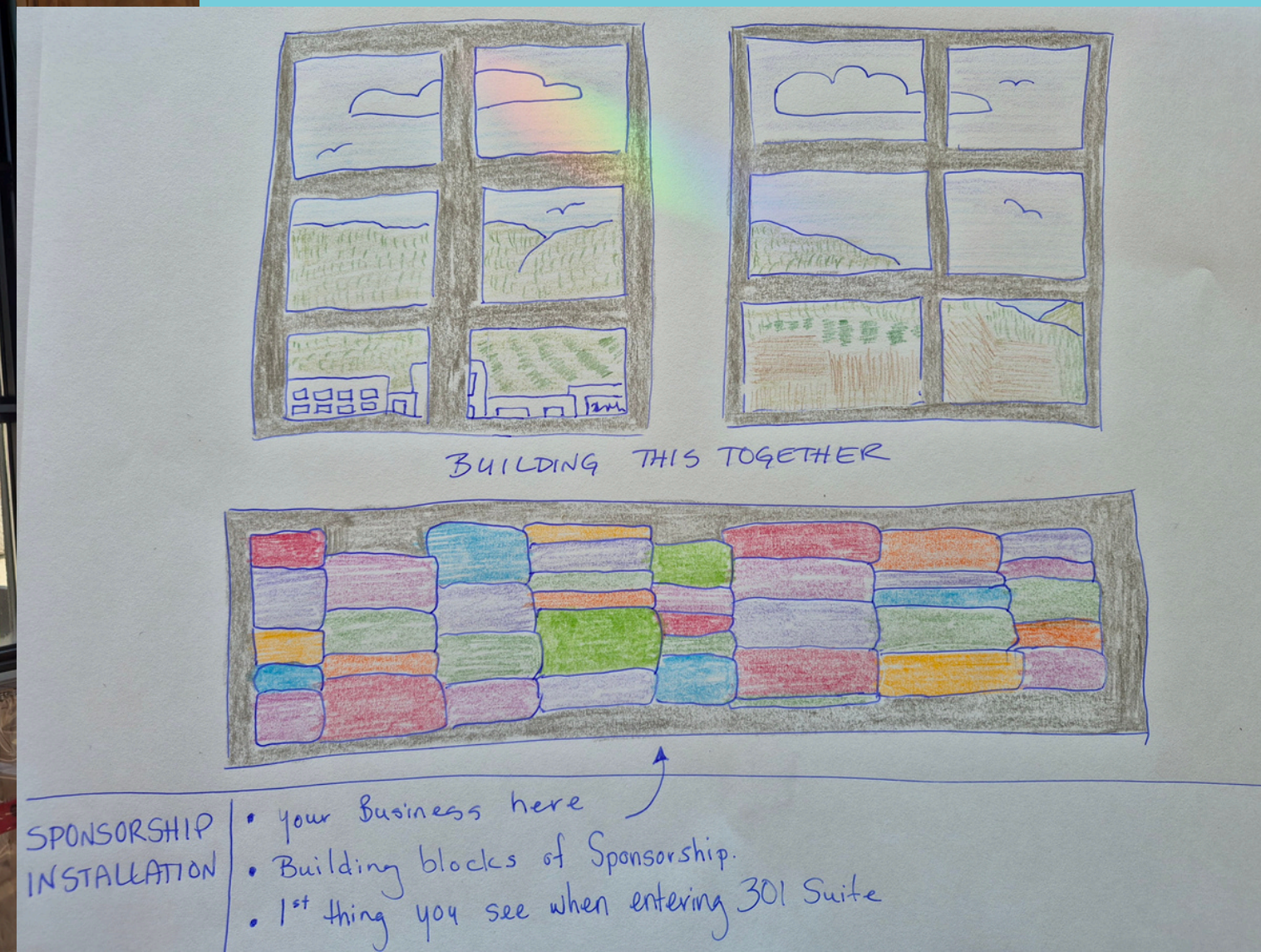
- Implementing coworking management software
- Purchasing furniture, equipment, decor and fixtures
- Preparing membership structure, policies, and launch communications

The screenshot displays a 'Book a room' interface with several room options:

- Board Room:** Conference room, White Board, 8 seats. Description: 'Minimal and surreal, this Uptown location helps you focus on the work at hand. Made for small groups or solo study or work sessions, the space has lots of natural light, a whiteboard to illustrate your ideas and ...'
- Flex Event Space:** Event space, 75 seats.
- Clark:** Phone booth, 1 seat.
- Learning Studio:** Conference room, 25 seats. Description: 'Best view in Creston This large learning studio seats 25-30 people, has 4 large pictu...'

Each room listing includes a calendar view for booking. A 'Book an office' interface is also visible, showing a floor plan with 10 individual offices (Office 1 through Office 10) and other spaces like Media Room, Daily 1, and Daily 2.

Where we are at now



Fundraising phase underway:

- Grant applications (Community Development Funds, CBT, Etsi-BC, CKCA, Gleaners Society etc.)
- Local business sponsorship opportunities
- Sponsorship Art installation to recognize community builders

The next chapter starts soon...

- 301 Suite Coworking will be a place where people will connect, create, and grow
- A space built from community input and community values
- Supports entrepreneurs, nonprofits, artists, remote workers, community groups and local businesses
- A long-term asset that strengthens the Chamber and the region
- And we're almost there — together



Creston Public Library Association Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 7pm
@ Creston Valley Public Library
Large Library Meeting Room

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
 2. Welcome and Introductions
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes of 2025 AGM
 5. Chairperson's Report
 6. Financial Report
 7. New Business
 - i. Nominations report
 - ii. Election of Board Directors 2026-2028
-

All members of Creston Valley Public Library are invited to attend.
Email info@crestonlibrary.com to RSVP.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Board of the Creston Valley Public Library

Date: April 15, 2025

Present:, Kathy Durnin (Chair), Alison Szpak (Treasurer), Tealia Decker, Maria Aryan, Peter Jacoby, Monique Ares (Town Rep)

Guests: Erin Carr, Megan Stager (nominee)

Staff: Pat Tomasic

Regrets: Joan Hedstrom, Osa Matthew Grey, Jordan Lysenko

Secretary: Saara Itkonen (Library Director)

Call to order: 7:08pm

Approval of Agenda

Motion to accept agenda. M/S Maria/Alison. Carried

Approval of Minutes of 2024 AGM

Motion to accept previous meeting minutes. M/S Peter/Maria. Carried

Reports

Annual Financial Report

- Erin presented the library's official financial report for 2024.

Motion to accept the reports. M/S Alison/Tealia. Carried.

Erin left the meeting after her report.

Chairperson's Report

- In 2024 the library board added 1 new trustee, Osa.
- The board started the process of board and library policy review
- Adopted new policies including Library Trustee Code of Conduct, Collections Policy, and Library Code of Conduct
- Negotiated a 5 year collective agreement with staff
- Invested a private donation and reserve with Edward Jones, which has seen significant dividends in return.
- Thank you to the Friends who shared close to \$15,000 in funds for the library in 2024!
- Said goodbye and thank you to Joan Hedstrom who served 8 years as a trustee. She served as Board Chair for 7 years, hiring our current Library Director, guiding us through COVID, and standardizing our file sharing and documentation processes. She was a constant source of support for our Library Director. Thank you for your invaluable service, Joan! The board has purchased a gift and card for Joan to thank her for her service. Saara will deliver it to Joan.

Nominations Report

- Alison shared the Nominations committee report, supporting the nomination of Megan Stager. Megan spoke to the board about her background in public & social service research.

Election of Board of Directors

- Kathy presented this year's nominee, Megan Stager, to the board. **Motion to approve Megan Stager as a trustee of the board. M/S. Kathy/Alison. Carried.**

Trustee Term renewals

- Tealia Decker, Maria Aryan, and Peter Jacoby renewed as trustees for 2 more years. Jordan Lysenko has not renewed and has left the board.
Motion to approve term renewals for 3 trustees. M/S. Alison/Megan. Carried.
- Vice Chair position is now vacant.

Adjourn: 7:43 pm Next meetings @ 7pm: May 20, June 17

**Creston Public Library Association
Budget Expenditure Report
March 2026**

Revenue	<u>Received to Date</u>		<u>Budget</u>			
RDCK	\$	-	\$	570,537		
Province	\$	-	\$	62,975		
Donations	\$	1,165	\$	14,000		
Library generated revenue	\$	6,870	\$	4,000		
Other grants and revenues	\$	72	\$	15,000		
Transfer from reserve	\$	-	\$	58,961		
Total	\$	8,107	\$	725,473		

Expenditures	<u>Expense to Date</u>		<u>Budget</u>		<u>Amount Available</u>	<u>Percent Available</u>	<u>Spent in 2025</u>
Advertising and promotion	\$	601	\$	3,000	\$ 2,399	80%	0
Books and magazines	\$	9,725	\$	59,935	\$ 50,210	84%	7,093
Book supplies	\$	2,716	\$	6,500.00	\$ 3,784	58%	87
Board operations	\$	-	\$	300	\$ 300	100%	0
Computer costs	\$	1,627	\$	20,439.00	\$ 18,812	92%	2,136
Copier	\$	630	\$	3,000.00	\$ 2,370	79%	672
Digital/Other collections	\$	11,722	\$	11,000.00	\$ -722	-7%	5,073
Finance expenses (accounting, etc)	\$	4,794	\$	14,040	\$ 9,246	66%	2,309
Furniture and Equipment	\$	155	\$	1,000	\$ 845	85%	13
Insurance	\$	3,574	\$	10,558	\$ 6,984	66%	3,543
Internet	\$	385	\$	1,550	\$ 1,165	75%	385
Janitor	\$	3,381	\$	15,000	\$ 11,619	77%	3,305
Membership dues	\$	1,105	\$	1,200	\$ 95	8%	1,281
Office supplies and shipping	\$	2,716	\$	10,740	\$ 8,024	75%	87
Operations & Miscellaneous	\$	-	\$	500	\$ 500	100%	0
Programming supplies	\$	609	\$	4,773	\$ 4,164	87%	352
Repairs and maintenance	\$	1,993	\$	13,300	\$ 11,307	85%	4,916
Telephone and utilities	\$	7,525	\$	22,000	\$ 14,475	66%	7,560
Travel & Training	\$	439	\$	3,300	\$ 2,861	87%	83
Wages and benefits	\$	161,672	\$	523,338	\$ 361,666	69%	135,238
Main Budget Total	\$	215,369	\$	725,473	\$ 510,104	70%	174,133
Bank Accounts, per Trial Balance	\$	-					
Reserve/Investment Funds	\$	217,312					

*Capital Plan Improvements	Est. Cost	Spent
Total		

Expenditures

Expenditures Report Detail

Budget Line	Code	Code Description	BUDGET			ACTUAL
			Detail	Line	Total	Total
Finance Expenses					14040	4794
	5004	Payroll Expense			838	
	5005	Accountant			0	
	5006	Bookkeeper			3735	
	5020	Bank Charges & Interest & Exchange			221	
Advertising and promotion					182	601
	5010	Advertising				
Books, periodicals					58760	9725
	5045	Magazines			1745	
	5050	Books			7085	
	5051	Processing charges			855	
	5145	ILL Loss & Fines			40	
	5046	Collections - Other			0	
Board operations					200	0
	5070	Board Operations				
Book supplies					4108	2716
	5060	Book Supplies				
Computer costs					10000	1627
	2000	Computers & Equipment				
	5102	Computer Software - Public		0	763	
	5103	Computer Software - Staff			864	
	5104	Computer Hardware - Public			0	
	5105	Computer Hardware - Staff			0	
	5182	Sitka Contract			0	

Expenditures

Consulting fees				0	0
	5115	Consulting Fees			
Copier				2220	630
	5120	Copier Costs			
Digital Collections					11722
	5044	Databases/e-books		11722	
Insurance				10019	3,574.00
	5150	Insurance			
Internet				3344	385
	5160	Internet Costs			
Janitor				12740	3381
	5170	Janitorial Service White and Clean Carpet cleaning Rugs - Valley Wash Inn Recycling (Clear Blue)		3152	
	5171	Janitorial Equipment and Supplies		229	
	5187	COVID expense		0	
Membership dues				1440	1105
	5190	Membership Dues BCLA Chamber of Commerce ABCPLD BCTLA	500		
Equipment and furniture				4820	155
	2001	Furniture			
	5202	Library Equipment & Furniture Replacement furniture		155	

Expenditures

	5203	Outdoor Equip & Furniture			0	
		Miscellaneous				
	2002	Fixtures				
Operations & Miscellaneous					858	83
	5185	Miscellaneous Expenses			83	
	5180	Library Operations			0	
Office supplies					10530	1811
	5055	Shipping			141	
	5201	Office Supplies			270	
	5210	Postage			0	
	5215	ILL Postage			1384	
	5200	Hygiene & First Aid			16	
Program Supplies					4680	609
	5225	Program Supplies - Adults			378	
	5227	Program Supplies - Childrens			184	
	5228	Program Supplies - Teen			47	
	5229	Program Supplies - Summer Reading			0	
Repairs and maintenance					8944	1993
	5240	Repairs & Maintenance		1000	15	
		Fire extinguishers/safety	175			
		Miscellaneous	825			
	5241	Garden & Grounds Maintenance		1600	0	
		Yardcare	1200			
		Discretionary garden funds	400			
	5242	Snow Clearing		2750	1498	
		Parking lot	2000			
		Sidewalks	750			
	5245	Security		440	480	
		Monitoring	240			
		Technician	200			
Strategic Plan Improvements					80000	960.00

Expenditures

	5080	Capital Plan Improvements			
		Flooring	40000		
		Teen Space	40000		0.00
Telephone and utilities				21528	7525
	5205	Phone Line/Fax		908	
	5300	Utilities-Gas		710	
	5301	Utilities-Hydro		4820	
	5302	Utilities-Water		1087	
	4155	RDCK Utility Recovery (subtract)	371.25	0	
Travel & Training				2517	439
	5290	Travel		0	
	5280	Training		439	
Wages and benefits				440894	161672
4900	5130	Employee Benefits		10844	
	5250	Salaries		130457	
	5251	EI Expense		2977	
	5252	CPP Expense		6482	
	5255	Pension Expense		9769	
	5260	WCB Expense		1144	1,143.68
				Total:	216650

Revenue

Revenue Report Detail

Budget Line	Code	Code Description	BUDGET			ACTUAL TO DATE		Notes
			Detail	Line	Total			
RDCK (includes rent)					4235939		0	
	4015	RDCK Grant		4235939		0		
	4155	RDCK Utility Recovery						
Province (includes Resource Sharing)					153826		0	
	4021	Prov. per Capita Operating Grant				0		
	4022	Prov. Resource Sharing Grant				0		
	4023	Prov. One Card Grant				0		
	4024	Prov Literacy & Equity Grant				0		
	4025	Prov Enhancement Grant				0		
	4031	BC Cost of Living Rebate				0		
Donations					15000		1165.16	
	4090	Donations - General				365.16		
	4091	Donations - Collection Development				0		
	4092	Donations - Programming				800.00		
	4093	Donations - Friends of the Library SRC grant repayment Computers				0		
Library Generated Revenue					10000		6869.64	
	4060	Photocopier				787.45		
	4070	Fines				0		
	4075	Fundraising miscellaneous				5,880.47		
	4130	Book Replacements				201.72		
Other Grants and Revenues					3060		72.38	
	4052	Miscellaneous Grants Law Matters (expected) StudentWorks				0		
	4150	Interest Earned				72.38		
	4152	E. Jones Interest & Dividends				0.00		

8107.18

Budget Line	Code	Code Description	Amount	Total	Notes
Bank Accounts, per Trial Balance					
	1021	Cash On Hand	\$	465.00	
	1050	Credit Union - Chequing	\$	-	
	1055	Credit Union - Shares		30	
		Total		\$495.00	
(Less Reserve Funds – Donations,etc.)	1062	Investments		217312	\$217,312.25

CRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Trial Balance March 2026

Account Description	Debits	Credits
1021 · Cash on Hand	465.00	
1050 · Creston & District Credit Union		13,021.42
1052 – CDCU Savings	180,143.08	
1055 · Credit Union - Shares	30.00	
1060 · Credit Union - Term Deposits	0.00	
1061 - Edward Jones Cash Accounts	4,943.45	
1062 - Edward Jones Investments	217,312.25	
1065 - Credit Union – Friday Fundraising	5,947.52	
1066 – Edward Jones – High Int Savings	2,177.06	
1070 · Accounts Receivable	0.00	
1080 · GST Receivable	0.00	
1090 · Prepaid Expenses & Deposits	0.00	
1095 · Accrued Interest	3,798.77	
2000 – Computers	18,220.44	
2001 - Furniture	20,086.70	
2002 - Fixtures	888.10	
2003 – Equipment	10,484.89	
2004 – Leasehold Improvements	51,495.58	
2006 – Accum Amor – Fixtures		248.67
2007 – Accum Amor – Furniture		2,374.23
2008 – Accum Amor – Equipment		2,470.76
2009 – Accum Amor – Computers		4,509.52
2011 – Accum Amorization – Leasehold		5,149.56
2050 · Accounts Payable	200.09	
2073 – CDCU Collabria VISA	0.00	
2010 · Clearing Account	0.00	
	0.00	371.25
2051 · CPP Payable	0.00	
2052 · EI Payable	0.00	
2053 · Income Tax Payable	0.00	
2054 · Vacation Pay Payable	0.00	
2056 · WCB Payable	0.00	
2057 · Pension Payable		3,958.83
2060 · Accrued Liabilites	0.00	
2065 - Deferred Revenue		147.14
2070 · GST/HST Payable	1,645.13	
2071 · GST/QST Payable	0	
2072 · PST Payable (BC)	0	
3030 · Capital Reserve	0.00	
3060 – Equity in Tangible Capit Asse		83,816.19
3520 · Retained Earnings		556,485.27
3525 - Transfer of Reserve	0.00	
4015 · RDCK Grant	0.00	
4021 · Prov per Capita Operating Grant	0.00	
4022 · Prov Resource Sharing Grant	0.00	
4023 · Prov One Card Grant	0.00	
4024 · Prov Literacy & Equity Grant	0.00	
4025 - Prov Public Library Enhancement	0.00	

4030 - COVID 19 Relief Grant	0.00	
4031 - BC Cost of Living Rebate	0.00	
4050 – Columbia Basin Trust Grants		53,000.00
4052 · Miscellaneous Grants	0.00	
4060 · Photocopy, Scan & Fax		787.45
4070 · Fines		0.00
4075 · Fundraising Miscellaneous		5,880.47
4090 · Donations - General		365.16
4091 · Donations - Collection Develop		0.00
4092 · Donations - Programming		800.00
4093 · Donations - Friends of the Lib		0.00
4130 · Book Replacement		201.72
4150 · Interest Earned		72.38
4152 - E. Jones Interest & Dividends		0.00
4155 · RDCK Utility Recovery	0.00	
4163 · Rebate Programs		4.38
5004 - Payroll Expense	838.07	
5005 · Accountant	0.00	
5006 · Bookkeeper	3,735.00	
5010 · Advertising	600.75	
5020 · Bank Chgs, Interest, Exchange	220.88	
5043 - Provincial Grant Expense	0.00	
5044 · Electronic Resource Data/EBooks	11,721.87	
5045 · Magazines	1,744.54	
5046 - Collections - Other	0.00	
5050 · Books, Audio, Video	7,085.43	
5051 · Processing Charges	855.16	
5055 · Shipping	141.05	
5060 · Book Supplies	2,716.48	
5070 · Board Operations	0.00	
5080 · Capital Improvements	960.00	
5100 · Computer Costs	0.00	
5102 - Computer Software - Public	763.33	
5103 - Computer Software - Staff	863.84	
5104 - Computer Hardware - Public	0.00	
5103 - Computer Hardware - Staff	0.00	
5115 · Consulting Fees	0.00	
5120 · Copier Costs	629.84	
5130 · Employee Benefits	10,844.15	
5145 · Ill Loss & Fines & Books	40.00	
5150 · Insurance	3,574.00	
5160 · Internet Costs	385.20	
5170 · Janitorial Services	3,152.00	
5171 · Janitorial Supplies	228.88	
5180 · Library Operations		2.72
5182 · SITKA Contract	0.00	
5185 · Miscellaneous Expenses	82.80	
5187 - COVID expense	0.00	
5190 · Membership Dues	1,104.85	
5200 - Hygiene & First Aid	16.00	
5201 · Office Supplies	270.38	
5202 · Library Equipment & Furniture	154.84	
5203 · Outdoor Equip & Improvements	0.00	

5205 · Telephone/Fax	908.38	
5210 · Postage	0.00	
5215 · Ill Postage	1,383.75	
5220 · Professional Fees	282.70	
5225 · Program Expenses - Adults	377.53	
5227 · Program Expenses - Children	183.92	
5228 · Program Expenses - Teens	47.29	
5229 · Program Expenses - Summer Prgrm	0.00	
5240 · Repairs & Maintenance	14.97	
5241 · Garden & Grounds Maintenance	0.00	
5242 · Snow Clearing	1,497.62	
5245 · Security	480.00	
5250 · Salaries	130,456.82	
5251 · EI Expense	2,977.03	
5252 · CPP Expense	6,481.73	
5255 · Pension Expense	9,768.99	
5260 · WCB Expense	1,143.68	
5280 · Training	439.00	
5290 · Travel	0.00	
5300 · Utilities - Gas	709.87	
5301 · Utilities - Power	4,819.69	
5302 · Utilities - Water	1,086.75	
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	733,627.12	733,667.12
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733,627.12 733667.12



CRESTON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Vision: Empowering access to a world of ideas

Mission: A welcoming space for the creation and sharing of information, ideas and culture.

Values: Community collaboration, Environmental stewardship, Financial sustainability, Lifelong learning, Literacy, Patron-centred services, Reconciliation, Respect and inclusivity, Understanding and empathy, Universal access, Volunteerism, Well-trained and professional staff

MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT

Reported by: Saara Itkonen
Library Director

Report Date January – March 2026

Recent developments

Event/Program	Participants	Value(s)
Lauriane has been facilitating a kids' Art Club throughout February, March, and now into April. It's a drop-in program for kids to be creative and meet with other kids. Attendance keeps climbing!	96	Lifelong Learning Literacy Respect and inclusivity
Lisa has been visiting with Swan Valley and TAPS every month to read aloud and bring patrons items for borrowing when they can't make it to the library. Her visits are very popular	156	Lifelong learning Literacy Patron-centred services Respect and inclusivity Universal access
In February, Lisa hosted a couple of "Seedy Saturday" events in collaboration with the local seed society. Many patrons contributed seeds or left the library with new seeds to plant. The library will also be storing the Seed Society's seed bank that carries all the seeds needed to replant the valley after a potential disaster. The library is honoured to be a part of this important work.	65	Community collaboration Environmental stewardship

Event/Program	Participants	Value(s)
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Long-Term Projects

Ongoing events/programs	Participants	Value(s)
The library received a grant for almost \$60,000 to spend on accessibility upgrades to the building. Improvements have already included a new counter for the service desk that has room for piles of books and for a walker or wheelchair to roll underneath as well as a ramp for the back garden.	n/a	Respect and inclusivity Universal access Patron-centred services
Artists are lined up through most of the rest of this year to show their art in our meeting room. Kudos to Lisa for establishing relationships with so many artists in our community! Patrons and staff enjoy the art refresh in the meeting room every month. So patrons even just visit the library to check out the new art.	n/a	Community collaboration Lifelong learning
Many volunteers have connected with the library about volunteering in the garden. We may actually have more than enough this year!	6	Community collaboration Universal access Volunteerism

Words from our patrons

Upcoming

- KLF meetings in Castlegar - April 30 – May 2
- SOFI and Annual Survey due – May 15
- Presentation to RDCK board – June 18

Glossary

- ABCPLD – Association of BC Public Library Directors
- BCLA – British Columbia Library Association
- BCLTA – British Columbia Library Trustees Association
- KLF – Kootenay Library Federation
- CBT – Columbia Basin Trust
- CELA – Centre for Equitable Library Access

2026 Library Usage Statistics

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hours Open	136	120	136									
Library Visits	3464	3451	4418									
Meeting Room Bookings	85	85	102									
New Library Cards	32	39	33									
Circulation	11654	10306	10810									
Physical Materials	8354	7364	7628									
Electronic Materials	3300	2942	3182									
Interlibrary Loans	791	744	719									
Public Wifi Sessions	153	130	166									
Website Visits	1690	1505	1885									
Internet Sessions	327	285	411									
Tech Help Sessions	31	37	43									
Adult Programs	5	2	7									
Program Attendance	88	37	159									
Teen Programs	0	0	0									
Program Attendance	0	0	0									
Intergenerational Prog	1	1	1									
Program Attendance	21	17	8									
Children's Programs	3	10	12									
Program Attendance	58	149	194									
Passive Programs	2	2	19									
Program Participation	28	1	28									
Community Visits	3	1	3									
Volunteer Hours	27	21	33									

Increase over 2025
 Decrease over 2025
 Same as 2025/no data comparison

Creston Valley Public Library Board Meeting May 2026

Director Vandenberghe

Announcements and federation updates

Board representatives reported on attending the Kootenay Library Federation meeting in Castlegar on May 2. They highlighted a presentation by consultant Anne O'Shea on the distinction between governance responsibilities and operational management, noting that the session was a useful refresher for both new and experienced board members.

Fundraising

The fundraising committee reported strong progress over the past month, with total funds raised reaching approximately \$23,500 at the time of the meeting. To increase public awareness and encourage continued support, the library plans to install a fundraising thermometer at the library entrance.

During Blossom Festival activities, the library participated in the parade with a float and received a \$100 prize for best equestrian costume. The library also operated a downtown booth where more than 40 "Blind Date with a Book" packages were sold, generating additional fundraising support.

The quilt raffle was also successful, with about \$1,400 raised at the time of reporting and additional matching funds anticipated, which could bring the total to approximately \$2,200 to \$2,300. The fundraising dinner was well attended, and an additional \$3,000 was reported from ticket sales and related proceeds. The committee estimated that, if current momentum continues and expected contributions are received, the campaign could reach roughly the halfway mark by the end of June.

The Board also noted that another quilt has been pledged by the Quilters Guild, with plans to run a further raffle through the Fall Fair. In addition, the Creston Valley Community Foundation committed approximately \$2,000 to support the campaign.

Library Director's report

The Library Director reported that statistics are now showing more meaningful year-over-year comparisons because the current reporting period reflects operating hours similar to the previous year. Volunteer hours also increased significantly with the reopening of the library garden and the return of seasonal volunteer support.

Meeting room demand continues to rise, and the library is increasingly having to turn away bookings because available space is fully used.

The Library Director also reported that the accessible garden ramp has now been completed, improving accessibility to the garden space.

A forthcoming presentation to the Regional District of Central Kootenay board is scheduled for June 18 at 9:00 a.m., with participation expected to be online.

Financial update

The Board reviewed current financial statements and noted that grant revenue from Columbia Basin and Trust-supported accessibility improvements was approximately \$58,000 to \$59,000. Major project elements already completed include the ramp, counter, new furniture, and an electric table, while doors and signage remain outstanding.

The Library Director explained a notable increase in collections-related spending as the result of a change in the library's Kanopy streaming service model. The library moved from a pay-per-use system to an annual prepaid package, which is expected to reduce long-term monthly costs while improving patron access through unlimited viewing within the selected package structure.

The Board also discussed library-generated revenue, which primarily comes from printing and photocopying services, along with donations temporarily processed through the till and later transferred into fundraising accounts.

Committees and governance

The Board reviewed committee memberships and confirmed there were no major changes required at this time. Existing assignments for finance, policy, labour

management, human resources, advocacy, and negotiations remain in place, while the Board Chair continues to attend Kootenay Library Federation meetings until another representative is appointed.

The Board also confirmed the need to re-establish a strategic planning committee. Library leadership reported that a meeting has been arranged with the Columbia Basin Trust Non-Profit Advisors Program to discuss support for both a strategic planning refresh and the development of a library brand distinct from the Town of Creston identity.

Board priorities

The Chair outlined several board priorities for the next 12 months [file:1]. These include negotiating a renewed contract for the Library Director before the current contract ends on December 31, undertaking a board self-evaluation later in the year, and updating the strategic framework.

Board members also expressed support for organizing another staff and board social event in the fall, following a positive experience with a similar gathering in September of the previous year.

Closing

The Board concluded its formal business by confirming the next regular meeting in June, followed by a summer break in July and August.

2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 24th @ 6:00PM
Creston Hotel Banquet Room



Attendees: Tammy Bessant, Susan Dulaycen, Tanya Wall, Rylee Collins, Donna Molvik, Matt Murphy, Kate Murphy, Amy Maddess, Mimika Coleman, Kevin Wilson, Esme Gloster, Tammy Bradford, Krystal Shaw, Victoria Gimby, Ben Sargent, Mel Joy, Carla Ahern, Jesse Willicome, Kelly Vandenberghe (remote)

*** Mix & Mingle** – Everyone (6:00 – 6:30)

1. **Call to Order & Welcoming Remarks** – Chair Mimika Coleman

- @6:30 PM
- Ktunaxa Land Acknowledgement
- Our Mission:
 1. Work with our community partners to provide strategic marketing that will attract more visitors to our area year-round (MARKETING),
 2. Support remarkable visitor experiences that will celebrate our natural environment and culture; (EXPERIENCES)
 3. Provide tourism leadership through collaboration with partners, create community awareness of the value of tourism. (LEADERSHIP)
- Our Goal: CVTS is primarily funded by the 2% Municipal Regional District Tax, so our main objective is to “Get heads in beds” as well as to more broadly support economic development as a whole.

2. **Confirmation of Quorum** – Chair Mimika Coleman

- Mimika notes according to CVTS's Constitution, 51% of Board Members must be present
- As 6 Directors of the current 9 are present, quorum of 51% of Board Members present has been met and AGM can continue

3. **Approval of Agenda** – Chair Mimika Coleman (6:40)

- Mimika 1st, Tanya 2nd, AIF, Carried

4. **Review & Approval of Previous AGM Meeting Minutes** (6:45)

- Tanya 1st, Mimika 2nd, AIF, Carried

5. **Chairperson Highlights**

- 5 years as Chair! Have seen organization through a lot, including the Covid 19 pandemic hitting just as the organization started in 2020.
- After 5 years we just completed a new Strategic Plan for 2025 to 2030, so we are set for more growth and success over this period! Keep moving forward!

6. **Financial Review & Reports** – Treasurer Mel Joy (6:50)

- Healthy and solid financial statements from the beginning thanks to Jesse's book-keeping and Denne Ahlefeld's accounting work.
- Will be presenting two sets of financial reports this evening, one being a short 2-month Fiscal Year from No. – Dec. 2023 followed by full FY 2024
- Short Year Nov-Dec 2023
 - Reason is because we moved to a Jan-Dec fiscal in 2024 after a vote at our last AGM
 - Not much to report as this is a slow time for our organization
 - \$42,000 in MRDT (staff and advertising main expenses)
- Full Year 2024 (Jan-Dec)
 - MRDT majority of income plus grant funds and retail sales
 - MRDT did go up again in 2024, which was a good sign
 - Expenses of note:
 - Visitors Guide takes a significant amount of time to produce

- *Our businesses and beauty of the valley contribute to this product*
 - *Risks = rising costs in everything*
 - *Also had a GST audit in 2024, but this was a good learning experience without serious negative impact.*
 - *Ended 2024 with a small surplus*
 - *Financial Policies updated*
- *Motion to approve financial report – Tammy 1st, Tanya 2nd, AIF, Carried*

7. **Operational Review** – Executive Director Jesse Willicome (7:05)

- *2024 Highlights*
- *Marketing:*
 - *Visitor Guides numbers printed up from 18K to 20K; 48 visitor centre, KL Ferry and Cranbrook airport; Hwy 3 from Cranbrook to Medicine Hat*
 - *Regional Ads – West Kootenay Go and Do and Trench*
 - *Website – 93,000 users in 2024 - over 140% increase; 12,800 outbound referrals*
- *Other Notable Activities - Did our 5-year strategic plan, which is mandated by Province of BC every five years to renew receipt of the MRDT.*
- *Annual MRDT Revenue Comparisons*
 - *Amounts received are a good indicator of how we are doing*
 - *From 2020-24 we have seen overall growth.*
 - *2020 was only a half year. 2021 still recovering from pandemic.*
 - *2022 onwards more stable with 20% growth over the past 3 years!*
- *5-year Strategic Plan Overview*
 - *Consultant hired*

- *Went out to accommodators to get their input, they were in favour of another 5 years of collecting the Muncipal Regional District Tax.*
- *Did Stakeholder and community engagement with public surveys and community outreach at events like Farmers' Market*
- *Looked at other strat plans regionally and beyond to see what others are doing, review*
- *Feedback from Strategic Plan Surveys – 111 residents; 39 stakeholders*
- *Resident Survey Highlights:*
 - *79% supportive of tourism and see growing importance*
 - *Top strengths: natural beauty, outdoor rec, local food/wine*
 - *Key challenges: limited activities, lack of public amenities (parks, etc.), seasonal gaps*
 - *Common concerns: overcrowding, loss of identity, environmental impacts*
 - *Suggested actions: protect natural areas, support local biz, improve public amenities*
- *Business/Stakeholder Survey Highlights:*
 - *36% of annual revenue estimated from tourism*
 - *Top visitor draws: hiking, wildlife viewing, farm visits*
 - *Weaknesses: seasonal revenue dips, staffing, activity gaps*
 - *Most see moderate capacity for growth with some adjustments*
 - *Overall sentiment - Optimistic about sector growth; call for new experiences, better amenities & training.*
- *Results in our 5 Year Strategic Plan Pillars*
 - *Market Strengthening with data and research – using good data and analytics to expand and improve our marketing impact, support our local businesses with their marketing;*

- *Destination Development and management – Support the development of more amenities and attractions, development of more events, especially with focus on developing shoulder seasons.*
 - *Drive sustainable economic growth – Business development, job creation and broad economic benefit for community*
- *2025 areas of focus – Marketing Expansion; Destination development initiatives; Training and Capacity; Strategic partnerships.*
- *2025 Tourism outlook*
 - *Increase in interest in domestic travel within Canada*
 - *Shifting interest from overseas markets (Aus, NZ, Europe) in visiting Canada*
 - *Strong US dollar, encouraging US visitors*
 - *Some challenges - Staffing shortages in the sector, potential recession, political instability, etc.*
- *Marketing Response – digital ads with focus on marketing to domestic market and print ads in regional publications to Kootenay neighbours; digital ads to US visitors – separate out politics from tourism in our language; for potential international markets will work with key partners like Destination Canada, Destination BC and Kootenay Rockies Tourism.*
- *Let's Work Together! We are here to support our community with a number of resources. How? Please add your business listing to our website; submit your events to our online calendar; use social media – follow and tag us; register for free Superhost training; there is event sponsorship funding available; advertise in our visitor's guide, etc.*
- ** See attached Presentation slides for more information*

*** Break for Refreshments (7:20 – 7:30)**

8. **Review of Nominations & Election of Directors** (7:30)

- See list of nominees for directors for new term (new and returning)
- 2 outgoing Board Members standing down (Shaun Zimmer, Gillian Kemle)
- 7 current members standing again for nomination (Mimika Coleman, Carla Ahern, Mel Joy, Tammy Bessant, Kevin Wilson, Lisa Wood, Tanya Wall)
- 2 new board nominees (Krystal Shaw, Kate Murphy)
- 2 advisory non-voting positions (Amy Maddess from the CV Visitor Centre and Kelly Vandenberghe from the Regional District of Central Kootenays Area C)
- Mimika Coleman and Carla Ahern are stepping down from the Executive as well as being authorized financial representatives and account signers.
- For the new Executive Mel Joy is standing for President, Tammy Bessant standing for Vice-Chair and Crystal Shaw is standing for Treasurer, with each becoming authorized financial representatives and account signers.
- Motion to accept the presented slate of directors for 2025-2026 term, Mimika 1st, Kevin 2nd, AIF, Carried

9. **New Business / Open Floor** (7:45)

- Tanya from CV Food Action Coalition – KES and Food Action Coalition received a Food Teck Skills Training Grant. Hoping to create long time employment in the food sector. A \$250,000 project. Local producers and businesses can express their interest to participate. Will advertise in May to community.

- *Esme from Bindoya Meats & Treats – expanding to store next door to increase amount of prepared food they can do and open a restaurant café for Friday and Saturday nights*
- *Ben from Kootenay Employment Service – Wayfinding Project – Getting close to manufacturing and install, but may take a bit longer yet.*
- *Tammy from the Creston Museum – Working with CBT to do some interpretation at the Grain Elevators. Working towards having some permanent exhibits there.*
- *Amy from the CV Visitor Centre – tourist numbers picking up. International and lots of US visitors from all over the country. Lots of inquiries about the area (people moving here and people visiting).*

10. Adjournment (8:00)

- *Motion to adjourn the Creston Valley Tourism Society's 2025 Annual General Meeting @ 8:00PM – Chair Mimika Coleman, Carried.*

11. Special Presentation on the International Selkirk Loop – Donna Molvik (8:05)

- *8:03pm – 8:18pm*
- ** See attached Presentation slides for more information*

Creston Valley Tourism Society 2025 Annual General Meeting Agenda



Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Creston Hotel Banquet Room

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Confirmation of Quorum**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes**
- 5. Chair's Report**
- 6. Financial Report**
- 7. Executive Director Report**
- 8. Election of Directors**

Note: Officer roles (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer) will be determined by the Board following the AGM.

- 9. Open Floor / Questions**
 - 10. Adjournment**
-

Post-Meeting Presentations (Informal)

- Website Launch & Creston EventReady Program – Hello Agency
- Regional Tourism Outlook & Opportunities – Brad Parsell, CEO, Kootenay Rockies Tourism

Creston Tourism Society

Financial Statements

December 31, 2025

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COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To Management of Creston Tourism Society

On the basis of information provided by management, I have compiled the statement of financial position of Creston Tourism Society as at December 31, 2025, the statement of operations and net assets for the year then ended, and Note 1, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information ("financial information").

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

I performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, Compilation Engagements, which requires me to comply with relevant ethical requirements. My responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

I did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor was I required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

March 27, 2026

Date

Denné Ahlefeld

Chartered Professional Accountant

Creston, BC

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 237,568	\$ 249,600
Taxes receivable	<u>6,413</u>	<u>4,792</u>
	243,981	254,392
Long-term investments	100,030	30
	<u>\$ 344,011</u>	<u>\$ 254,422</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	<u>\$ 49,837</u>	<u>\$ 2,365</u>
	49,837	2,365
NET ASSETS	294,174	252,057
	<u>\$ 344,011</u>	<u>\$ 254,422</u>

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

_____ Director	_____ Director
_____ Director	_____ Director
_____ Director	_____ Director
_____ Director	_____ Director
_____ Director	_____ Director

Denné Ahlefeld, CPA, CGA

Creston Tourism Society
 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

	2025	2024
Revenue	\$ 198,339	\$ 190,461
Expenditures		
Advertising & Promotion	79,721	79,005
Bank Charges & Interest	107	503
Business Licenses, Dues & Fees	1,939	-
Insurance	1,523	1,281
Meals & Entertainment	86	125
Miscellaneous Expenses	265	-
Office Expenses	1,802	4,358
Professional Fees	1,543	1,785
Subcontracts	65,920	84,429
Training	2,153	440
Travel	402	532
	155,461	172,458
Surplus from Operations	42,878	18,003
Net Assets, beginning of year	252,057	234,054
(Less): prior period adjustments	(761)	-
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 294,174	\$ 252,057

Denné Ahlefeld, CPA, CGA

The Society was incorporated under the laws of the Province of BC on October 21, 2019

1. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the financial information is on the historical cost base, reflecting cash transactions with the addition of the following:

- Accounts receivable less allowance for doubtful accounts;
- Investments recorded at cost;
- Property, plant and equipment recorded at historical cost and amortization on a systematic basis; and
- Accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Denné Ahlefeld, CPA, CGA

Creston Valley Tourism Society (CVTS) AGM Highlights

Date: April 23, 2026

Director Vandenberghe

Background

CVTS is the destination marketing and management organization for the Creston Valley. Its role is to promote tourism, support local businesses and events, and contribute to local economic development and community identity.

Key Points

Tourism growth and economic impact

CVTS reported continued growth in overnight visitation and accommodation demand since 2021, including an estimated 58% increase in gross accommodation revenue. For 2025, CVTS estimated about 140,000 visitors, approximately 100,000 visitor nights, and roughly \$25 million in direct visitor spending supporting about 150 local businesses.

MRDT and organizational capacity

MRDT revenues reached about \$118,600 in 2025, representing roughly 58% growth since 2021 and now providing more than half of CVTS annual funding. CVTS also noted that it is implementing its five-year strategic plan, improving internal reporting systems, and transitioning the Executive Director role into a full-time position to increase organizational capacity.

Marketing and destination development

CVTS highlighted multi-channel campaigns with Google, Meta, BC Ale Trail, International Selkirk Loop, Highway 3, and Rockies to Rainforest, generating an estimated 1.5 million impressions. The organization also reported 11,000 website users, 11,000 referrals to local business websites, and distribution of 21,000 visitor guides, including expanded distribution into Alberta.

CVTS also emphasized its support for local destination development, including the Goat River land acquisition, the Town of Creston's Kootenay River Park project, and partnerships with trail and recreation groups to improve outdoor access and visitor experiences.

Events and the Event Ready Program

A major presentation focused on the new Event Ready Program, developed with Hello Agency and supported by the Chamber of Commerce, to strengthen local event capacity. [cite:1] Survey findings showed that 81% of residents reported missing events because of late notice, 82% of organizers reported volunteer challenges, and 95% to 96% of organizers and residents supported a centralized events portal and calendar.

Planned responses include an organizer resource hub, a public-facing events calendar, region-wide attendance research, and a fall symposium for event planners and volunteers.

Website renewal and data-driven planning

CVTS presented a new tourism website designed as a dynamic platform that changes by season, activity, and visitor interest, with stronger business listings and a new accommodation search tool for local operators. The Society also reaffirmed its use of anonymized mobile-device data to estimate visitor volumes and origins in order to guide future marketing decisions.

Regional tourism context

Kootenay Rockies Tourism advised that hotel revenue across the region has roughly quadrupled over the last decade and is expected to exceed \$500 million annually in the near future. The presentation positioned Creston Valley Tourism as one of 11 community destination organizations linked into wider regional and provincial strategies.

Notes

- Tourism in the Creston Valley is showing sustained growth, with CVTS estimating about 140,000 visitors and approximately \$25 million in direct visitor spending in 2025.
- MRDT revenues have grown significantly since 2021 and are now funding a larger share of local tourism marketing and development work.
- CVTS is investing in event support, improved visitor information tools, and outdoor destination assets that benefit both residents and visitors.
- The AGM showed that tourism planning in Creston is becoming more data-driven, collaborative, and aligned with broader Kootenay and provincial tourism strategies.

SS Bulizak RCMP Quarterly Report for rural and municipal Creston Valley

Director Vandenberghe

RCMP Creston Detachment Quarterly Update

Presented by Staff Sergeant Brandon Bulizak to Town of Creston Council, with rural directors present, on May 12, 2026. The presentation focused on call trends, staffing, crime reduction, operational pressures, and summer readiness.

Suggested cover note

Staff Sergeant Bulizak provided a brief operational update on policing trends in Creston and the surrounding rural area, emphasizing stable call volumes, a notable reduction in serious mental health apprehension files, continued improvement in the Crime Severity Index, ongoing staffing pressures, and preparations for summer operational demands including provincial redeployments and wildfire readiness.

Structured briefing note

1. Purpose of the update

Staff Sergeant Bulizak advised that the delegation would be brief and focused on current policing numbers, ongoing trends, human resource status, and near-term operational planning heading into the summer season.

2. Calls for service

From January 1 to May 1, 2025, total calls for service were 1,181, compared with 1,212 during the same period in 2026, indicating a modest increase but generally stable year-over-year demand.

The municipal-rural split remained almost even in both years: 598 municipal and 582 rural calls in 2025, compared with 602 municipal and 568 rural calls in 2026.

3. Mental health and crisis files

A key area highlighted was serious crisis and mental health calls involving voluntary or involuntary apprehension. Staff Sergeant Bulizak reported that these files declined from 45 in the 2025 comparison period to 29 in 2026.

SS Bulizak attributed much of this improvement to the work of Interior Health and external partners who are finding better ways to manage complex clients and crisis situations, with positive effects on police response demand.

4. Staffing and member wellness

The detachment currently has two hard vacancies at the constable rank. One vacancy was expected to be filled within days by an incoming member from Cranbrook who already knows the area and is relocating with family to the community.

A second potential member had been identified, but release from his current assignment had not yet been confirmed; that member was described as having tactical aviation experience that would be a strong asset. In addition, the detachment continues to manage one long-term medical absence and one member on graduated return, with about 10 weeks remaining before that member is expected to be fully operational.

Staff Sergeant Bulizak praised detachment members for sustaining frontline service despite shortages and said efforts have been made to balance operational needs with members' personal lives.

5. Crime Severity Index

Staff Sergeant Bulizak reported that the Crime Severity Index has continued to decline and is now down 31 percent over the last 24 months. He described this as the most significant reduction in the country for communities over 5,000 population and credited both police work and community members who are willing to report suspicious or criminal activity

6. Example of recent enforcement success

As one recent example, he described a rural property investigation initiated after local residents reported what they believed was obvious criminal activity. Police obtained a search warrant quickly and recovered well over \$100,000 in stolen property, including tools and bicycles. He noted that residents were able to retrieve their property directly, which produced strong community feedback and boosted morale for detachment members.

7. Summer operational pressures

Looking ahead, Staff Sergeant Bulizak noted that the Province had invoked Article 9 of the Police Services Act for the period June 9 to July 12, requiring the detachment to send 10 percent of funded positions to support the provincial policing response connected to FIFA-related demands.

He said this would effectively reduce local strength by about one and a half members, though he was trying to absorb as much of the impact as possible personally and through reservists in order to minimize frontline disruption.

8. Wildfire preparedness and continuity planning

The detachment is also focusing on wildfire preparedness and business continuity planning in anticipation of a potentially active season. This includes preparing members and their families for short-notice deployment pressures and coordinating with local partners such as the fire department and search and rescue.

Key messages

- Policing demand in 2026 is stable, with only a slight increase in overall calls for service
- Municipal and rural service demands remain almost evenly split.
- Serious mental health apprehension files have dropped significantly, suggesting positive results from stronger partner coordination.
- Staffing remains strained, though one vacancy is about to be filled and another candidate has been identified.
- Crime severity is trending down sharply, with a reported 31 percent reduction over 24 months.
- Summer pressures include provincial redeployment requirements and wildfire readiness planning.

Communications Update April 2026

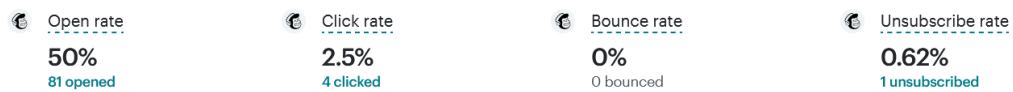
We were featured in the Creston Valley Advance with THREE articles on April 2nd

Newsletter – Douglas-fir Beetle and FSR

- 162 sends (we gained 10 subscribers since March)
- 50% open rate
- 1 unsubscribe, which is fine as it helps us understand our target audience.

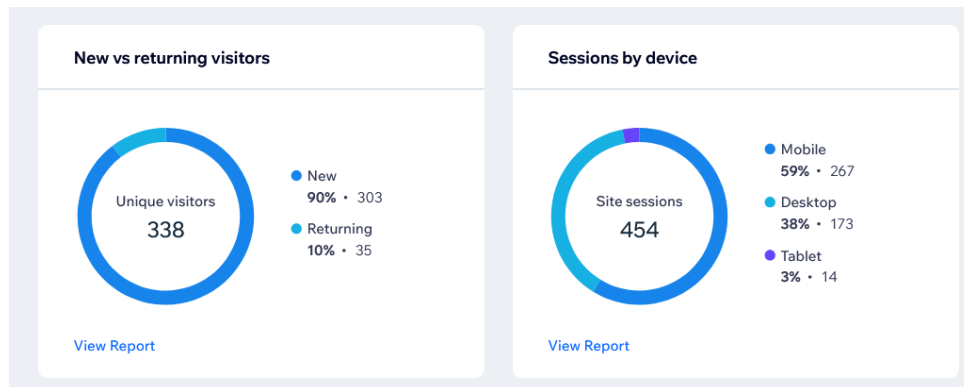
Email performance

April 28, 2026 - April 30, 2026



Website

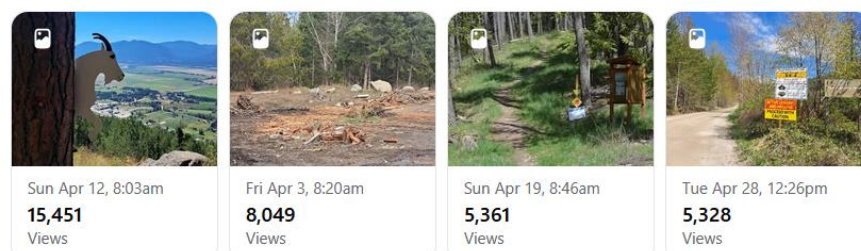
- 461 Visitors – Sessions viewed
- Most visited pages are from our Recreation Page. Sharlyn will focus on updating this page.



Social Media

- 1121 followers – 54 new followers
- 47, 135 total views
- 87% of views by non-followers
- Top post: Billy Goat Bluffs and hiking trails open, it gained us 25 new followers

Top content





Forest Manager's Report April 30th, 2026

1.0 Forest Operations

- As of April 20th, all the wildfire salvage in Peterson and Spider Creek is complete. Culvert inlets have been checked to ensure they are all properly functioning and the road will be graded next week. We'll have the total volume from this area at the start of May once the mills send us their log statements.
- Celgar is currently not accepting pulp logs and have indicated that they'll reopen their scales in July.
- We are currently working at the back end of Birch Creek logging a 15-hectare block which will be done in the third week of May, with logs being shipped to Huscroft and Porcupine. Operations will then move to three additional blocks in Birch Creek that have approximately 8837 m³ of sawlogs, 40% of which is cedar. We are currently receiving \$200/ m³ from Porcupine which will increase our average selling price.
- Once again, both the Kidd Creek Forest Service Road and the Birch/ Russell Creek Road have had no road restrictions which has allowed us to harvest through spring break up.

Other Forest Developments

- Erich and Stefan are now developing areas on Mt. Thompson/ Sullivan Creek.

2.0 Road Construction/ Maintenance

- Sections of the Kidd Creek and Peterson Creek Road where we hauled on will be graded.
- Birch Creek required some road upgrades and 350 metres of road construction for access to Blocks 19 and 20.

3.0 Silviculture

- I'm waiting to hear back from the Ministry about the purchase of 35K spruce and 14K lodgepole pine seedlings and will receive confirmation next week.

4.0 Wildfire Risk Reduction

- Macaulay Forestry has completed one project area in Lower Birch and is now working on Mt Thompson in the block that we logged in the late summer/ early fall 2024.
- Funding for this work is provided by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC which has now provided over \$2.6 million to the community forest. There will be

another funding intake this fall for 2028-2029 which we will also apply for.

5.0 Other Activities

- The info for the company's year-end has been submitted to Apex Accounting.
- Recently attended two meetings: all licensees meeting for the Selkirk Forest District and the Creston Valley Firesmart Resiliency Committee. This Saturday we will have a booth at the Farmers' Market as part of our open house and to promote Wildfire Preparedness Day.
- This week the blowdown that occurred in Block 7 on Mt. Thompson is being logged to reduce the risk and spread of Douglas-fir beetle. We posted this info on our Facebook page.
- Blowdown along the Sullivan Creek up to Gliders' Point, the Sullivan creek Connector and portions of the Pack Trail was removed the other week.
- Douglas-fir beetle funnel traps and MCH bubble packs are being installed at select locations throughout the community forest.
- Our summer students, Tuscany Richards and Elissa Kingsburgh will be starting this Monday.
- We have submitted a request to obtain the report completed by the BC Wildfire Service regarding the Kidd Creek fire. Under the Freedom of Information Act in BC, this should be available given the fire occurred on Crown Land.
- The dumping/ party spot at 1 km on the Mt. Thompson FSR has been cleaned up and the landing spot completely decompacted.

Submitted by: Daniel Gratton - Forest Manager

Kootenay Food Council (KFC) Briefing Note

Director Vandenberghe

On May 21, 2026, the Kootenay Food Council held its AGM in Creston, including site visits to **Kootenay Farm Supply** and the **Creston Food Hub**.

The AGM highlighted growing regional interest in strengthening food system coordination, improving infrastructure, and building more resilient connections among producers, buyers, carriers, food access organizations, schools, and local governments.

Discussion also noted the rollout of the Central Kootenay Farm and Food Directory and the need for continued improvements to shared communications and digital tools.

Key Themes

1. Regional food system coordination

The Kootenay Food Council described its role as a regional convener that brings together organizations, producers, schools, food access groups, and institutions across the Central Kootenay and Boundary regions.

This work is intended to reduce fragmentation and create neutral spaces for collaboration in a region where long distances, mountain passes, limited infrastructure, and small local markets often make coordination difficult.

2. Importance of practical infrastructure

A recurring theme was that many regional food system challenges are not caused by lack of interest or ideas, but by limitations in transportation, warehousing, distribution, timing, coordination capacity, and shared infrastructure.

The discussion emphasized the importance of making these practical realities visible to funders, institutions, local governments, and regional partners so that future planning reflects on-the-ground conditions.

3. Grow Connect and digital coordination

The Kootenay Food Council reported continued development of Grow Connect as a shared digital coordination platform for the regional food system.

The platform is intended to help producers, buyers, food hubs, carriers, and support organizations identify one another, communicate more effectively, and improve coordination across the region.

The AGM discussion indicated that Grow Connect had recently reached approximately 250 users and is being viewed as part of the “missing middle” infrastructure needed to support small and medium-sized food enterprises.

4. Procurement and food access networks

The Kootenay Boundary Food Procurement Network was described as a practical effort to connect food access organizations, school districts, producers, transporters, and community organizations.

Its purpose is not to replace existing systems, but to improve visibility, identify gaps, and support opportunities for shared purchasing, food recovery, donation, aggregation, and distribution.

This approach may create stronger alignment between local food production, emergency food access, and institutional purchasing.

School food opportunities

A significant part of the discussion focused on how more regional food could move into schools in realistic and affordable ways.

Current experience suggests there has been some success moving whole products, such as fruit and vegetables, into schools, while more complex meal-based procurement remains challenging because of pricing and last-mile distribution barriers.

The discussion also highlighted that solutions will likely need to be developed community by community rather than through a single centralized approach.

Participants noted that school food initiatives can serve more than one purpose: improving student access to nutritious food, strengthening food literacy and nutrition education, and keeping more purchasing dollars within local communities.

The conversation also pointed to the need for strong partnership with school districts, educators, nonprofit organizations, and local suppliers if these efforts are to expand successfully.

Relevance to Creston Valley

The Creston Valley appears well positioned to contribute to this work because of its agricultural base, established food initiatives, and the presence of the Creston Food Hub as a visible example of regional food system infrastructure.

The discussion suggests that food hubs and related coordination tools can support broader objectives tied to community well-being, economic development, food security, emergency preparedness, and institutional procurement.

The Creston Valley may also be an important pilot area for approaches that connect producers, schools, food programs, community organizations, and local distribution capacity.

Take away opportunities

- Recognize food system infrastructure as both economic and community-serving infrastructure, particularly where it supports producers, food access organizations, and public institutions.
- Support practical coordination initiatives that improve aggregation, transportation, warehousing, and last-mile delivery.
- Encourage collaboration between food hubs, school districts, local governments, nonprofits, and producers to test scalable local procurement models.
- Consider how regional planning, grant advocacy, and partnerships can help address barriers that are logistical rather than conceptual.

- Align future conversations with existing food security and regional development priorities where possible.

Closing observation

The overall message from the AGM discussion was that momentum is building across the region for a more connected, visible, and resilient food system.

The Creston Food Hub and related regional initiatives appear to offer a practical foundation for continued collaboration, especially where local food production, distribution, community food access, and institutional purchasing can be better linked.



Committee Report – For Information

May 28, 2026

Update: Creston Valley FireSmart Resiliency Committee *Ɂuku kqəɁin* Working Group

Author:	Nora Hannon, Acting Emergency Program Manager
File Reference:	14/7625
Electoral Area/Municipality:	Electoral Areas A, B and C
Services Impacted	A101 Emergency Consolidated Services

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Creston Valley Services Committee an update on the RDCK collaboration between the Creston Valley FireSmart Resiliency Committee *Ɂuku kqəɁin* Working Group

2.0 BACKGROUND AND UPDATE

The RDCK has been a member of the Creston Valley FireSmart Resiliency Committee since inception. The RDCK provides \$3,000 annually through the UBCM CRI FireSmart Grant towards the coordination of this committee.

The RDCK is providing a one time amount of \$5,000 from provincial Indigenous Engagement Requirement (IER) funding towards the 2026 coordination of *Ɂuku kqəɁin*.

This excerpt from the Creston Valley FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CVFRC) Terms of Reference outline the purpose of the CVFRC and *Ɂuku kqəɁin*:

*This **Creston Valley FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CVFRC)** fills a key level of collaboration and organization on the sub-regional level. The FireSmart and wildfire resiliency programs in BC require coordination of all levels of government, industry and local community and stakeholders to promote and deliver impactful, efficient and cost-effective wildfire resiliency initiatives. The CVFRC will use local, provincial, and federal resources to provide FireSmart and community wildfire resiliency leadership within the Creston Valley. In addition, and building on the collaboration within the Creston Valley, the CVFRC supports the ***Ɂuku kqəɁin* Working Group** (*Ɂuku kqəɁin*), that plans for and re-introduces prescribed burning and cultural fire to the Creston Valley. *Ɂuku kqəɁin* translates directly to *Ɂuku*, meaning "to light something," and *kqəɁin*, meaning "walk." The intended essence is "Fire Walkers." For pronunciation, the "Ɂ" sounds like "ts," so it would be "tsuku ka tsin," with a brief pause between "kqa" and "Ɂin.*

Scope

The CVFRC, led by the Town of Creston, Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), and yaqan nukiy, operates primarily within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), focusing on all seven FireSmart Disciplines.

zuku kqazin, led by yaqan nukiy, operates at a larger, landscape scale, focusing exclusively on the re-introduction of fire.

The CVFRC will coordinate broad wildfire resiliency efforts and support zuku kqazin as a subcommittee of CVFRC. However, zuku kqazin will maintain its own decision-making authority.

Organizational Structure

The CVFRC and zuku kqazin have separate priorities but share a number of important activities including coordination, public outreach and stakeholder engagement.

The Town of Creston, RDCK, and yaqan nukiy, are financially responsible for the CVFRC and zuku kqazin coordination, according to agreed upon workplans and budgets that will be reviewed annually.

Financial responsibility of the CVFRC and zuku kqazin activities will be determined by project-specific workplans and budgets.

Financial responsibility of the CVFRC and zuku kqazin activities will be determined by project-specific workplans and budgets.

CVFRC Objectives

The key objectives of the CVFRC are to:

1. Coordinate activities across agencies related to the 7 disciplines of FireSmart, including information sharing, co-development, and delivery of projects as appropriate, while maintaining each agency's independence to deliver its mandate;
2. Strengthen relationships with residents and organizations within the Creston Valley to engage in wildfire resiliency;
3. Develop and implement education plans to support all agency initiatives; and
4. Collaborate across agencies on activities that increase community wildfire resilience, including but not limited to community / stakeholder engagement, sharing of resources, and accessing funding.

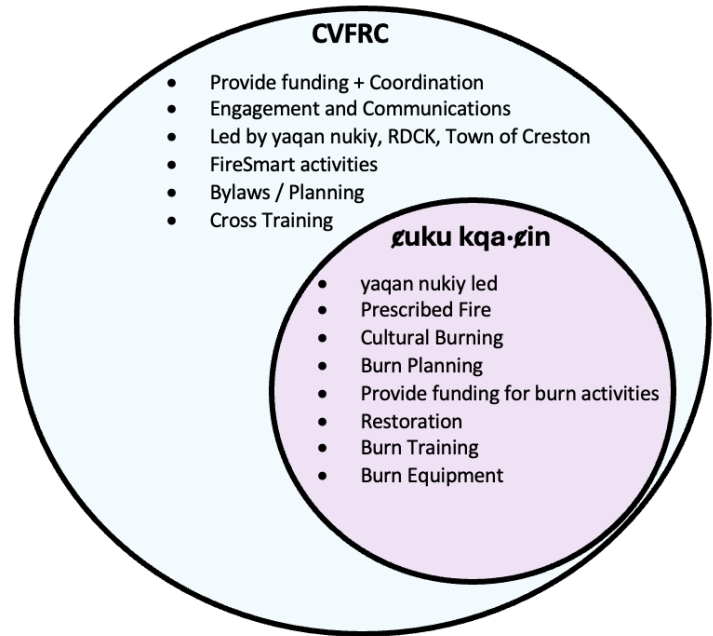
CVFRC Geographic Scope

1. The yaqan nukiy Lands, Town of Creston Municipal Lands, and Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) Electoral areas A, B, and C within the eligible 1km Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) or within administrative boundaries if not considered eligible WUI;
2. Crown Land within or outside the 1 km eligible WUI or administrative boundaries that surround the communities listed above that is eligible for treatment under the Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction program; and
3. Other lands not defined by section 1 or 2 that the CVFRC determined through consensus to be a threat to community wildfire resiliency within the Creston Valley.

zuku kqazin Objectives

The key objectives of zuku kqazin are to:

1. Coordinate wildfire resiliency activities in the Creston Valley;



2. *Promote alignment between funding agencies and projects;*
3. *Coordinate messaging on ꝑuku kqa-ꝑin activities and issues with member organizations;*
4. *Report out on challenges and opportunities;*
5. *Coordinate information sharing internally with ꝑuku kqa-ꝑin members to support decision making of members;*
6. *Provide opportunities for individual members to share burn information through their own communication networks. ꝑuku kqa-ꝑin will not take an active communication role on behalf of members but will support shared messaging*
7. *Develop and implement a methodology for prioritizing areas for the reintroduction of fire;*
8. *Develop and implement a methodology for strengthening the connection between prescribed fire objectives, how they are implemented, and how success is measured*
9. *Develop the structure, acquire the equipment and secure the training for a ꝑuku kqa-ꝑin Prescribed Fire Crew; and*
10. *Reintroduce fire, based on a collaborative approach between members.*

ꝑuku kqaꝑin Geographic Scope

The geographic scope of ꝑuku kqa-ꝑin is the height of land east and west of the Creston Valley, north of the US border and south of Kootenay Lake. This area includes Summit Creek to the west, Argenta to the north and the Goat River as far east as Yahk.

3.0 NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

The next Creston Valley FireSmart Resiliency Committee and ꝑuku kqaꝑin meeting will be in the fall of 2026.

Given changes to the UBCM CRI FireSmart Grant, RDCK grant funding to support Creston Valley FireSmart Resiliency Committee coordination is uncertain in 2027.

Respectfully submitted,
Nora Hannon, Acting Emergency Program Manager

CONCURRENCE

Stuart Horn – CAO
Dan Seguin – Acting GM Fire and Emergency Services



Work Plan 2026

Kootenay & Boundary Farm Advisors (KBFA)

Prepared for: KBFA Steering Committee

Attn: Regional District of Central Kootenay

Prepared by: Kefer Ecological Services Ltd.

April 2026



Executive Summary

This work plan is a living document that is updated quarterly to reflect real-time progress and goals. Updates will be shared with the steering committee during check-in meetings to provide context for KBFA program strategy and facilitate discussion.

Annual service targets within this work plan are detailed for 2026. Program deliverables are aligned with the calendar year (January - December 2026), while the contract terms are aligned to the fiscal year (April 2026 - April 2027).

Program Objectives & Scope

The purpose of Kootenay & Boundary Farm Advisors (KBFA) is to support local food production capacity by providing farmers of the Kootenays and Columbia Basin with accurate and regionally-relevant resources and information. KBFA Farm Advisors are qualified professionals who are available locally to support farmers directly in identifying key issues and troubleshooting solutions.

KBFA provides a range of services to meet farmers needs including: answering farmers' questions (by phone, email, or boots-on-the-ground farm visits), connecting producers with experts or existing resources, organizing educational events (field days and webinars), and hosting public communication channels for information-sharing (website, newsletter, social media, and a podcast).

The scope of KBFA extension services applies specifically to information and education related to agricultural production and farm operations. Program eligibility includes established commercial farms as well as new entrants that intend to sell products in the near future. KBFA does not provide field technician services such as soil sample collection, agronomic prescriptions or field management plans, however Farm Advisors may recommend when these are appropriate and suggest suitable contractors. The implementation of the information or action is the responsibility of the producer.

KBFA's services aim to help farmers achieve their individual food production goals, and also bring the agricultural community together to learn and be inspired by each other's successes. Over the past decade, KBFA has developed and maintained a database tracking >4000 engagements and >2700 contacts (2017 - present). The KBFA program strategy is greatly informed by tracking and analyzing the questions, comments, and concerns commonly raised by our local farmers.

The success of this program to date is largely due to the trust and relationships built between farmers and Farm Advisors, as non-government qualified professionals. Team member qualifications and responsibilities are provided for reference at the end of the work plan.

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Work Plan Overview

The program plan is divided into three tasks, with distinct deliverables and key dates: agricultural extension, communications, and program administration. These services are described in greater detail following the work plan schedule.

- **Task 1: Agricultural Extension:** includes farmer-focused services such as 1-to-1 farmer connections with advisors or experts, farm visits, and educational events.
- **Task 2: Communications:** platforms to communicate with farmers and the agricultural community include website, newsletter, YouTube channel, Instagram, Facebook and podcast.
- **Task 3: Program Administration:** includes workplans, internal program resources, data management and monitoring, Steering Committee reports and meetings, funders presentations, and operational infrastructure.

Work Plan Schedule

Timeline	Milestones and Deliverables
<p>2026 Targets Overview</p>	<p><i>1 Agricultural Extension</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1-to-1 (Producers + Farm Advisors/Experts): 175 ● Farm Visits: 30 ● Events (fields day + webinars): 6 - 9 ● External networking meetings: as needed <p style="text-align: right;">16 webinar events in 2025 ... due to soil building network. Back to 6 to 9 for 2026</p> <p><i>2 Communications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Newsletter: published bimonthly (6 issues) ● Podcast: develop and prepare to launch pilot season (4 episodes) ● Website: update biweekly + events ● Social media: post biweekly + events <p style="text-align: right;">Did you know KBFA has a Library of 60 YouTube videos for producers</p> <p><i>3 Program Administration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Proposal and contract renewal (Apr 8 annually) ● Steering committee quarterly check-in meetings (<i>as needed</i>) ● Board presentations (3: RDEK, RDCK, RDKB) ● Mid-term and year-end reports ● Monthly invoices to steering committee (12) ● Team monthly strategy meetings: 12 <p style="text-align: center;">Did you know there are only two District Hydrologists including Jeff Nimo covering the area of Boundary Central and East</p>

Timeline	Milestones and Deliverables
<p>Q1 2026 Jan-Mar COMPLETE</p>	<p><i>1 Agricultural Extension</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1-1 + expert: 57+4 ● Farm visits: 2 ● Meeting: 2 ● Events (7): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Webinar (6): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Jan 14,21,28: Kootenay Soil Building Network ■ Feb 4, 11: Kootenay Soil Building Network ■ Mar 18: Day on a Farm ○ RDCK (1): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Jan 8: Agriculture & Water Discussion with the RDCK <p><i>2 Communications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Feb 1: publish newsletter 1 ● Mar: draft newsletter 2 ● Website: audit resources page links <p><i>3 Program Administration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jan 22: Q1 steering committee meeting ● Jan 31: submit draft year-end report to steering committee ● Feb 28: submit year-end report to steering committee
<p>Q2 2026 Apr-Jun CURRENT</p>	<p><i>1 Agricultural Extension</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1-1 / expert use: 60 ● Farm visits: 20 ● Promotion / Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Call low-engagement existing contacts (<2 interactions or prior to 2024) ○ Plan and contact Farmers’ Market managers to promote advisor visits ○ Network with other programs to generate new leads ● Events (2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RDCK (2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Apr 15: Greenhouse Pest Management ■ Apr 30: Automated Irrigation for Market Gardens ○ Plan field days for RDKB and RDEK (2-3 each) <p><i>2 Communications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apr 1: publish newsletter 2 ● May: draft newsletter 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Add “Featured Video” section to promote YouTube ● May: brainstorm new blog topics and resources to add to website ● May: review social media post schedule and topics ● Jun 1: publish newsletter 3 ● Podcast: set-up equipment and schedule interviews ● Add events calendar to website

Timeline	Milestones and Deliverables
Q2 2026 Apr-Jun CURRENT	<p><i>3 Program Administration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apr 8: submit proposal to steering committee and renew contract ● Apr: engagement and event data analysis for workplan ● Apr 23: Q2 steering committee meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Present 2026 workplan; set dates for Q3 and Q4 meetings ● PAT database audit & tidy (internal)
Q3 2026 Jul-Sept	<p><i>1 Agricultural Extension</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1-1/expert use: 40 ● Farm visits: 5 ● Promotion / Outreach: visit Farmers’ Markets, attend external events ● Events (4): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RDEK: 2 ○ RDKB: 2 <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Starting 2025 KBFA looking to attend and chat with producers at Farmer’s Markets</p> <p><i>2 Communications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● July: draft newsletter 4 ● Aug 1: publish newsletter 4 ● Sept: draft newsletter 5 ● Podcast - conduct interviews for 4 episodes <p><i>3 Program Administration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sept 5: submit mid-term report to steering committee (<i>optional, upon request</i>). ● TBD: Q3 steering committee meeting - present and review mid-term report and initiate 2027 budget negotiation. ● Submit board presentations requests (RDEK, RDKB, RDCK) ● <i>PAT database maintenance & upgrades (developer)</i>
Q4 2026 Oct-Dec	<p><i>1 Agricultural Extension</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1-1 / expert use: 20 ● Farm visits: 5 ● Events (1-3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan Q1 winter webinars <p><i>2 Communications</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oct 1: publish newsletter 5 ● Nov: : draft newsletter 6 ● Dec 1: publish newsletter 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promote podcast launch (Q1 2027) ● Podcast - complete editing and prepare for launch <p><i>3 Program Administration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TBD: Q4 steering committee meeting - finalize 2027 budget ● Complete board presentations (RDEK, RDKB, RDCK) ● Draft 2027 workplan

Task 1: Agricultural Extension

Agricultural extension includes activities aimed directly at farmer education and support, and can be delivered to individuals or groups. These services include 1-on-1 interactions with producers (175) and events (6-9). When budget permits, this may also include support for producers to attend high quality conferences outside of our region.

Advisors provide guidance based on the most relevant and scientifically based resources to support producers. The following sources are often used for information:

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Agricultural Extension Agencies (e.g. Oregon State Extension)
- Universities
- Producer organizations
- Qualified consultants and experts

Advisors also work to network with various organizations and researchers to enhance agricultural programming and applied research in the KBFA program region. This could include:

- Support in finding and writing project and research grants
- Connecting researchers and organizations to farmers for applied research and on-farm projects
- Coordinating with the Ministry of Agriculture for educational events and presentations in the KBFA region

1-on-1s with Farm Advisors & Experts

In a 1-on-1 interaction, the KBFA farm advisor acts to provide support to the producer to address inquiries, identify challenges and opportunities, and connect the producer with the best available information and resources. Inquiries from producers will be received via email, phone, the online sign-up form and meetings.

KBFA's expert advisors will be connected to a producer when a general advisor is not able to address a producer's issue. If there is an associated cost for the expert's time, a two-hour consultation will be arranged and paid for by KBFA. After the two-hour consultation, it will be the responsibility of the producer to arrange further support with the expert and paid by the producer.

It is the responsibility of KBFA farm advisors to regularly research and build relationships with expert advisors, to ensure producers have access to accurate and relevant information. This may include:

- Researching and seeking expertise for specific producer needs
- Forming new relationships with experts to join the KBFA advisor's team
- Adding experts to the KBFA website
- Facilitating relationships and connections between producers and experts (e.g. academia, various Ministries, researchers, consultants)
- Seeking opportunities for academics, researchers or agricultural programs to work in the KBFA region (e.g. applied research from universities, BC Agriculture Climate Action's Farmer Innovator Program)

The 2026 annual 1-on-1 target is 175 interactions, divided between all the regions serviced by the KBFA. In 2025, 1-on-1 interactions met the target (150 with farm advisors and 35 with experts) with an annual total of 200 interactions. Between 2017 and 2025, KBFA has been responsible for a total of 4118 1-on-1 interactions supporting producers. In previous workplans the farm advisor 1-to-1s and expert use targets have been separate; these are now combined because both serve the same purpose of providing producers with 1-on-1 advice. Farm advisor 1-on-1s and expert 1-on-1s will continue to be tracked separately to permit data analysis and program strategy development.

Farm Visits

Farm visits are primarily scheduled to coincide with the active outreach portion of the KBFA activities and are not intended to provide agronomic prescriptions to producers, but rather to build relationships, promote the KBFA program, and identify issues that can be followed up on afterwards. Ministry of Agriculture extension officers used to drop by farms regularly to check in with producers and some farmers still associate extension services with a site visit.

The primary goal of the farm visit is to listen to the producer and to see the farm operation firsthand. Although a producer may not have an issue, a conversation will highlight areas of interest that the producer is working on. It is the role of the farm advisor to observe and listen carefully so that resources can be made available depending on the range of issues and interests that a producer may have. At a minimum, at least one resource will be emailed to the producer within a week to follow up on the farm visit and demonstrate the type of information that can be provided by KBFA.

Farm visits can last between 20 minutes to 2 hours based on the availability of the producers. Farm visits place a heavy demand on program resources, so to increase efficiencies, farm visits are coordinated so multiple farms (or farmers) are visited on the same day or coordinated around field days and workshops, when possible.

Based on past experience, farmers do not usually initiate a farm visit, and therefore farm visits will be initiated and coordinated in the following ways:

- Responding to a request from a producer for a farm visit.
- Reaching out to producers who signed up online, called, or emailed and have received KBFA support.
- Targeting key producers or sectors who have not connected with KBFA.
- Stopping at farms with which we are unfamiliar.

In 2025, the number of farm visits was 56, exceeding the target of 25 - 35 interactions. In 2026, the goal is to conduct a minimum of 30 farm visits across the serviced region.

Events

Events are an effective and cost-efficient way to attract agricultural professionals and researchers to the region to provide producers with training, mentoring, and technical expertise. Events may include presentations, field days, workshops, webinars, or conferences.

KBFA's approach to coordinating events is collaboration with academia, government ministries and agricultural associations to:

- Facilitate producer-to-producer networking
- Leverage expert knowledge to a broader audience
- Build connections between experts and producers in the region
- Expose producers to new types of information, research and resources
- Promote innovation and new ideas

It is a high priority for KBFA to coordinate events that are relevant and of interest to producers. Therefore, topics for events are identified by the producers and cross referenced with local producer organizations. KBFA strives for a partnership with a producer organization or a group of producers to ensure high turnout and buy-in for an event. Feedback forms are collected after each field day that ask producers about the quality of the event, including desired topics for future events.

KBFA aims to coordinate education activities among sectors and geographic areas evenly. The financial and human resources required to coordinate events depends greatly on the type of event (webinar, field day, or collaborative event). KBFA will work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and other organizations such as the Young Agrarians, Kootenay Organic Growers Society, Kootenay Livestock Association, Windermere & District Farmer's Institute, and other agricultural groups to collaborate on events when possible.

A summary factsheet with photos will be created from each field day. The fact sheet will be completed within three weeks of the event and posted on the KBFA website and promoted in KBFA newsletters

KBFA has an event goal of approximately 6-9 events per year, distributed among the participating regional districts and industry sectors.

Task 2: Communication

KBFA manages a range of communications platforms to increase the accessibility of information for enhanced outreach and engagement with both the agricultural community and ancillary organizations. Current KBFA communication platforms include a website, YouTube channel, newsletter, Instagram, Facebook, and a new podcast is in development. KBFA advisors also frequently engage and network with other agricultural organizations to cross-promote applicable resources to farmers.

In 2026, KBFA hopes to expand and improve on the current communication strategies. Some key communication goals for the upcoming year include:

- Regularly updating resource pages and re-promoting seasonal or evergreen content (blogs, archived events, key resources).
- Sharing timely content through the bimonthly newsletter and social media.
- Focus on expanding and engaging audiences across the Kootenay Farmer Newsletter, KBFA.ca, YouTube, and social media platforms.
- Regularly update resources pages.

- Monitoring website analytics, optimize content, and make adjustments to attract and retain visitors.
- Conducting additional keyword research and enhancing SEO to improve discoverability of KBFA.ca among farmers.
- Expanding and maintaining the Kootenay Soil Building Network program and resources, including event promotion and recordings.
- Amplification of relevant partner events, resources, and stories.

A description of the current communication avenues is included below.

Website

The KBFA website, [KBFA.ca](https://kbfa.ca), is the central hub for all KBFA communications. It serves as the primary platform for event registration, resources, stories, and newsletter archives, with traffic directed to the site wherever possible. The website also hosts a growing online resource library featuring seven subject pages and an expanding collection of individual resources.

KBFA.ca sees an increase in web traffic annually, with 2025 being the largest increase yet. In 2025, there were 7.7K website sessions (a 54% increase over 2024) and 5.4K website users (a 48% increase over 2024). In 2026, the goal is to continue this pattern of use and growth through the strategies outlined above.

Newsletter

The Kootenay Farmer Newsletter is sent out bimonthly detailing upcoming events, sources of funding, farmer features, agriculture news, and more. Email subscribers grew from 1,796 in 2024 to 2,375 in 2025, which was a 32% increase. The Kootenay Farmer has strong engagement with an average open rate of 42.6%, while industry average open rate for agriculture is 24.27%. The Kootenay Farmer Newsletter also has a strong average click rate of 6.8%, versus the industry average click rate of 3.5%. In 2026, the Kootenay Farmer will continue to share relevant, timely, and useful information to build on the strong engagement and click rates observed in 2025.

YouTube

The KBFA YouTube channel has 1.2K subscribers and is growing, with over 13K video views in 2025. Farm advisors routinely direct producers to access existing videos as useful resources. In 2026, ongoing promotion of the YouTube channel, expansion of its resource videos, and continued recording and posting of webinars are expected to further grow viewership and subscribers.

Social Media

KBFA's social media accounts are well-established channels for sharing information, engaging with partner organizations, and connecting with farmers. Content includes technical resources, newsletters, events, field days, partner updates, and storytelling posts. All platforms continue to grow year over year. The KBFA Instagram had a 4% increase in followers in 2025, bringing it to 1197 followers. Similarly, the KBFA Facebook experienced a 5% increase in followers in 2025, bringing it to 888 followers.

Podcast

The "Kootenay Farmer" podcast is KBFA's newest communications addition. This podcast host is a local experienced farmer who will interview other regional success stories, with supervision from KBFA advisors. During 2026 a pilot season of 4 episodes will be created, to be launched publicly in Q1 2027. This is a "by farmers, for farmers" communication channel that KBFA is very excited to share. Podcasts can be listened to while offline or during routine farming activities, which is expected to increase this content's accessibility compared to YouTube videos.

Industry Networking

KBFA farm advisors prioritize networking opportunities that generate resources for producers. KBFA routinely connects and collaborates with other industry organizations and stakeholders to ensure farmers receive comprehensive, relevant, and high-value extension services, without duplication or competition among service programs. Networking and collaboration often occurs with organizations and associations in the region that work with local food systems, sector associations, or that work with private landowners (e.g. invasive species societies). The goal of participation is to promote KBFA, form relationships, and look for opportunities for collaboration.

KBFA works closely with the two Ministry regional agrologists assigned to the KBFA service area, Jeff Nimmo (RDCK, RDEK, CSRD) and Lindsay Hainstock (RDKB), as well as industry specialists from other regions. Regional specialists and their jurisdictions can be found [here](#).

In 2025, KBFA facilitated 35 meetings to connect producers with relevant organizations to promote collaboration, discussion, and networking between the organizations and producers. There is no set target for industry networking activities, and KBFA will continue to participate in collaborative meetings on an as-needed basis that best serves producers' needs.

Task 3: Program Administration

Program administration includes operational and reporting activities such as development and delivery of workplans, reports and meetings for the Steering Committee or funders, managing communication platforms, data analysis and database management, and development of internal program procedures.

Reporting

Steering Committee meetings provide an opportunity to review progress and discuss opportunities to improve existing services, identify potential future offerings, and increase the efficiency and overall utilization of KBFA. Annual mid-term and year-end reports are submitted to the Steering Committee.

Funders for KBFA include the regional districts of East Kootenay, Central Kootenay, and Kootenay Boundary and Columbia Basin Trust. Annual board meetings between KBFA and the funders ensures that KBFA continues to act in alignment with its mission and provide services that are benefitting all districts where it operates.

Communication Platforms

KBFA operations rely on several communication platform subscriptions including: phone, GSuite, website, Mailchimp, Canva, and Zoom. These services are reviewed annually to ensure that their cost and capacity provided continue to be appropriate for meeting program goals.

Zoom is used to host webinars. Mailchimp is used for the KBFA newsletter and supports automated emails, analytics tracking, and marketing services. Canva allows for the quick creation of high quality visual materials for newsletters, flyers, brochures, and other outreach materials. Using Canva helps maintain consistent branding across communications through standardized use of colours, fonts, and layouts.

Engagement Database (PAT)

KBFA developed a data management system in 2019 that is the backbone to the program. This program tracks data such as number of producers, event attendance, and connections to experts, as well as tracking advisor's time and invoicing. The data management system is maintained daily by the KBFA general advisors.

In 2026, this system will require upgrades and time dedicated to cleaning and managing the stored data. These updates to the system and ongoing maintenance of the stored data will improve overall functionality and effectiveness of the software. Tasks such as creating new data processing scripts will allow advisors to use the system more easily, store data in more intuitive ways, and have a greater ability to generate data for reporting purposes.

Budget

The annual program budget committed by RDCK for April 2026 to April 2027 is \$180,000, invoiced monthly at \$15,000. An additional \$3,000 was unspent during 2025 and is carried forward to 2026, for a total budget of \$183,000. Budget negotiations for 2027 are planned for fall 2026.

The budget distribution among key tasks has shifted slightly since the 2024 RFP, to more closely align with actual service delivery targets and spending during 2024 and 2025. Hourly rates were increased by 5% for 2026, after no change since the 2024 RFP. Only minor maintenance of the PAT database (Operations) was completed in 2024-2025 and is expected to require investment in 2026.

KBFA 2026 Forecast

Task #	Task Description	\$	%
1	Admin	\$ 17,500	10%
2	Service	\$ 102,000	55%
3	1-on-1	\$ 36,000	20%
4	Travel	\$ 17,000	9%
5	Operations	\$ 10,500	6%
		\$ 183,000	100%

Target and Actual Budget Distribution by Task (2024-2026)

Task Description	% per Task			
	2024 RFP	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 RFP
Admin	17%	11%	10%	10%
Service	69%	57%	58%	55%
1-on-1		17%	20%	20%
Travel	8%	13%	9%	9%
Operations	6%	3%	3%	6%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

Hours Distribution by Task (2025 actual vs 2026 forecast)

Year	Description	Admin	Service	1-on-1	Travel
2025	Hours Actual (approx)	168	930	288	112
2026	Hours Forecast	167	840*	330**	115

Service hours appear to have been reduced in 2026 compared to 2025, but this is due to reallocation:

*The new podcast pilot expenses are included under Service as an expense rather than hours.

**Expert use hours are included under 1-on-1, instead of service.

Team Qualifications & Responsibilities

Project administration and communications are delivered by Keefer Ecological Services Ltd. (KES) (2017 - current). Agricultural advice and extension are delivered by Farm Advisors, who are Professional Agrologists located within the KBFA service area, and include both KES employees and subcontractors.

Michael Keefer, PAg, MSc - Keefer Ecological Services Ltd. (President)

Program Strategic Oversight and Administration

Mike Keefer provides senior oversight of KBFA and strategic recommendations on program goals and delivery. The staff at Keefer Ecological Services administer and oversee the program budget, submit invoices to the Regional District of Central Kootenay and maintain the administrative program framework such as phone, email service, and database.

Sarah Hirschfeld, PAg, MSc - Keefer Ecological Services Ltd.

Project Manager & Farm Advisor

Sarah has been the KBFA program manager since 2024 and serves as the liaison between the KBFA team, steering committee, and funders. She is responsible for developing work plans, tracking performance metrics, database management, timely reporting, annual funders presentations, and ensuring that deliverables are met. Alongside the other Farm Advisors, Sarah further provides 1-1 direct support to farmers, organizes educational events, and networks with relevant industry organizations.

Sarah is a Professional Agrologist, Environmental Farm Plan Advisor, and Certified Nutrient Management Planner. She holds a MSc Plant Agriculture (University of Guelph) and BSc Environmental Science (University of Ottawa). Her agriculture experience includes: conducting agricultural research for universities and the private sector, cultivation and quality roles in crop production operations (field, greenhouse, and indoor), farmers' market management and director, and providing agricultural operation and business development advice and plans as a consultant.

Rachael Roussin, PAg, BA, MLWS - Subcontractor

Farm Advisor

As a Farm Advisor Rachael provides 1-1 support to producers, conducts farm visits and coordinates education events such as field days. Rachael Roussin was the KBFA coordinator from 2017-2023, where she developed and delivered the foundational program work plans and strategies. She continues to support the acting program manager in developing strategic systems, guidelines, objectives and approaches based on KBFA's history and boots-on-the-ground understanding of farmers' current needs.

Rachael is a Professional Agrologist and Environmental Farm Plan Advisor for BC, with a Masters degree in Land and Water Systems from the faculty of Land and Food at UBC. Her technical background includes soil science, soil capability for agriculture, watershed management, climate change impacts and opportunities for agriculture. She is an experienced educator on soil health & agricultural land, has operated a market garden, managed her local farmers' market for over four years, and sits on several food and agriculture boards and committees.

STAFF REPORT

TO: S108 Participants (Town, Electoral Areas B and C)
FROM: Mike Moore, Chief Administrative Officer – Town of Creston
DATE: May 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Physician Recruitment Program Update

PURPOSE

To provide the Creston Valley Services Committee with an update on the status of procuring consulting services to support the development of a Physician Recruitment Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND

Physician recruitment continues to be a critical service and community priority in the Creston Valley, supporting not only healthcare access but also broader community sustainability, economic development, and population growth.

Recognizing the evolving nature of physician recruitment and the need to position the program strategically over the long term, staff have initiated work to engage a qualified consultant to support the development of a comprehensive strategic plan.

The Service 108 participants reviewed an update of the activities of the Health Working Group during a Creston Valley Services Committee meeting on March 5, 2026. As part of the update, the 2026 budget was reviewed and the committee confirmed the use of \$13,831 in previous year surplus to fund a strategic plan for the physician recruitment program.

As reported in the update from the Town of Creston in March, the strategic plan is intended to move physician recruitment in the Creston Valley from a largely reactive, operational program to a more deliberate, long-term framework for sustainability. Its purpose is to align recruitment, retention, locum use, funding, governance, and accountability so the community can continue to maintain hospital, emergency, and community-based medical services despite ongoing physician shortages, retirements, and population growth.

More broadly, the plan is meant to clarify what success should look like beyond simply keeping the emergency room open. It would help define service expectations, improve reporting and transparency, guide future decision-making, and better connect physician recruitment with wider community priorities such as housing, economic development, and overall community well-being.

Update

Town staff have begun the procurement process for consulting services and have initiated contact with qualified consultants to explore the potential scope, approach, and timelines for the work.

Town staff are currently refining the proposed scope of work for the strategic plan, obtaining pricing information from potential consultants, and assessing consultant qualifications and fit for the Creston Valley context.

The intent of this work is to select a consultant who can support a structured review of the current physician recruitment program, identify gaps, risks, and opportunities, and develop a forward-looking strategy aligned with community needs and regional partnerships.

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize scope of work and evaluation criteria
- Obtain and review formal pricing proposals
- Select a preferred consultant
- Initiate the strategic planning process

Staff will return to the S108 Participants with:

- The recommended consultant
- A detailed project scope and timeline
- Budget implications, if any (at this time the estimated costs are aligned with budget)

IMPLICATIONS

At this stage:

- There are no immediate financial or service level impacts
- The work represents an investment in long-term service sustainability and planning

CONCLUSION

Town staff are progressing the procurement of consulting services to support the development of a Physician Recruitment Strategic Plan. A further update will be provided once pricing has been received and a preferred consultant has been identified.

STAFF REPORT

TO: Creston Valley Services Committee
FROM: Mike Moore, Chief Administrative Officer – Town of Creston
DATE: May 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Creston Valley Regional Airport Contribution Agreement Update

PURPOSE

To provide an update to the CVSC on the status of work related to the Creston Valley Regional Airport and to outline next steps regarding governance, funding, and risk mitigation, including the need for a formal contribution agreement.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Creston presented a draft contribution agreement for discussion at the January 2026 meeting of the Creston Valley Services Committee. The January 2026 report to the Creston Valley Services Committee outlined that the Creston Valley Regional Airport is a Town-owned asset, with ultimate liability remaining with the Town of Creston despite operations being delivered by the Creston Valley Regional Airport Society and supported through RDCK funding. The report emphasized the need for clearer governance, structured oversight, and alignment with long-term planning, including improved administration of leases, funding, and compliance obligations. It identified the absence of a formalized contribution agreement as a key gap, noting that without defined funding and risk-sharing arrangements, the Town continues to bear disproportionate financial and legal exposure, thereby supporting the need for a negotiated agreement with the RDCK.

Current Status and Ongoing Work

Town of Creston staff have initiated a series of coordinated actions to strengthen governance, clarify roles, and align airport operations with long-term planning objectives:

Hangar Lease Modernization

Work has commenced to update and standardize hangar lease agreements. This includes aligning lease terms with current market conditions, improving cost recovery, and ensuring consistency with the Creston Valley Regional Airport Master Plan.

Level of Service (LOS) Policy Development

Staff are developing a Level of Service policy for Town of Creston Council's consideration. This policy will:

- Define the scope and expectations for airport operations;
- Establish clear service standards;
- Provide a governance framework to guide decision-making, funding, and asset management.

Operational Agreement Update

An updated operational agreement with the Creston Valley Regional Airport Society is being prepared to:

- Clarify operational roles and responsibilities;
- Align with modern governance practices and LOS policy;
- Reflect increased administrative oversight and compliance requirements.

These actions represent an integrated effort to bring the airport into alignment with best practices in municipal service delivery, governance clarity, and financial sustainability.

Next Steps

The next phase of work will focus on formalizing governance direction and aligning funding mechanisms:

- ***Council Consideration of LOS Policy***

Council will be asked to formally establish Levels of Service for airport operations and asset management.

These levels will be:

- Aligned with the Creston Valley Regional Airport Master Plan;
- Used to define required funding levels;
- Applied as the basis for performance expectations and future decision-making.

Liability Considerations (High-Level Summary)

As identified in previous analysis and consistent with the Town's ownership position:

- The Town of Creston is the legal owner of the airport, and therefore retains ultimate liability for the asset, regardless of operational or financial arrangements.
- Current arrangements involve:
 - Operational delivery by the Creston Valley Regional Airport Society; and

- Financial contributions through the RDCK's shared service model.

However, in the absence of clearly defined and formalized agreements between the Town and RDCK:

Liability exposure remains disproportionately with the Town, including:

- Risks associated with infrastructure, safety, and regulatory compliance;
- Financial exposure where funding contributions do not match service levels or asset requirements;
- Governance ambiguity regarding decision-making authority and accountability.

The generalized legal opinion received by the Town identified that:

- Undefined or informal arrangements between partnering local governments increase legal and financial risk;
- A lack of formal agreements creates uncertainty in roles, responsibilities, and indemnification;
- Municipal ownership without corresponding funding or risk-sharing mechanisms exposes the Town to potential uninsured or underfunded liabilities.

(Note: This section reflects a high-level summary for governance purposes and not a legal interpretation.)

Contribution Agreement – Recommendation

The Town of Creston recommends that the CVSC:

- **Direct RDCK staff to negotiate a contribution agreement with the Town of Creston that addresses ongoing funding requirements and mitigates municipal liability exposure associated with the operation of the Creston Valley Regional Airport.**

Conclusion

The Town is taking proactive steps to modernize governance, clarify operational expectations, and align airport service delivery with long-term planning.

However, these efforts must be supported by:

- Clear Council direction on Levels of Service aligned with the airport master plan; and
- A formalized contribution agreement with the RDCK that:
 - Aligns funding with level of service expectations;
 - Establishes appropriate risk-sharing mechanisms;
 - Reduces the Town's current liability exposure.

STAFF REPORT

TO: Creston Valley Services Committee
FROM: Mike Moore, Chief Administrative Officer – Town of Creston
DATE: May 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Policing – Ministry of Public Safety Engagement and RCMP Staffing Update

PURPOSE

To provide the Creston Valley Services Committee with an update on discussions with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General over the past three months regarding RCMP staffing at the Creston Detachment.

BACKGROUND

The Creston RCMP Detachment continues to experience sustained staffing pressures relative to the size, geography, and complexity of the service area. Current authorized strength remains at 13 members, and this level has been identified as insufficient to consistently support 24-hour policing coverage across the Town of Creston and the rural areas of the Creston Valley.

In response, the Town has undertaken direct engagement with the Province to request a formal review of staffing allocation and to advocate for increased provincial support.

Update

1. Meeting with the Minister of Public Safety

A formal briefing was provided to the Ministry outlining:

- The limitations of the current staffing model
- The inability to sustain reliable 24-hour coverage
- A request for a Ministry-led review of the Creston RCMP Detachment staffing allocation
- A request for additional provincially funded members

The briefing emphasized that the current model does not reflect operational realities, including geographic complexity, rural service demands, and increasing call volumes.

2. Follow-Up Engagement with Provincial Staff

Subsequent to the Minister-level engagement, staff have met with provincial representatives, including the Deputy Director of Police Services.

Discussion points included:

- The inequity in staffing relative to population (~15,000 residents) and service area (~5,000 sq. km)
- The challenges associated with rural policing, travel time, and two-officer response requirements
- The inability to maintain consistent on-duty coverage under the current model

The Province was advised that the current staffing structure is not sustainable and presents risks to:

- Officer safety
- Service reliability
- Community safety expectations

3. April 2026 Working Session with Provincial Staff

A detailed working session was held with Provincial staff (Deputy Director of Police Services) and Senior “E Division” RCMP staff.

Key outcomes:

- The Province acknowledged the unique operational challenges facing the Creston Detachment
- Agreement that staffing levels warrant further assessment

Commitment from Provincial representatives to:

- Initiate internal discussions on Creston staffing
- Work with the Ministry to assess staffing needs
- Provide a formal response following review

Action items from the meeting include ongoing engagement and periodic check-ins as the review progresses.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue engagement with Ministry and Provincial Police Services staff
- Monitor progress of the Ministry-led review of RCMP staffing allocation

Advocate for:

- Increased provincially funded positions
- Improved alignment of staffing levels with service demands

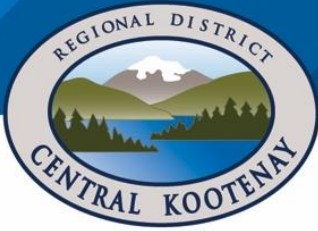
IMPLICATIONS

- Current staffing levels continue to present operational and service delivery risks

- Provincial engagement represents a critical opportunity to address long-standing structural issues
- Outcomes may have future financial and service level implications depending on provincial decisions and cost-sharing arrangements

CONCLUSION

Over the past three months, the Town has undertaken focused engagement with the Ministry of Public Safety and senior provincial staff to address RCMP staffing pressures in the Creston Valley. Initial discussions have resulted in provincial acknowledgment of the issue and a commitment to further review. Staff will continue to advocate for improved staffing levels and will update the Committee as the Ministry's review progresses.



Creston Valley Services Committee

Report

May 28, 2026

Creston Valley Alternative Water Supply Initiative – Business Case and Long-Term Planning Considerations

Author: Chris Gainham, Utility Services Manager
File Reference: 11/5700/20
Electoral Area/Municipality: A, B, C and Town of Creston
Services Impacted S251 Arrow Creek; S250 Erickson, S243 Lister Areas A, B, C and Council for the Town of Creston

1.0 STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board direct staff to develop a proposed next-stage workplan associated with the Creston Valley Alternative Water Supply initiative, including:

- comparative business-case analysis,
- refinement of demand and infrastructure assumptions,
- governance and service delivery considerations,
- integration with watershed sustainability and drought adaptation initiatives,
- and exploration of funding opportunities

and that staff report back with proposed scope, budget, and implementation considerations.

2.0 BACKGROUND/HISTORY

In June 2025, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) retained Associated Engineering (AE) and completed the Creston Valley Alternate Water Supply Feasibility Study. Currently, treated drinking water from the Arrow Creek Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is used to irrigate a significant portion of agricultural lands in the Creston Valley. The study evaluated the technical, financial, regulatory, and governance feasibility of developing a separate irrigation-only water supply sourced from the Kootenay River, together with associated pumping, distribution and storage infrastructure intended to serve agricultural users while improving long-term water supply resilience and reducing demand on the sensitive Goat River watershed.

Funding for this project was received through the Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program, which is funded by the Government of BC through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

The objectives of the project were as follows:

- Define water supply areas currently at risk and identify locations that may require a new or supplemental water supply in the near future.
- Identify interested parties, including water purveyors and First Nations governments, with interests and rights within each area of interest.
- Summarize existing agricultural land uses and assess how agriculture within the study area could evolve in response to future climate scenarios, hydrologic regimes, market forces, and emerging food production trends. These findings were used to establish future condition scenarios that form the basis for predictive agricultural water demand.
- Explore opportunities to centralize agricultural water supply from the Kootenay River to reduce pressure on over-allocated watersheds and other at-risk supply areas.
- Identify potential infrastructure requirements, including intake works, treatment, storage, and distribution systems associated with a proposed Kootenay River water supply. The study evaluated potential infrastructure configurations and developed high-level Class-D capital cost estimates for each option.
- Assess agricultural potential and evaluate the cost-benefit relationship associated with improved water supply availability and reliability.

The feasibility assessment examined the extent to which a separate agricultural irrigation supply could reduce peak seasonal demand pressures on the Erickson Water System, support defined service levels, and enhance overall system resiliency. Consideration was also given to long-term drought resilience, hydrologic variability, and the implications of climate-driven changes in snowpack, runoff timing, and seasonal demand patterns. From an asset management perspective, the study provides an evidence-based framework for evaluating long-term infrastructure investment options, financial sustainability, and service reliability. It identifies key risks, assumptions, and implementation considerations that would inform any future advancement beyond the feasibility stage. The final infrastructure servicing concept is technically feasible but represents a very large and likely multi-decade capital undertaking. Significant uncertainty remains regarding a business case, affordability, funding, phasing, and long-term service and governance structure.

Key Findings

Water availability in the valley will continue to be an issue under future climate change scenarios, with warmer temperatures and drought in the growing season, and changes to precipitation patterns impacting supply especially during peak irrigation periods.

Engagement with the yaqan nu?kiy highlighted cultural, ecological, and hydrologic concerns related to the Goat River. They raised concerns about declining flow and gaps in understanding/concerns about groundwater-river interactions and expressed strong support for using the Kootenay River as the preferred alternative source. Further engagement helped refine the proposed infrastructure design to avoid yaqan nu?kiy culturally sensitive areas and better align with both community needs and environmental protection goals.

The proposed agricultural water system infrastructure conceptual design was presented as a phased approach, with 4 phases with a splitting of river intake and pumping into two areas - prioritizing service to Erickson and Lister, where the project could provide the greatest benefit and reach a larger agricultural base.

Table 1. Summary Costs by Phase

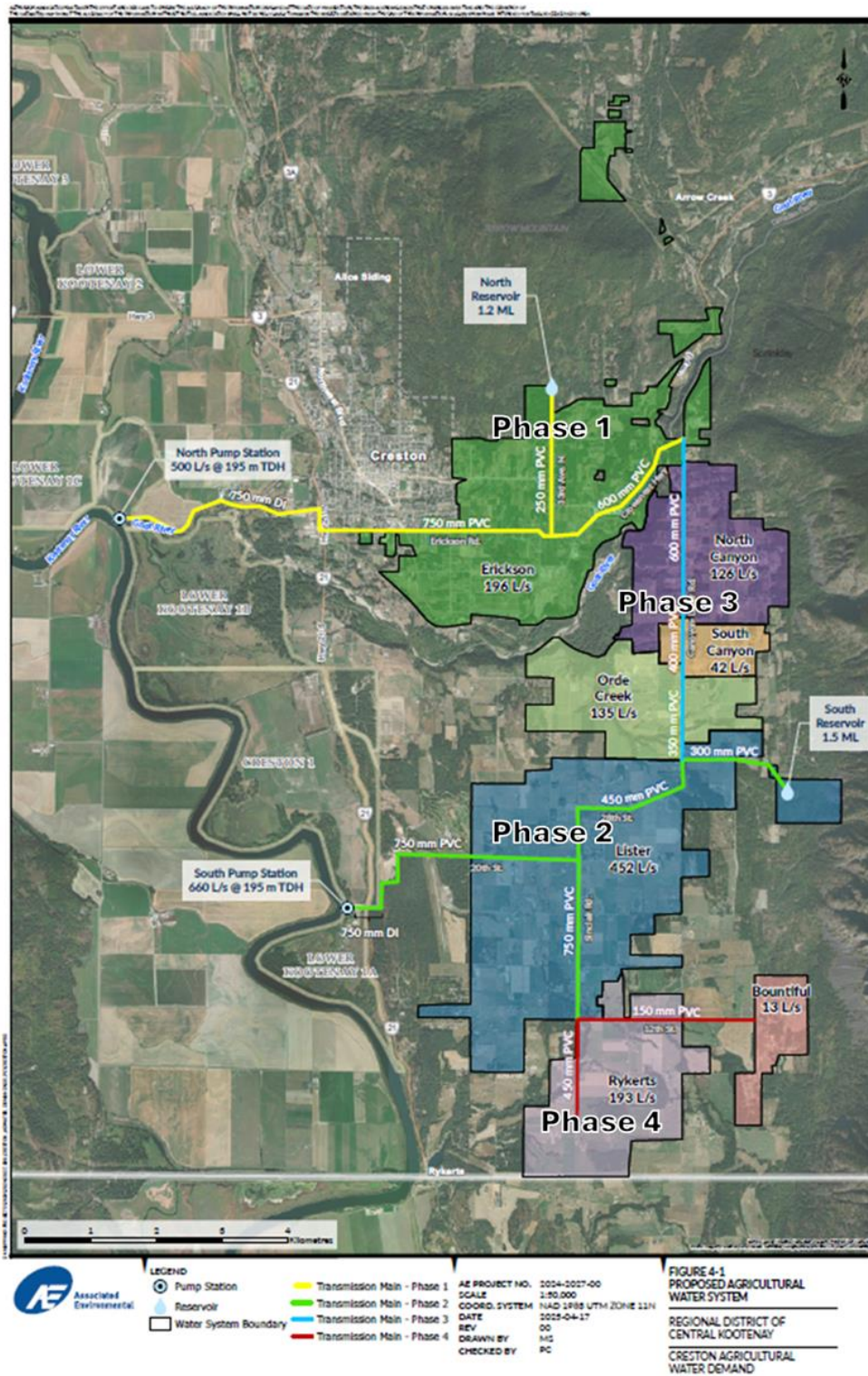
Description	Cost
Phase 1 – Erickson	\$94,300,000
Phase 2 – Lister	\$105,800,000
Phase 3 – North Canyon, South Canyon, and Orde Creek	\$26,000,000
Phase 4 – Rykerts and Bountiful	\$14,700,000
Subtotal	\$240,800,000
Engineering (15%)	\$36,120,000
Contingency (40%)	\$96,320,000
Total	\$375,000,000

Table 2. Detailed Phase 1 Costs:

Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Amount
400 mm Sanitary Outfall Pipe	lin.m	2,600	\$ 1,360.00	\$ 3,600,000.00
* Sanitary Outfall	LS	1	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00
Distribution Pipe - Erickson	ha	1,101	\$ 16,410.00	\$ 18,100,000.00
Phase 1 750 mm DI - Erickson - Unpaved	lin.m	4,287	\$ 2,490.00	\$ 10,700,000.00
Phase 1 750 mm PVC - Erickson - Paved	lin.m	2,950	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 7,800,000.00
Phase 1 600 mm PVC - Erickson - Half Paved	lin.m	2,657	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 5,300,000.00
Phase 1 250 mm PVC - Erickson - Paved	lin.m	2,276	\$ 930.00	\$ 2,200,000.00
Highway 21S Crossing	lin.m	40	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 400,000.00
Northwest Blvd Crossing	lin.m	40	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 400,000.00
North Reservoir	cu.m	1,203	\$ 940.00	\$ 1,200,000.00
North Pump Station Intake	LS	1	\$ 13,409,100.00	\$ 13,500,000.00
North Pump Station	LS	1	\$ 7,669,200.00	\$ 7,700,000.00
Subtotal				\$ 94,300,000.00
Engineering (15%)				\$ 14,145,000.00
Contingency (40%)				\$ 37,720,000.00
Total				\$ 147,000,000.00

**The replacement costs of the sanitary sewer overflow pipe and outfall were based on the assumed pipe length from the treatment plant to discharge location and a pipe size of 400 mm.*

Figure 1. Proposed Agricultural Water System Infrastructure and Routing Map



Some insight into the importance of agriculture in the Creston Valley to regional economics from the latest 2021 Census of Agriculture:

Agriculture is an anchor of the Creston Valley economy and is heavily dependent on reliable water infrastructure for success and sustainability. Statistics Canada conducts the Census of Agriculture every five years, concurrent with the Census of Population, with the most recent completed in 2021. The Province of British Columbia extracts and presents portions of this data through a number of regional summary products and thematic mapping tools <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/32-26-0003/322600032016001-eng.htm>

While Census of Agriculture statistics are generally reported at the broader Central Kootenay Census Division scale, a significant portion of the region's intensive irrigated agricultural activity is concentrated within the Creston Valley, particularly Electoral Areas B and C (note - there is generally limited census information for Area A). The Creston Valley contains the most productive concentration of agricultural lands within the RDCK, and supports a high concentration of irrigated horticultural production and associated agricultural infrastructure. As such, regional Census indicators provide useful context for understanding the scale of agricultural investment and economic activity that may be influenced by long-term water supply reliability in the Creston Valley.

The Census of Agriculture includes metrics that measure different aspects of the agricultural economy. Some metrics quantify accumulated agricultural assets and productive capital, while others measure annual economic activity generated by farming operations.

From a business-case perspective, several Census metrics are particularly informative. "Average total value of land and buildings per farm" provides a measure of the underlying real estate and fixed infrastructure value associated with farming operations, including farmland, residences, barns, packing and storage facilities, irrigation infrastructure, and other farm buildings. "Average total value of total farm capital per farm" is broader and includes land and buildings as well as machinery, irrigation systems, livestock, perennial crops, and other farm business assets. This metric is useful in illustrating the total productive capital invested in agricultural operations.

The metric "Average total value of total farm capital by hectare of farm area" provides insight into the intensity of agricultural investment and production. Higher values per hectare are generally associated with more intensive and higher-value agricultural systems, including irrigated perennial horticulture and other capital-intensive forms of agriculture.

In contrast, "Total Farm Cash Receipts" measures annual economic output rather than accumulated assets. Farm cash receipts represent the gross revenues received by farms from agricultural sales prior to expenses and provide insight into the scale of ongoing annual economic activity generated by agriculture. These revenues support a broad range of economic activity including agricultural labour, transportation, equipment purchases, processing, packing, cold storage, agri-services, and local spending throughout the regional economy.

The Census capital metrics are particularly relevant to consideration of long-term agricultural water infrastructure because they help frame water supply reliability as supporting and protecting an existing regional economic asset base valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Agriculture in the Creston Valley represents a substantial concentration of productive land, irrigation infrastructure, perennial high-value crops (i.e. cherries, grapes), buildings, and long-term private investment that is dependent on reliable water supply.

One notable observation from the 2021 Census of Agriculture data is the significant scale of capital investment associated with agriculture in Electoral Areas B and C, as derived from Census Consolidated Subdivision thematic mapping data available through the province. The average total farm capital per farm was approximately \$1.74 million in Area B and nearly \$2.91 million in Area C, while average land and building values ranged from approximately \$1.6 million to \$2.4 million per farm. These figures illustrate the substantial level of capital investment tied to agricultural production within the Creston Valley and the potential economic exposure associated with increasing drought risk and declining irrigation reliability.

At the broader Census Division scale, total farm capital within the Central Kootenay increased from approximately \$384 million in 2006 to nearly \$695 million in 2021, while total farm cash receipts approached \$488 million in 2021.

Strategic Alignment with Other Initiatives

Goat River Watershed Working Group:

The Goat River Watershed Working Group is a tripartite partnership between yaqan nuʔkiy, the RDCK, and the Province of BC, established to collectively address water sustainability challenges in the Goat River Watershed and Creston Valley. Through a series of structured conversations, the group aims to build a shared understanding of watershed values, issues, and data gaps, and to develop a joint long-term vision for water management. Working by general agreement and grounded in mutual respect for both western and Indigenous science, the group will make recommendations to senior decision-makers across all three parties. The RDCK and BC co-chair the group, with yaqan nuʔkiy as a full partner whose knowledge systems and governance protocols are recognized as equally valid throughout the process.

The Alternative Water Supply Feasibility Study explores opportunities to reduce agricultural withdrawals from Arrow Creek and Goat River through development of a separate Kootenay River-based agricultural supply system. As such, the work may help support future environmental flow objectives, watershed resilience, and long-term food security goals identified through the broader watershed sustainability planning process. The study also contributes to the development of a shared understanding of watershed values, risks, and data gaps, while helping inform a collaborative long-term vision for water management within the Creston Valley.

Associated Engineering and RDCK staff engaged with Yaqan Nuʔkiy throughout the development of the Creston Valley Alternate Water Supply Feasibility Study. Discussions included the selection and use of the Kootenay River as the preferred source, the proposed infrastructure, including intake and transmission locations/alignments and addressed concerns related to culturally significant lands, infrastructure crossings of the Goat River, and compatibility with ongoing community development projects as they relate to the location of key infrastructure. Through these discussions, the concept design was refined to avoid key conflicts and better align with community interests, and a servicing prioritization approach focused to help reduce pressure on groundwater-connected areas associated with the Goat River.

Erickson Universal Metering Project:

The Creston Valley Alternative Water Supply Feasibility Study is closely aligned with the Erickson Universal Metering Project. The metering project represents an important demand-side management initiative that supports and complements long-term water supply planning. The universal metering program is expected to greatly improve understanding of agricultural and residential water use patterns, identify system leakage and non-revenue water loss, support water conservation, provide producers with valuable data on their water usage and reduce peak demand pressures on the Arrow Creek WTP and watershed (It should be noted that peak demand is what drives infrastructure sizing/expansion, drought vulnerability, and watershed stress).

Over time, the metering data will also help refine projected agricultural irrigation demand, including per-hectare water use, seasonal demand patterns, and peak day demand curves. This information can be used to improve future infrastructure planning, including refinement of projected flow requirements and sizing assumptions associated with potential alternative agricultural water supply infrastructure.

Experience from other RDCK water systems shows that universal metering can reduce overall water use by 15–30 percent when combined with metered rates. When metering is introduced to a system but flat rate billing remains in place, reductions in water usage are typically less: 5 – 15% are attributed to early leak detection via AMI and behavioral changes in water usage driven by access to usage data and alerts.

Erickson Ongoing Distribution System Replacement

More than \$8.2 million in capital improvements are planned for the Erickson Water System over the next five years - with \$4.7 of this dedicated to distribution system replacement. These investments include replacement of aging asbestos cement distribution piping and steel watermains as well as implementation of universal water metering.

Arrow Creek WTP Pre-treatment Upgrades

The proposed pre-treatment upgrades will allow water to be drawn from Arrow Creek more efficiently and controlled more effectively via automation - addressing the current practice of continuous overflow to the creek from the settling pond and the potential inefficient use of water, especially during drought conditions in Arrow Creek.

Arrow Creek Flows, Arrow WTP Withdrawals and Environmental Considerations

The RDCK recognizes the vulnerability of Arrow Creek to low flows during periods of drought, which can significantly impact water availability during times of high demand and adversely impact aquatic species. Since 2012 the majority of Arrow Creek has been designated as “fully recorded” by the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), which means that due to insufficient water supply, no new diversions will be authorized. Historically, there have been significant efforts to protect the Arrow Creek watershed. The watershed is primarily forested Crown land that is managed by the Creston Community Forest.

The Arrow Creek Water Treatment plant currently has capacity to deliver 310 l/s (26.8 ML/day). The existing distribution system is generally sized to meet agricultural supply, and is oversized in some areas, although not significantly.

The Water Survey of Canada operates a long-term (50+ years of data) streamflow monitoring station 08NH084 on Arrow Creek, located ~350 m upstream of the Arrow WTP intake. Staff completed hydrological statistical analyses on the most recent available data, as well as Arrow Creek WTP flow data for the 2022 – 2026 period and also leveraged information provided in the latest Inventory of Streamflow in the Kootenay Region Report (June 2020)

https://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/acat/documents/r59010/InventoryofStreamflowintheKootenayRegionJune2020-1607482602656_7481843148.pdf

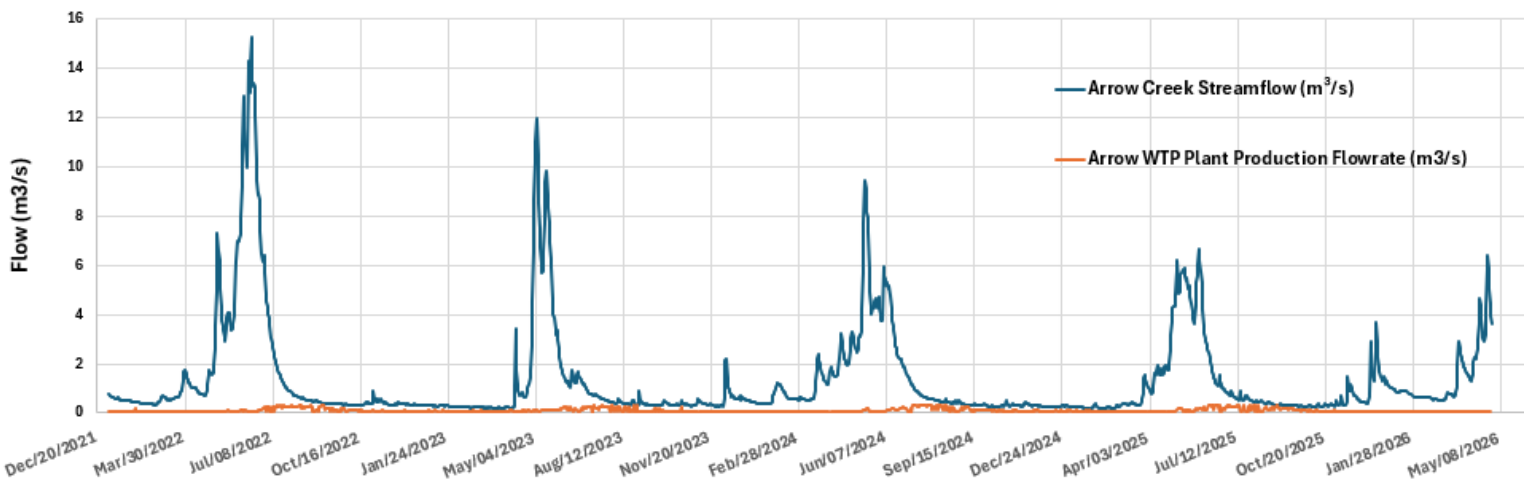
Arrow Creek discharges approximately 52.6 million cubic metres of runoff annually, of which the water system withdraws approximately 4 million cubic metres, representing about 7–8% of total creek flow. However, withdrawals are seasonally concentrated, with significantly higher proportional impacts occurring during summer low-flow periods. Staff ran a rolling 7-day flow analysis on daily average creek discharge and daily WTP production for the 2022 – 2026 period and then split the results into irrigation season (May–Sept) and non-irrigation (Oct–Apr) to see how much of the creek flow we are removing.

$$7\text{-day flow extraction (\%)} = \frac{7\text{-day average WTP plant flow}}{7\text{-day average creek flow}} \times 100$$

When evaluated using 7-day low flow hydrological analysis, the Arrow Creek WTP typically withdraws approximately 20–30% of available streamflow during sustained low-flow periods, with some sustained periods closer to 40% or more observed during peak irrigation season.

Arrow Creek does not currently have a site-specific Provincial environmental Flow Needs (EFN) determination (only a handful of creeks in BC have an EFN determination as this assessment is a significant undertaking), however a screening-level comparison to contemporary EFN approaches suggests that Arrow WTP withdrawals are relatively modest on an annual runoff basis but are significant during sustained low-flow periods - in particular, during Q80-or-lower conditions (Q80 streamflow represents a relatively low flow condition that is met or exceeded about 80% of the time during a given month). In other words, flows drop below this level only about 20% of the time, making it a useful indicator of typical low-water conditions for aquatic ecosystems), 7-day average withdrawals commonly represent approximately 20–30% of available streamflow, with higher

Arrow Creek Flow and Arrow Water Treatment Plant Production Flowrate (2022 - April 2026)



values observed during late summer and early-fall low-flow periods and this may impact aquatic habitat availability.

The ongoing Erickson Universal Metering Project is expected to significantly improve understanding of agricultural and residential water use patterns, peak demand behaviour, leakage, and non-revenue water loss within the Erickson Water System. At this stage of the project, and with limited meter data currently available, it is premature to provide a reliable estimate of potential reductions in Arrow Creek withdrawals associated with metering, leak detection, conservation, and demand management measures. However, over time the metering program is expected to provide valuable and detailed information regarding actual peak irrigation demand, seasonal consumption patterns, and avoidable water loss. This information will help refine future demand projections and improve understanding of the extent to which agricultural demand could potentially be reduced or shifted away from Arrow Creek through a combination of conservation, system optimization, and potential future alternative supply infrastructure.

Technical Concept Refinement and Future Work Considerations

The feasibility study was intentionally scoped at a high level and intended to identify whether a centralized Kootenay River-based agricultural water supply system is technically feasible, establish order-of-magnitude infrastructure requirements and costs, and engage stakeholders, including yaqan nu?kiy. As such, several important financial, technical, operational, and governance questions remain and would form a significant component of any future scope of work.

The conceptual infrastructure phasing presented in the study was intended primarily as a planning framework based on known agricultural demand areas in the valley, existing infrastructure limitations, and watershed pressures. Future stages of work could further evaluate alternative phasing approaches intended to reduce initial capital costs and improve implementation flexibility. This may include consideration of smaller sub-phases within Erickson or Lister, staged build-out of a distribution system, reduced initial servicing areas, or other incremental approaches that prioritize the highest-risk areas while deferring portions of major transmission infrastructure until future demand or funding conditions are better understood.

Similarly, the sizing of key infrastructure components, including intake works, transmission mains, reservoirs, and pump stations, is sensitive to assumptions related to agricultural water demand, crop mix, climate change, irrigation efficiency, drought conditions, and future conservation measures. The current feasibility study relied on the Agricultural Water Demand Model (AWDM), climate scenarios, and generalized assumptions regarding irrigation behaviour and peak-day demand. Ongoing implementation of the Erickson Universal Metering Project is expected to provide greatly improved information regarding actual agricultural water use patterns, peak demand curves, leakage, non-revenue water loss, and per-hectare irrigation demand. Over time, this information will support refinement of future infrastructure sizing and evaluation of “high-conservation” or “lower-demand” servicing scenarios that could influence future capital requirements.

The study concept assumes development of a separate agricultural transmission and distribution system. Opportunities to leverage existing potable water pipe corridors will exist in some areas, and the proposed infrastructure routing map shown in Figure 4.1 in the final AE report and included as Figure 1 in this report illustrate this. Opportunities for coordinating infrastructure works and related project efficiencies would be explored further during future design stages and during value planning/engineering for a project of this scale. It should be noted that approximately 60% of the existing Erickson distribution system is comprised of aging asbestos cement (AC) watermains that are at the end of their expected service life and are not considered

suitable for long-term reuse as part of a future agricultural-only system. In addition, significant portions of the existing system are located on private property without registered statutory rights-of-ways. Any construction within a Ministry of Transportation and Transit ROW is subject to permit conditions. Potable water mains and non-potable irrigation mains are generally required to be installed in separate trenches wherever practical and maintain a minimum horizontal separation of 3.0 m as a typical requirement and meet requirements of the Public Health Engineer. Where crossings occur, potable mains should be installed above non-potable mains with a minimum 0.45 m vertical separation. Any reduced separations or shared trench configurations require approval of the regulator.

The AE feasibility study also identified several technical considerations associated with the proposed Kootenay River intake infrastructure, including regulation and management, water quantity and quality. While the Kootenay River represents a significantly more reliable and resilient water source relative to Arrow Creek and other source waters in the valley, these technical risks would require additional assessment and refinement to be addressed in a future study.

Accordingly, staff view the current feasibility study as establishing a technical and strategic planning foundation rather than a final infrastructure concept. Additional work would be required prior to any future Board consideration of implementation, including refinement of phasing and infrastructure concepts, updated demand modelling, comparative business-case analysis, governance and delivery model evaluation, financial planning, regulatory review, and continued engagement with affected stakeholders, provincial agencies, and yaqan nu?kiy.

3.0 PROBLEM OR OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Creston Valley agricultural area is increasingly vulnerable to drought, changing hydrologic conditions, and growing pressure on existing water supplies during peak irrigation periods. Currently, treated drinking water from the Arrow Creek Water Treatment Plant (WTP) supplies agricultural irrigation demand within the Erickson Water System while additional agricultural demand throughout the valley relies on the Goat River watershed, groundwater, and various irrigation and improvement district systems. The feasibility study identified that existing water sources and infrastructure are increasingly stressed during summer peak demand periods and that climate change is expected to further increase agricultural water demand while simultaneously reducing water supply reliability through reduced snowpack, warmer temperatures, and changes in runoff timing.

The study also identified broader watershed and ecological concerns associated with continued pressure on Arrow Creek and Goat River. Engagement with yaqan nu?kiy highlighted concerns regarding declining flows, aquatic ecosystem health, cultural impacts, and uncertainty surrounding groundwater-surface water interactions within the Goat River watershed.

At the same time, agriculture remains an anchor of the Creston Valley economy and represents a substantial concentration of productive land, irrigation infrastructure, perennial crops, buildings, and long-term private investment. Long-term agricultural viability within the valley is closely tied to water supply reliability and drought resilience.

The feasibility study concluded that a centralized Kootenay River-based agricultural supply system is technically feasible; however, the conceptual infrastructure plan represents a very large, likely multi-decade capital undertaking with significant uncertainty related to governance, affordability, implementation phasing, and long-term service delivery structure.

As such, the current opportunity is not advancement to implementation, but rather the development of a more refined decision-support framework that allows the RDCK and stakeholders to better understand long-term infrastructure, watershed, governance, financial, and agricultural implications before determining whether and how the project should proceed.

Similar large-scale agricultural and climate-resilience water infrastructure projects are being advanced across Canada in response to drought risk, agricultural water security, economic concerns, and climate change impacts. For example, the Province of Ontario recently announced approximately \$41 million in provincial funding to expand irrigation and water infrastructure projects impacting hundreds of farms in Niagara Region. An equal investment of \$41 million is being directed to Leamington for improved agricultural wastewater treatment; enabling one of the largest concentration of greenhouse growers in North America to recycle and reuse up to 90 percent of process water, reducing costs and conserving resources

Within British Columbia, the City of Kelowna's Integrated Water Supply Plan similarly advanced the long-term separation of potable and agricultural water systems to improve drought resilience, reduce treatment costs, and support sustainable agricultural water supply.

These examples demonstrate a broader trend toward integrated regional water planning and investment in agricultural water security infrastructure as communities respond to increasing hydrologic variability, climate pressures, and the needs of agricultural producers.

3.1 Alignment to Board Strategic Plan

The feasibility study and associated long-term agricultural water supply planning work aligns with multiple RDCK strategic priorities related to climate resilience, environmental stewardship, sustainable service delivery, and regional economic sustainability.

The work supports strategic objectives associated with proactive climate adaptation and drought resilience planning by evaluating long-term water supply options intended to reduce vulnerability to changing hydrologic conditions and increasing summer water demand pressures.

The study also aligns with Board objectives related to sustainable infrastructure planning and asset management. The work provides a framework for evaluating long-term infrastructure investment needs, service reliability risks, and future water servicing strategies within the RDCK's most significant agricultural areas.

In addition, the initiative aligns with broader watershed sustainability and collaborative governance objectives through ongoing coordination with yaqan nu?kiy, provincial agencies, and the emerging Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning initiative. Both initiatives are responding to increasing drought risk, watershed stress, environmental flow concerns, and long-term agricultural water security challenges within the Creston Valley.

Finally, the project aligns with regional economic and food security objectives by supporting long-term agricultural resilience and the protection of a significant regional agricultural asset base that depends heavily on reliable water infrastructure.

3.2 Legislative Considerations

Any future advancement of a centralized agricultural water supply system would involve significant legislative, regulatory, and governance considerations.

Potential future infrastructure would require approvals and authorizations under the Water Sustainability Act, Environmental Management Act, Fisheries Act, Navigation Protection Act, meet the requirements of the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and other provincial and federal legislation associated with water licensing, environmental protection, major crossings, and infrastructure development.

Additional regulatory review would also be required related to agricultural land use, utility governance, service establishment and delivery, borrowing authority, and environmental assessment requirements depending on project scope and delivery model.

The project would also require continued coordination and engagement with yaqan nu?kiy and provincial agencies as part of broader watershed sustainability and regional drought adaptation planning initiatives currently underway within the Creston Valley.

3.3 What Are the Risks

The primary risks associated with the status quo include increasing drought vulnerability, continued pressure on sensitive watersheds during peak irrigation periods that coincide with the periods of lowest flow and environmental stress in the creek, uncertainty regarding long-term agricultural water reliability, and potential future constraints on agricultural productivity and the resilience of this aspect of the economy within the Creston Valley.

Additional risks include continued reliance on aging infrastructure, increasing operational pressures on the Arrow Creek Water Treatment Plant during peak summer demand periods, and uncertainty associated with future hydrologic and climatic conditions.

Conversely, the feasibility study identified that the proposed centralized agricultural water supply concept represents a very significant long-term capital undertaking with substantial uncertainty related to affordability, governance structure, implementation phasing, regulatory approvals, funding availability, and long-term operational sustainability.

There is also risk associated with advancing infrastructure planning before sufficient information is available regarding actual agricultural demand, future conservation performance, and the outcomes of related watershed sustainability initiatives currently underway.

For these reasons, staff consider additional business-case and decision-support work necessary prior to consideration of any future implementation decisions.

4.0 PROPOSED SOLUTION

Staff are not recommending advancement of design development related engineering work at this time. Rather, staff recommend that the RDCK continue to better understand long-term agricultural water supply planning opportunities through a future business-case and decision-support phase intended to further refine technical assumptions, governance considerations, financial implications, watershed integration, and implementation options.

Potential next-stage work would include seeking grant funding to support:

- comparative business-case analysis evaluating status quo, partial-build, and full-build scenarios;
- refinement of projected agricultural demand and infrastructure sizing assumptions;

- integration of information obtained through the Erickson Universal Metering Project;
- further assessment of phased implementation approaches intended to reduce initial capital requirements;
- assessment of lifecycle costs, user base and revenue
- evaluation of governance and service delivery models;
- coordination with broader watershed sustainability and drought adaptation planning initiatives;
- continued engagement with producers, yaqan nuʔkiy and other stakeholders;

The proposed approach would allow the RDCK to better understand the feasibility of the project through a detailed cost-benefit analysis and triple bottom line lens, improve decision-readiness and reduce uncertainty before considering whether any future design development work is appropriate.

4.1 Financial Considerations of the Proposed Solution

The current recommendation is limited to continued exploration of funding opportunities and development of a future scope and budget associated with additional business-case and decision-support work

While future senior government funding opportunities may exist for drought resilience, climate adaptation, and agricultural water infrastructure, most grant programs require some level of local government financial participation and advanced planning work. As such, future phases of work may require RDCK contribution toward technical studies, business-case development, and other work related to grant readiness. Any future funding requests would be brought forward separately for Committee and Board consideration

The feasibility study developed high-level Class D cost estimates for the proposed agricultural water supply concept. Total estimated capital costs associated with the four conceptual phases were estimated at approximately \$375 million including engineering and contingency allowances.

4.2 Risks with the Proposed Solution

The primary risk associated with the proposed approach is that significant additional work may be completed without a future decision to proceed with implementation of a centralized agricultural water supply system.

There is also risk that future business-case analysis may identify affordability, governance, regulatory, or operational constraints that materially limit the feasibility of the project.

However, the proposed phased planning approach is intended specifically to reduce long-term strategic and financial risk by improving the quality of information available prior to any major infrastructure decision.

Staff consider this staged approach appropriate given the scale, complexity, and long-term implications associated with the concept.

4.3 Resource Allocation and Workplan Impact

Utility Services staff led the feasibility study and associated coordination and engagement with other RDCK departments, provincial agencies, agricultural producers, stakeholders and yaqan nuʔkiy.

Future business-case and decision-support work will require securing the services of a specialist technical consultant and RDCK staff to continue with cross-departmental coordination involving Utility Services, Planning, Finance, and stakeholders. It is estimated that a week of dedicated manager time is required to complete this work. It should be noted that time dedicated to this work does take away from staff time that would otherwise

be dedicated to service A103 and funded by Rural Administration, including work dedicated to advancing system acquisition and support for others.

The scope, timing, and resource implications associated with future work are not yet fully defined and would be brought forward for Committee consideration as part of any future proposed workplan and budget.

4.4 Public Benefit and Stakeholder Engagement of Proposed Solution

The feasibility study involved stakeholder engagement including a dedicated public meeting, as well as other multiple points of engagement with agricultural producers and stakeholders. Future business-case and decision-support work will require engagement with agricultural producers, stakeholders, other water purveyors and yaqan nu?kiy.

4.5 Leveraging Technology

The ongoing Erickson Universal Metering Project is expected to significantly improve understanding of agricultural and residential water use patterns, leakage, peak demand behaviour, and non-revenue water loss within the Erickson Water System.

Over time, the metering data will support refinement of agricultural demand assumptions, irrigation demand curves, infrastructure sizing, conservation planning, and future business-case analysis associated with long-term agricultural water supply planning.

Additional future work may also leverage hydrologic modelling, climate scenario analysis, GIS-based infrastructure planning, and improved hydroinformatics tools to support more informed decision-making.

4.5 Measuring Success

Key indicators of success include development of a clearer framework and business case to support future Board decision-making related to long-term agricultural water supply planning in the Creston Valley, improved readiness for future grant and funding opportunities, and continued stakeholder engagement that promotes informed participation, collaboration, and transparency throughout the planning process

5.0 ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION(S)

Alternative Solution 1 – Status Quo Plus Demand Management and System Optimization

An alternative to continued advancement of long-term alternative agricultural water supply planning would be to focus primarily on demand management, conservation, metering, leakage reduction, operational optimization, and incremental improvements to existing infrastructure within current water systems.

This approach would leverage ongoing initiatives such as the Erickson Universal Metering Project to improve understanding of agricultural demand, reduce non-revenue water loss, encourage conservation, and refine infrastructure planning assumptions. Additional work could also include targeted infrastructure renewal, operational improvements, water conservation education, and continued watershed sustainability planning.

This alternative would likely involve lower short-term capital costs and reduced organizational complexity relative to a large-scale regional agricultural water system. However, it may not fully address long-term drought vulnerability, watershed pressure, or future agricultural water needs under climate change scenarios identified in the feasibility study.

Alternative Solution 2 – Deferral of Additional Work Pending Further Operational Data

A second alternative would be to defer any additional business-case and decision-support work until further information becomes available through the Erickson Universal Metering Project, ongoing watershed sustainability planning initiatives, and additional operational monitoring.

This approach would allow the RDCK to collect improved demand and consumption data prior to advancing further planning work associated with a potential centralized agricultural water supply system.

5.1 Financial Considerations of the Alternative Solution(s)

Financial Considerations for Alternative Solution 1 – Status Quo Plus Demand Management and System Optimization

This approach would likely require lower near-term capital investment relative to a centralized Kootenay River agricultural water supply system and could potentially be advanced incrementally through existing utility capital programs, asset management planning, and grant-supported conservation initiatives.

However, long-term infrastructure pressures associated with peak irrigation demand, watershed vulnerability, and climate adaptation may remain unresolved or only partially mitigated.

Financial Considerations for Alternative Solution 2 – Deferral of Additional Work Pending Further Operational Data

Deferring additional work would eliminate near-term consulting and planning expenditures. However, it may also impact readiness for future grant opportunities, watershed planning integration, and long-term infrastructure decision-making.

5.2 Risks with the Alternative Solution(s)

Risks with Alternative Solution 1 – Status Quo Plus Demand Management and System Optimization

The primary risk associated with this approach is that future drought conditions, increasing agricultural demand, and watershed stress may outpace the benefits achieved through conservation and system optimization measures alone.

There is also risk that incremental improvements to existing systems may result in continued long-term reliance on stressed water sources and aging infrastructure without establishing a broader long-term agricultural water security strategy.

Risks with Alternative Solution 2 – Deferral of Additional Work Pending Further Operational Data

The primary risk associated with deferral is that opportunities for coordinated regional planning, grant funding, and proactive drought adaptation may be missed or delayed. There is also risk that continued uncertainty regarding long-term agricultural water supply planning could limit the RDCK's ability to respond strategically to future watershed and infrastructure pressures.

5.3 Resource Allocation and Workplan Impact

Work associated with both the preferred and alternative solutions will include a metering analytics and reporting program analyzing metering data and reporting on key metrics like system water balance, non-revenue water/leakage, seasonal and peak usage, a better understanding of water use by customer class. The results of this work will be reported at Water Services Committee.

5.4 Public Benefit and Stakeholder Engagement of Proposed Solution

The feasibility study involved significant stakeholder engagement including meetings with agricultural producers, water purveyors, provincial agencies, and yaqan nu?kiy representatives.

The proposed future planning approach would continue to emphasize coordination with yaqan nu?kiy, agricultural stakeholders, watershed planning initiatives, and affected service areas.

Potential public benefits associated with long-term agricultural water planning include improved drought resilience, reduced pressure on sensitive watersheds, improved understanding of agricultural demand, enhanced long-term water security, and support for regional food production capacity/food security and agricultural sustainability.

5.5 Measuring Success

Key indicators of success at this stage will include development of a clearer framework for future Board decision-making regarding long-term agricultural water supply planning in the Creston Valley. Specifically, this includes refinement of infrastructure and demand assumptions, improved understanding of governance and financial implications, continued collaboration with stakeholders and identification of feasible funding opportunities to support this next phase.

6.0 OPTIONS CONSIDERED BUT NOT PRESENTED

N/A

7.0 OPTIONS SUMMARY

Option 1: Recommended

That the Board direct staff to develop a proposed next-stage workplan associated with the Creston Valley Alternative Water Supply initiative, including:

- comparative business-case analysis,
- refinement of demand and infrastructure assumptions,
- governance and service delivery considerations,
- integration with watershed sustainability and drought adaptation initiatives,
- and exploration of funding opportunities

and that staff report back with proposed scope, budget, and implementation considerations

Option 2: Continue with Existing Demand Management and Watershed Planning Initiatives Only

That the Board direct staff to continue focusing work on demand management, conservation, metering analytics, leakage reduction, watershed sustainability planning, and incremental infrastructure improvements within existing water systems, without advancing additional business-case or decision-support work related to the Creston Valley Alternative Water Supply initiative at this time.

Option 3: Defer Additional Work Pending Further Operational Data

That the Board direct staff to defer work on any additional business-case and decision-support related work on the Creston Valley Alternative Water Supply initiative, pending additional operational information from the Erickson Universal Metering Project, ongoing watershed sustainability planning initiatives, and future monitoring and analysis of agricultural water demand and watershed conditions.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Board direct staff to develop a proposed next-stage workplan associated with the Creston Valley Alternative Water Supply initiative, including:

- comparative business-case analysis,
- refinement of demand and infrastructure assumptions,
- governance and service delivery considerations,
- integration with watershed sustainability and drought adaptation initiatives,
- and exploration of funding opportunities

and that staff report back with proposed scope, budget, and implementation considerations.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Gainham – Utility Services Manager

CONCURRENCE

Chris Gainham – Utility Services Manager
Uli Wolf – General Manager of Environmental Services - **APPROVED**



CVSC May 28 Update

Goat River Watershed

Report Date: May 28, 2026

Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning

Purpose

To provide a general update on the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning project, including the establishment of the Tripartite Collective Conversations Working Group, upcoming public engagement, and current funding and next steps for technical work in the Watershed.

Context

Early engagement has been completed and has helped identify key themes and priorities across the Watershed. The next phase will focus on refining these through targeted engagement while advancing technical work supported through Provincial funding.

1.0 Collective Conversations Working Group — First Meeting

The Collective Conversations Working Group will hold its first meeting May 28, 2026, covering introductions, Terms of Reference, Work Plan review, and next steps. The Working Group is a tripartite group made up of Province of BC, yaqan nuʔkiy and RDCK staff. The Working Group will provide input to the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning process as it moves forward.

Updates will be provided to elected officials at the June 11 Directors workshop.

2.0 What We Heard Report

The What We Heard Report is being reviewed and will be presented to the RDCK Board and publicly released shortly after.

The Report reflects input gathered through early engagement and will help guide the next phase of planning and technical work in the watershed.

3.0 Upcoming Public Engagement — Late June to Mid-July 2026

The next phase of engagement will focus on refining values, desired future state, and key issues through structured, time-limited engagement.

- 4–6 week engagement period (late June to mid-July)

For more information

info@rdck.bc.ca | 250.352.6665 | 1.800.268.7325 (BC) | or visit rdck.ca

- Updated survey (Water Values 2.0) building on initial results to explore values, desired future state, and key issues
- Drop-in events (library, CDCC, community spaces)
- Targeted conversations with sectors to broaden understanding
- Community events and guided walks with partners

4.0 Isotopic Modelling — Request for Proposal Development

The RDCK has secured funding for isotopic modelling focused on groundwater–surface water connectivity.

The scope of work includes development of a three-dimensional hydro-stratigraphic model, collection and analysis of hydro-chemical and isotopic data, assessment of connections between aquifers and key streams, and identification of priority data gaps.

An Request for Proposals is being developed to procure specialized technical support.

Next Steps – June and July

- Present What We Heard Report to the RDCK Board
- Develop RFP for isotopic modelling
- Launch public engagement phase, including Water Values Survey 2.0
- Issue RFP and retain consultant for isotopic modelling
- Compile engagement input into updated What We Heard report

Stay Informed

For more information on the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning project, visit engage.rdck.ca/projects/goatwatershed. Sign up for the mailing list to receive updates as the project moves forward.

GOAT RIVER WATERSHED WATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING MAY 28 2026 UPDATE

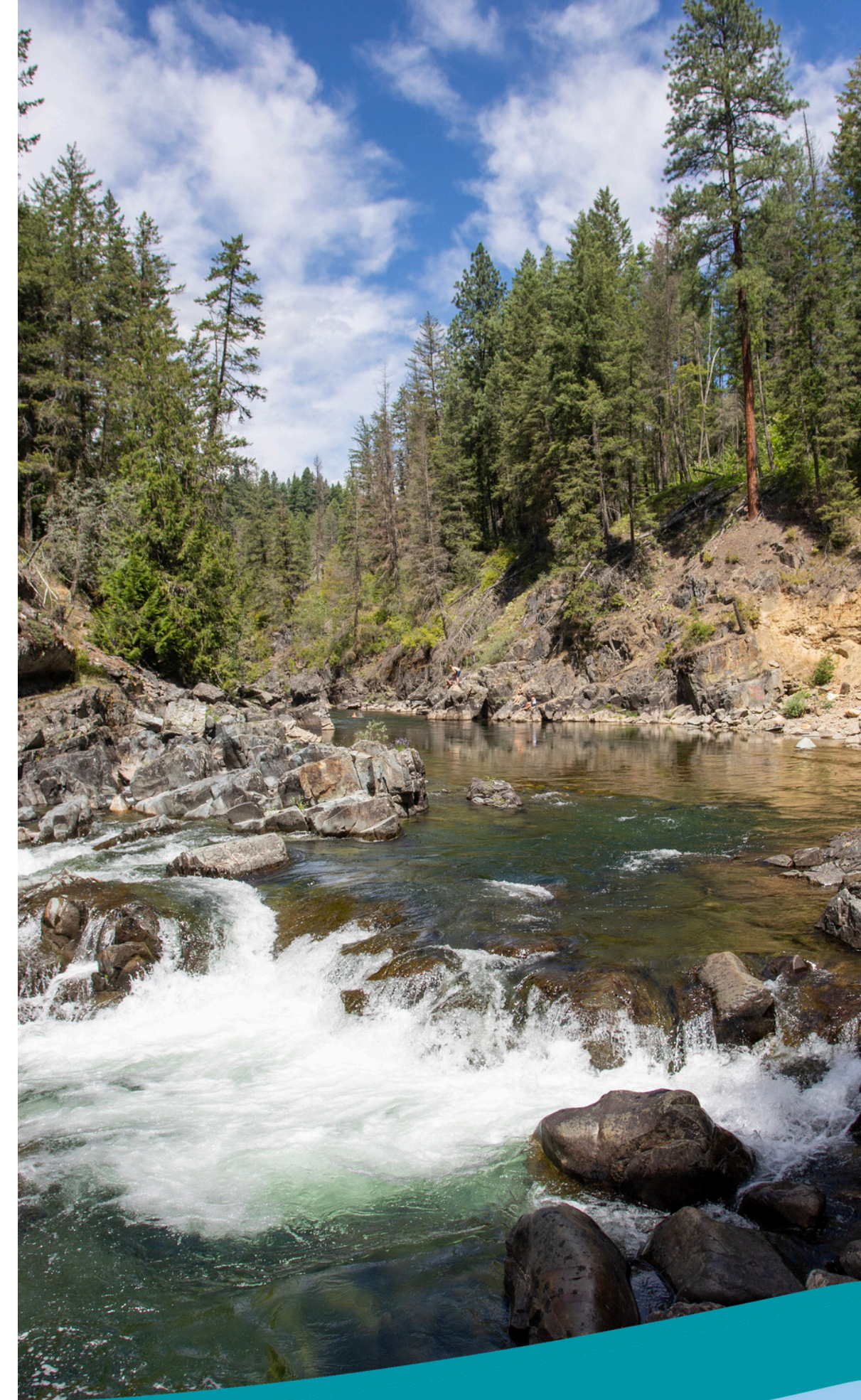


YAQAN NUKIY
LOWER KOOTENAY BAND

UPCOMING JUNE MILESTONES

MEETINGS, WHAT WE HEARD REPORT, CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT

- **The Collective Conversations Working Group** will hold its first meeting, covering introductions, Terms of Reference, Work Plan, and next steps.
 - Updates will be provided to elected officials at the June 11 preparatory meeting.
- **The What We Heard Report** will be presented at the June Board meeting and publicly released shortly after.
- **Water Values Survey 2.0 and a 4–6 week public engagement** period will launch in late June, including drop-in events, targeted producer conversations, and community-based engagement.
- **A Request for Proposal** is being developed for **isotopic modelling work in the watershed.**



THANK YOU
QUESTIONS?



YAQAN NUKIY
LOWER KOOTENAY BAND

CVSC ACTION ITEMS LIST – 2026-05-28

#	ACTION ITEM	MEETING ORIGIN	STATUS
1.	STAFF DIRECTION: That the Board direct staff to prepare a draft policy for Board review that requires recipients of financial grant in aid funds to engage with local area Directors and/or provide documentation during the budget process, to be eligible for funding via taxation in a given year.	05-Jan-2023	This has fallen back in the priority list based on other work. We are working with Directors and individual groups.
2.	STAFF DIRECTION: Dangerous Dog Bylaw to be written to enable Staff to work sub-regionally in conjunction with RCMP to act on dangerous dogs including provisions for safe and approved housing and care of animals until their future is determined.	02-Mar-2023	AAP process approved for A, B, C by Board resolution 141/26 for Dangerous and Aggressive Dog control service Establishment Bylaw No. 3067,2026 Public Information meeting occurred on May 14 th .
3.	STAFF DIRECTION: Staff to create a contribution agreement with Kootenay River Secondary School where RDCK lists what the funding is for and what the expectations are for the funding. To formalize the agreement, Staff to include in the agreement what the rates are that RDCK is going to charge to receive that funding. CVSC would review the contribution agreement with Kootenay River Secondary School every year.	01-Jun-2023	Ongoing. Staff will include funding for the auditorium in conversations with SD8 regarding facility use discussion. SD8 is in a consultation process to determine public use policies. Conversation should be with SD8 administration.
4.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff request a workshop/session (in conjunction with a site visit for the Creston Valley Services Committee) with the Traditional Use Study (TUS) authors, the Ktunaxa Nation and Yaqan Nukiy, to educate the Committee to better understand the TUS.	09-Sept-2023	Ongoing. Staff meeting with Ktunaxa and LKB staff October 30, 2024. Staff and Directors participated in the TUS Workshop with Ktunaxa in April 2025. Staff is arranging a workshop on Regional Parks in Creston, A,B,C.
5.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff investigate how would a stabilization reserve could be adopted for Service S108 Economic Development – Creston and Areas B and C; and itemizing all the beneficiaries that are recipients of Service S108.	05- Mar-2026	A report will be brought to July CVSC.