

Mayor Council Report – September 10th to October 15th 2019



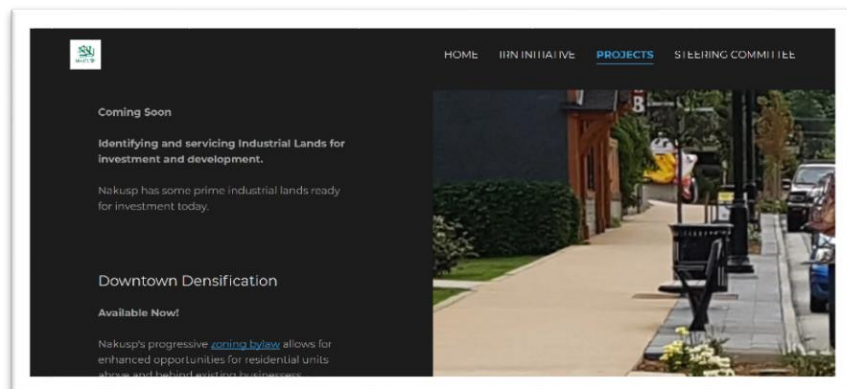
September 13th - Local business people and others flew to Vancouver to express our concerns and opinions of the importance of why the Arrow Lake Ferries must remain and continue as an Essential Service to our communities during a possible labour dispute. Missing in the attached picture is Ray Hascarl, and Sarah Cruse, GM of Halcyon.

September 16th – First meeting with the Campground expansion committee to establish the format. Met again on **September 30th** on site to look at all possibilities and once draft is completed will bring to the public for consultation.

September 17th – First meeting with the Hot Springs Advisory committee to establish the format.

September 18th – Investment Ready Nakusp committee meeting held. Three key elements being worked on are residential intensification, industrial park development, and downtown densification. **In June 2019**, the Investment Ready Nakusp initiative was launched, bringing together a Steering Committee to vision, benchmark, and strategize around the key goals and outcomes of the program. With 18 months and high potential, the team is underway and working with the public, stakeholders, landowners, business owners, builders, developers, and contractors to continue to enhance Nakusp. Please go to this website to fully understand this initiative for our community: <https://investmentreadynakusp.ca/>

Nakusp has a very inclusive and permissive [zoning bylaw](#) and the promotion and facilitation of additional residential units is a key outcome of this program. Nakusp's progressive [zoning bylaw](#) also allows for enhanced opportunities for residential units above and behind existing businesses.



September 21st - Mayor and Councillor DeSandoli presented Rosemarie Parent for her dedicated volunteer work in the community. Rosemarie and her husband (Milt) had the vision to build the Historical Archives building that has brought much joy to our community and area. All the best to Rosemarie as she has ventured on to live in Maple Ridge BC.

September 23rd to 27th - Attended the UBCM convention in Vancouver

September 23rd attended the Mayors caucus. Discussion on Strong Fiscal Futures and Opioid Addiction Crisis.

Provincial Cabinet Minister Meetings

Department	Minister	Topic
Forest, Lands, Natural Resources Operations & Rural Development	Honorable Doug Donaldson	Rural Dividend Grant
<p>Background: Being a small rural community, to be eligible for a single application for up to 100,000.00 dollars, our community must contribute 20% of the total project costs. This has always been a financial burden for small rural communities like ours to find the 20% and staff/volunteer time.</p> <p>Unexpectedly last week, the province announced \$69 million in measures to help communities where forestry mills have closed and production curtailed. Of that \$25 million would come from the B.C. Rural Dividend fund. The B.C. Rural Dividend is a \$25 million provincial fund aimed at helping communities of 25,000 people or less "strengthen and diversify their local economies.</p> <p>This will be unfortunate for our community and others. We have just begun working on our first phase of funding from the Investment Ready Nakusp IRN Initiative! With the financial assistance via a grant from the Province through the Rural Dividend Fund, we have already assembled a Steering Committee working to diversify the local economy through the identification, planning, and positioning of land development opportunities to promote and deliver housing and industry within the Village. IRN is working to identify, service, and promote new industrial lands for development. A healthy and balanced economy has an inventory of several residential (purchase and rental), commercial, and industrial parcels for investment.</p> <p>IRN is a partnership between the Village of Nakusp, both Council and Staff, your Nakusp & Area Development Board, Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Basin Trust, and Arrow & Slokan Lakes Community Services.</p> <p>For a small community like ours this takes up much time and effort to put these applications in, including a majority of volunteer time.</p> <p>Rural Dividend funding is relied upon by many local governments for many of our important community projects.</p> <p>Since 2016, the program has provided \$73 million in grants. The latest intake, which closed on Aug. 15, drew 338 applications.</p> <p>These applications will be held until the next time the grants are issued, which could be in 2020. The Village of Nakusp were also one of these applications, we had applied for \$100,000.00 for much needed Signage for our community which has now on hold. CBT may be a possibility.</p>		

While we (Mayor and council) were at the Union of BC Municipalities in Vancouver last week, UBCM passed a resolution calling on the NDP government to reconsider the re-allocation of money away from the Rural Dividend program, while identifying alternative funds to simultaneously deliver supports for communities impacted by mill closures and curtailments.

The UBCM was formed to provide a common voice for local government.

The province has said they will spend \$69 million on a newly-announced [forest worker support programs](#) in the B.C. Interior.

Funding this program for impacted forest workers has reallocated funding in the Rural Dividend Program. Of this 69 million funding will be distributed by:

\$40 million to establish a new cost-shared, early-retirement bridging program for older forest workers; \$15 million to establish a new short-term forest employment program, focused on fire prevention and community resiliency projects;

\$12 million for workers to access skills training, and for employer and community grants for training; \$2 million to establish a new job placement co-ordination office that will track the transition and employment of impacted forest workers on an individual basis; and

Community support grants aimed at providing short-term assistance to communities more profoundly impacted by the closure of a major forest employer.

Department	Minister	Topic
Finance	Honorable Carol James	Property Management

Background: Due to the regulations and time commitments required to be a landlord, property owners choose not to rent, and leave their homes vacant. Audit costs and legislation requirements make it difficult for rural property managers to operate, leaving multiple vacant properties in our community. Property management costs verses managing on your own, plus the annual costs per year to maintain this license. Believe a property manager will help reassure landlords that have had bad experiences will return and again to rent their properties with help from the Ministry and others in easing costs burden on a property manager. Easier to start an Airbnb it increases the supply of short-term travel accommodations but becomes a disadvantage for long term rentals for our community.

Department	Minister	Topic
Jobs, Trade, Technology	Honorable Bruce Ralston	Technical Hub

Background: Columbia Basin Trust was a huge player in the i4C Innovations center in Trail BC that has provided their community with an opportunity to explore a new industry, provide more local jobs, and bring their entrepreneurs together for collaboration opportunities. CBT purchased the former 5N Plus building in Waneta Industrial Park near Trail, and working with local tech industry entrepreneur partners have created a Innovation Centre for their technology company. Looking to the future of our community, we are hoping to find a similar opportunity for a long term sustainable solution for the economic growth of our community and feel that this would be a great fit. Especially with the new CBBB Broadband connectivity coming to our community. Companies are attracted to our area for its lower cost of living, experienced leadership, and youth. There are plenty of opportunities to get in and help shape the future of innovation in our community, and have asked for help from the Minister.

Department	Senior Vice-President	Topic
BC Hydro	Al Leonard, and Jen Walker-Larsen	Breakwater, Substation, Power outages/backup generator
<p>Background: The Village owned marina and breakwater was built in 1982/83 by BC Hydro and then sold to the Village for \$1.00. The typical lifespan of this infrastructure is 25 years, and our breakwater system is currently 38 years old. Currently the breakwater is in desperate need of replacement. Al Did not rule out help and would do more research and suggested to reach out to CBT. Later at another meeting met Liam Edwards, Executive Director Infrastructure/Finance Branch to reach out for support from their department . Also discussed our Nakusp BC Hydro Substation capacity and only one main power line into our community, no backup.</p>		

Department	Minister	Topic
Health	Honorable Adrian Dix	Nursing Shortage
<p>Background: Our local hospital has had to shut down our ER a few times over the last couple years due to shortage of nurses. Another issue that our local health care staff faces is the shortage of housing for those moving to the community for work, as well as, for short term stays to assist with seasonal demands on our hospital staff.</p> <p>Stated - are committed to providing to 24/7 service in Nakusp. IH is actively recruiting to fill two permanent emergency department RNs and an additional casual RN, who is called in to support shifts as needed. We the Village stated we would like to be more informed and wish to work together with the Ministry to find a permanent solution.</p>		

Department	Minister	Topic
Agriculture	Honorable Lana Popham	ALR and Bill 52
<p>Background: The Village of Nakusp is surrounded by land that is provincially zoned in the ALR. As a community looking to expand, we would need to access the land in the ALR and change the zoning to accommodate for residential and industrial developments.</p> <p>Ministry stated they would work with us when there may be instances when local governments wish to vary from ALR lands. When this occurs, the local government should first contact the AGRI Strengthening Farming Program to discuss the situation and consider - the existing situation and why the current standards are not adequate or appropriate - the impact of variation on existing and future farm operations such as the elimination of potential production areas or the creation of a non-conforming situation for existing farms - possible mitigation measures to ensure that farming potential is not lost as a result of variation from the standards - the most effective regulatory tool to use to obtain the desired result.</p> <p>There are two basic ways to vary from the standards – 1) moderate variation allowing the local government to more closely address the needs of a certain area are applied to a Zoning Bylaw, or through use of a development variance permit – 2) substantial variation focussed on restricting farm operations can be dealt with by using a Farm Bylaw, for which a local government would first need to be regulated under section 918 of the LGA.</p> <p>Bill 52 was discussed and we brought our concerns, we have been assured that the Ministry is listening and asking the public to contact them directly for more clarification.</p>		

Department	Executive Director	Topic
Municipal affairs and Housing	Gord Enemark, Housing Policy	Housing costs / Rental housing
<p>Both landlords and renters have specific rights in a tenancy, but some landlords after having a bad experience are no longer willing to rent their properties/homes for tenants. Because of this there is a shortage of housing for renters who wish to live and work here, along with the surge in Airbnb businesses, 23 known Airbnb in our community and area that do not allow long term rentals. Housing costs have also tripled in the past years making it impossible to build new affordable homes. New rules in building codes are hurting this industry and our community for expansion and growth.</p> <p>Was announced on September 25th a new provincial – UBCM advisory group will provide the province with policy options to strengthen the regulation of short-term rentals. UBCM has made repeated calls for greater provincial involvement in the establishment of platform accountability agreements with operators to increase long-term rental stock in communities and curb speculative demand.</p> <p>With the Village’s upcoming new OCP it should include for staff to look at -SHORT TERM RENTAL ZONING REGULATIONS which would help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consistency and clarity in the definitions. • Create a new short term rental subzone(GS) intended for homeowners (or long term renters) to be able to rent rooms or a secondary suite on a short term basis, but the principal use of the property shall remain a residential use. The operators of the Guest Room or Guest Suite must be the permanent residents of the property and shall be engaged in the management of the Short-Term Rental. • Density limit for the above zone. • Creation of a zone (commercial?) to accommodate those existing properties with no permanent resident with guest house or bed and breakfast zoning and a valid business license. • If property owners do not obtain an appropriate business license or do not renew their appropriate business license the zoning will be revoked. • parking space per guest room requirement of business license and zoning. • All short term rentals will be required to get a business license including those that are managed by a Property Management Company. • License-holders to contribute to funding tourism marketing or show proof of Tourism • All new STR must get an inspection to ensure that basic safety, fire safety, and public health standards are met. • A deposit to be held during the first year of a license as security against any costs incurred by the Village as a result of investigations, hearings, or other enforcement actions. • New business license fees for short term rentals. 		

Department	Minister	Topic
Public Safety & Solicitor General	Honorable Mike Farnworth	Hwy 23 Fire Logging truck
<p>Present at this meeting for support was Mayor Casley, New Denver, and Paul Peterson, RDCK Area K.</p> <p>Discussed the - Actual events from my own personal notes/pictures from being on scene of this event that occurred on August 22, 2019. In my opinion, there was much that could have been done to limit damage and disruption, especially the ignition of a forest fire that has incurred significant costs and inconvenience to traveling public and workers. These incidents are falling through the cracks between</p>		

the Ministry jurisdictions where no one will take charge, blaming each other. Common sense must prevail

Met with the Public Safety and Solicitor General Minister, Honourable Mike Farnworth. Who oversees Emergency Management BC (EMBC), and Tom Brown, Executive Director for Executive Operations, for the Deputy Minister's Office.

Stated most of the above incidents are in areas outside of Village jurisdictions that fall through the cracks and happen inside "Regional District Areas" where intra- governments confusion, delays, inefficient response begins as per this event and others.

Lives matter along with loss of property. The first 60 minutes after a fire or injury has been termed the Golden Hour give a much better chance of eliminating the fire, and the survival of the injured.

Minister Farnworth was very concerned to hear of this event and stated that there are definite gaps in jurisdictional authorities especially in response to fire emergencies and will examine where and how the Ministry can prevent these jurisdiction gaps from happening.

Highlight of the convention was a special guest speaker Peter Mansbridge who is an English-born Canadian retired news anchor. From 1988 to 2017, he was chief correspondent for CBC News and anchor of The National, CBC Television's flagship nightly newscast.

Department	Minister	Topic
Environment and Climate Change Strategy	Honorable George Heyman Mark Zacharias Deputy Minister	Draft Section 11 Agreement – Caribou protection

Background: The Village of Nakusp is located along the corridor of the Southern Mountain Caribou (local population unit #19) and is concerned with the potential restriction(s) placed on land that could drastically affect our socio-economics. Our backyard is where our community works and plays.

Stated we need to be more informed and wish to partner and work with the government and at this time are not responding to our letter for August 30th which states:

Letter to David Muter, Executive Director, Species at Risk Recovery Branch

The Arrow Lakes Caribou Society (ALCS) hosted a focus-group session in Nakusp on August 14th, 2019. The purpose was to explore emergency measures – specifically predator control and maternity penning – needed to halt and reverse the decline of the Central Selkirk mountain caribou herd. In attendance were members of the ALCS, with guests Aaron Reid (FLNRORD regional biologist) and Bart George (Kalispel Tribe wildlife biologist) – both of whom have had recent experience in caribou maternity pen site selection and construction in the South Selkirks. A follow-up field site visit provided an on-the-ground opportunity for participants to examine potential maternity pen locations that were earlier identified for the session by knowledgeable local members of the ALCS. There was general consensus to suggest the site above the community operated Nakusp Hot Springs on Kuskanax mountain offers suitable terrain, forest thermal and security habitat conditions and other important characteristics that would support selection of the site for the development and maintenance as a maternity pen location (i.e., access, power, water, staff accommodation, connectivity to upland caribou habitat). ALCS is arranging a site visit/evaluation from the government veterinarian, Dr. Helen Schwantjeand will simultaneously consult with other experts their insight and suggestions. In the above context and pending final approval, we are recommending that this maternity pen be

developed for use this upcoming winter (2019/2020). The provincially approved capture and collaring of 8 additional caribou in late winter of 2020 (5 of the 9 animals captured/collared in 2017 have fallen to predation) provides an opportune time to take advantage of (and expand) the proposed capture program to place as many as possible of the 15 remaining female caribou that are pregnant in the newly constructed maternity pen. It is our contention that the local expertise and broad support within our community can be coupled with provincial government and First Nations support to enact these emergency measures. There is urgency to this proposal in regard to the narrow timing window for construction of the pen before snowfall. With local equipment, labour and logistical support it is doable within a short time frame. What we are seeking from the provincial government is confirmed support in this emergency recovery endeavour – for government to be part of the team, including the partnership funding needed for construction and management of the pen. The Kalispel Tribe has committed to donate their construction materials from the Southern Selkirk pen to the ALCS project – with further support/resource sharing being discussed. Other partnership funding agreements are being actively pursued.

However, with only 25 animals remaining in this herd we strongly believe we do not have the luxury of spending the remainder of this year and into next involved in ‘caribou recovery planning’. Given the sensitivity of the timeline for action to halt the decline, we would like an opportunity to discuss further the development of the maternity penning project and need for other management levers with your team by August 30, 2019 via teleconference or in person.

Sincerely, Hugh Watt, RPF Co-chair - Arrow Lakes Caribou Society.

Department	Minister	Topic
Municipal Affairs & Housing	Honorable Selina Robinson	Affordable Housing
<p>Background: Much like other communities in BC, Nakusp is lacking in affordable housing for purchase and rent within the community, this barrier also effects our local businesses. Expanding businesses require more employees to live and finding places for new employees to live in the community has been difficult.</p> <p>Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, said. “When we work in partnership, we can and we will build a stronger, more resilient province together.”</p> <p>Robinson announced the release of the final report from the Development Approval Process Review. As a next step, the Province will work with local governments, UBCM, developers and others to improve current development approval processes, including providing support to interested local governments undertaking pilot projects.</p> <p>The Building BC: Community Housing Fund was an investment of close to \$1.9 billion over 10 years to develop 14,350 units of mixed-income, affordable rental housing for independent families and seniors. BC Housing was working with non-profit organizations, housing co-operatives, and local government to create this additional supply through the submission and approval of project proposals. The program did not include housing with support services or residential care components.</p> <p>The second intake was announced for 2020.</p> <p>The Minister also announced an \$150-million funding intake for water and wastewater projects slated to open later this year. Successful applicants were awarded funds from the first intake in August 2019.</p> <p>The second application intake for the Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality Program will open on October 30, 2019 and the deadline for submission is February 26, 2020.</p> <p>Project Eligibility</p>		

Eligible projects will support public infrastructure, defined as a tangible capital asset primarily for public use and benefit. To be eligible, projects must meet at least one of the following outcomes:

- Increased capacity to treat and/or manage wastewater and/or stormwater
- **Increased access to potable water**
- Increased capacity to reduce and/or remediate soil and/or air pollutants

October 7th – 9th - Attended our exciting new OCP planning and consultation.



Kuskanax Wireless Tower Installation:

New wireless tower has been installed Sept 16-22nd by Columbia Wireless adjacent to Kuskanax Trail. The negotiations for this process were completed by the Nakusp Village Council, Nakusp Development Board, Columbia Wireless and the NACTS board of directors. Other options for this tower were considered but Kuskanax



Mountain was the only mountain to cover all the areas in demand without placing more than one tower. Another advantage of this tower is our Nakusp Hot Springs will be able to have a lot better internet access. The installation is just before reaching the ridge, at the southernmost edge and 60 ft from the trail. If you keep your eyes on the trail, which curves north here, i.e. to the left, you may not even see the installation.



September 25th - At the UBCM convention Mayor and Council were presented with the Wood Works Community Recognition Award on behalf of the Village. The Village was awarded for the Spicer Garden Pergola that was built by Madden Timber on our waterfront. The program awards recognition for support of the BC wood industry and commitment to use wood.

October 4th - CAO and Mayor met with Lynda Lafleur, CBT Manager, Community Relations North. We discussed what our local government has been up to and listened to what the Basin has been doing for our 170,000 Basin residents. There will also be another upcoming Common Agenda meeting taking place at the end of October.

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70 Active Programs Supporting People and Communities

Dear Mayor Zeleznik,

On behalf of the Board and staff at Columbia Basin Trust, I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many partner organizations, local governments and First Nation communities for all that we have accomplished together over the past year – amazing!

With the release of our 2018/19 Annual Service Plan Report, we're reminded that your support, vision and efforts have been critical to our collective successes over the last year.

In 2018/19 the Trust committed \$62.6 million in programs, services and investments to the communities and people of the Basin. This included \$1.9 million

for infrastructure to expand broadband and help develop the economy, \$8.1 million for business loans and real estate investments, plus financial support for 1,750 projects and partnerships.

- Read our annual report release [here](#).
- Read the complete Annual Service Plan Report [here](#).

Programs and Services

The Trust works with people and communities to strengthen the region's social, economic and environmental well-being. Through extensive consultation, the Trust developed 13 strategic priorities for 2016-2020, and continued to make significant progress with many new programs and initiatives announced in 2018/19.

Highlights from the past year include:

- \$800,000 towards the [purchase of 69.68 hectares of beach and wetlands](#) by the Regional District of Central Kootenay along Kootenay Lake at Crawford Bay to support public lake access for residents and protect environmental values;
- [Purchase of Creston's 80-plus year-old grain elevators](#), two of four remaining wooden grain elevators in British Columbia, to ensure their structural integrity and historical preservation;
- \$2.5 million increase to the [Energy Retrofit Program](#) to help ensure existing affordable housing units are maintained, cost-effective, energy-efficient and comfortable for residents;
- \$3.2 million investment in [25 new housing units in Cranbrook](#) for low-income seniors;
- Launched a \$3-million, multi-year Basin [Physical Literacy and Youth Sport](#) (PLAYS) initiative to support youth recreation and well-being;
- Launched the multi-year [Energy Sustainability Grant](#) for community-purpose buildings;
- Launched a three-year, \$1.5-million [Trail Enhancement Grants](#) program;
- \$650,000 partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to expand the [Darkwoods Conservation area](#) by 14 per cent; and
- A new \$6-million partnership between the Trust, [College of the Rockies and Selkirk College](#) will work toward shared priorities to enhance the quality, availability and uniqueness of the college experience for students.

Investments

In 2018/19, revenues from its combined investments grew from \$64 million in the 2017/18 fiscal year to \$71.9 million this year. Approximately 80 per cent of the Trust's revenues come from the sale of hydropower generated by its assets in the West Kootenay jointly owned with Columbia Power Corporation.

We also invest in market securities (stocks and bonds) and local real estate, and we provide loans to Basin businesses.

- \$8.1 million in new business loans and commercial properties up from \$5.3 million in 2017/18.

- Book value of our assets is \$760 million up from 745 million the previous fiscal.

Our Trust, Our Future 2020

Next year the Trust will begin consulting with people in the region to renew our strategic priorities. Starting early next year, we'll be hosting community conversations, events, online forums and other activities to engage with you about your ideas for the future. Look for information about our upcoming public consultation at ourtrust.org/engage.

Learn More

- Read more about the Trust's fiscal performance in the 2018/19 Annual Service Plan Report at ourtrust.org/annualreport.
- Learn more about the Trust's progress on its strategic priorities at ourtrust.org/priorities.
- Check your mailbox for *Our Trust* magazine which showcases some of the remarkable stories of people and places around the Columbia Basin or view it online at ourtrust.org/magazine.

Let me know if you would be interested in a presentation on the highlights of our annual report; I would be pleased visit your community. If you would like to schedule a meeting, contact Jane Medlar at jmedlar@ourtrust.org or 1.800.505.8998.

Sincerely,

Johnny Strilaeff
President and Chief Executive Officer
Columbia Basin Trust

New Land Acquisition Grants Program

Dear Mayor Zeleznik,

I am pleased to let you know about the Trust's new Land Acquisition Grants program.

This new program will help you acquire lands for a variety of community purposes, such as recreational and cultural values. Eligible project costs include the purchase of land, buildings or land-based infrastructure.

The Trust will support up to 60% of any individual property's total purchase and improvement cost up to a maximum contribution of \$750,000 per project. Priority is

given to projects that address identified community priorities and those with confirmed cash contributions from the applicant organization and/or other funders.

This program has an ongoing intake and will close when all funds have been committed.

How to Apply

1. Review eligibility criteria in the [Program Guide](#).
2. Send a brief description of your project to landgrants@ourtrust.org.
3. Staff will assess and send eligible inquiries a link to the online application form.
4. Complete and submit your application using our online application system.

If you have any questions about this new program, contact us at landgrants@ourtrust.org.

Sincerely,

Will Nixon
Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits
Columbia Basin Trust