



## INFORMATION REPORT

**DATE:** July 13, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Mayor's Monthly Report  
**FROM:** Mayor Zeleznik

**June 9<sup>th</sup>** - Council and our CAO met with the Westbank First Nation council member and chief Christopher R. Derickson at our community center. WFN are a member of the syilx/Okanagan Nation, *WFN* is a self-governing First Nation community with more than 9000 residents and 400 businesses.

Was a very productive meeting of both councils covering many topics and discussing the many similarities of our surrounding area to their nation.

We will be meeting again on June 29<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>. Partial letter received on behalf of Westbank First Nation Chief and Council, "I want to thank you and your Council for taking the time to meet with us on our recent visit to Nakusp. It was an absolute pleasure to learn about the town and listen to your vision for your community."

As mentioned at our meeting, we would be pleased to work with you on issues of mutual concern. We have a positive and professional working relationship with our neighboring municipalities, the cities of Kelowna and West Kelowna, and we are looking forward to further developing our relationship with the town of Nakusp.



During our meeting it was made clear that we have overlapping interests and challenges which we would like to begin exploring further. In particular there are 3 issues that we would be happy to follow up with including are WFN art work, information sharing regarding our respective community forests, and value added sawmilling, and possible work with our respective youth groups.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>** Cheryl and I met with Tim Payne and Margaret Driscoll of ASLCS in discussion in principle only on working with ASLCS to look at other options of village land to expand their affordable housing project.



**June 13<sup>th</sup>** Attended a virtual very successful live streamed ceremony for the grad Class of 2020. **"This was not the graduation ceremony anyone had envisioned. However never has a graduating class been called to step into the future with more purpose, vision, passion, energy, and hope."** [Link](#) to virtual speech if you wish to listen.

**June 15<sup>th</sup>** – Campground committee meeting: Discussion main focus was on signage and the much needed requirements to help tourists to locate our municipal campground from all three entrances from the main highways including Hwy 23, Hwy 6 South, and East, along with signage upgrades inside our municipality and inside the main campgrounds. Also discussed more ideas to upgrade the main washrooms.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>** - Staff and councilor Miller and I met with Ian Welle P.Eng. Principal Engineer for Polar Engineering to discuss options to help reduce the energy costs at our community center. Some of the options going forward are to look at the feasibility of a green energy wood chip biomass boiler to heat the community center, along with councilors Millers suggestions/great points. More updates to follow.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Council and I attended the Anti-Racism walk and speech presentations. Below is the speech given.

Thank you all for attending this peaceful anti-racism protest this afternoon, also thank you to Joe Law a good friend of all of us for organizing this peaceful protest.

Need to state I am speaking as an individual and as a member of our local government : - I am here to support and offer solidarity. Exercising our right to peaceful demonstration is extremely important, and equally important is keeping our communities , loved ones and friends safe during this pandemic.

Need to acknowledge that we are in an area with adjoining First Nations interests including Ktunaxa and Westbank (members of Okanagan Nation Alliance) and in the ancestral home of the Sinixt people.

I wish to share with you a poster I saw the other day that really struck me and hit home, it said;

If you are neutral in situations of injustice you have chosen the side of the oppressors!

This one sentence speaks volumes and is clear where we must all stand, and that is against injustice of racism!  
As a society every single person has the right to be respected, treated with kindness and compassion.

We as Canadians, need to take this opportunity, to look at what we are doing, and to be thoughtful of how we treat each other, we can all do better in treating one another with kindness and dignity.

When you see a bully. 'WE HAVE TO SPEAK UP' When you hear hate speech. "We have to speak out,"

Remember that this is an opportunity to be heard – speak your voice!

**June 29<sup>th</sup> - Multi-phase upgrades at Arrow Lakes Hospital complete:  
NAKUSP – People needing care at Arrow Lakes Hospital (ALH) can now access an updated emergency department and new space to support families, with the completion of a significant renovation project at the Nakusp hospital.**

**[VIDEO: Take a video tour of the new spaces at Arrow Lakes Hospital](#)**

**Below is a before and after final completion.**



**“This hospital plays a central role in the health and well-being of residents and visitors in Nakusp and the surrounding communities. Now, renovations have provided a more modern, bright and comfortable space for urgent and outpatient care,” said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health.**

**The project was completed in two phases. The first phase, featuring a new trauma bay, opened in September 2019. The second phase has now been completed and features new exam bays, a triage area, a multi-purpose room available for families to gather, a visiting specialist room and more space for physicians.**

“The Arrow Lakes Hospital upgrade completion is incredibly important to the people of Nakusp and surrounding communities. This will provide high quality public health care for the constituents of Kootenay West. Residents have waited a long time for this upgrade, and I am so pleased that they will now have a larger and modern emergency department,” said Katrine Conroy, MLA for Kootenay West.

The \$2.1-million project was funded by the Ministry of Health and the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District (WKBRHD). A further \$250,000 was donated by the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation and the Arrow Lakes Hospital Auxiliary to go towards equipment.

“Congratulations to the community and everyone involved in this project. Patients in Nakusp and the surrounding region will be well served with these enhanced emergency spaces. There is more privacy for patients and their families and enhanced working conditions for our excellent staff and physicians. We are thrilled to see this new space now open to patients,” said Doug Cochrane, Interior Health Board Chair.

The scope of the project was determined through an initial planning and assessment phase funded by the WKBRHD and included direct input from hospital staff and physicians.

“This was a priority project for our board, and we are thrilled to see it open. These new treatment areas will allow staff and physicians the ability to provide care to patients in a modern setting and families will now have a quiet space to gather and support loved ones in care. As someone who was born and raised in Nakusp, I know firsthand the importance of this project to the entire community,” said Suzan Hewat, Chair of the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District.

The additional funding from the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation and the Arrow Lakes Hospital Auxiliary went toward the purchase of an equipment boom and patient monitoring system for the project, an indicator of the tremendous community support the Arrow Lakes Hospital receives.

“The Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation warmly and deeply thanks the people of our community for their extraordinary level of support in raising sufficient funds to provide for the purchase and installation of cardiac monitors in a retrofitted emergency and trauma area at Arrow Lakes Hospital. We are excited that the renovation is now complete and that our hospital will be equipped to best meet the needs of our patients and medical staff. We are so very proud to be a partner in our community’s ongoing charitable support for health services,” said Bob Ruttenberg, Chair of the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation.

Arrow Lakes Hospital serves close to 5,000 people living in the communities of Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton as well as the surrounding regions.

Construction work continued throughout the COVID-19 crisis, with Interior Health complying with direction from the Ministry of Health, the Province and the Provincial Health Officer, and its contractor taking the proper precautions during this time to ensure safety at the site.

**July 1<sup>st</sup> - SNCE and participants/volunteers put on a very successful July 1<sup>st</sup> Stay At Home Parade during this pandemic where other communities did not.**



Congrats also to the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of our local Fire Department. Congrats also to the organizers of this years July 1st event, who are a small group of volunteers that previously formed the Society for Nakusp Community Events. This is the SNCE's 4th year of volunteering our time, and this year we had to think outside of the box. Volunteers never like to be recognized for what they do for their community, so am only going to give you their first names of the members of the

SNCE, and let you fill in the last names, Donna, Shannon, Anya, Mary, Dustin, Gord, Steph, Christy, Tom, Jo. Special thanks to non-member's goes to John and Patty.....Thanks again, and remember without these volunteers these annual events do not happen! ...Happy Canada Day!!



**July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Official Community Plan** meeting with council and staff presented by B&A planning group. Discussion on recap of project to date. Key changes; Marina and waterfront, Transportation/Connectivity, Urban design, DPA's, Gateway-revisions, Village core DPA-revisions, Hot Springs, Airport, Sand & Gravel, Land use, Servicing, Mapping figures, Regional partnering, Storm water retention ponds, Village detailed owned land parcel updates/inventory. Link to date with more changes coming

**Next Steps & Timeline**

- o Formal circulation & public review – July / August
- o Review feedback submissions – end of August 2020
- o Final revisions as necessary – September 2020

[Link](#) to official community plan

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** – Passing of a dear friend and former MLA Ed Conroy;

Dear Katrine Conroy,

Please accept my deepest condolences, I'm deeply saddened to learn of Ed's passing.

Ed was a truly kind and decent man and will be missed by all that knew him.

I worked with Ed when we were much younger on the marine lockage pens and tug boats in Castlegar, and was an enjoyment when we would meet in passing and talk of the good old days when we worked together.

Patti and my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Please if there is anything I can do, please call.

Sincerely

Tom Zeleznik (friend)

**July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Virtual meeting with Minister Selina Robinson and statement for Mayors and CAO's**

As we move into Phase 3 of the B.C.'s Restart Plan, I would like to recognize the dedication and hard work you have been giving your communities and their unique needs during a challenging and changeable time. Your commitment to local government operations continue to be an invaluable contribution as the province and local governments have worked together on response and restart, and now plan for recovery, on COVID-19.

Below is information about Minister Selina Robinson's July consultation sessions around COVID-19 and economic recovery. The phone calls in July are an opportunity to feed directly into B.C.'s overall recovery conversation. The discussion and ideas shared on those calls will help inform a letter that Minister Robinson will send to the Premier and the Minister of Finance about what local governments have identified to implement a successful recovery strategy. Local governments will be copied on that letter.

Minister Robinson wishes to hear about the ideas for recovery that are being talked about in your communities that would meet the challenges, values and opportunities noted in the discussion paper [Building B.C.'s Recovery Together](#).

If you have the chance, your local government is asked to talk with others in your community to help inform ideas about the opportunities ahead, and also to think broadly about recovery that will meet the needs of British Columbians. Please let members in your community know that they – and you – can also submit feedback through [recoveryideas@gov.bc.ca](mailto:recoveryideas@gov.bc.ca), or take the [B.C. Restart and Recovery Survey](#), which will be open until July 21, 2020 at 4:00 pm PDT.

**June 29th - Caribou Coalition virtual meeting update. Some of the important takeaways and speakers.**



**Steve Wilson**

- Steve is a biologist who is working in a few provinces on caribou recovery
- One of the key concerns is are the necessary actions sufficient to recover caribou populations? We need to build a network of supporting communities.
- Worst possible outcome is the lack of recovery for caribou.

**Jim Little**

- It is worrisome that decisions are made and imposed from elsewhere outside the impacted regions.
- The lack of local input is happening too often.

**Kathleen Connolly**

- Local governments are not engaged as much as they should be.
- Local governments need to be more engaged and we have to find an effective way to do this.

**Milt Hamilton**

Milt is a biologist with over 30 years experience in caribou research, habitat management, guidelines/best practices and policy development

1. South Kootenay Mountain caribou
  - Refers to the Mountain caribou distributed in 4 Local Planning Units (LPU) south of Trans Canada Highway #1: Central Kootenay LPU (Nakusp & Duncan herds); Southwest Kootenay LPU (South Selkirks); Southeast Kootenays LPU (Purcells Central & Purcells South herds); South Monashee LPU (Monashee herd)
  - 2002 population estimate: 185 animals (~10% prov. population in 2002)
  - 2020 population status:
    - 24 caribou persevering in Central Selkirks
    - 5 of 6 South Kootenay herds extirpated status
    - 2 herds, possibly 3, are likely infeasible to recover (Monashee, Purcell Central and Duncan)
  - What happened?

**Mayor Bertrand- Tumbler Ridge**

- He has been involved in all three committees in the NE dealing with caribou.
- Russ Laroche is the Land Use Objective Committee Chair

**Doug Konkin**

- Transparency, collaboration and local input is not happening with a lot of initiatives.
- The MP's need to be involved.

**David Wilks Mayor of Sparwood** - suggested that we get Bob Zimmer and Todd Doherty to get a delegation on a committee speaker list and get a meeting with the federal minister.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Zeleznik, Mayor