



**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT
REGULAR AGENDA**

FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF
THE VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025

Please be advised that the HUB Online Network will record and broadcast or live stream today's Council meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

"Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Nlaka'pamux people."

1. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

2. MINUTES

2.1	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, December 9, 2024 M/S <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, December 9, 2024, be adopted as presented</i>	P. 1-7
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3. DELEGATIONS

3.1		
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4. PUBLIC INPUT

All questions and comments will be addressed through the Chair and answered likewise. Please state your name and address prior to asking a question or commenting, no more than 2 minutes per question.

5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1	Bylaw No. 872 – The Village of Ashcroft Dog Control and Pound Operation Amendment Bylaw, 2024 M/S <i>THAT, Bylaw No. 872, The Village of Ashcroft Dog Control and Pound Operation Amendment Bylaw, 2024 be adopted.</i>	P. 8-17
5.2	Bylaw No. 873 – The Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Consolidated Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw, 2024 M/S <i>THAT, Bylaw No. 873, The Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Consolidated Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw, 2024 be adopted.</i>	P. 18-19

6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	CFO Report – Application for Water Meter Pilot Project Purpose:	P. 20-22



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT
REGULAR AGENDA
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 THE VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025

	<p>The purpose of this report is to request Council to approve application to the BC Water Meter Pilot Project which provides 100% funding of eligible costs to purchase and install water meters up to a maximum of \$5 million.</p> <p>M/S</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>THAT, the municipality commits to pay the applicant share of eligible costs, ineligible costs, cost overruns and ongoing operating and other costs associated with water metering with funding secured through adequate municipal reserves and appropriate tax increases necessary to fully fund the service; and</i> • <i>THAT, Council commits appropriate staff to actively participate in the adjunct research pilot project and community of practice; and further,</i> • <i>THAT, Council commits to provide information, including but not limited to water production and consumption data, to the research project administrator in the format and data interval specified by the Ministry.</i> 	
6.2	<p>BEO Report – Development of a Good Neighbour Bylaw Purpose: This purpose of this report is to provide Council with a rationale as to why a Good Neighbour Bylaw should be developed, what the bylaw should include and seek Council approval to draft the bylaw. M/S <i>THAT, Council direct staff to prepare a Good Neighbour Bylaw to be brought back for consideration.</i></p>	P. 23-24
FOR INFORMATION		
6.3	CAO Report - Verbal	P. 25
6.4	CFO Report – PowerPoint Presentation of 2024 Year End Financial Review	
6.5	Chief White Report – 2024 AFR Year End Report	P. 26-30

7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
7.1	2025 SILGA Call for Community Excellence Awards M/S	P. 31-32
7.2	2025 SILGA Call for Nominations M/S	P. 33-34
7.3	2025 SILGA Call for Resolutions M/S	P. 35-36
FOR INFORMATION		
7.4	Village of Clinton – Opposition to Transit Regionalization	P. 37-38
7.5	UBCM - Canada Community Building Fund; Second Community Works Fund Payment for 2024/2025	P. 39



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7.6	TNRD Member Municipality GIS Yearly Update	P. 40-42
7.7	TNFC – Visit Your Favourite Movie Spots with TNFC’s New Interactive Map	P. 43
7.8	Independent Contractors and Businesses Association (ICBA) – Protecting Taxpayers from Overspending on Local Government Construction	P. 44-45
7.9	UBCM – 2023 Complete Communities – Comple Community Assessment for Ashcroft	P. 46
7.10	Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship – Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletin – January 1, 2025	P. 47

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	Task Manager	P. 48
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9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1		
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10. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, COTW, and COMMISSIONS

10.	N/A	
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11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1	Mayor Roden	
11.2	Councillor Anstett	
11.3	Councillor Clement	
11.4	Councillor Davenport	
11.5	Councillor Lambert	

12. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED MEETING

Motion to move to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1

12.1	M/S <i>THAT, Council moves to a Closed Meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality.</i>	
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13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING

13.1	TBD	
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14. ADJOURNMENT



**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT
REGULAR MINUTES**

FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

PRESENT: Mayor, Barbara Roden
Councillor, Jonah Anstett
Councillor, Jessica Clement - Zoom
Councillor, Doreen Lambert

CAO, Daniela Dyck
CFO, Yogi Bhalla
DPW, Brian Bennewith

EXCUSED: Councillor, Nadine Davenport

Media –
Public – 1
Delegation – 1 - Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roden called the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday, December 9, 2024, to order at 6:00 pm.

“Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Niaka’pamux people.”

1. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

2. MINUTES

2.1	Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held Monday, November 25, 2024 M/S Lambert / Clement <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held Monday, November 25, 2024, be adopted as presented</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-176
2.2	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, November 25, 2024 M/S Anstett / Lambert <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, November 25, 2024, be adopted as presented</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-177

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1	Brendan Dawe, VP of Housing & Economics with Urbanics Consultants – Presentation of Housing Needs Report Mayor Roden welcomed Brendan Dawe of Urbanics Consulting and invited him to share his presentation. Brendan discussed the methodology used for housing needs assessments in the Thompson Nicola region. He highlighted that the methodology is consistent and comparable across all communities,	
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**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT
REGULAR MINUTES**

FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

	<p>from the Peace to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The methodology consists of six parts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extreme core housing need counts from the 2021 census, • regional homelessness count, • suppressed household formation, • projected population growth, • rental vacancy adjustment, and • demand factor. <p>Brendan also noted the limitations of the methodology, such as the fact that it does not say how many homes are economically viable to build in a community, but rather estimates the social need for housing. He also pointed out that the demand factor is a black box and that the province's population growth projections do not expect substantial growth after 2026.</p> <p>The stats and data quoted in the HNA were sourced from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Stat Canada Census • CMHC • BC Stats <p>Additionally, Urbanics consulted with stakeholders, business community and residents</p> <p>A regional survey was developed and community members were invited to respond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 523 survey responses were received, 37 responses from Ashcroft (7% of responses) <p>Brendan concluded by discussing the ongoing demand pressure on the existing stock due to shrinking household sizes</p> <p>Non market tested estimate projects the need for 380 homes in the next 20 years. Recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand non market supportive housing options • Expand rental housing supply • Address housing need for seniors <p>Questions: Mayor Roden: Q: How can we get developers to understand and address our housing needs? A: Consider developing a proforma that can be presented to banks indicating the need for a specific form of housing? Q: How can developers be enticed to develop in rural BC? Province-wide building code changes may assist, but the move to Step Code 3 introduces challenges, particularly with insufficient assessors and workforce shortages. Despite proactive efforts, developers still often choose to navigate red tape in urban centers. Q: Could collaboration within the TNRD (Thompson-Nicola Regional District) help? A: Yes, collaboration within the TNRD was noted as a good approach. However, similar challenges are being observed across communities in the region. Q: Why are developers hesitant to invest in certain housing projects?</p>	
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THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT
REGULAR MINUTES
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	<p>A: Broadly speaking, the return on investment (ROI) for such projects is often insufficient.</p> <p>Cam Tedford:</p> <p>Q: Are we addressing the "missing middle," such as couples choosing between renting and homeownership?</p> <p>A: It was noted that many households are spending over half their income on housing, highlighting affordability challenges.</p> <p>Q: Is there a shift in the demand for external laneway housing versus corporate housing?</p> <p>A: The need for external laneway housing development appears to be decreasing, while corporate housing demand remains a factor.</p> <p>Q: What is the incentive for alley home development – individual residents or new developers?</p> <p>A: There is a forgivable loan program offering \$40,000 to homeowners to build secondary suites or carriage homes, provided they are rented below market rates.</p> <p>Q: How do we address housing for populations unable to afford rent?</p> <p>A: It was highlighted that 4% of households in Ashcroft are spending over half their income on rent, this is 3% lower than the provincial average however it does underscore the importance of affordable options.</p> <p>Mayor Roden:</p> <p>Q: Is age-restricted housing, such as 55+ gated communities, still viable, or is the trend moving toward multi-generational communities?</p> <p>A: Legislative changes have impacted the viability of 55+ developments, with a noted trend toward multi-generational living arrangements.</p> <p>Mayor Roden thanked Brendan for the presentation and HNA report.</p>	
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4. PUBLIC INPUT

All questions and comments will be addressed through the Chair and answered likewise. Please state your name and address prior to asking a question or commenting, no more than 2 minutes per question.

Cam Tedford:
 Comment received in regard to a question from CFO Bhalla.

5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1	<p>CAO Report – Proposed Policy Amendments for Review and Approval</p> <p>Purpose: The purpose of this Council Report is to present proposed amendments to three existing policies—Procurement Policy (F-01-2019), Signing Authorities on Village Bank Accounts Policy (F-01-2021), and Long Service Awards Policy (F-02-2021)—for review and approval. These updates aim to enhance financial governance,</p>	
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**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT
REGULAR MINUTES**

FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 , 2024

	<p>improve operational efficiency, and modernize employee recognition practices in alignment with the Village of Ashcroft’s strategic goals and regulatory requirements.</p> <p>M/S Anstett / Lambert 1. <i>THAT, Council approves the recommended policy changes to the Village of Ashcroft Procurement Policy F-01-2019 as presented.</i></p> <p>M/S Lambert / Anstett 2. <i>THAT, Council approves the recommended policy changes to the Village of Ashcroft Signing Authority on Village Bank Accounts Policy F-01-2021 as presented.</i> <i>Comment about signing forms at CU</i></p> <p>M/S Roden / Clement 3. <i>THAT, Council approves the recommended policy changes to the Village of Ashcroft Long Service Awards Policy F-02-2021 as presented.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-178</p> <p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-179</p> <p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-180</p>
5.2	<p>Bylaw No. 872 - The Village of Ashcroft Dog Control and Pound Operation Amendment Bylaw, 2024</p> <p>M/S Lambert / Anstett 1. <i>THAT, Bylaw No. 872, the Village of Ashcroft Dog Control and Pound Operation Amendment Bylaw be read a first time.</i></p> <p>Discussion: Pg 27 of agenda – definitions unlicensed dog a) fix typo to “for which the dog license has not been obtained, or” Change all he/she language to they/their to be consistent with other bylaws/policies Q - Will an unaltered dog need a new license once altered – No but VOA should be advised</p> <p>M/S Anstett / Lambert 2. <i>THAT, Bylaw No. 872, The Village of Ashcroft Dog Control and Pound Operation Amendment Bylaw be read a second time.</i></p> <p>M/S Clement / Lambert 3. <i>THAT, Bylaw No. 872, The Village of Ashcroft Dog Control and Pound Operation Amendment Bylaw be read a third time.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-181</p> <p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-182</p> <p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-183</p>
5.3	<p>Bylaw No. 873 – The Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Consolidated Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw, 2024</p> <p>M/S Lambert / Anstett 1. <i>THAT, Bylaw No. 873, the Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Consolidated Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw be read a first time.</i></p> <p>M/S Roden / Anstett 2. <i>THAT, Bylaw No. 873, the Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Consolidated Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw be read a second time.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-184</p> <p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-184</p>



**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT
REGULAR MINUTES**

FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

	M/S Anstett / Lambert 3. <i>THAT, Bylaw No. 873, the Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Consolidated Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw be read a third time.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-185
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6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	<p>CAO Report – Proposed Wind Phone Installation at Cemetery Purpose: The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the Hospice Society’s proposal to install a wind phone at the south end of the cemetery and to seek Council’s approval for the project. This report also outlines the recommendation for the Village to assume ownership and include the wind phone in its repair and maintenance program following construction, ensuring long-term upkeep and alignment with the Village's operational framework.</p> <p>M/S Anstett / Lambert <i>THAT, Council approves the Hospice Society request to install a wind phone at the south end of the cemetery and direct staff to include the wind phone in the Village’s Cemetery operations and maintenance program once construction is complete, with the Village assuming ownership and responsibility for its upkeep.</i></p> <p>Discussion: If there was ever a need for another phone, suggested another location at the end of 3rd street <i>Concern that unhoused may choose to sleep there Statutory care fund cannot be sued for upkeep</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-186
6.2	<p>CAO Report – Housing Needs Assessment – Key Findings and Recommendations Purpose: To present Council with key findings from the 2024 Housing Needs Assessment for the Village of Ashcroft, identify housing challenges, and provide recommendations for addressing current and projected housing needs in alignment with provincial legislation and local demographics.</p> <p>M/S Clement / Anstett <i>THAT Council adopt the 2024 Housing Needs Assessment as prepared by Urbanics Consultants and direct staff to develop an implementation strategy based on the recommendations outlined in this report.</i></p> <p>Discussion Stronger statement our key need is not 4-5 bedroom homes, we need one storey housing for seniors and entry level homes. Ashcroft senior demographic is double the provincial average of 65+.</p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-187
6.3	CAO Report – Proposed Council Meeting Schedule for 2025	



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REGULAR MINUTES
 FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
 VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

	Purpose: To provide Council with an opportunity to review, discuss, and propose changes to the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule. M/S Anstett / Lambert <i>THAT, Council adopts the proposed Council Meeting Schedule for 2025 as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-188
FOR INFORMATION		
6.4	N/A	

7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
7.1	N/A	
FOR INFORMATION		
7.2	District of Clearwater – Continued Opposition to Proposed Regionalization of Transit Operations Next steps – meeting with stakeholders and schedule a meeting with the new Minister of Transportation in Vancouver	
7.3	RCMP – UBCM Meeting with BC RCMP on September 18, 2024	

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	Task Manager	
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9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1		
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10. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, COTW, and COMMISSIONS

10.1	Policy Review Committee Notes – November 28, 2024	
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11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1	Mayor Roden BC Hydro announced the Capstone wind energy project at Highland Valley is moving forward and should be generating energy by 2031	
11.2	Councillor Anstett	
11.3	Councillor Clement	
11.4	Councillor Davenport	
11.5	Councillor Lambert Nov. 27 th – Attended TVMS Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground breaking for the new construction of 29-unit seniors complex TBD • CIB gifted TVMS two self watering planters 	



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT
REGULAR MINUTES
FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

12. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED MEETING

Motion to move to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1

Table with 2 columns: 12.1, N/A

13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING

Table with 2 columns: 13.1, N/A

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Roden adjourned the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday December 9, 2024, at 6:55pm noting this was the last meeting of the year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and festive holiday season.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, December 9, 2024.

Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer

Barbara Roden, Mayor

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

BYLAW NO. 872, 2024

A bylaw for the Village of Ashcroft to amend the Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Dog Control and Pound Operation Bylaw No. 832, 2019.

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as “The Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Dog Control and Pound Operation Amendment Bylaw No 872, 2024”.
2. Bylaw No. 832, Dog Control and Operation Bylaw 832, 2019, is amended as follows:
 - a. Unlicensed Dog definition a) change from ‘For which the dog license for the current year has not been obtained’ to ‘For which a dog license has not been obtained’.
 - b. Section 6.4 Strike out the word ‘annual’.
 - c. Section 6.7 shall be removed in its entirety.
 - d. Section 6.8, strike out the words ‘in each year’.
 - e. Section 6.9, change ‘year for which it is purchased and shall expire on the 31st day of December in that year’ to ‘the life of the dog’.
 - f. Section 6.13 strike out the words ‘for the remainder of the current licensing year’.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS	9th	DAY OF	December	, 2024
READ A SECOND TIME THIS	9th	DAY OF	December	, 2024
READ A THIRD TIME THIS	9th	DAY OF	December	, 2024
ADOPTED THIS		DAY OF		, 2025

Certified to be a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 872, 2024 as adopted by Council.

Barbara Roden,
Mayor

Daniela Dyck,
Corporate Officer

Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT
DOG CONTROL AND POUND OPERATION BYLAW NO. 832, 2019

A BYLAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTROL AND LICENSING OF DOGS AND THE OPERATION OF A POUND FACILITY IN THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft, in open meeting assembled, **ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. CITATION

This Bylaw shall be cited for all purposes as the Village of Ashcroft “Dog Control and Pound Operation Bylaw No. 832, 2019”

2. REPEAL

The “Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Dog Regulation and Impounding Bylaw No. 502” and all its amendments are hereby repealed.

3. DEFINITION

In this Bylaw:

ALTERED	a) refers to an animal which has been spayed or neutered.
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	means: a) A person employed or contracted by the Village to be an Animal Control Officer or Bylaw Enforcement Officer; b) A municipal employee, officer or agent designated by Council as an Animal Control Officer for the purposes of this Bylaw; c) An RCMP officer; and d) A Province of British Columbia conservation officer.
AT LARGE	means: a) Being elsewhere than on lands or premises owned or occupied by the owner and not on a leash, or b) On unfenced land and not securely tethered, or c) Not under the physical control of its owner or owner’s agent, or d) In the care and control of a person who an Animal Control Officer considers is not a competent person.
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO)	means: a) The Chief Administrative Officer of the Village or their designate, and includes anyone authorized by Council to act on their behalf.
COMPETENT PERSON	means: a) A person who is physically and mentally able to control a dog and to ensure compliance with this Bylaw at all times.
COUNCIL	means: a) The municipal Council of the Village of Ashcroft.
DANGEROUS DOG	means: a) A dangerous dog as defined by the Community Charter.
DOG	means: a) A domestic animal of the <i>Canis lupus</i> species.

ENCLOSURE	<p>means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A fence or structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Allowing the humane confinement of an animal, (ii) Allowing the safe and unrestricted movement of the animal, (iii) With any gates to be self-closing, (iv) Capable of preventing the entry of a child aged 10 years or younger, and (v) Adequately constructed to prevent the animal confined within it from escaping.
HUMANE	<p>means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Not causing pain, and causing no discomfort or causing minimal discomfort.
IMPOUNDED	<p>means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An animal that has been seized by the Animal Control Officer and is in the custody of the Animal Control Officer.
KENNEL	<p>means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A facility for the care of three (3) or more dogs, cats or other household pets, where such animals are kept commercially for boarding, propagation, training, grooming or sale.
LEASH	<p>means a device, or use of a device:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No more than 2.0 meters (6.6 feet) in length, and b) Of a sufficient strength and design to restrain the animal for which it will be used, and c) Securely affixed to an animal, with the other end of the leash held by a competent person.
MICROCHIP	<p>means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An approved National Companion Animal Coalition Canadian standard encoded identification device intended to be implanted into an animal, which contains a unique code that permits or facilitates access to owner information, including the name and address of the owner of the animal, which is stored in a central database.
MITIGATING FACTOR	<p>means a circumstance that excuses the aggressive behavior of an animal and may include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Responding to an attack by a person or aggressive animal; b) Responding to an attack against its offspring by a person or animal; c) Responding to teasing, provocation or torment; d) Protecting its owner from physical harm; e) Defending the real or personal property of its owner from trespass, damage or theft; f) Attempting to prevent a person from committing an unlawful act; or g) Performing law enforcement work.
MUZZLE	<p>means a humane device or application of a humane device that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Fits over the mouth of an animal, and b) Cannot be removed by the animal, and c) Prevents the animal from biting.

OWNER	means any person: (a) Whose name appears on a dog license, or (b) Who has the care, custody or control of an animal, or (c) Who possesses, harbours or allows an animal to remain about a house, land or in premises owned or occupied by that person.
POUND	means: a) A premise designated by contract with the Village for the impoundment, care and feeding of animals pursuant to this Bylaw.
POUNDKEEPER	means: a) Any person appointed by Council to operate the pound, usually the Animal Control Officer.
SECURE ENCLOSURE	means a structure: a) Allowing the humane confinement of an animal, b) Allowing the safe and unrestricted movement of the animal, c) With any gates to be self-closing, d) Constructed and locked in such a fashion as to prevent the escape of an animal and to prevent the entry of any person other than those authorized by the owner, e) With no side in common with a perimeter fence, f) Approved by the Animal Control Officer for a specific animal, and g) Depending on the security and design of the structure, and the animal it will house, the Animal Control Officer may additionally require that the structure be: (i) at least 1.8 metres (5.9 feet) in height, (ii) having a concrete or asphalt floor, (iii) with wire or steel mesh sides and roof, and (iv) with the floor securely attached to the sides or the sides embedded in the ground to a minimum depth of 30 centimeters (1.0 foot).
SERIOUS INJURY	means an injury that: a) Includes a broken bone, disfiguring lacerations or extensive lacerations, b) Requires sutures or cosmetic surgery, or c) Is determined to be severe by a Court upon hearing the evidence.
SERVICE ANIMAL	means an animal trained by an accredited institution, and on duty: a) As a law enforcement animal, or b) To provide assistance to a hearing- or visually-impaired, physically- or developmentally-challenged person.
TETHER	means: a) A device or the application of a device such as a rope or chain with one end securely attached to an animal, and the other end securely attached to a stationary object or pulley and cable, and used to humanely confine an animal to a certain area.
UNLICENSED DOG	means a dog: a) For which the dog license for the current year has not been obtained, or b) To which a current dog license tag is not attached.

**Amended
by Bylaw
No. 872,
2024**

VILLAGE	means: a) The Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft or the area within the municipal boundaries of the Village of Ashcroft, depending on the context.
ZONING BYLAW	means: a) The Village of Ashcroft Zoning Bylaw as amended from time to time.

4. ADMINISTRATION

4.1. The Animal Control Officer is authorized to administer and enforce this Bylaw.

4.2. The Village may contract with any person, firm, society, or corporation as it deems appropriate for the purpose of maintaining and operating a pound, and providing for the collection, distribution and payment of revenue and expenditures derived from the operation of the pound.

4.3. No person shall hinder, delay, threaten, prevent, or obstruct in any manner, directly or indirectly, the Animal Control Officer while carrying out their duties pursuant to this Bylaw, including but not limited to obstruction by:

- a) Providing false information;
- b) Unlocking, unlatching, or otherwise opening a vehicle or any enclosure in which an impounded animal has been placed;
- c) Removing or attempting to remove any animal from the possession of a pound keeper, Animal Control Officer or Village employee;
- d) Removing or attempting to remove an animal from the pound, except in accordance with this Bylaw.

4.4. The Animal Control Officer may enter, at all reasonable times, upon any land in order to ascertain whether this Bylaw is being contravened.

5. DOG CONTROL

5.1. An owner shall not permit, suffer or allow a dog to be at large.

5.2. For the purposes of this bylaw, a dog is deemed to be at large where it is not under control by being:

- a) Elsewhere than on land or premises owned or occupied by the owner and not on a leash, or
- b) On unfenced land and not securely tethered, or
- c) Not under the physical control of its owner or owner’s agent, or
- d) In the care and control of a person who an Animal Control Officer considers is not a competent person.

5.3. An owner shall immediately remove any and all of their dog's excrement from another person's property or any public street, lane, sidewalk or any other public or private property and dispose of it in a sanitary manner.

5.4. An owner who is legally blind is exempt from section 5.3 in respect to excrement deposited by a service animal, when not accompanied by a sighted person aged 12 years or over.

5.5. An owner shall not permit a dog to continuously cry or bark which disturbs the quiet, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of a neighbourhood or a person(s) in the vicinity or place where the dog is being housed or maintained.

5.6. An owner shall not tie, secure or tether any dog for a period longer than eight (8) hours at any one time for each twenty-four (24) hour period.

5.7. An owner shall not permit, suffer or allow a dog to be in the Chinese or municipal cemeteries or Village Parks at any time.

5.8. An owner of a female dog in heat shall keep the dog on the owner's property, and:

- a) Confined indoors, or
- b) Leashed and under the control of a competent person aged 16 years or older, or
- c) Confined within an enclosure with any gate locked at all times when the dog is within.

5.9. No more than two (2) dogs over the age of three (3) months shall be kept in a residentially zoned area in the Village at one time, unless the property is zoned Rural Residential and a kennel license has been purchased for the property.

6. DOG LICENSING

6.1. No person shall own, possess or harbour an unlicensed dog within the boundaries of the Village.

6.2. The categories of dog license are:

- a) Altered dog,
- b) Unaltered dog,
- c) Dangerous dog

6.3. The licensing fees shall be as set out as Schedule "G" in the Village of Ashcroft Consolidated Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 833, 2019 as amended from time to time.

**Amended by
Bylaw No.
872, 2024**

6.4. In order to purchase an altered dog license, the owner of the dog must sign a declaration to certify that the dog has been altered on the **annual** Dog License Application as set out in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw (attached).

6.5. The owner of an altered dog may be required to produce a certificate from a qualified veterinarian to prove that the dog has been altered.

6.6. No refund shall be given if a dog is altered after its owner purchases a dog license.

~~6.7. Dog licensing fees shall not be pro-rated during the year.~~

***Amended
by Bylaw
No. 872,
2024***

6.8. The owner of a dog shall obtain a license in accordance with the provisions of this Bylaw before the last day of February ~~in each year,~~ or as soon thereafter as such dog shall attain three (3) months of age.

***Amended
by Bylaw
No. 872,
2024***

6.9. A license issued pursuant to this Bylaw is valid for the ~~year for which it is purchased and shall expire on the 31st day of December in that year.~~ (changed to "the life of the dog")

6.10. Issuance of a license shall be an administrative function of the municipal office under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer.

6.11. Every person who obtains a license shall be given a tag which shall be, at all times, fastened to a collar or harness worn by the dog for which the license was purchased.

6.12. The number on the dog license shall correspond to the stamped number on the tag.

***Amended
by Bylaw
No. 872,
2024***

6.13. Where the tag issued by the Village has been lost or is no longer legible, a replacement tag shall be acquired by the owner ~~for the remainder of the current licensing year,~~ upon producing proof of previous purchase and payment of a prescribed fee.

6.14. The following dogs are exempt from the requirements of this section:

- a) Service animals,
- b) Dogs under the age of three (3) months, and
- c) Dogs that visit the Village for a total of 30 or fewer days in a calendar year.

7. DANGEROUS DOG

7.1. In determining whether a dog is dangerous, mitigating factors may be considered.

7.2. No person shall own, possess or harbour any diseased or dangerous animal within the Village unless the same is kept sufficiently secured so as to prevent it from endangering the safety of any person or other animal, including a person lawfully entering upon the premises where the animal is located.

7.3. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, no person who owns, possesses or harbours a dangerous dog shall permit, suffer or allow the dog to be on any highway, any public place or common property, or any place not owned or controlled by that person, unless the dog is sufficiently muzzled to prevent it from biting another animal or human.

7.4. Upon receiving a complaint in writing that a dog has attacked or attempted to attack any animal or human, if the owner of the dog can be ascertained, the Animal Control Officer shall notify the owner of the dog in writing of the complaint, and shall notify the owner of the dog in writing that the dog is now considered to be a " dangerous dog" as defined by the Special Powers in relation to dangerous dogs in the Community Charter and that the Village will follow the steps outlined in that legislation.

7.5. The Animal Control Officer may, at any time and in their sole discretion, humanely euthanize any animal suffering from any incurable disease, injury or mutilation, to prevent cruel suffering or the spread of disease.

8. KENNELS

8.1. The following Kennel provisions apply to all dogs except those under three (3) months of age:

8.2. Every owner of three (3) or more dogs shall possess a valid and subsisting kennel license.

8.3. A kennel license shall be obtained by applying to the Village and paying the prescribed kennel license fee and applicable dog license fee set out in Schedule "G" of the Consolidated Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 833, 2019.

8.4. No kennel shall be permitted unless:

- a) Adequate floor space of for each dog to lie flat on their sides outside their bed in the sleeping area.
- b) The kennel complies with all laws and regulations in force in the Province of British Columbia, all Municipal Bylaws and conforms to the Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations as amended from time to time, including but not limited to construction requirements, lighting, temperature control and access to exercise space.
- c) A building permit for the kennel has been obtained in accordance with the provisions of the Village.

8.5. A kennel license issued may be suspended or revoked at any time by the Animal Control Officer if the provisions of the Bylaw are not observed by the licensee.

8.6. Every licensee shall, at all reasonable times, permit the Animal Control Officer, to enter and inspect any kennel for the purposes of ascertaining whether the provisions of this Bylaw are being observed.

8.7. Every kennel license issued under this Bylaw:

- a) expires on the 31st day of December of the year in which it is issued.
- b) is valid only in respect of the kennel for which it is issued; and
- c) shall be renewed no later than the 1st day of February in the following calendar year.

8.9. The Village shall maintain a record of all kennel licenses issued.

9. SEIZURE AND IMPOUNDMENT

9.1. The Animal Control Officer may seize and impound any animal which is found by the Animal Control Officer to be:

- a) Unlicensed, if there is a requirement that it be licensed; or
- b) At large on a highway or in a public place; or
- c) Straying or trespassing on private property; or
- d) On unfenced land and not securely tethered or contained, if there is a requirement to be securely fenced, tethered or contained; or
- e) A dangerous dog.

9.2. Upon seizure and impoundment of an animal, the Animal Control Officer shall make a reasonable effort to inform the owner, if known, that the animal has been seized and impounded.

9.3. If an owner is unknown, all reasonable efforts will be made to advise the public of the impounded animal being housed at the pound.

9.4. An animal delivered to the Animal Control Officer by the public may be dealt with in the same manner as an animal seized and impounded pursuant to this Bylaw.

9.5. It shall be unlawful for any person to release or rescue or attempt to release or rescue any dog lawfully in the custody of the Animal Control Officer, and no person shall intervene or otherwise interfere with the Animal Control Officer in the lawful exercise of his/her duties.

9.6. An owner may claim their impounded animal upon:

- a) Proving ownership to the pound keeper or Animal Control Officer, and
- b) Purchasing a licence if required by this Bylaw, and
- c) Paying the applicable fees and charges set out in Schedule "G" of the Consolidated Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 833, 2019.

9.7. In the case the owner is not known or the owner so notified does not within three (3) days of notification referred to in Section 9.2 hereof, appear at the pound and release the dog so impounded by the payment of the lawful fees as outlined in Schedule "G" of the Consolidated Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 833, 2019, the Animal Control Officer may put the dog or dogs up for adoption as provided for in this Bylaw.

9.8. In the event that the owner of an impounded dog is unable to claim the dog, he/she may sign an Authorization to Surrender Animal form as outlined in Schedule "B" of this Bylaw (attached).

9.9. The Animal Control Officer may advertise the unclaimed dog available for adoption no less than three (3) days after impounding and notification as per section 9.7. Interested parties must complete

the Animal Adoption Application as set out in Schedule “C” of this Bylaw, to assist the Animal Control Officer in determining if the applicant would be a suitable owner of the dog.

9.10. An animal may be seized and humanely euthanized if:

- a) It is determined by the Animal Control Officer or the pound keeper that the animal is suffering and the animal’s suffering cannot be otherwise reasonably addressed; and
- b) The Animal Control Officer has made a reasonable effort to inform the owner, if known, of the seizure, impoundment, and condition of the animal; and the intent to have the animal humanely euthanized; and
- c) A veterinarian licensed to practice in British Columbia is retained to humanely euthanize the animal.

10. ENFORCEMENT

10.1 Every person who violates any of the provisions of this Bylaw, or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention or in violation of any of the provisions of this Bylaw or neglects to do, or refrains from doing anything required to be done by any of the provisions of this Bylaw, shall be deemed to be guilty of an infraction thereof, and liable to the penalty or penalties as stated in Schedule “G” of the Consolidated Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 833, 2019.

11. SEVERABILITY

11.1 If any section, subsection sentence, clause or phrase of this Bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid portion shall be severed and the part that is invalid shall not affect the validity of the remainder.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 22nd DAY OF JULY, 2019.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 22nd DAY OF JULY, 2019.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 26th DAY OF AUGUST, 2019.

RECONSIDERED AND ADOPTED THIS 09th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2019.

Certified to be a true and correct copy
of the Village of Ashcroft Dog Control and
Pound Operation Bylaw No. 832, 2019
as adopted by Council.

Barbara Roden, MAYOR

Anne Yanciw , Chief Administrative Officer

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

BYLAW NO. 873, 2024

A bylaw for the Village of Ashcroft to amend the Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Consolidated Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 869, 2024.

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as “The Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Consolidated Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No 873, 2024”.
2. Bylaw No. 869, Schedule “G” is amended as follows:
 - a. Change ‘Annual License Fee’ to ‘Lifetime of Dog License Fee’. ‘Altered Dog’ fee will change from \$10.00 to \$25.00. ‘Unaltered Dog’ fee will change from \$30 to \$45.
 - b. Strike ‘Surcharge applied after February 28 each calendar year’.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 9th DAY OF December, 2024

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 9th DAY OF December, 2024

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 9th DAY OF December, 2024

ADOPTED THIS DAY OF, 2025

Certified to be a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 873, 2024 as adopted by Council.

Barbara Roden,
Mayor

Daniela Dyck,
Corporate Officer

Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

Schedule "G"
Dog Control and Pound
Operation Fees Rates include
GST

Lifetime of Dog License Fee	Rate
Each Altered Dog	\$25.00
Each Unaltered Dog	\$45.00
Dangerous Dog	\$100.00
Replacement of lost or damaged tag	\$5.00
Kennel	\$150.00
Impound Fees	
For seizing and impounding any LICENSED dog	
Seized and returned immediately to the owner	\$10.00
First Impoundment	\$25.00
Second Impoundment	\$50.00
Third Impoundment	\$100.00
Fourth and subsequent impoundments	\$200.00
Daily boarding fee	\$10.00
For seizing and impounding any UNLICENSED dog	
First impoundment	\$50.00
Daily boarding fee	\$10.00
Dog license (must purchase upon return of animal)	See appropriate fee above
For seizing and impounding any DANGEROUS dog	
Each offence	\$200.00
Daily boarding fee	\$10.00
If unlicensed, Dangerous dog license must be purchased upon return of animal	\$100.00
Animal Adoption	
Animal adoption fee	\$100.00

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Yogi Bhalla, CFO
SUBJECT: Application for BC Water Meter Pilot Project

MEETING DATE: January 13, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT, Council supports application for universal water metering under the British Columbia Water Meter Pilot program; and

- *THAT, the municipality commits to pay the applicant share of eligible costs, ineligible costs, cost overruns and ongoing operating and other costs associated with water metering with funding secured through adequate municipal reserves and appropriate tax increases necessary to fully fund the service; and*
- *THAT, Council commits appropriate staff to actively participate in the adjunct research pilot project and community of practice; and further,*
- *THAT, Council commits to provide information, including but not limited to water production and consumption data, to the research project administrator in the format and data interval specified by the Ministry.*

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to request Council to approve application to the BC Water Meter Pilot Project which provides 100% funding of eligible costs to purchase and install water meters up to a maximum of \$5 million.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Yoginder Bhalla,
Chief Financial Officer



Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND:

The BC Water Metering Pilot Project fully funds the installation of water meters and is specifically aimed at supporting small municipalities. This presents an excellent opportunity for our community to implement universal metering using the latest Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology, while incorporating research and best practices.

Water metering aligns with the objectives set out in our Water Master Plan. It aims to reduce water consumption, which in turn lowers the need for significant capital investments in plant infrastructure and maintenance required to meet Maximum Daily Demand (MDD). This is particularly important for Ashcroft,

where per capita water consumption is among the highest in the country. As a growing community, reducing water usage could lead to substantial savings by avoiding costly infrastructure upgrades.

The program was brought to the Village’s attention by the Province and our engineering consultants, Urban Systems. Ashcroft is well-positioned for success due to its high water consumption levels and arid climate. Staff introduced the project to Council informally before the holiday break and are now seeking formal Council support to proceed with the application to the pilot program.

In addition to Council’s endorsement, a letter from the Chief Administrative Officer indicating authorization to proceed is required. A draft letter is attached and will be submitted along with the application if Council approves the project.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, the BC Water Metering Pilot Project offers Ashcroft a unique opportunity to address water conservation, reduce infrastructure costs, and implement advanced metering technology at no direct installation cost to the community. By participating in this program, Ashcroft can take a significant step towards sustainable water management and align with the goals outlined in the Water Master Plan. With Council’s approval indicated in the Chief Administrative Officer’s letter of support, the Village can move forward with the application, positioning Ashcroft as a forward-thinking community committed to resource efficiency and long-term planning.

Strategic/Municipal Objectives

Financial & Environmental Stewardship

Legislative Authority

Financial Implications

Attachment Listing

Authorization to Proceed Letter



January 13, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Authorization to Proceed with BC Water Meter Pilot Project

On behalf of the Village of Ashcroft and with the full support of Council, I am writing to formally express our endorsement of and authorization to proceed with the application to the British Columbia Water Meter Pilot Project. This initiative aligns seamlessly with our community's objectives for sustainable water management, as outlined in our Water Master Plan, and presents an exceptional opportunity to address key challenges related to water conservation and infrastructure efficiency.

The Village of Ashcroft has one of the highest per capita water consumption rates in Canada. As our community continues to grow, the implementation of universal water metering will be a pivotal strategy to reduce overall water consumption, lower operational demands, and defer significant capital expenditures for infrastructure upgrades required to meet Maximum Daily Demand (MDD). The advanced metering technology provided by this program will enable us to monitor water usage effectively, optimize system performance, and support informed decision-making for future water resource management.

With Council's full support, we are committed to meeting the obligations associated with this project. This includes covering the applicant share of eligible costs, ineligible costs, any cost overruns, and ongoing operational expenses through municipal reserves and, if necessary, modest tax increases to ensure the long-term success of this initiative. Furthermore, our staff will actively participate in the adjunct research pilot project and community of practice, providing comprehensive data on water production and consumption as specified by the program administrators.

Council recognizes the BC Water Meter Pilot Project as a transformative opportunity to improve water sustainability, achieve significant cost savings, and position Ashcroft as a leader among small municipalities in resource efficiency and environmental stewardship. With this letter, we formally authorize proceeding with the application process and commit to providing the necessary support and resources to ensure the project's success.

Thank you for considering our submission. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniela Dyck".

Daniela Dyck
Chief Administrative Officer
Village of Ashcroft

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL – OPEN MEETING

DATE: January 13, 2025
FROM: Reggie Amyotte, BEO
SUBJECT: **Development of a Good Neighbour Bylaw**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT, Council direct staff to prepare a Good Neighbour Bylaw to be brought back for consideration.

Purpose:

This purpose of this report is to provide Council with a rationale as to why a Good Neighbour Bylaw should be developed, what the bylaw should include and seek Council approval to draft the bylaw.

Prepared by:



Reggie Amyotte,
Inter-Community Bylaw Enforcement Officer,

Approved for submission to Council:



Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

Discussion

The goal of creating a Good Neighbour Bylaw is to update the outdated Unsightly Bylaw from 1990. This new bylaw would address current community concerns, combine aspects of two other existing bylaws, and ensure more clarity and relevance.

The Bylaw Enforcement Officer (BEO) and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) have discussed whether implementing a Good Neighbour Bylaw would benefit the community. These discussions stem from frequent neighbor complaints that the current bylaws don't adequately address. Sometimes, there's no relevant bylaw at all, or existing ones are outdated and unclear.

To better understand how to approach this, I researched Good Neighbour Bylaws from other communities. Most of these bylaws are tailored to address the specific needs of their community while including common elements found everywhere. I also explored which bylaws other communities reference most when creating their own, looking for universal and location-specific elements.

Another consideration is merging several existing bylaws into one comprehensive Good Neighbour Bylaw. For example, we often receive complaints that current bylaws don't fully cover, such as people living in RVs or motorhomes or storing uninsured vehicles on village property.

The bylaws that would be replaced include:

- **Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 505 (1990)**
- **Noise Control Bylaw No. 684 (1983)**
- **Fireworks Bylaw No. 765 (2009)**

Common Issues to Address in the Good Neighbour Bylaw

Based on my review and what's relevant to Ashcroft, the following topics would be included:

- **Noise:** Limits on construction noise, loud music, animal noise, and using decibel levels where appropriate.
- **Property Maintenance:** Standards for maintaining lawns, trees, shrubs, hedges, buildings, and fences.
- **Derelict Vehicles:** Restrictions on the number of visible, uninsured, or abandoned vehicles, especially on boulevards.
- **Invasive Species:** Managing harmful plants, trees, and insects like caterpillars.
- **Idling:** Regulations for vehicle idling, particularly in winter or near residences.
- **Animals:** Guidelines for keeping poultry, bees, or small animals.
- **Trees:** Addressing overgrown or encroaching trees that affect neighboring properties, sidewalks, roads, or visibility.
- **RVs and Motorhomes:** Prohibiting living in RVs or motorhomes unless in designated parks, and banning overnight parking on village property.
- **Firewood:** Guidelines for storing firewood, including limits based on lot size and safety requirements.
- **Outdoor Lighting:** Restrictions on brightness and placement to minimize impacts on neighbors.

By incorporating these updates and consolidating existing bylaws, the Good Neighbour Bylaw aims to create a clearer, more practical framework for addressing common community issues. It is important to note, that as we move forward with the development of a Good Neighbour Bylaw other topics not listed in this report may be included during the development process.

Strategic/Municipal Objectives

Bylaw Compliance

Legislative Authority

Financial Implications

Attachment Listing

TO: Mayor and Council

MEETING DATE: January 13, 2025

FROM: Daniela Dyck, CAO

SUBJECT: Verbal Report

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report and future reports is to provide information to the Council that may not come up during regular meetings or Committee of the Whole. Topics will include operational updates, or other areas of interest to the village.

DISCUSSION:

In the interest of transparency and to allow Council the opportunity for questions and dialogue during meetings, topics for verbal reports will be included on the agenda using this report template.

Verbal Report Items:

- OCP & Zoning Project Update



ASHCROFT FIRE RESCUE

PHONE: 250-453-2233
CELL: 250-457-0470
EMAIL: firedept@ashcroftbc.ca

302 Railway Ave
PO Box 281
Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

January 5, 2025

To: Mayor and Council.

On behalf of Ashcroft Fire Rescue, I wish you a very Happy New Year and hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday.

Please see the attached year end report for Ashcroft Fire Rescue. Over all, the numbers were average as call outs go. But our community engagement set a new high bar this past year. I am proud of all my firefighters as they continue to give it their all time and time again for this community.

If you have any questions regarding the year end report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectively submitted by

Chief Joshua White

CALLS FOR SERVICE

2024

STRUCTURE FIRE/ALARMS: 20

Structure Fire/Alarm within Village limits – 17

Structure Fire/Alarm within TNRD – 3

WILDFIRE: 3

Wildfire within village limits – 1

Wildfire TNRD – 1

Wildfire Beyond Boundaries – 1 (Shetland Creek fire)

RURAL RESCUE: 15

Road Surface Rescue TNRD – 12

Within Village limits – 3 (2 fatalities and one critically injured)

VEHICLE FIRES: 2

Vehicle Fire on Ashcroft Reserve – 2 (one responded to - close to structures)

HAZMAT (Carbon monoxide/Ammonia/fuel spill): 3

Hazmat within Village limits

BURNING COMPLAINTS: 2

Burning Complaints Within Village of Ashcroft

LIFT ASSIST BC AMBULANCE: 9

Within the Village of Ashcroft

DOWNED POWER LINES: 1

Within Village of Ashcroft

Cache Creek Mutual Aid: 2

Total Calls for Service: 56

Calls for Service not responded to as they were either confirmed no entrapment or confirmed out of our response area: 10

By the numbers...

Busiest Month, July with 15 calls

Slowest Month is a four-way tie, February, March, April and May, with 2 calls per month

Busiest day of the week, Friday with 12 calls

Slowest day of the week, Wednesday with 5 calls

Busiest time of day 2pm to 3pm with a total of 7calls

Slowest time of day is a two-way tie 3am to 4 am with no calls and 7pm to 8pm with no calls.

The bulk of our call volume tends to start around 11am and conclude at 7pm with an average of 4 calls per each hour between that time frame.

Our Community engagement in 2024 was better than ever!

It all started with an excellent Guns vs Hoses game way back in January. The oh so triumphant firefighters managed to pull off another win against our friends in blue. Thanks to the generous community this game generated 11,509.01 and this was donated to the Ashcroft Hospice Society.

Fire inspections were carried out by the fire chief on various days through January and February.

A special thanks to our partners up at the Ashcroft Indian Band, as last spring the band paid for 12 of our firefighters to get wildfire training. 2 weekends were given to this event with firefighters doing the schoolwork one weekend and practical live wildfire training on another weekend. From using drip torches to digging hand guards, the crews got to do it all. This is all a prelude to the cultural burn that's estimated at 50 hectares to be burned off in the spring of 2025.

Through the summer months crews were up at the Cache Creek Airport supporting the 2 separate drag race weekends. A good time was had by all.

Of course, during the summer months we can't forget the Shetland Creek wildfire, our community engagement came through social media at that time. Communicating with what we were seeing on the day-by-day basis really gave the locals a sense of calm. There was a lot of positive feedback on that, which we greatly appreciated.

The fall was probably our busiest time for community engagement. Starting with the Fall Fair, we had a booth set up where people could ask any questions of us. Over 70 people stopped by to ask various questions, from carbon monoxide detectors to what kind of fire extinguisher should I get? Most questions centered around Fire Smarting.

We think it's safe to say, the community BBQ/Fire hall open house was a major success. Again, thanks to Council and staff who managed all the food, we will never forget all the tears caused by the onions. This allowed firefighters to give tours of our newly renovated hall, and give kids of all ages a ride on the fire trucks. The bouncy castles were a success with the young ones as well.

A bit later than usual this year, in November, Fire Prevention was carried out at the school. Pre-school to grade six were all visited. Subjects from STOP, DROP, COVER YOUR FACE AND ROLL to the science of fire were all covered. We give thanks to the two Chiefs that stepped up to give Chief White his day off.

This year Ashcroft Fire attended the Ducks in a row program for the first time. Roughly 35 people attended the fire department booth. Again, Fire Smart seemed to be a topic on quite a few people's minds.

Of course, we wrapped up this year by putting a fire truck in the Christmas parade and we loved seeing the community out for such an event. The best thing you can throw from a fire truck has to be candy. A job well done to the organizers.

Awards:

Over the past few years AFR has not had its annual awards and appreciation night. This is due in part to Covid and in part to fire hall renovations. In November of 2024, we had our first dinner in quite some time. Everyone that could make it to the dinner was recognized. From our newest members to those that have 2, 5, 10 and 15 years of service, its an amazing contribution to the community. 4 firefighters have been recognized for putting in over 20 years of service and have been given a medal recognized on the federal level.

Jonah Anstett who joined Ashcroft fire in December of 2001 is recognized with 23 years of service.

Steven Aie who joined Ashcroft fire in April 2001 is recognized with 23 years of fire service.

Edwin Aie who joined Ashcroft fire in February 2001 is recognized with 23 years of service.

Tyler Fitzpatrick who joined Ashcroft fire in July 2000 is recognized with 24 years of service.

Our congratulations and thanks to all for their hard work and dedication.

Ashcroft Firefighter's Association

In 2024, the Ashcroft Firefighter's Association invested 8,819.32 back into the hall. These purchases included white boards and a television for the training room. A washing machine/dryer for fire hall towels and clothing. A new memorial park bench for a former member who passed away, and gym memberships for those on the crew that wish to have them.

Hose testing

Hose testing was carried out in October. 1 hose failed the test. This is an annual event and takes roughly 6 hours to complete. After the testing is completed the crew is rewarded with a nice meal.

Training and current membership

Our training program went well last year. We did discover last summer that the exterior operations program had a few more components added to it. We continue to work with Provincial Fire and Safety on our exterior operations course. Although our current roster shows that we have 24 members on our crew, the more accurate number would be closer to 15 dedicated personnel. 3 are on excused medical leave, two have moved away, and the others have not made the required 50% attendance. It should be noted that the 15 that show up regularly, bring positive energy, a good spirit, and a drive to learn. They are a fantastic and dedicated core group that this community can be proud of.

Looking forward to 2025

As of writing this, we are excited to resume training and are looking forward to a hockey game coming up on January 25, 2025. Also, we have had a house donated to burn in February; and in March or April we will be up on the Ashcroft Indian Band lands participating in a cultural burn. We hope to further educate and recommend homeowners on the dangers of cedar trees within village limits, and address growing concerns around fireworks being set off in the community during various holiday events. Overall, we look forward to the challenges that 2025 will bring us.

Yours in fire safety,

Chief Joshua White



SILGA Community Excellence Awards

Are you proud of your community or regional area's accomplishments? Would you like it to be recognized at our convention and more broadly through social media and the news?

To promote the environmental, social, and economic well being of our member communities and to share ideas and best practices throughout the SILGA area, we have created awards to showcase a community in each of these categories.

To nominate your local government, please provide a letter describing a fantastic project, event, or activity that you are proud of. A winner will be chosen in each category and presented an award during our AGM. If your community or area has excelled in any of the following categories, let us know:

- **Environmental Sustainability**
- **Social Responsibility**
- **Economic Development**

The Rules:

Nominations must come in the form of a letter to the SILGA General Manager. We request that you be prepared to provide good quality pictures of the projects or event. Nomination Letters must be received by February 1st, 2025. A high quality logo from the local government also needs to be provided.

1. Letters must clearly state which award the nomination is for.
2. Nominations should be one page in length and should succinctly describe the project and itemize the beneficial outcomes. This information should be in the third person. For the video, please provide 300 words written in the third person describing the scope of the project, the outcomes and the parties involved. SILGA wants to share best practices in our region with the hope that every local government can learn from the winning submissions. In that regard, please provide contact information for the key individual(s) who worked on the projects/events.
3. These awards are for local governments, not individuals. Recipients must be SILGA members in good standing.
4. Nomination letters can come from anyone representing a local government, and there is no limit on the number of nominations per community. An official resolution is not required.
5. Submissions from previous years may be reused.

What you get if your local government wins:

1. Your local government will be officially recognized at the upcoming AGM.
2. Your local government will receive a beautiful plaque to permanently display at your government office.
3. Award recipients will have their achievements highlighted more broadly through our social media channels, newsletter and via press release to the entire SILGA media network.

These awards are an opportunity for us to share best practices, to get others from local governments thinking outside the box, and to promote knowledge sharing amongst our members. It is our firm belief that our SILGA local governments continue to implement remarkable, unique projects that make their communities a better place to live time and time again. We want to make sure we share our successes as much as possible, so others might benefit.

Script of around 300 words which succinctly describes the project. Story telling language why your project should win the award.

Please email your submission to the SILGA office at info@silga.ca

Good luck!



December 5, 2024

To: All SILGA Members

Re: SILGA Convention – Call for Nominations 2025

As per the Constitution of the Southern Interior Local Government Association, the “Call for Nominations” is now going out to all member Mayors, Councillors, Regional Chairs and Directors who wish to seek a position on the SILGA Executive for the 2025/26 term. Elections will be held during the SILGA Convention from April 29th to May 2nd, 2025.

Offices to be filled are President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and seven Directors. One member of the SILGA board must be an Electoral Area Director of a member Regional District. Those presently serving may run for another term if they so wish.

Excerpt from the SILGA constitution regarding new voting procedures:

7.10 The election of Officers to the Executive shall be held at the Annual General Meeting on a first ballot and that of the Directors at Large subsequently on a second ballot. Any candidate that is unsuccessful in obtaining an Officer position on the first ballot may become a candidate for a Director at Large position on the second ballot.

7.11 If, in the election of the Officers to the Executive on the first ballot, an Electoral Area Director of a regional district is elected, the Director at Large positions will then be filled by the candidates with the most votes.

7.12 If, in the election of the Officers to the Executive on the first ballot, an Electoral Area Director of a regional district is not elected, then in the election of the Directors at Large, the candidate - of those candidates that are Electoral Area Directors of a regional district - with the most votes will be elected as a Director at Large and the balance of the Director at Large positions will be filled by the remaining candidates with the most votes. If only one Electoral



Area Director of a regional district candidate runs for a Director at Large position, that candidate will be acclaimed.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, February 28, 2025. You will be asked to complete a biography and submit a photo for the printing of the official Nominating Committee Report to be contained in the Convention Package.

The SILGA nomination committee is chaired by Past President Aimee Grice, Town of Oliver.

All those interested in serving are asked to contact Councillor Grice by email at agrice@oliver.ca or at the SILGA office at 250-851-6653. All information should be forwarded to both Councillor Grice and the SILGA office (info@silga.ca).

Alison Slater
General Manager, SILGA



December 5, 2024

To: All SILGA Members

Call for Resolutions for 2025 Convention

The SILGA Annual General Meeting and Convention is scheduled to be held in Merritt between April 29th to May 2nd, 2025. The SILGA Constitution requires that resolutions to be considered at the Annual Meeting are to be received by the Secretary-Treasurer no later than 60 days prior to this meeting. Friday, February 21, 2025 will be the deadline for receipt of resolutions.

If your local government wishes to submit a resolution for consideration at the 2025 SILGA Convention, please forward by email your resolution to info@silga.ca. Any background information on the resolution would be helpful. Please be discerning when you submit a resolution as the volume of resolutions received becomes difficult to properly debate. Each resolution should be endorsed by the sponsoring Member's Municipal Council or Regional Board. The resolution should be relative to regional issues and should not pertain to a finite local interest.

- 1. If you do not receive a confirmation email regarding your resolution, please contact the SILGA office at 250 851 6653.**
- 2. Please note it is the responsibility of the local government to follow up with the appropriate ministry on the recommendation from the resolution after it has been endorsed by both SILGA and UBCM.**
- 3. The earlier you can submit a resolution, the better. In the past over 50% of the resolutions are received less than three days prior to the deadline. SILGA has a very short deadline to get the resolutions to UBCM.**

For information on how to properly write a resolution please refer to the UBCM website below.

<http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/resolutions/resolutions/resolutions-procedures.html>

or go to the resolutions page on the SILGA website at

<http://www.silga.ca/convention/resolutions/>



Resolutions not received by February 21, 2025 will be considered late resolutions and must go through the following procedures to be considered at the AGM.

Late Resolutions

- (1) Resolutions submitted following the expiry of the regular deadline noted in section 10.4 shall be considered "Late Resolutions" and shall comply with all other submission requirements, except that a copy of the resolution shall be provided to SILGA by noon on the Friday preceding the date of the Annual General Meeting. The resolutions committee will meet on the Tuesday preceding the Annual General Meeting to provide recommendations as to whether the late resolution(s) should be brought to the Members for inclusion in the resolution debate. All late resolutions must be adopted by a Special Resolution of the Member Representatives in attendance at the Annual General Meeting to be included in the discussion.
- (2) Late resolutions will be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee prior to the Meeting and only those of a subject matter which could not have been submitted by the normal deadline date outlined in section 10.4 will be considered.
- (3) Late Resolutions shall be available for discussion after resolutions printed in the resolutions book have been considered.
- (4) Late Resolutions admitted for plenary discussion shall be dealt with in the order presented in the Late Resolutions report.
- (5) In the event that a late resolution is recommended to be admitted for discussion, the sponsoring member of the late resolution shall produce sufficient copies for distribution to the Members at the Annual General Meeting.
- (6) The Late Resolution will, after reading, be properly before the meeting, and the regular procedures for handling resolutions will apply.

Alison Slater
General Manager, SILGA



The Corporation of the Village of Clinton
1423 Cariboo Hwy. PO Box 309
Clinton, B.C. V0K 1K0
TELEPHONE: 250-459-2261
FAX: 250-459-2227
Email: admin@village.clinton.bc.ca

November 29, 2024

Yellowhead Community Services Society

Re: Transit Contract Regionalization

To whom it may concern,

The Village of Clinton wishes to express in the strongest terms, our dissatisfaction with the decision to regionalize the operation of transit in the North Thompson. Not only is Council unhappy with the decision for its financial and operational impacts, but this decision was made without adequate opportunity for member communities to provide feedback.

The current service, provided by Yellowhead Community Services Society (YCSS), is exemplary for a host of reasons. Administrators are eager to see that the service is of value to the community, and work very effectively with the Para-Transit Committee which oversees the service. They understand what it's like to live and operate a transit system in small and remote communities. Drivers are caring and the community frequently shares with our staff how much it affects them that they are willing to go above and beyond to ensure their comfort and safety. Service disruptions are rare and communication surrounding delays are prompt.

The Village of Clinton has a very small budget, and the expected cost increases from regionalization would be extremely problematic. To put it into context, a 1% increase to the Village's total taxation is about \$9,000. As a small community, we experience the impact of cost increases to a greater extent than larger communities that can absorb them into multi-million dollar budgets. The Village of Clinton objects to the unnecessary cost increases that will come from regionalizing the service, especially since the service will not be improved. This is an unsustainable model for a small community, and major cost increases could see the end of the service in rural areas such as Clinton.

Council and the service's patrons are also encouraged by the not-for profit nature of YCSS. We have confidence in their good intentions in running the service for the benefit of the community, and know that they are doing their best to keep the service, which is heavily subsidized by scant local tax dollars, as inexpensive as possible.

Rural communities are familiar with being overlooked. Regionalization of other services such as the disastrous regionalization projects Interior Health and other government agencies have undertaken have left us with less agency and less confidence in the systems that are supposed to be serving our residents. We do not wish our transit service to make the same mistake.



Where History Meets
Adventure

The Corporation of the Village of Clinton
1423 Cariboo Hwy. PO Box 309
Clinton, B.C. V0K 1K0
TELEPHONE: 250-459-2261
FAX: 250-459-2227
Email: admin@village.clinton.bc.ca

With all the above, the Village sees no reason to regionalize the operation of the system. We are asking that the decision be immediately reversed. The Village of Clinton supports YCSS and stands by the great work they have done to keep our transit system community-minded, and cost effective.

Sincerely,

Roland Stanke
Mayor

CC: Tim Croyle, VP Operations and COO, BC Transit
Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Transportation and Transit
Lorne Doerksen, MLA Cariboo-Chilcotin
Ward Stamer, MLA Kamloops-North Thompson
Elise Wren, Government Relations Manager, BC Transit
Ashcroft Cache Creek Clinton Paratransit Committee
Mayor and Council, Village of Ashcroft
Mayor and Council, Village of Cache Creek
Mayor and Council, District of Clearwater
Mayor and Council, District of Lillooet
Mayor and Council, City of Merritt
Mayor and Council, City of Kamloops

December 16, 2024

Mayor Barbara Roden and Council
Village of Ashcroft
Box 129
Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0

Dear Mayor Barbara Roden and Council:

**RE: CANADA COMMUNITY-BUILDING FUND: SECOND COMMUNITY WORKS FUND
PAYMENT FOR 2024/2025**

I am pleased to advise that UBCM is in the process of distributing the second Community Works Fund (CWF) payment for fiscal 2024/2025. An electronic transfer of \$69,727 is expected to occur in December 2024. This payment is made in accordance with the payment schedule set out in your CWF Agreement with UBCM (see section 4 of your Agreement).

CWF is made available to eligible local governments by the Government of Canada pursuant to the Administrative Agreement. Funding under the program may be directed to local priorities that fall within one of the eligible project categories.

Further details regarding use of CWF and project eligibility are outlined in your CWF Agreement and details on the Canada Community-Building Fund can be found on our [website](#).

For further information, please contact Canada Community-Building Fund Program Services by e-mail at ccbf@ubcm.ca or by phone at 250-356-5134.

Sincerely,



Councillor Trish Mandewo
UBCM President

PC: Yoginder Bhalla, Chief Financial Officer



Department: Geographic Information Systems

Member Municipality GIS Yearly Update

INTRODUCTION

This update provides an overview of the progress made on integrating member municipalities' GIS data into the TNRD data repository and web applications.

Earlier this year, we embarked on this collaborative effort. During the first quarter, we focused on defining the scope of the service, determining how it would support small local governments in meeting the needs of NG911, and how it could be used to display spatial data on the web. The goal of this service agreement was to provide a cost-effective solution for small municipalities to deliver data over the web, fostering regional collaboration, improving efficiency, and driving cost savings.

In April 2024, 10 of the 11 municipalities signed the agreement, marking the official start of the updates and integration process. Our systems were upgraded to include the data from our member municipalities, focusing on land-related data systems. Key updates included OCP, zoning, addressing confirmation and improvements, weekly BC Assessment and LTSA data maintenance, road right-of-way communication to GeoBC, and working on the NG911 pilot project. This work supports our future years and provides an opportunity for the GIS staff to develop important connections with our member municipalities.

Each local government was given the opportunity to engage with TNRD as a data provider, creator, and advisor. This collaboration resulted multiple opportunities for us to provide support, including addressing, OCP and Zoning maps, data requests for consultants, and imagery preparation. This initiative has increased our visibility and paved the way for uniform service offerings across the region.

MUNICIPALITIES: Ashcroft | Barriere | Cache Creek | Chase | Clearwater | Clinton
Kamloops | Logan Lake | Lytton | Merritt | Sun Peaks

ELECTORAL AREAS: "A" "B" "E" "I" "J" "L" "M" "N" "O" "P"

REVIEW OF WORK

In 2024, we continued to improve and maintain our data repository, summarized below. Every week, we undertake the following tasks for your local government without needing a work request.

Title	Description	Municipal Changes/Updates
BC Assessment updates	BC Assessment data is updated weekly in our land system. We use this data for building permit display and assessment information on property reports.	2,860 changes and updates have been successfully processed and integrated into the system.
PMBC Updates	Data used for the property layer on myRegionView, feeding into property reports, includes alignments of data layers to the property layer	weekly update
Address Weekly	Advice, updates, and maintenance	Processed 78 folders derived from BC Assessment Uploads
NG911 Data prep	Comparison between MSAG and Address ranges and road names. Created scripts to prepare the data in the required format and for distribution to TELUS as part of the NG911 Agreement	An agreement signed in Nov 2024

In addition to our weekly work, we provided additional support to all members by request. This work is summarized below.

Request Type	Description of Service
Address Advice and Update	Provide address numbering and advice based on the regional addressing grid. Collaborating with members to determine the best path forward in the assignment of addresses. Ensure road information is communicated to GeoBC for inclusion into the Digital Road Atlas (DRA). Make corrections in the Master Municipal Addressing Guide (MSAG). Update and add new addresses to our data repository.
Address Map	Created PDF addressing maps for each local government to use and to provide feedback, ensuring the accuracy of our existing address data.
Bylaw Adoption - Data update	Updating the zoning layer to reflect communicated changes to bylaws
Custom Mapping/Requests	Including EOC mapping for documentation purposes and display on the emergency map, as well as ad hoc mapping requests to support visual display and improvements to the web application.
Data Request	Distribute member data for use by consultants.
Fire Protection Map	Create fire response maps for fire department use.
Imagery	Process and add ortho imagery to myRegionView
OCP Maps	Create PDF maps of the member municipalities' Official Community Plans (OCP)

Planning Applications	Process planning application mapping for members supported by our planning department
Zoning maps	Create PDF maps of the member municipalities' zoning designations.

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

As we move into 2025, the GIS department has developed an operational plan that includes several initiatives for member municipalities. These projects were derived from your feedback and requests.

We want to work with your organization to complete the following initiatives:

Data Improvements	including incorporating imagery and other regional datasets like trails, fire dispatch areas, and continuous improvement of all existing regional datasets
NG911 MOU	As we work with NG911, it is crucial to understand the relationship between our work and your jurisdiction's responsibilities. We want to collaborate with you to ensure your emergency data is accurate and dependable. The TNRD GIS team needs your input, and the MOUs will help define the workflow, clarifying roles and responsibilities.
Data Integrations	Many local governments have valuable data sets that would complement our data repository. We aim to integrate these data sets into our data warehouse, making them accessible to the public and your organization. We plan to set up integrations for public and private data displays in myRegionView and provide open data for public download.
Internal myRegionView development and access	Our software vendor has allowed us to leverage a version of myRegionView behind a firewall. This internal version will allow you to display data you prefer to keep private.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Thank you, everyone, for your support and response during our first year of this agreement. The success of this program hinges on our ability to work together and form partnerships. We are always looking for opportunities to create synergies. Let us know if you have a project that may have a regional impact.



THOMPSON-NICOLA

REGIONAL DISTRICT

The Region of BC's Best

300-465 Victoria Street
Kamloops, BC V2C 2A9

Tel: 250-377-8673

Fax: 250-372-5048

Toll Free in BC: 1-877-377-8673

Email: admin@tnrd.ca

Website: www.tnrd.ca

NEWS RELEASE

Visit Your Favourite Movie Spots with TNFC's New Interactive Map

Kamloops, BC – December 17, 2024 – The Thompson-Nicola Film Commission (TNFC) is excited to unveil its interactive [Movie Locations Map](#). This new digital tool showcases the stunning landscapes and iconic filming locations featured in productions across the Thompson-Nicola region, highlighting the region's rich cinematic history and tourism potential.

By integrating data from the TNFC's [Past Productions database](#), the Movie Locations Map provides details about each production, including whether locations are accessible to the public, and where to watch each film, show, music video or commercial. The map will even tell you if the production can be borrowed through the Thompson-Nicola Regional Library. This user-friendly feature makes it easy for film enthusiasts, tourists, and locals to connection with the region's vibrant film history.

"It's back! By popular demand, we are bringing back the interactive movie map with the assistance of our Thompson-Nicola Regional District GIS team," said Terri Hadwin, TNFC Film Commissioner. "The movie map is a testament to the incredible variety of locations in the Thompson-Nicola region. We're thrilled to offer this resource to both film enthusiasts and visitors, showcasing how our unique landscapes and communities have played starring roles in productions from around the world."

Whether you're looking to revisit a favourite on-screen moment, discover new destinations, or see your backyard on the big screen, the Movie Locations Map offers something for everyone.

This project has been supported with funding from Destination BC.

Did we miss a location from your favourite movie or TV show? Let us know by contacting the TNFC at: tnfcspecialprojects@tnrd.ca.

About the TNFC:

The Thompson-Nicola Film Commission is a full-time, full-service film commission, and is a department within the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. The TNFC markets the Thompson-Nicola region worldwide and facilitates all motion picture productions. To learn more about the TNFC, visit: filmthompsonnicola.com.

Media Contact:

Terri Hadwin, Film Commissioner
Thompson-Nicola Film Commission
Tel.: 250 319-6211
Email: thadwin@tnrd.ca

MUNICIPALITIES: Ashcroft | Barriere | Cache Creek | Chase | Clearwater | Clinton
Kamloops | Logan Lake | Lytton | Merritt | Sun Peaks

ELECTORAL AREAS: "A" "B" "E" "I" "J" "L" "M" "N" "O" "P"

January 7, 2025

RE: Protecting Taxpayers from Overspending on Local Government Construction

Dear Mayor and Council:

The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association (ICBA) is Canada's largest construction association and a leading industry organization in British Columbia, with more than 4,500 member and client companies. ICBA's B.C. corporate members account for approximately 85% of the province's construction sector – representing more than 190,000 jobs. Construction itself is one of the biggest B.C. industries, directly generating almost 8% of GDP. ICBA also owns and manages a rapidly growing employee health and dental benefits business which currently supports more than 300,000 Canadians.

Apart from advocating for the interests of construction companies and contractors, ICBA is a principled voice for free enterprise and the benefits of a competitive, market-based economy. Unlike many other business associations, ICBA receives no funding from governments at any level. We believe that competition and choice for consumers and taxpayers is by far the best way to deliver value-for-money and create the conditions for a thriving economy.

ICBA is writing to you and other B.C. local government bodies to share our views on the topic of public sector procurement. At a time when large numbers of British Columbians are facing affordability challenges, many small and mid-sized businesses are struggling to survive, and the B.C. government is running record budget deficits, we believe it is **important for municipal leaders to commit to open, fair and transparent procurement practices** across all domains of local and regional government activity. This includes the regular purchase of goods and services to operate local government as well as procurement that is tied to capital spending and the development and maintenance of infrastructure assets.

When municipalities pay for goods, services and capital projects, they do so on behalf of all taxpayers in the community. **Municipal policymakers have an obligation to adopt prudent fiscal policies and to ensure the best possible value-for-money when expending taxpayer dollars. Competitive procurement policies are a vital part of delivering on this fundamental obligation.**

Across Canada, local government expenses amounted to \$220 billion in 2022, with the main components of expenditures consisting of purchases of goods and services, employee compensation, subsidies and grants, interest payments on debt, and the depreciation of fixed capital (Statistics Canada, Table 10-10-0015-01). In the same year, total local government revenues were \$225 billion, of which the largest shares were grants/payments from other levels of government and revenues derived from taxes on property.

In the past few years, the B.C. government has undertaken a significant fraction of its capital projects under the "Community Benefits Agreement" (CBA) framework adopted in 2018. Under this policy, a provincial Crown Corporation (British Columbia Infrastructure Benefits Inc. – BCIB) contracts for the employees required to build certain public sector infrastructure and other capital projects. It does so through an agreement with a group of 19 trade unions that are part of the broader Building Trades Union (BTU) alliance. All employees working on CBA projects must be (or become) members of an affiliated BTU.

This very unusual arrangement dilutes the important relationship that exists between an employer and its employees across the rest of the B.C. private sector.

The province's CBA policy has the effect of restricting bidding on projects covered by the scheme. This is especially problematic given that about 85% of the people working in the B.C. construction industry are not BTU members nor employed by contractors which are covered by BTU collective agreements. **Fewer bidders means less pressure to ensure competitive costs and excellence in project delivery.** Many ICBA members will not bid on public sector projects covered CBAs because of the extra bureaucracy and administrative complexity involved and also because they do not wish to give up control and management oversight of their own workforce – as is the normal practice in Canadian business.

As demonstrated by academic research, **restricted bidding translates into higher costs for taxpayers** and the users of infrastructure services established via CBA-type arrangements.¹ Cost over-runs and unexpected delays are a common theme with CBA projects.² The net result is hundreds of millions of dollars of additional costs imposed on the B.C. taxpayers and delays in project delivery.

It is sometimes argued that restrictive tendering policies like CBAs are necessary to support local hires, apprenticeships, and pensions. In a labour shortage like B.C. construction is facing, our companies do everything they can to hire and keep local workers. ICBA is the single largest sponsor of trades apprentices in British Columbia, and open shop contractors train 82% of all apprentices in the province. When it comes to financial security, ICBA contractors and their employees utilize RRSPs, bonus programs, and profit-sharing initiatives, providing flexible and effective solutions tailored to their workforce, rather than being restricted to union-controlled pension plans.

For local governments, the lesson from B.C.'s failed experiment with CBAs is clear. **Municipal and regional government projects should be developed and managed using open, competitive procurement.** Restrictive tendering should be avoided in all areas of local government activity – capital projects, but also the day-to-day procurement of goods and services. Municipalities should not discriminate against B.C. businesses and their employees based on factors such as particular union affiliations.

If you have any questions or wish to engage ICBA in a conversation on this, or any, construction issue, please feel free to contact me directly at chris@icba.ca.

Sincerely,
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS AND BUSINESSES ASSOCIATION



Chris Gardner
President and CEO, ICBA

¹ Brian Dijkema and Morley Gunderson, Restrictive Tendering: Protection for Whom?" January 2017, CARDUS.

² Renze Nauta, "Benefits for Whom? Assessing British Columbia's Community Benefits Agreements," CARDUS September 2024.

January 9, 2025

Mayor Barbara Roden and Council
Village of Ashcroft
PO Box 129
601 Bancroft Street
Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0

Reference: AP8116

**Re: 2023 Complete Communities – Complete Community Assessment for
Ashcroft**

Dear Mayor Roden and Council,

Thank you for providing the final report, dated December 23, 2024, for the above-noted project. We have reviewed your submission and all reporting requirements have been met.

The final report notes a total expenditure of \$91,220.11. Based on this, a payment in the amount of \$42,220.11 will follow shortly by electronic fund transfer. This represents final payment of the grant and is based on 100% of the total reported expenditure (to a maximum of the approved grant of \$98,000.00) minus the initial payment of \$49,000.00 provided in November 2023.

I would like to congratulate the Village of Ashcroft for undertaking this project and responding to the opportunity to advance community goals through the creation of a more complete community.

If you have any questions, or if we can provide any assistance, please contact 250-952-9177 or lgps@ubcm.ca.

Sincerely,



Sasha Pryn
Program Officer

cc: *Yogi Bhalla, CFO, Village of Ashcroft*

The Complete Communities program is funded by the Province of BC

Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletin – January 1st, 2025

The January 1st snow survey is now complete. Data from 40 manual snow courses and 113 automated snow weather stations around the province (collected by the Ministry of Environment and Parks’ Snow Survey Program, BC Hydro and partners), and climate data from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the provincial Climate Related Monitoring Program have been used to form the basis of the following report.

Executive Summary

- As of January 1st, the provincial snowpack is slightly below normal, averaging 87% of normal (13% below normal) across B.C.
- The snowpack is significantly higher than last year when the provincial average was 56% for January 1st, 2024.
- Regions with normal to above normal snowpack levels have an increased risk for spring snowmelt related flooding, especially if La Niña conditions emerge and persist.
- Areas with below normal snowpack show early concerns for drought conditions amplifying in the spring and summer.
- By early January, nearly half of the annual B.C. snowpack typically accumulates.
- There are still three or more months left in the snow accumulation season and the snowpack can still change significantly based on upcoming weather patterns.

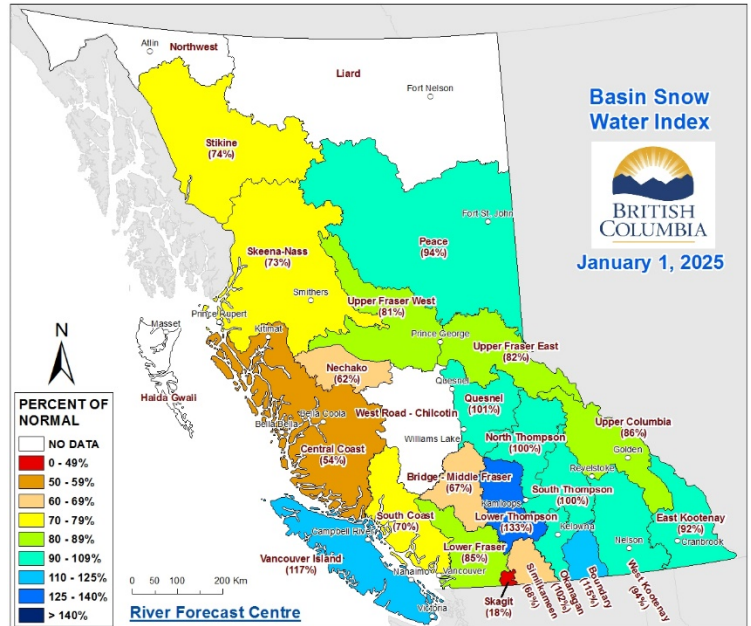


Figure 1. January 1st, 2025 Basin Snow Water Index Map of British Columbia. Larger and colour-friendly versions available in full report.

Table 1. January 1st, 2025 Snow Basin Indices in B.C.

Basin	% of Normal	Basin	% of Normal	Basin	% of Normal
Upper Fraser West	81	North Thompson	100	South Coast	70
Upper Fraser East	82	South Thompson	100	Vancouver Island	117
Nechako	62	Fraser River	86	Central Coast	54
Middle Fraser	88	Upper Columbia	86	Skagit	18
Lower Thompson*	133	West Kootenay	94	Peace	94
Bridge*	67	East Kootenay	92	Skeena-Nass	73
Chilcotin*	N/A [#]	Boundary	115	Liard	N/A [#]
Quesnel*	101	Okanagan	102	Stikine	74
Lower Fraser	85	Similkameen	68	Northwest	N/A [#]

British Columbia 87% of Normal

* Sub-basin of Middle Fraser # Insufficient data to calculate a Snow Basin Index

Next scheduled snow bulletin release: February 10-11th, 2025

Actionable Motion and Task List Tracker 2024					
DECEMBER					
Motion No.	Motion	Staff Responsible	Comments	Other	Status
2024 MOTIONS					
R-2024-158	THAT, Council direct staff to submit a grant application to VisionZero to leverage the costs of purchasing two LED Variable Solar Radar Speed Signs and the installation of two speed bumps on Ranch Road as a traffic calming measure for the safety of all students, pedestrians and cyclists.	CAO/DPW	Grant submitted Nov. 28/24		completed
R-2024-159	THAT, Council direct staff to move forward with the installation of three 15-minute parking stalls on 3rd Street. One in front of the Bakery and two in front of the Liquor Store.	DPW	Install Signage	As per PW priority work schedule	in-progress
R-2024-186	THAT, Council approves the Hospice Society request to install a wind phone at the south end of the cemetery and direct staff to include the wind phone in the Village's Cemetery operations and maintenance program once construction is complete, with the Village assuming ownership and responsibility for its upkeep.	EA	Send letter approving installation of a wind phone		completed
R-2024-187	THAT Council adopt the 2024 Housing Needs Assessment as prepared by Urbanics Consultants and direct staff to develop an implementation strategy based on the recommendations outlined in this report.	CAO	Develop an implementation strategy		in-progress