

# AGENDA

## Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street  
Monday, April 28, 2025, at 6:00 pm

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**

<b>2.1</b>	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, April 14, 2025 M/S <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, April 14, 2025, be adopted as presented.</i>	P. 1-5
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### **3. DELEGATIONS**

<b>3.1</b>	N/A	
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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**

<b>5.1</b>	<b>Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 877, 2025</b> M/S <i>THAT, the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 877, 2025 be introduced and read a first time by title only.</i>  M/S <i>THAT, the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 877, 2025 be read a second time.</i>  M/S <i>THAT, the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 877, 2025 be read a third time.</i>	P. 6-9
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# AGENDA

## Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street  
Monday, April 28, 2025, at 6:00 pm

<b>5.2</b>	<b>Tax Rates Bylaw No. 878, 2025</b> <i>THAT, the Tax Rates Bylaw No. 878, 2025 be introduced and read a first time by title only.</i>  M/S <i>THAT, the Tax Rates Bylaw No. 878, 2025 be read a second time.</i>  M/S <i>THAT, the Tax Rates Bylaw No. 878, 2025 be read a third time.</i>	P. 10-11
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### 6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
<b>6.1</b>	N/A	
FOR INFORMATION		
<b>6.2</b>	CAO Memo – FireSmart BC Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit – Conference Report	P. 12-14
<b>6.3</b>	DPW Verbal Report – 2025 Pool Staffing Update 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.	P. 15

### 7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
<b>7.1</b>	Ashcroft Farmer's Market – Request for Use of Heritage Park – 2025 Farmers Market Season M/S	P. 16
FOR INFORMATION		
<b>7.2</b>	The Ashcroft HUB – The School's Out at the HUB will be planting and designing the flower containers around downtown this year	P. 17
<b>7.3</b>	TNRD – April 17 Meeting Highlights	P. 18-24
<b>7.4</b>	TNRD – OCP Consultation Round 2 – April 23, 2025	P. 25-26
<b>7.5</b>	CEO, Susan Brown – Announces Retirement from Interior Health	P. 27
<b>7.6</b>	BCEDA Launches DisasterSmart BC	P. 28-29

### 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

<b>8.1</b>	Task Manager	P. 30
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# AGENDA

## Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street  
Monday, April 28, 2025, at 6:00 pm

### 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	N/A	
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### 13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING

13.1	N/A	
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### 14. ADJOURNMENT



**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of Council**  
Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street  
Monday, April 14, 2025, at 6:00 pm

**PRESENT:** Mayor, Barbara Roden  
Councillor, Jonah Anstett  
Councillor, Jessica Clement  
Councillor, Nadine Davenport  
Councillor, Doreen Lambert  
  
CAO, Daniela Dyck - Zoom  
CFO, Yogi Bhalla  
DPW, Brian Bennewith

**EXCUSED:**  
  
Media – 3  
Public – 1

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Roden called the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday, April 14, 2025, to order at 6:00 pm.  
*“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**

M/S Clement / Anstett  
*THAT, the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday, April 14, 2025, be amended to include a Letter of Support Request for the Equality Project (EQP) in Cache Creek to be discussed under Correspondence for Action.*  
CARRIED  
Unanimous R-2025-76

**2. MINUTES**

<b>2.1</b>	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 24, 2025. M/S Davenport / Anstett <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 24, 2025, be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-77
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**3. DELEGATIONS**

<b>3.1</b>	N/A	
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**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting of Council

Village of Ashcroft Council Chambers, 601 Bancroft Street  
Monday, April 14, 2025, at 6:00 pm

*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.*

### Brad Ward – Willow Grove Apartments – Hill Street

- Raised concerns about rain runoff on Government Street eroding the road shoulder to the Council's attention. Residents have been diligently cleaning up the property and requested the Council to consider installing curbs and gutters to address the runoff issues.
- Response: DPW Bennewith and CFO Bhalla acknowledged the concern, stating that staff are actively seeking grant funding to address the larger issue, which would eliminate the runoff problem. Currently, there is no budget allocation for additional curbs and gutters. It was also noted that Government Street is not the only area affected by rain runoff.
- CFO Bhalla added that the request has been noted and added to the task list, but it is not a priority item with a budget allocation at this time.

## 5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1	Water Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 874, 2025 – Adoption M/S Lambert / Anstett <i>THAT, Water Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 874, 2025 be adopted.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-78
5.2	Sewer Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 875, 2025 – Adoption M/S Davenport / Lambert <i>THAT, Sewer Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 875, 2025 be adopted.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-79
5.3	Consolidated Fees and Charges Amendment bylaw No. 876, 2025 - Adoption M/S Anstett / Lambert <i>THAT, Consolidated Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 876, 2025 be adopted.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-80

## 6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	CAO Report – TNRD Fire Services Agreement (Contract 2024-108) Purpose: To formalize a five-year agreement with the TNRD for the continued provision of structural fire protection services to the Electoral Area "I" (Rural Ashcroft Fire Protection Service Area), effective January 1, 2025 M/S Lambert / Clement <i>THAT, Council approve and authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to sign the Structural Fire Protection Services Agreement between the Village of Ashcroft and the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-81

	Comment – Our new tender has arrived in Canada prior to tariffs being imposed. Some additional components to be added before arriving in Ashcroft.	
<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>		
<b>6.2</b>	<p><b>CFO Report – Verbal Report – 2025 Budget Review Presentation</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>CFO Bhalla guided Council and gallery members through a line-by-line budget presentation, highlighting notable changes in the General, Water, and Sewer Operating Funds. Highlights of the presentation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Balanced Budget:</b> Ashcroft proposed a balanced budget with a 3.5% tax increase, compared to other communities budgeting a 7-15% increase. The inclusion of planned projects is due to staff diligence.</li> <li>• <b>Grant Applications:</b> Ashcroft was unsuccessful in the NDI Marketing Grant and Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program applications.</li> <li>• <b>Pending Grant Funding:</b> Awaiting approval for the Water Meter project and the CHIF application for the water reservoir plan and design for north Ashcroft.</li> <li>• <b>Backup Power Sources:</b> Following the 2017 fires, Council resolved to install backup power sources for all critical infrastructure. This is nearly complete, with Lift Station 3 being the only infrastructure still requiring a portable power source.</li> </ul> <p>Comments and Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cam Tedford raised concerns about cedar hedges being used as 20-foot or higher fencing alternatives and enforcement of this as a bylaw infraction.</li> <li>• FireSmart Funding: Cam asked for clarification regarding FireSmart funding allocations. It was clarified that there are no bylaws addressing cedar hedges, but they can be addressed if they are dead as a fire hazard or unsightly.</li> <li>• CAO Dyck advised that the grant does not enable any private property assessment or mitigation support in the first year.</li> <li>• Mayor Roden encouraged Cam to advise residents to contact the office for answers to their questions and concerns.</li> </ul>	

# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting of Council

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Year FireSmart Funding: Develops the program, trains the coordinator, educates and engages with the public, and develops the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.</li> </ul>	
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### 7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
7.1	<p>Late Item – Equality Project Request for Letter of Support M/S Clement / Lambert <i>THAT, Council approve the Equality Project request and provide a Letter of Support.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2025-82</p>
FOR INFORMATION		
7.2	TOPS BC #0764 – Thank you for the 2025 Grant In Aid	
7.3	Twisted Desert Music – Thank for the 2025 Grain In Aid	
7.4	TNRD Film Commission – April 2025 Update	
7.5	Community Futures BC (CFBC) Media Release – CFBC Updates <i>myCommunityFutures</i> after Successful Conclusion to the Disaster Recovery & Economic Adjustment Initiative	
7.6	Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development & Innovation – Application EER7C5F – The Heart of Ashcroft, Where Community Meets Commerce (REDIP Grant) – Regrets Letter	
7.7	Consulate General of Japan Culture & Public Relations – Complimentary Copies of Niponica ( <i>at Council table</i> )	
7.8	Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletin – April 1, 2025	
7.9	Desert Sands Community School – 2025 Bursaries Sponsorship – Completed online	
7.10	School District No. 74 2025-2026 Budget – Video, Power-Point, and Feedback Survey	
7.11	Preparing for Potential Drought Conditions Comment that our regions snow pack is at 83%.	
7.12	Philip Perras Letter – BC Municipalities Must Unify and Prepare for Potential Retaliation	
7.13	Yellowhead Community Services – BC Transit – Accepting Applications for Casual Transit Driver for Ashcroft Area	
7.14	Metro Vancouver – Ashcroft Ranch Returned to the Nlaka’pamux Following Purchase from Metro Vancouver	
7.15	Sabrina Ede, Ashcroft Cache Creek Journal – Donation for Best of Contest	

### 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	Task Manager	
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# MINUTES

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Monday, April 14, 2025, at 6:00 pm

	CAO Dyck noted that the Good Neighbour Bylaw is in progress and will take some time to complete.	
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### 9. NEW BUSINESS

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

10.1	N/A	
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### 11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1	Mayor Roden	
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### 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	N/A	
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### 13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING

13.1	N/A	
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### 14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Roden adjourned the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday April 14, 2025, at 7:06 pm.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of  
the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
Council held Monday, April 14, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer

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Barbara Roden,  
Mayor



**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT**

**BYLAW NO. 877**

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Being a bylaw for the Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft to adopt the Five Year Financial Plan commencing the year 2025.

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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 "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 877, 2025."
2. Schedule "A" and Schedule "B" attached hereto and made part of this bylaw are hereby adopted and are the Five Year Financial Plan of the Village of Ashcroft commencing January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS DAY OF , 2025

READ A SECOND TIME THIS DAY OF , 2025

READ A THIRD TIME THIS DAY OF , 2025

RECONSIDERED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF , 2025

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Barbara Roden, Mayor

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Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer

Certified to be a true and correct copy  
of Bylaw No. 877 as adopted by Council.

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Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT**

**BYLAW NO. 877 - SCHEDULE "A"**

**FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN 2025 - 2029**

	<b>Year 1 2025</b>	<b>Year 2 2026</b>	<b>Year 3 2027</b>	<b>Year 4 2028</b>	<b>Year 5 2029</b>
<b>Revenues</b>					
Property Taxes	1,885,505	1,932,643	1,980,959	2,030,483	2,081,245
Parcel Taxes	166,000	166,000	166,000	166,000	166,000
Fees and Charges					
Sales of Services	311,800	326,800	326,800	326,800	326,800
Other					
User Fees	1,008,000	1,010,000	1,010,000	1,010,000	1,010,000
Borrowing Proceeds - MFA	0	0	0	0	0
Other Revenue					
Interest	141,000	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000
Grants/Other Gov'ts.	2,643,063	2,250,000	850,000	850,000	850,000
Other	59,650	101,000	101,000	101,000	101,000
Services to Other Gov'ts.	91,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Transfers from Funds					
Reserve Funds	0	0	0	0	0
DCC	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer form Equity	715,000	662,000	662,000	662,000	662,000
Accumulated Surplus	113,299	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>7,134,317</b>	<b>6,592,443</b>	<b>5,240,759</b>	<b>5,290,283</b>	<b>5,341,045</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Debt Interest	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Principal	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Expenditure	1,780,000	1,742,620	344,845	317,416	237,248
Deficiency	0	0	0	0	0
Other Municipal Purposes	0	0	0	0	0
General Municipal	2,537,611	2,601,051	2,666,078	2,732,729	2,801,048
Fire Protection	623,102	170,000	175,000	180,000	185,000
Water	561,544	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
Sewer	502,055	505,000	505,000	505,000	505,000
Transfer to	0	0	0	0	0
Reserve Funds	415,005	311,771	287,836	293,137	350,749
Amortization Expense	715,000	662,000	662,000	662,000	662,000
Accumulated Surplus	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,134,317</b>	<b>6,592,443</b>	<b>5,240,759</b>	<b>5,290,283</b>	<b>5,341,045</b>

**Village of Ashcroft  
2025-2029 Financial Plan  
Statement of Objectives and Policies  
Schedule 'B' of Bylaw No. 877**

In accordance with Section 165(3.1) of the *Community Charter*, the Village of Ashcroft (Town) is required to include in the Five Year Financial Plan, objectives and policies regarding each of the following:

1. The proportion of total revenue that comes from each of the funding sources described in Section 165(7) of the *Community Charter*,
2. The distribution of property taxes among the property classes, and
3. The use of permissive tax exemptions.

**Funding Sources**

Table 1 shows the proportion of total revenue proposed to be raised from each funding source in 2024. Property taxes form the greatest proportion of revenue. As a revenue source, property taxation offers a number of advantages, for example, it is simple to administer and it is fairly easy for residents to understand. It offers a stable and reliable source of revenue for services that are difficult to fund on a user-pay basis. These include services such as general administration, fire protection, police services, bylaw enforcement and street lighting.

User fees and charges form the second largest portion of planned revenue. Many services can be measured and charged on a user basis. Services where fees and charges can be easily administered include water and sewer usage, building permits, business licenses, and sale of services – these are charged on a user pay basis. User fees attempt to apportion the value of a service to those who use the service.

**Objective**

- Over the next five years, the Village of Ashcroft will balance the proportion of revenue that is received from user fees and charges with the projected funds operations require.

**Policies**

- The Village will review all user fee levels to ensure they are adequately meeting both the capital and delivery costs of the service.
- Where possible, the Village will endeavor to supplement revenues from user fees and charges, rather than taxation, to lessen the burden on its limited property tax base.

**Table 1: Sources of Revenue**

<b>Revenue Sources</b>	<b>% of Total Revenue</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
Property Taxes *	26%	\$ 1,885,505
Parcel Taxes	2%	\$ 166,000
Sales of Service	18%	\$ 1,319,800
Grants/Transfers	50%	\$ 3,562,362
Borrowing Proceeds	0%	\$ -
Other Sources	3%	\$ 200,650
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 7,134,317</b>

\* contains \$274,034 Capital Replacement Reserve funds

**Distribution of Property Tax Rates**

Table 2 outlines the distribution of property taxes among the property classes. The residential property class provides the largest proportion of property tax revenue. This is appropriate as this class also forms the largest portion of the assessment base and consumes the majority of Town services.

### **Objectives**

- Maintain the property tax rate as low as possible while still providing for future needs.

### **Policies**

- Continue to maintain and encourage economic development initiatives designed to attract more retail and commercial businesses to invest in the community. New investment from these areas will help offset tax increases while providing more revenue for the Village.
- Align the distribution of tax rates among the property classes with the social and economic goals of the community, particularly to encourage a range of employment opportunities.
- Regularly review and compare the Village of Ashcroft's tax burden relative to other municipalities in British Columbia.

**Table 2: Distribution of Property Tax Rates**

<b>Property Class</b>	<b>% of Total Property Taxation</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
Residential (1)	48%	\$ 902,616
Utilities (2)	9%	\$ 163,170
Light Industrial (5)	19%	\$ 365,011
Business and Other (6)*	23%	\$ 434,993
Recreation/Non-profit (8)	0%	\$ 748
Farmland (9)	1%	\$ 18,967
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 1,885,505</b>

### **Permissive Tax Exemptions**

- The Annual Municipal Report for 2024 contains a list of permissive exemptions granted for the taxation year and the amount of revenue foregone. The list demonstrates the policy of council that permissive exemptions are granted to not-for-profit institutions that form a valuable part of our community. These include religious institutions and some recreational facilities and service organizations.

### **Objective**

- To ensure permissive tax exemptions are utilized to maximize the benefit to the municipality and citizens.

### **Policy**

- To maintain permissive exemptions for religious institutions, recreational facilities, and service organizations.

### **Capital Asset Reserve**

- In 2011 the Village recognized the need to accumulate funds to pay for future replacement of infrastructure. Accordingly, a separate tax was established and funds collected are accounted for separately from general municipal taxes.

### **Objective**

- To establish a reserve to fund future infrastructure replacement.

### **Policy**

- To supplement revenues from government grants wherever possible to lessen the amount of funds utilized from the reserve fund.
- To seek out projects which will reduce the operating costs of the Village enabling them to repay funds back into the reserve over time.

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

BYLAW NO. 878

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Being a bylaw for the levying of rates for municipal, hospital, and regional district purposes for the year 2025.

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

1. The following rates are hereby imposed and levied for the year 2025:
  - a. For all lawful general purposes of the municipality on the assessed value of land and improvements taxable for general and municipal purposes, rates appearing in column "A" of the schedule attached hereto and forming a part hereof.
  - b. For capital asset reserve purposes on the assessed value of land and improvements taxable for general municipal purposes, rates appearing in column "B" of the schedule attached hereto and forming a part hereof.
  - c. For hospital purposes on the assessed value of land and improvements taxable for hospital district purposes, rates appearing in column "C" of the schedule attached hereto and forming a part hereof.
  - d. For Thompson-Nicola Regional District purposes on the assessed value of land and improvements for hospital district purposes, rates appearing in column "E" of the schedule attached hereto and forming a part hereof.
2. The minimum amount of taxation upon a parcel of real property shall be one dollar (\$1.00).
3. This bylaw may be cited as "Tax Rates Bylaw No. 878, 2025".

READ A FIRST TIME THIS DAY OF , 2025

READ A SECOND TIME THIS DAY OF , 2025

READ A THIRD TIME THIS DAY OF , 2025

RECONSIDERED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF , 2025

Certified to be a true and correct copy  
of Bylaw No. 878 as adopted by Council.

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Barbara Roden, Mayor

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Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer

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Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT**

**BYLAW NO. 878**

**SCHEDULE A - TAX RATES 2025**

Property Class	Tax Rates (dollars of tax per \$1000 taxable value)					
	A General Municipal	B Capital Reserve	C Regional Hospital District	D Improvement District	E Regional District	F Specified Area
1. Residential	2.6597	0.4694	0.3035		0.6459	0.0000
2. Utility	26.4573	4.6697	1.0624		2.2607	0.0000
2. Utility (Tax Limit Area)	2.7215	0.4803	1.0624		2.2607	0.0000
5. Light Industry	16.1566	2.8516	1.0320		2.1961	0.0000
6. Business	10.8500	1.9150	0.7437		1.5825	0.0000
8. Rec/Non Profit	5.0268	0.8872	0.3035		0.6459	0.0000
9. Farm	11.0294	1.9467	0.3035		0.6459	0.0000

## MEMO

DATE: April 28, 2025  
FROM: Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer  
SUBJECT: FireSmart BC Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit – Conference Report

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I had the privilege of attending the FireSmart BC Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit held in Penticton from April 14–16, 2025. This conference brought together over 700 participants, including local governments, Indigenous representatives, fire officials, and community leaders, to discuss the evolving role of FireSmart principles in wildfire preparedness and community resiliency.

### Key Themes and Takeaways

#### 1. Living with Fire – A Cultural and Practical Shift

The conference emphasized the need to reintroduce fire to the landscape as a tool for resilience. Speakers highlighted traditional First Nations cultural burning practices, the importance of removing the fear of fire, and re-establishing guardian programs that once formed part of traditional stewardship. It was clear that proactive burning is a critical tool in mitigating catastrophic wildfire events.

#### 2. Lessons from Jasper & the Importance of Preparedness

A presentation on the Jasper wildfire reinforced the need for resident evacuation guides and re-entry plans. Communities that were better prepared saw significantly improved outcomes. The overarching message: “Be prepared”. Communication is key—within your team, with elected officials, residents, regional districts, and provincial partners.

#### 3. Building a Sustainable Burn Program

We were encouraged to work with the BC Wildfire Service and use their burn standards. Key recommendations included:

- Prescribed burns on a seven-year cycle
- Inclusion of community forest or woodlot licensees as partners
- Communication with tenure holders and landowners
- Developing a sustainable, inclusive burn plan

#### 4. Public Health & Wildfire Smoke Awareness

Sessions addressed smoke exposure and air quality monitoring. Tools such as PM2.5 monitors (approx. \$50) were recommended to assess risks for public works and fire crews. It was also noted that Mentimeter can be a useful engagement tool in wildfire discussions.

#### 5. Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans (CWRP)

A deep dive into CWRPs confirmed that Ashcroft is on track. We are currently in Year 1 of implementation, with a completion deadline of August 14, 2026, after which we can apply for Round 2 funding. The session also reaffirmed the value of:

- Embedding FireSmart into OCPs and Zoning Bylaws
- Considering a Wildfire Development Permit Area
- Creating approved tree/shrub lists
- Developing landscape best practices

#### 6. Youth Involvement & Peer Support Networks

There was strong encouragement to involve youth in FireSmart initiatives and to connect with the FireSmart Coordinator peer network, which meets monthly for mentorship and support.

#### 7. Additional Highlights from the Summit Agenda

The summit also featured sessions on:

- Incident Management Teams and Leadership development
- Collective Well-being and Inclusion in wildfire response
- FireSmart Community Funding & Supports
- Emergency Management and Youth engagement
- Understanding Fuel Management and Fuel Interaction
- Insurance and Wildfire implications
- Resilient Minds program by the Canadian Mental Health Association
- Northwest Territories Fire Research findings
- Demonstrations – Including an ember cast simulation

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### Final Thoughts

Attending this conference was an incredibly valuable experience that reaffirmed Ashcroft's proactive approach. We are already incorporating many of the recommended strategies, such as integrating FireSmart principles into our bylaws and advancing our FireSmart program. I also had the opportunity to connect with Darren Oike, our Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training instructor. Getting to know Darren throughout the event gave me confidence in his ability to serve as an excellent mentor. His knowledge and approach will be instrumental in helping us build our skills and ensure strong alignment between training and real-world emergency response.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend. I'm confident that the relationships and knowledge gained will directly benefit our emergency preparedness efforts, and that our future FireSmart Coordinator and I will be well-positioned to work collaboratively with a unified vision moving forward.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer







**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Brian Bennewith, Director of Public Works  
**SUBJECT:** **Verbal Report**

**MEETING DATE:** April 28, 2025

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**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:

2025 Pool Staffing Update

**Kris Hardy**

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**From:** Ashcroft Farmer's Market <ashcroftfarmersmarket@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** April 25, 2025 11:17 AM  
**To:** Kris Hardy  
**Subject:** Request for Use of Heritage Park – 2025 Farmers Market Season

Dear Kris,

I'm writing on behalf of the Ashcroft Farmers and Artisans Market to formally request the use of **Heritage Park** for our upcoming 2025 season.

We are requesting use of the park on **Sundays from May 11, 2025, through October 12, 2025**, with the following setup:

- **Road closure** beginning at **7:30 a.m.** each Sunday.
- **Market open to the public** from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**
- **Road re-opening** and full park clearance by **2:00 p.m.**

If Council requires any additional information for the approval process at the upcoming meeting, please don't hesitate to let me know. We are grateful for the ongoing support from the Village, and we look forward to another successful season bringing fresh local food and artisan goods to the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,  
Alexandra Humes  
Market Coordinator  
Ashcroft Farmers and Artisans Market

If it's happening.....



....it's happenin' at the HUB

Dear Downtown Planter Partner

We are thrilled to share some exciting updates regarding the Village planter program this year. The Ashcroft HUB has taken over the planting of the planters from Communities in Bloom, and we're bringing a fresh twist to the project!

The School's Out at the HUB kids will be lending their creativity and enthusiasm by designing and planting the containers this year. This provides a wonderful opportunity for the youth in our community to engage in a meaningful project while adding their unique touch to the Village.

As part of this transition, the cleanup of the planters is scheduled to take place at the beginning of May, and the flowers will be planted by the end of May. We would like to remind businesses that you play an essential role in ensuring the planters are well-maintained by taking responsibility for watering them regularly.

The youth are genuinely excited to be part of this initiative, and we are confident their efforts will bring vibrant energy and beauty to the downtown area. Thank you for your continued support and participation in this program. Together, we can make Ashcroft bloom brighter than ever!

Warm regards,

Jessica Clement  
Executive Director  
The Ashcroft HUB

RECEIVED

APR 23 2025

THE CORPORATION VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT



[www.ashcrofthub.com](http://www.ashcrofthub.com)  
[office@ashcrofthub.com](mailto:office@ashcrofthub.com)  
250 453 9177

**From:** Thompson-Nicola Regional District <[communications@tnrd.ca](mailto:communications@tnrd.ca)>

**Sent:** April 17, 2025 4:46 PM

**To:** Daniela Dyck <[cao@ashcroftbc.ca](mailto:cao@ashcroftbc.ca)>

**Subject:** TNRD Board Meeting Highlights - April 17, 2025

[Click here to view this newsletter in your browser](#)



**THOMPSON-NICOLA**  
REGIONAL DISTRICT  
The Region of BC's Best



## Meeting of April 17, 2025

Board Meetings are held in the 4th Floor Boardroom of the TNRD Civic Building in Kamloops, B.C. Meetings are open to the public to attend in person or online. Meetings are live-streamed, timestamped, and available to watch on the TNRD YouTube Channel.

[View Agenda](#)

[View Meeting Recording](#)



## Regional Grant-in-Aid Program Spring 2025 Funding Recipients

The Board approved a total of \$31,325 being distributed through the Regional Grant-in-Aid program's spring 2025 intake to the following seven recipients:

- BC Agricultural Exposition Society: \$5,000
- Nicola Valley Rodeo Association: \$5,000
- Kamloops Therapeutic Riding Association: \$4,925
- Kamloops International Buskers Society: \$4,800
- Kamloops Music Collective: \$4,700
- Grasslands Conservation Council of BC: \$4,000
- Friends of Walhachin Society: \$2,900

[Read Report](#)

## Groundwater Exploration at Four Community Water Systems

The Board approved the following grant allocations through the Canada Community Building Fund for the exploration of groundwater and to install test wells at four TNRD Community Water Systems:

- **\$210,000:** Spences Bridge Community Water System
- **\$210,000:** Del Oro Community Water System
- **\$210,000:** Evergreen Community Water System
- **\$100,000:** Maple Mission Community Water System

[Read Report](#)

## Blackpool Fire Rescue Replacement Water Tender

The Board approved allocating up to \$145,000 from the Canada Community Building Fund for replacement of a water tender for Blackpool Fire Rescue, which is one of nine rural fire departments administered by the TNRD.

The total cost to replace this water tender is expected to be up to \$250,000, with the remaining \$105,000 being allocated from the fire department's capital reserve fund.

[Read Report](#)

## Civic Building Roof Upgrade

The Board approved allocating up to \$225,000 from the Canada Community Building Fund to replace a portion of the TNRD Civic Building roof. The roof is original from when the Civic Building was constructed in 1998.

The total project cost is expected to be up to \$450,000; the TNRD is responsible for 75% of costs for this project (\$336,600) while the City of Kamloops is responsible for the remaining 25% (\$113,400). The remaining \$111,600 of the TNRD's portion of this project costs is being allocated from the TNRD strata reserve fund.

[Read Report](#)

## Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2869 (Semlin Valley)

Following a Public Hearing, the Board approved third reading of Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2869, affecting property at 2990 Trans-Canada Highway, located in Electoral Area “I” (Blue Sky Country).

This zoning amendment would enable a portion of the property to be used as an expansion to the existing commercial composting facility.

Due to proximity to a highway, the zoning amendment will be held at third reading until it is approved by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and recommended for adoption by the TNRD at a future meeting.

[Read Report](#)

## Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2874 (near Skeetchestn)

Following a Public Hearing, the Board approved third reading of Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2874, affecting property at 6945 Trans-Canada Highway near the Skeetchestn Indian Band, located in Electoral Area “I” (Blue Sky Country).

This zoning amendment would rezone the property from *MH-1: Manufactured Home Park* to *RL-1: Rural* to enable an additional home to be built on the property.

Due to proximity to a highway, the zoning amendment will be held at third reading until it is approved by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and recommended for adoption by the TNRD at a future meeting. Approval is also required by the Agricultural Land Commission prior to this application proceeding.

[Read Report](#)



## Temporary Use Permit 77 (Lower Nicola)

The Board approved issuance of Temporary Use Permit 77, affecting property at 2527 Aberdeen Road in Lower Nicola, located in Electoral Area “M” (Beautiful Nicola Valley – North).

TUP 77 enables operations of a sole-proprietor trucking business, including outdoor storage and repair of equipment, for three years.

[Read Report](#)

## Delegation: Rocky Mountain Rangers

The Board received a presentation from Rocky Mountain Rangers Lieutenant Colonel Amedeo Vecchio, who provided the Board with an overview of the Primary Reserve Unit which trains in the Kamloops area. Vecchio provided background on deployment of the Unit, recruitment, and recent community events.

## Delegation: Interior Health Authority

The Board received a presentation from Anita Ely, an Environmental Health Officer with the Interior Health Authority (IHA) about water and sewage servicing in rural residential

developments. Ely spoke about direct and indirect health risks of unregulated sewage on residents' aquifers.



### **Next TNRD Board Meeting:**

**May 15, 2025, 1:30 pm**

TNRD Civic Building Boardroom (4th Floor)

465 Victoria Street, Kamloops, B.C., V2C 2A9

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Governance and Boundary Review Committee: April 22, 2025, 9:00 am
- Policy and Governance Committee: May 14, 2025: 10:00 am
- Parks & Trails Strategic Plan Committee: May 14, 2025, 1:30 pm
- Electoral Area Directors Committee: May 15, 2025, 9:00 am
- Regular Board Meeting: May 15, 2025, 1:30 pm

**Full Board Meeting Schedule**

**Board and Committee Meeting Minutes**

To view archives of TNRD Board Meeting highlights, [click here](#).



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"



## NEWS RELEASE

### **TNRD Hosting Second Round of Community Meetings for Official Community Plan Projects**

**Kamloops, BC – April 23, 2025** – The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) is inviting residents to take part in the second round of community engagement for two separate Official Community Plan (OCP) projects currently underway: one for Electoral Areas “L” and “P,” and the other for Electoral Areas “M” and “N.”

OCPs are long-term planning tools that help shape how communities grow and change over time. These plans guide land use, housing needs, services, and environmental considerations. Public feedback remains essential as the TNRD is continuing to create these important planning documents.

Upcoming public engagement opportunities build on the first round of community input which took place in fall 2024. During that time, the TNRD received a wide range of feedback from residents, which has been summarized in two “What We Heard” reports that are now available on each OCP project webpage.

In consultation for the Electoral Areas “L” and “P” OCP, *What We Heard* highlights included strong support for protecting the rural character of communities, interest in small-scale housing options and aging in place, and requests for improved infrastructure, transportation, and emergency services. In consultation for the Electoral Areas “M” and “N” OCP, *What We Heard* highlights included preserving agricultural lands and natural areas, the need for diverse housing options and support for young families, and a desire for more collaboration with external agencies.

#### **Upcoming Open Houses:**

Residents are encouraged to attend one of the following open houses to review the applicable draft OCP highlights for their area and provide feedback. At each open house, updates will be provided on results of the first phase of OCP consultation and topics discussed will include community vision, settlement areas, housing needs, advocacy, and more.

Each open house is scheduled from 6:00 to 8:00 pm unless noted otherwise below:

- May 5: Rivershore Estates & Golf Links – Clubhouse
- May 6: Pritchard Community Hall
- May 7: Knutsford Community Hall
- May 8: Heffley Creek Hall (5:00 to 7:00 pm)
- May 10: Pinantan Lake Elementary School (2:00 to 4:00 pm)
- May 12: Merritt Civic Centre
- May 13: Lower Nicola Community Hall

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"

**Community Survey:**

Can't attend one of our open houses? We will be launching an online survey on April 28, 2025, to receive public feedback on draft direction in these two OCPs. Stay tuned for this survey being linked on our OCP project webpages.

"We appreciate the valuable feedback we've already received and are looking forward to continuing these important conversations," said Alex Krause, TNRD General Manager of Development Services. "We encourage Electoral Area residents to take part in this next phase of engagement and share their vision for their community."

To learn more about each project and view each What We Heard report, visit each OCP webpage: [tnrd.ca/lp-ocp-2024](https://tnrd.ca/lp-ocp-2024), or [tnrd.ca/mn-ocp-2024](https://tnrd.ca/mn-ocp-2024). Alternatively, contact the TNRD at 250-377-8673 or [ocp@tnrd.ca](mailto:ocp@tnrd.ca).

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**Media Contact:**

Colton Davies, Communications Manager  
Thompson-Nicola Regional District  
Tel.: 250 377-6299  
Email: [cdavies@tnrd.ca](mailto:cdavies@tnrd.ca)

## Susan Brown Announces Retirement from Interior Health

April 24, 2025

Interior Health (IH) today announced that Susan Brown, President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), has informed the Board of Directors of her decision to retire by the end of 2025, concluding 14 years with the organization, seven as CEO.

"On behalf of British Columbians, I extend our deepest appreciation to Susan for her leadership and dedication to serving patients and communities during her 34-year career in the provincial health system," said Minister of Health, Josie Osborne. "From her first days as a nurse in the emergency department at Vancouver General Hospital to her current role at the helm of Interior Health Authority, Susan's lifetime of service has made a lasting impact to patients and their families across the province."

Innovation has been a constant focus under Susan's leadership, where she has supported and nurtured both small and large innovations. These include opening the first Urgent and Primary Care Centre in B.C. in Kamloops in 2018 and, since then, 10 more, with the latest in February in Williams Lake. The addition of new specialized cardiac and stroke services at Kelowna General Hospital and the approval of the Kamloops Cancer Centre under Susan's leadership will continue to support patients getting the care they need closer to home, while her vision and co-creation of the Centre for Health System Learning & Innovation will support continued research and innovation for decades to come. Under Susan's leadership, IH advanced its work to embed cultural safety and anti-racism in the organization in pursuit of improved health outcomes for the 54 First Nations and 14 chartered Métis communities in the region.

"During a time of profound uncertainty, through the COVID-19 pandemic and several natural disasters in the interior, Susan has been an extraordinary leader and a force for positive change; her leadership and presence enabled the continuation of high-quality patient care while keeping people throughout the interior safe," said Dr. Robert Halpenny, Chair, Interior Health Board of Directors.

Susan will continue to serve as CEO through December 2025 while the Board of Directors immediately begins recruiting the next President & CEO.



## NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release

### **BCEDA Launches DisasterSmartBC: Leading Canada in Economic Resiliency and Recovery**

**Penticton, BC – April 16, 2025** – The British Columbia Economic Development Association (BCEDA) is proud to announce the launch of **DisasterSmartBC™**, a cutting-edge platform designed to equip communities and businesses with the tools and resources they need to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

This new initiative reaffirms BCEDA's position as a national leader in economic resiliency and recovery—a program the association began in 2012 following the Burns Lake Mill explosion. Since then, BCEDA has played a pivotal role in every major disaster impacting British Columbia, including wildfires and floods. Beyond provincial borders, BCEDA has shared its expertise across Canada and internationally, supporting disaster recovery efforts in places like Southern Alberta and communities worldwide, including the US Mariana Islands following Typhoon Yutu, helping to rebuild local economies and foster resilience.

"Our mission has always been to empower communities to recover and rebuild stronger," said **Dale Wheeldon**, President and CEO of BCEDA. "DisasterSmartBC builds on more than a decade of experience and is designed to be an indispensable resource for local governments, businesses, and community leaders. It is another example of our commitment to providing innovative solutions that address the economic impacts of disasters and help communities navigate the complexities of recovery."

In addition to launching **DisasterSmartBC**, BCEDA is also releasing new [Economic Recovery Frameworks for Local and Indigenous Governments](#). These frameworks serve as essential guides to help communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from future disasters, ensuring economic stability and resilience. BCEDA is committed to working alongside Indigenous and local governments to ensure communities have the necessary tools and resources to recover and thrive after a disaster.

The DisasterSmartBC website is expected to launch later this year and serve as a centralized hub for:

- **Comprehensive Disaster Resources:** Offering guidance, tools, and best practices to help communities prepare for and recover from natural and man-made disasters.
- **Economic Recovery Strategies:** Providing templates, case studies, and actionable plans to accelerate recovery efforts.
- **Collaboration Opportunities:** Creating a space for stakeholders to share knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and build long-term resilience.

DisasterSmartBC reflects the lessons BCEDA has learned through its extensive work in disaster response and recovery. The platform will empower communities to enhance their disaster preparedness while fostering economic sustainability and growth.

Since the inception of its economic recovery program in 2012, BCEDA has solidified its reputation as a trusted partner for communities facing disaster-related challenges. Whether responding to wildfires in British Columbia or providing expertise to international recovery initiatives, BCEDA's leadership and innovative approaches continue to set a benchmark for economic resiliency programs worldwide.

"DisasterSmartBC is a reflection of our commitment to building stronger, more resilient communities," added Wheeldon. "We are proud to continue leading the charge in economic recovery and resiliency, ensuring that communities have the tools they need to overcome challenges and thrive in the future."



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### **About BCEDA**

The British Columbia Economic Development Association (BCEDA) is the leading professional association of economic development practitioners in British Columbia. Dedicated to advancing economic development as a core function of resilient communities, BCEDA provides training, resources, and support to local governments, Indigenous communities, and businesses.

For more information or to find out about partnership opportunities for DisasterSmartBC and BCEDA's ongoing work in economic resiliency and recovery, please contact:

Dale Wheeldon, President and CEO

British Columbia Economic Development Association

Email: [dwheeldon@bceda.ca](mailto:dwheeldon@bceda.ca)

Phone: 604-819-3809



Actionable Motion and Task List Tracker 2025					
APRIL					
Motion No.	Motion	Staff Responsible	Comments	Time line	Status
	<b>2025 MOTIONS</b>				
R-2025-05	THAT, Council direct staff to prepare a Good Neighbour Bylaw to be brought back for consideration.	BEO/CAO	Develop Draft Bylaw		in-progress
R-2025-54	THAT, Council direct staff to prepare a gift basket showcasing Ashcroft's new brand "Heart of the True Desert" not to exceed \$125.00 of Ashcroft swag and that local businesses be approached and asked if they could donate an appropriate item for the 2025 SILGA Convention.	EDT/CAO	Basket of Village swag and locally donated items	EDT has been asked to request small donated items	completed
R-2025-78	THAT, Water Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 874, 2025 be adopted.	EA	Update & prepare for signatures. File digital and hard copies		completed
R-2025-79	THAT, Sewer Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 875, 2025 be adopted.	EA	Update & prepare for signatures. File digital and hard copies		completed
R-2025-80	THAT, Consolidated Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 876, 2025 be adopted.	EA	Update & prepare for signatures. File digital and hard copies		completed
R-2025-81	THAT, Council approve and authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to sign the Structural Fire Protection Services Agreement between the Village of Ashcroft and the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), as presented.	CAO	Sign and send to Agreement to TNRD		completed
R-2025-82	THAT, Council approve the Equality Project request and provide a Letter of Support.	EA	Prepare Letter of Support and send		completed