

# From the "Bear Pit"



## Highlights of the November 24 & December 8, 2014 Council Meetings

### NRRM Launches a Municipal Facebook Page

Regional Council is proud to announce that you can now interact with the Municipality through our new Facebook Page. "Like" the [Northern Rockies Regional Municipality Facebook page](#) and keep up-to-date with all Municipal notices and events.



### RCMP & Off Road Vehicle (ORV) User Groups Meet With Council

At a November 24th Special meeting, Regional Council confirmed its support for staff assisting the ORV groups in establishing a tenured trail system. Council agreed that plotting the trail route around the town would constitute a productive first step that could include potential sites for the location of staging areas and posted highway crossings.

A budget in the amount of \$5,000 was approved to expedite the development of an accurately GPS-located recreational ORV trail. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) tenure applications will then be submitted by the off-road vehicle (ORV) user groups, with the intent of formalizing a motorized trail on the perimeter of town, enhancing access to Crown land for recreational ORV use.



### Non-Binding Opinion Poll Re: Semi-Annual Time Zone Change

Regional Council resolved that the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality make the scheduled change to Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)/Mountain Standard Time (MST)/Coordinated Universal Time (UTC/GMT) -7 hours on Sunday, March 8, 2015, and in the future the Municipality will remain on that time permanently.

Some discussion was had about the process to effect this change, and clarification is being sought on how to proceed. The NRRM is also planning a widespread notification strategy as part of the implementation.



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### Airport Security

Airport staff provided a summary of efforts to gain security provisions for the Northern Rockies Regional Airport (NRRRA). In order for security screening to be implemented at the NRRRA, a recommendation must be made in the House of Commons by the Minister of Transport. A business case is being prepared to this end for Council review in January, 2015. Senior Government Officials (such as the local MLA and MP) will be kept informed about this business case to help the project proceed as quickly as possible.

### Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) Presentation

Mr. Noel Gairdner spoke on the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS), a Federal initiative to obtain data on participation of Aboriginal people in the workforce. They are engaging the Northern Rockies and First Nations by use of a survey tool, involving youths, elders and both the private and public sector.



### Community Tourism - Interactive Visitor Kiosk

The Northern Rockies Regional Municipality is creating an interactive touch screen kiosk to be located at the Visitor Information Centre. This kiosk will offer a fun and interactive way to learn what the region has to offer as well as things of cultural and historical significance. It will be a great tool for visitors and residents to take in all our diverse region has to offer through interactive learning.



### Northern Rockies Travel Guide 2015 Budget Pre-Approval

Regional Council pre-approved a budget of \$14,000 was pre-approved to purchase 15,000 of the very popular 2015 [Northern Rockies Travel Guides](#) from Burke Group.



### Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) Grant Applications

Regional Council resolved that applications be submitted to the Northern Development Initiative Trust **Economic Development Capacity Building Fund** in the amount of \$50,000 and to the **Grant Writer Program Fund** in the amount of \$8,000. These grants will support the funding of a staff community development researcher/grant writer and other collaborative activities within the community.



### Also of note...

- Regional Council adopted the Northern Rockies Regional Hospital District 2015 Provisional Budget Bylaw No. 62, 2014.
- The Fort Nelson Yeti Hockey Assn. request to lease dressing room space was approved for the 2014/2015 hockey season on a trial basis.
- The 2014 Local Government Election report prepared by staff was received by Council.
- Regional Councillors will be judging at the Fort Nelson Family Development Society "Parade of Lights" on December 14, 2014. The Municipality will also be entering a vehicle in the parade.
- NRRM Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Bylaw No. 83, 2014 and Policy was adopted by Council.
- A total budget of \$15,000 was approved for the purchase of 96 seats to be installed in the arena. Sponsorship opportunities will be available for all installed seating.
- In response to a request from local MP Bob Zimmer, the NRRM will be providing him with information regarding the top 3 infrastructure priorities, including the project that will be submitted for **Building Canada Plan** funding.