



## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### REGULAR MEETING #09-25 MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Salmo held in Council Chambers at 423 Davies Avenue in Salmo, B.C. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

#### **PRESENT:**

##### In Person:

Mayor Diana Lockwood  
Councillor Melanie Cox  
Councillor Jonathon Heatlie  
Councillor Jennifer Lins  
Councillor Kenzie Neil

CAO Derek Kwiatkowski  
Members of the Public -1  
Electronically:  
Members of the Public -9

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Lockwood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **AGENDA:**

R1-09-25

Moved and seconded, that the agenda of Regular Meeting #09-25 of Tuesday, May 13, 2025 be adopted as amended from *Council Procedure Bylaw #663, 2014* Schedule "A" to include an Audited Financial Statements section, a New Business section, an Administrative Report section, a Public Question period, and an *In Camera* section.

Carried.

#### **2024 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

R2-09-25

Moved and seconded, that Council accept the 2024 Audited Financial Statements as prepared by the auditors Childs Chanton Chartered Professional Accountants.

Carried.

#### **DELEGATIONS:**

Salmo Lions Club &  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Re: No Food Trucks On  
Canada Day - #16

The Salmo Lion's Club & Royal Canadian Legion requested that Council not allow food trucks to participate in the Village's Canada Day celebration due to the negative impact their participation affects the community group's fundraising efforts. Council thanked the groups for the involvement in the community.

#### **NEW BUSINESS: NIL**

#### **MINUTES:**

R3-09-25  
Regular Meeting  
April 22, 2025

Moved and seconded, that the minutes of the Regular Council meeting #08-25 of Tuesday, April 22, 2025 be adopted as presented.

Tabled.

#### **REFERRALS FROM DELEGATIONS: NIL**

#### **REFERRALS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS: NIL**

R10-09-25	Moved and seconded, that Council receive for information the list of account payable cheques and electronic fund transfers from April 17 to May 5, 2025 totaling \$62,253.40.	Carried.
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R11-09-25	Moved and seconded, that staff be directed to apply to the
Rural Mobility	Community Development Funds from the RDCK in the amount of
Community Advisory	\$1,500 to be used to contribute to the Everyone Rides Program.
Committee Re:	Carried.
Contribution to the	
Everyone Rides	
Program - #17	

R12-09-25 Salmo Lions Club Re: Planting the Village Planters Around Town - #20	Moved and seconded, that Council approve the Salmo Lions Club planting flowers in the Village planters around town with the Village covering the cost of the flowers and providing \$300 for their services.  Carried.
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R13-09-25 Salmo Valley Youth & Community Centre Re: Renovation Request - #21	Moved and seconded, that Council approve the proposed renovations for the new arts studio at the Salmo Valley Youth Community Centre.  Carried.
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R14-09-25      Moved and seconded, that Council receive for information the following correspondence from:

(1) Canadian Heritage Re: 2025 Celebrate Canada Funding - #15  
(2) BC Hydro Re: Sheep Creek Nutrient Addition Program - #18

Carried.

Councillor Cox	NIL
Councillor Heatlie	<i>See Appendix B.</i>
Councillor Lins	<i>See Appendix B.</i>
Councillor Neil	Councillor Neil reported that the Library will be presenting to Council at the May 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 meeting.
Mayor Lockwood	<i>See Appendix B.</i>
R15-09-25 Verbal & Written Reports of Mayor & Council	Moved and seconded, that the verbal and written reports of Mayor and Council be received for information.  Carried.

**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:** The gallery questioned about a survey for mobile food vendors & ensuring that there would be impartiality in the survey. Administration responded that the survey will be reviewed by Council at the next Council Meeting prior to being administered.

**IN CAMERA RESOLUTION:**

R16-09-25                      Moved and seconded, that the meeting be closed to the public under Sections 90(1)(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality of the *Community Charter*.

Carried.

**RECONVENE OPEN MEETING:** Council reconvened the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**                      Moved and seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.

R17-09-25

Carried @ 9:30 p.m.

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

Originally Signed By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diana Lockwood  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Derek Kwiatkowski  
Chief Administrative Officer/CO



# APPENDIX A



## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### CAO Report

Report Date: May 6, 2025  
Meeting Date: May 13, 2025 (#09-25)  
From: Derek Kwiatkowski, Chief Administrative Officer  
Subject: CAO Report – Salmo Climbing Society Update

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#### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2024, the Salmo Climbing Society had proposed the installation of a freestanding climbing wall at the SVYCC within a room that was an old changeroom. This was approved by Council on the condition that no building permit was required.

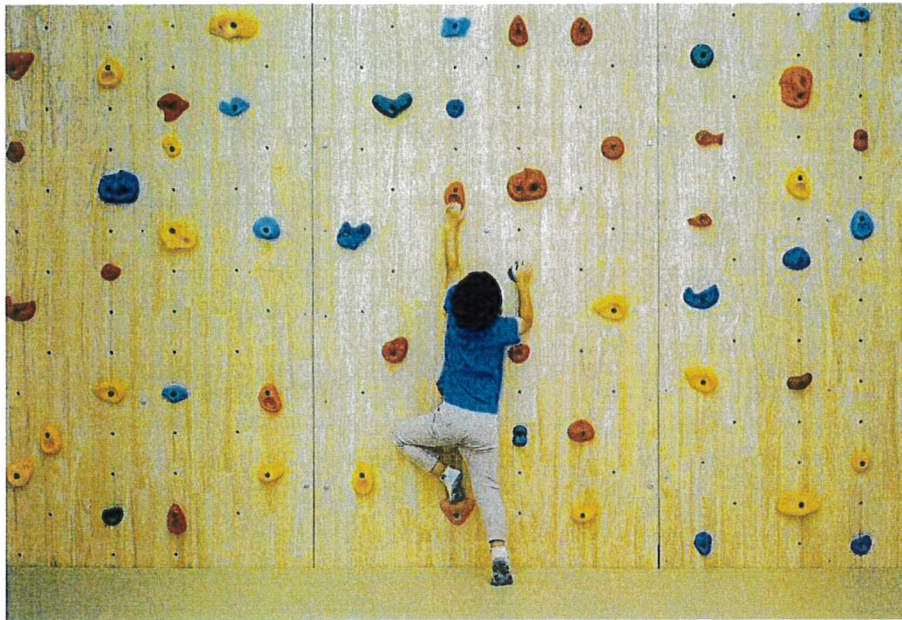
The Village has been approached to move the wall from the proposed space to the area that currently hosts an arts studio. This location is preferred due to the higher ceiling height in comparison to the changeroom. The Salmo & District Arts Society agreed with this assessment & agreed to vacate the space.

The SVYCC has confirmed that they will be completing environmental testing for all spaces where the original building will be disturbed for any future renovations.

The Climbing Society has provided information regarding the group's overall plan with the space.

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

That Council accepts the CAO report for information.



# Salmo Climbing Society's Indoor Rock Climbing Gym Project Proposal

02.13.2025

Linnet Fox  
1106 Ninth Street  
Salmo, BC V0G1Z0

## Background Information

Indoor rock climbing, particularly bouldering, is a dynamic and challenging form of climbing that involves ascending short, powerful routes without the use of ropes. Climbers navigate a series of climbing problems, or "boulders," on artificial walls equipped with holds of varying shapes and sizes. The climbing scene in Canada and the US has seen steady growth with facilities totalling over 700 in 2022, 591 gyms in the US, and 136 in Canada<sup>1</sup>, all catering to the growing interest in this sport. In the West Kootenay region of British Columbia, climbing enthusiasts can explore facilities like Flux, the Cube, and Selkirk College's Climbing Cave, each offering unique climbing experiences. These gyms provide diverse climbing terrain suitable for climbers of all levels, however all require an approximate 30 minute drive to access.

Indoor rock climbing offers a plethora of physical, mental, and social benefits for individuals across all age groups. For children, it fosters improved coordination, balance, and strength development while instilling a sense of adventure and accomplishment. In climbing, youth find a constructive outlet for building resilience, problem-solving skills, and self-confidence.<sup>2</sup> Adults, on the other hand, benefit from a full-body workout, stress relief, and enhanced mental focus.<sup>3</sup> Engaging in climbing activities at the proposed Salmo Valley Youth Community Center climbing gym would not only contribute to the holistic well-being of youth and community members but also serve as a hub for fostering social connections and a shared sense of achievement. Embracing this proposal is not just about climbing walls; it's about investing in the health and vitality of our community.

Please see Appendix A for letters of support from Local Outdoor Education Teacher and Physiotherapist.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.climbingbusinessjournal.com/gyms-and-trends-2021/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280246783\\_Rock\\_Climbing\\_for\\_Promoting\\_Physical\\_Activity\\_in\\_Youth](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/280246783_Rock_Climbing_for_Promoting_Physical_Activity_in_Youth)

<sup>3</sup> <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/pmjr.12891>

## Board of Directors and Membership Count

Membership Count: 94

### Linnet Fox - President

Elementary School Teacher, certified ECE, and Secretary for the Salmo Valley Trail Society

### Todd Van der Star - Vice President/Treasurer

Physiotherapist, business owner, and home climbing wall builder

### Geneva Weber - Secretary

Paramedic, First Aid Instructor, and Search and Rescue member

## Organizational Purpose

- To encourage healthy, inclusive, and connected communities through the sport of climbing.
- To create and maintain a safe and inclusive indoor rock climbing facility in Salmo that is dedicated to promoting community health and connection.

## Project Overview

### Project Description and Community Involvement

The Salmo Indoor Rock Climbing Gym is a community-driven initiative that transforms an underutilized space at the Salmo Valley Youth and Community Centre (SVYCC) into a vibrant, multi-purpose climbing facility. More than just a recreational space, this project represents a collaborative effort between local organizations, businesses, and residents to create an accessible, year-round activity hub for children, youth, and families.

This facility will not only provide open recreational access but will also support structured programming for local organizations. Established youth after-school programs will have exclusive access to the space during their scheduled programming, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for skill development. The Salmo Children's Center plans to utilize the facility to enrich its programming, offering young children early exposure to climbing in a fun, engaging setting. Additionally, the Outdoor Education teacher at Salmo Secondary School intends to integrate the climbing gym into the curriculum, enhancing students' physical education experience and outdoor skills training. The Salmo Climbing Society (SCS) will further support the project by developing introductory and advanced climbing programs, ensuring that both beginners and experienced climbers have structured learning opportunities.

### A True Community-Based and Community-Driven Initiative

This project relies on strong local partnerships to bring the vision to life. The SVYCC has been a key supporter, providing the space and infrastructure for the climbing gym. To make room for this new resource, SCS has worked closely with the Salmo Valley Arts Council to relocate the existing art studio to a new, dedicated space, ensuring that both recreation and artistic expression remain central to the community. This demonstrates a commitment to collaboration and maximizing shared resources.

The project has gained widespread grassroots support. In under six months, approximately 100 members have joined the initiative, showing a clear demand for indoor recreation in Salmo. Additionally, a successful silent auction fundraiser received generous donations from local businesses, further demonstrating the community's belief in and commitment to this project.



The project timeline is to complete construction and facility setup throughout 2025, with the goal of opening the climbing facility to the public in January 2026.

### **Capacity to Deliver the Project**

The Salmo Climbing Society (SCS) has the leadership, expertise, and community support to successfully complete and sustain this project. The organization is led by a highly skilled Board of Directors with experience in education, business, healthcare, and emergency response:

Educator & Non-Profit Secretary – Experienced in program development, grant applications, and organizational management.

Physiotherapist & Business Owner – Brings knowledge of physical health, rehabilitation, and financial sustainability.

Paramedic & Search and Rescue (SAR) Member – Provides expertise in risk management, emergency response, and safety training.


SCS has also assembled a skilled volunteer team that includes a CPA providing financial consultation and a structural engineer guiding the safe design and installation of the climbing walls. Additionally, local contractors, tradespeople, and business owners have pledged in-kind contributions and discounted services to help complete the facility build.

Through its partnership with SVYCC, SCS has secured a dedicated space for the climbing gym and is well-positioned to manage facility operations and programming. A membership-based revenue model will support financial sustainability, while trained volunteers will oversee daily operations. Key individuals will receive Climbing Wall Instructor (CWI) certification, First Aid training, and risk management instruction to ensure a safe and well-maintained facility.

### **Support from Local Businesses, Organizations, and Grant Funding**

This initiative is made possible through contributions from Salmo Village Grocery, Kootenay Savings Credit Union, and ATCO, as well as numerous local businesses that have provided donations and fundraising support. Volunteer commitments include financial consultation from a CPA and facility planning support from a structural engineer. Additionally, local contractors, tradespeople, and community members have pledged their time and resources to assist with renovations and construction.

To further strengthen the project's financial sustainability, SCS will be applying for grants from the AgriSpirit Fund and the RDCK Recreation Grants to secure additional funding. We



are also seeking funding from the Columbia Basin Trust Community Development Fund, and initial conversations have indicated that this is a project they would support.

SCS is actively engaging with local businesses and organizations such as Teck, Shambhala, Valhalla Pure Outfitters, and SUTCO to determine cash and in-kind donation amounts. These ongoing discussions will help secure the necessary materials, funding, and sponsorships to ensure the successful completion and long-term sustainability of the climbing gym.

## Addressing an Existing Need

The Salmo Indoor Rock Climbing Gym directly addresses a lack of accessible, year-round recreational opportunities for children, youth, and families in Salmo. With limited structured indoor recreation, particularly during the long winter months, residents often have to travel significant distances to access climbing facilities, pools, hockey rinks, etc. in neighboring communities. This project eliminates barriers to participation by providing a local, affordable, and inclusive space for physical activity, skill development, and social connection.

The need for increased access to recreational programming has been specifically highlighted by the Regional District, which, in its budget proposal meeting, has emphasized the importance of partnering with local community organizations to expand programming options for youth and adults. This project directly aligns with those priorities, demonstrating a collaborative approach to addressing the recreation gap in Salmo.

Salmo has a low socioeconomic status (SES), meaning many families face financial challenges that make traditional sports and activities unaffordable. Organized sports such as hockey or skiing require expensive gear, transportation, and high fees, making them inaccessible for many families. The climbing gym will provide a low-cost, inclusive alternative, with subsidized youth programming and community partnerships to ensure affordability.

In small rural communities, youth are at higher risk of social isolation, mental health struggles, and substance use, particularly when positive, structured activities are lacking.

Climbing is a mentally engaging activity that promotes resilience, confidence, and problem-solving skills, providing a healthy outlet for stress and anxiety.



## Project Goals

### Phase 1: Facility Construction and Setup

The first stage of the project focuses on transforming an underutilized space at the Salmo Valley Youth and Community Centre (SVYCC) into a functional indoor climbing gym. The following steps will be taken to ensure a safe, high-quality, and community-supported facility:

#### 1. Renovation and Facility Preparation of New Art Studio

Remove existing structures (lockers, shelving, etc.) and renovate to an acceptable standard in partnership with the Salmo Valley Arts Council.

Assist the SVAC with removing their supplies to the new space.

Partner with local contractors and tradespeople to assist in renovations, ensuring cost-effective and community-supported construction.


#### 2. Climbing Wall Installation and Safety Setup

- Conduct safety and structural assessments, working with a structural engineer to ensure the facility will meet all requirements for construction.
- Install 60 linear feet of fixed climbing walls 12 ft tall, designed by a reputable climbing wall builder.
- Lay high-density padded flooring to ensure a safe climbing environment.
- Set up climbing holds, training features, and adjustable routes to accommodate all skill levels.
- Establish risk management procedures and emergency protocols.

#### 3. Training and Staff Development

- Train volunteers in First Aid, and safety procedures.
- Develop a volunteer mentorship program, allowing experienced climbers to assist with beginner instruction.
- Establish an operational management system, including membership tracking, key card access, and scheduling software.

#### 4. Community Awareness and Membership Enrollment

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- Host a launch event and community information sessions to introduce residents to the facility.
  - Offer early membership sign-ups and promotional discounts to generate local engagement.
  - Conduct outreach to schools, community organizations, and local businesses to establish partnerships for long-term program delivery.
  - The target completion date for construction and facility setup is January 2026, when the climbing gym will officially open to the public.

## **Phase 2: Ongoing Programs and Services**

Once operational, the Salmo Climbing Society will provide a range of structured and drop-in programs designed to meet the diverse needs of the community.

### 1. Youth & School Programs

- After-School Climbing Club – Partnering with SVYCC, local schools, and youth programs to provide exclusive climbing sessions for students.
- Outdoor Education Integration – The Salmo Secondary School Outdoor Education teacher will incorporate climbing into the curriculum, providing students with technical skill development and confidence-building exercises.
- Salmo Children's Center Sessions – Preschool and early childhood climbing programs will introduce young children to movement, coordination, and basic climbing fundamentals.

### 2. Adult and Community Programs

- Recreational Climbing Access – Open gym hours for drop-in and membership-based climbing, allowing community members to access the facility on their own schedule.
- Women's Climbing Nights – A dedicated climbing time for women and gender-diverse individuals, fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment.
- Senior & Adaptive Climbing – Special sessions designed for older adults or individuals with disabilities, promoting accessibility and lifelong fitness.

### 3. Skills Training & Certification Programs

- Beginner Climbing Courses – Instructional programs for new climbers focusing on technique, safety, and route reading.

- Advanced Climbing Clinics – Training sessions for experienced climbers looking to refine their skills, including route setting, and endurance training.
- Climbing Wall Instructor (CWI) Certification – Training for volunteers and aspiring coaches to develop safe instruction and supervision skills.

#### 4. Community Engagement & Events

- Climbing Competitions & Fun Challenges – Friendly competitions to bring climbers together and encourage skill progression.
- Family Climbing Days – Monthly family-friendly climbing events to promote intergenerational activity and engagement.
- Fundraising & Community Nights – The gym will host events such as silent auctions, gear swaps, and guest speaker nights to support ongoing sustainability.

#### 5. Membership & Sustainability Model

- Affordable Membership Options – A tiered pricing system with youth, family, and low-income options to ensure accessibility.
- Grant & Sponsorship Support – Ongoing fundraising efforts with businesses such as Teck, Shambhala, Valhalla Pure Outfitters, and SUTCO, as well as grants from the AgriSpirit Fund, RDCK Recreation Grants, and Columbia Basin Trust Community Development Fund.
- Volunteer Engagement – Recruiting and training community members to assist with route setting, facility maintenance, and event coordination.

## Predicted Outcomes & Measures of Success

### Increased Participation in Recreational Activities

More children, youth, and families will have access to a structured, year-round physical activity option in Salmo.

The climbing gym will provide an alternative to screen time and inactivity, particularly during winter months.

#### Measures:

Number of memberships and drop-in participants within the first year.

Growth in participation over time, tracked through attendance records.

Demographic breakdown of users (age, gender, frequency of visits) to ensure inclusivity.

### Improved Physical and Mental Health

Participants will experience enhanced fitness, coordination, and overall well-being through climbing.

Climbing will provide a positive outlet for stress relief and mental resilience, especially for youth.

#### Measures:

Self-reported improvements in physical fitness, confidence, and mental health (via surveys).

Observations from teachers, parents, and local health professionals on behavioral and academic benefits for youth.

### Enhanced Social Connections and Community Engagement

The climbing gym will foster a sense of belonging and community, bringing together individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

Families will have a shared recreational space, strengthening parent-child relationships.

#### Measures:

Surveys and feedback from participants, parents, and community members assessing the facility's impact.

Number of volunteers and local businesses engaged in supporting or sponsoring the project.

### **Skill Development and Personal Growth for Youth**

Young climbers will develop confidence, problem-solving skills, and perseverance through the challenges of climbing.

Older youth will have opportunities to take on leadership roles, such as mentoring younger participants or assisting in programs.

#### **Measures:**

Number of youth involved in mentorship, coaching, or volunteer roles at the gym.

Participation in climbing-related events, competitions, or skills workshops.

### **Sustainability and Long-Term Community Impact**

The facility will operate sustainably, with membership fees helping to cover operating costs.

Ongoing programming and partnerships (e.g., schools, youth groups) will ensure the long-term viability of the climbing gym.

#### **Measures:**

Revenue generated from memberships and programming fees compared to operational costs.

Securing additional grants or funding to expand programming and accessibility.

Community partnerships formed (e.g., schools, local businesses, health professionals).

By tracking these outcomes and measures, the Salmo Climbing Society will be able to assess the success and long-term impact of the climbing gym, ensuring it remains a valuable community asset for years to come.

## Primary Beneficiaries of the Program

The Salmo Indoor Rock Climbing Gym will serve a diverse range of community members, with a particular focus on children, youth, and families who currently have limited access to indoor recreation opportunities. The primary beneficiaries include:

### 1. Local Youth (Ages 3-18)

Students from Salmo Secondary School & Local Elementary Schools – The gym will provide structured programming, including after-school activities, school curriculum integration, and outdoor education enrichment.

Participants in Salmo Valley Youth & Community Centre (SVYCC) Programs – The climbing gym will be used exclusively during scheduled youth programming, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for skill-building.

Children Enrolled in the Salmo Children's Center – The facility will be incorporated into early childhood programming, introducing young children to climbing in a fun and engaging way.

Youth Seeking Leadership Opportunities – Older youth will have opportunities for mentorship, coaching, and volunteer roles, helping to develop leadership, responsibility, and teamwork skills.

### 2. Families & Parents in Salmo and Area G

Parents and caregivers will benefit from a local, family-friendly recreational space where they can engage in physical activity alongside their children.

The facility will strengthen family connections by offering a shared space for active play, fitness, and social engagement.

### 3. Adult Residents & Recreation Enthusiasts

Community members looking for accessible fitness opportunities will benefit from a low-cost, non-traditional workout alternative that promotes full-body strength, coordination, and mental resilience.

New and experienced climbers will have a dedicated training space, reducing the need to travel to other facilities in the region.

Individuals seeking mental health and stress relief benefits will have a safe, structured environment for building focus, confidence, and perseverance.



#### **4. Schools & Educators**

Teachers from Salmo Secondary School and surrounding schools will use the facility for physical education classes, outdoor education programming, and extracurricular activities.

The Outdoor Education Program will integrate climbing into its curriculum, helping students develop technical skills, problem-solving abilities, and self-confidence.

#### **5. Community Organizations & Local Businesses**

SVYCC and the Salmo Valley Arts Council will benefit from expanded programming capacity through a new, multi-use indoor recreation space.

Local businesses, including sponsors and in-kind donors, will gain visibility and community recognition for their support, while also contributing to the economic vitality of Salmo.

#### **6. Regional District & Partner Organizations**

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), which has prioritized partnerships with community organizations to improve access to youth and adult programming, will benefit from this community-led initiative aligning with its strategic goals.

Partnering organizations such as Teck, Shambhala, Valhalla Pure Outfitters, and SUTCO will play a role in strengthening community investment and fostering long-term recreation development.



## Budget Breakdown - Total Estimated Cost: \$91747

### SCS - Budget FY 2025, as of Jan 31

#### Income

Grant	Canada Post Foundation Grant - Unconfirmed	\$	15,000
	Columbia Basin Trust Community Development Fund - Unconfirmed	\$	20,000
	AgriSpirit Grant - Unconfirmed	\$	20,000
	RDCK Redi Grant - Unconfirmed	\$	4,900
	RDCK Recreation Grant - Unconfirmed	\$	10,000
	Private - Teck - Unconfirmed	\$	2,300
Other	Events (Silent Auction, Climbing Social, Food Truck, etc.)	\$	5,000
	Membership & donations	\$	4,000
Net Assets	Reserves (Grants and Community Fundraising from Aug 2024 - Jan 31 2025)	\$	10,347

Total: \$ 91,747

#### Expense

Admin & Events	Software & subscription	\$	500
	Printing & Other	\$	1,300
	Insurance & Other Liability	\$	6,000
	Payment Fees (Square & Paypal)	\$	150
	Renovations	\$	7,500
	Design Plans and Engineering	\$	2,500
	Climbing Wall Materials	\$	15,000
	Labour	\$	15,000
	Climbing Holds and Hardware	\$	10,597
	Flooring	\$	24,000
	Rental Shoes	\$	2,000
	Technology Infrastructure	\$	5,000
	Equipment and Fixtures	\$	2,000

Total: \$ 91,747

Balance \$

## Appendix A



**Salmo Physio**  
Box 92, Salmo, BC, V0G1Z0  
Tel: 250-551-9119 Fax: 833-692-7355 Email: todd@salmo physio.com

**REGARDING: Salmo Climbing Gym**  
Patient Number: 1207  
Salmo, BC

March 25, 2024

I am writing to offer my wholehearted support for a community climbing gym in Salmo and its pivotal role in nurturing the gross motor skills development of children. As both a physiotherapist and a parent of two young kids in this community, I can attest to the profound benefits that climbing offers for physical, cognitive, and emotional growth.

Climbing serves as a dynamic platform for all ages, but especially children, to enhance their strength, coordination, balance, and flexibility—all essential components of gross motor development. I strongly believe that one must maintain a highly diverse diet of movement to maintain optimal function. In climbing, it offers just that – the movement is extremely varied, ranging from powerful, dynamic full-body throws to delicate and measured footwork and body tension. The movement patterns associated with climbing can be viewed as one possible countermeasure to many of the common postural and functional disorders of modern life. I've leveraged these potent movement patterns in my own practice in helping people heal from and prevent injury but I believe an early exposure to this sport can do much more for the overall movement health of our community. I've watched the transformative impact of climbing on my own children. I firmly believe that it fosters not only physical health but also resilience, problem-solving abilities, and self-confidence.

Moreover, as a passionate climber myself, I recognize these indoor spaces as important hubs for community engagement and development. Climbing indoors as a youth was the spark that ignited my lifelong love for the outdoors, as well, it served as the common ground upon which I've built some of the most important relationships of my life. The climbing gym provides a welcoming space where individuals of all ages and backgrounds can come together to challenge themselves, support one another, and celebrate achievements. This inclusive ethos not only strengthens community bonds but also instills valuable life lessons in empathy, acceptance, and mutual respect.

By supporting the community climbing gym, we are investing in the well-being and future of our children. As a parent, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity this will provide for my kids to explore their physical potential, cultivate friendships, and develop essential life skills in a safe and supportive environment. As a passionate climber, I am excited to see our community thrive and grow as more individuals discover the joys and benefits of climbing.

Regards,

Todd Van der Star MPT, BKin  
License #08180  
Monday March 25, 2024 at 8:25pm



Salmo  
Secondary

Box 310, 7th Davies Avenue, Salmo BC V0G 1Z0  
Tel/Fax 250 357 2226 salsec.sd8.bc.ca

April 5, 2024

It is very exciting to see this project coming alive and I am pleased to be writing a letter of support for an indoor climbing gym in Salmo. As a teacher at Salmo Secondary and rock climber, I have witnessed rock climbing change student lives and build community. I am in full support of this project and hope to see an indoor climbing gym in Salmo in the near future!

In the past I have taught outdoor education and physical and health education, and have brought students to the CUBE in Nelson, Flux in Rossland, and to outdoor crags in the area. There's often a mix of feelings before our first day of rock climbing, ranging from excited and confident to apprehensive and nervous. After a couple of trips to the climbing gym these feelings change - many students are humbled, but most importantly, many students gain so much confidence in themselves and learn that with perseverance, teamwork, and hard work they can grow and accomplish more than they could ever imagine. They learn resilience. What has surprised me most when bringing classes climbing is also that it is something that every single student can find success in. Students who historically dreaded PE class, and tried their best to avoid movement, are now excited to come to class and move their bodies. Some even pestering me every day about when we will be going climbing next. Climbing really is for everyone, and it shows me time and time again that it is a great way to get students moving, working together, and developing a love for movement that will last throughout their lives.

As a climber, I have also seen what a brilliant role a climbing gym can play in building community. Many people I speak to find it hard to fit into a new town when they move. There are a few exceptions to this rule including people who frequent climbing gyms. Climbing gyms bring people together and are incredible places to make new friendships and deepen community ties. I always appreciate meeting new friends at the climbing gym who I otherwise would not know - meeting people of varying ages and cheering on strangers-turned-friends. If you walk into a climbing gym you will see empathy, support, and inclusion.

The community of Salmo will greatly benefit from a climbing gym. I see it being a community hub where people can connect in positive ways - making connections, building community, learning important social and emotional skills, and moving their bodies in a challenging and fun ways. I can see this making a big difference for people of all ages in the community and in Salmo's schools and hope to see it go forward!

Sincerely,

Cara McGuire  
Teacher  
Salmo Secondary



School District 8  
Rossland, BC



## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### CAO Report

Report Date: May 6, 2025  
Meeting Date: May 13, 2025 (#09-25)  
From: Derek Kwiatkowski, Chief Administrative Officer  
Subject: CAO Report - Fire Truck Purchase Update

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#### **BACKGROUND:**

Administration has begun the first steps in a path to purchase a new fire truck. The Fire Chief has provided a list of specifications for the new apparatus. This list of specifications has been inputted into BCBid for a Request for Quotation. Once administration receives these bids, Council will have the information necessary to proceed with a Council motion to begin the referendum process or Alternative Approval Process (AAP).

The RDCK has provided the Village with a guide for the referendum process that gives approximate timelines for the entire process. Once the bids are in, the process took the RDCK approximately from approximately 8 months, with the General Voting Day occurring 6 months after the process begins. These timelines are approximate, but the administration is hoping to follow this timeline as closely as possible.

The alternative approval process was formerly known as counter-petition. The alternative approval process requires that 10 percent or more of the eligible electors must sign and submit response forms in opposition to the proposed initiative to require the local government to obtain assent of the electors to proceed. When this happens, the issue is considered significant, and the local government has two choices. They may proceed to assent voting within 80 days, or they may put the matter on hold and consider alternatives to the proposed action.

Administration will provide Council with the different purchase options once the bidding period closes.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council accepts the CAO report for information.



## The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

### Request for Decision

Report Date: May 8, 2025

Meeting Date: May 13, 2025 (#09-25)

From: Derek Kwiatkowski, Chief Administrative Officer

Subject: Recreation Enhancements in Accessibility for Children (REACH) Grant Workplan Approval

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#### 1. **OBJECTIVE**

For Council to determine the project work for the REACH grant.

#### 2. **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

In February, 2025 the Village was notified by Columbia Basin Trust that they were successful in a \$50,000 grant application to enhance recreation access for children, known as the REACH grant. Council had previously been given the opportunity to provide potential project options. The Village is required to submit a workplan to CBT for the grant this month. Administration has provided some ideas for the project.

The project would include:

1. New sidewalk around the "racetrack" portion of KP Park playground, approximately 200 feet long.
2. Building of a shelter in Lion's Park like the picnic shelter that was constructed by the Lion's Club in KP Park, approximately 18 x 28.
3. New sidewalk from the new shelter to the accessible swing in the Lion's Park Playground, approximately 100 feet long.

Additional options may include:

1. Sensory or activity board on the north wall of the KP Park washroom building.
2. Village has requested pricing on a couple of smaller playground equipment items including an accessible excavator & activity board.

Staff has priced approximate project costs reflecting \$40,000 for approximately 300 feet of 6 feet wide sidewalk, 200 feet at KP Park & 100 feet at Lion's Park. allowing for \$10,000 for the shelter. Council may

#### 3. **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council direct administration to complete the Columbia Basin Trust's REACH grant workplan with the proposed project items.

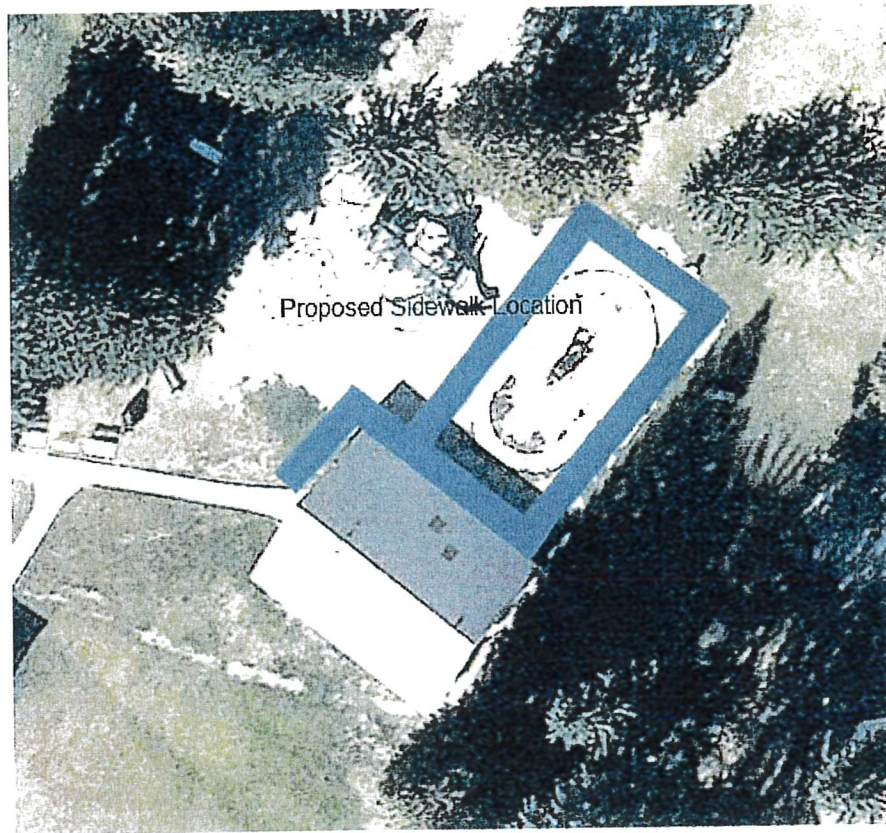
#### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. That Council direct administration completes the Columbia Basin Trust's REACH grant workplan with Council's proposed items.



### **KP Park**

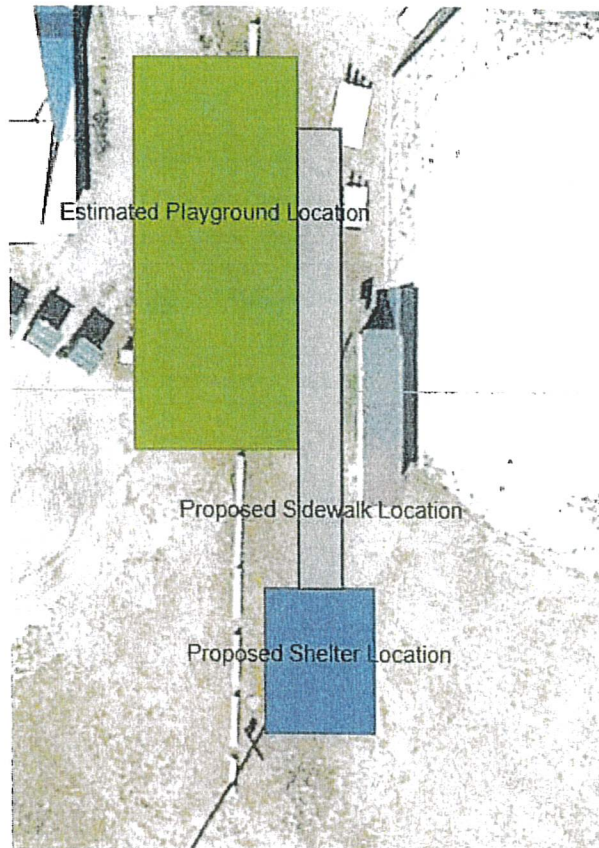
A new sidewalk would extend from the existing washroom building sidewalk north towards the playground equipment & around the “racetrack playground”. There would be a potential for an accessible “activity panel”.



## **Lion's Park**

Proposed shelter would be located at the south end of the playground near the parking lot. It will be ground-level construction.

A new sidewalk would run from new shelter along the east side of the playground, reaching the accessible swing on the north side of the playground.





## APPENDIX B



### THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO REPORT FROM COUNCIL

#### COUNCILLOR HEATLIE

Council Report for Council Meeting held on May 13, 2025.

#### PORTFOLIOS

##### **Salmo & District Chamber of Commerce:**

April 28/25: I had a meeting with the chamber of commerce at 2:30 pm to discuss the mining exhibit. The chamber first apologized for the project taking so long to complete.

The project is in its final stage of lighting and signage. The cost of materials and light have gone up and vendors have fallen through. It will take some time to secure pricing for the remaining portion of the project. I did stress that this would be the 5<sup>th</sup> extension on this grant. I also relayed that this project needs to be completed. The chamber agrees fully and again apologized.

April 28/25: I attended the chamber meeting at the museum at 7pm. Not enough members showed so there was no quorum and no meeting.

Next meeting is on May 26/25 at 7 pm.

##### **Salmo Museum:**

##### **Citizen Engagement:**

##### **Economic Development:**

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Heatlie



## **THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO** **REPORT FROM COUNCIL**

### **COUNCILLOR LINS**

Council Report for Council Meeting held on May 13, 2025.

### **PORTFOLIOS**

**Salmo Valley Youth & Community Centre:**

**Citizen Engagement:**

**Environment:**

**Seniors:**

A request was sent to the village to rent the park and concession stand/bingo spot for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on Friday June 13th, free hotdogs and bocce. It will be an intergenerational event with a class from elementary and the high school. This will be a free event.

We will also be starting a community collaboration group to help offset isolation and work together with other organizations - the first meeting will be held Monday June 9/25.

We have a new community collaborator role in Salmo, Kirsten Faris from Nav-Care and Helen Oldershaw will be sharing the role (basically they have 2 days a week and they split it up between them). This role is to help seniors on a one-on-one basis to help alleviate non-medical health determinants such as isolation, nutrition, stress and anxiety - they work with them one on one until we can get them set up with other resources.

There is an ongoing coffee group on Fridays from 10 am until noon.

Elderly Awareness Day is on June 13/25

The Lions will be serving hot dogs for seniors at KP Park.

**Villa**

The Villa received funding to buy and install fire blankets in each apartment. In case of a fire, tenants can pull it from the wall and smother the fire.

**Estates**

The kitchen at the estates will be closing as of June 1/25.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Lins



## **THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SALMO** **REPORT FROM MAYOR/DIRECTOR**

### **MAYOR LOCKWOOD**

Mayor Report for Council Meeting held on May 13, 2025.

**Salmo & Area G Emergency Preparedness Committee:** Next meeting September 29, 2025.

**Fire Department:** As you are all aware, our fire department is volunteer-based and they need your help and diligence. If you are burning, please follow the regulations, **DO NOT** leave the fire unattended for any amount of time, and make sure it is completely out using water to extinguish it. Yes, we are not looking at a drought situation like last year but as people have experienced already, it is dry out there and fire itself creates its own wind. **PLEASE BE DILIGENT!**

**Citizen Engagement:** April 11, Parkinson's held a community wellness event at the Community Center. Our very own Todd Wallace initiated this event, and his hope is it is the first of many to come. It was well attended and very educational.

There were tables set up for information and where one can get help along with a show of books that are available right at our local library to learn more. Better at Homes and a Community Collaborator can be reached at Community Services, CBAL offers courses at the library to help with electronics making things easier to continue the use of them, Cannabis Wellness Coach (Terese Bowors) at [www.terese.ca](http://www.terese.ca), Parkinson's Society Sheila, Trail/Castlegar Support Group: (250) 231-7705 BC Information Line: 1-800-668-3330 BC Office Fax: (604) 608-3311, RDCK promoting the fitness center and swimming pool and how the leisure access program can help people that are in need of financial help, West Kootenay Boundary Caregiver Support (United Way) through the Nelson manager at 1-888-212-2337, and the Salmo & District Hospice Society, which is holding their AGM May 13 at 6pm at the Salmo Senior's Villa Lounge and hosting a Hike for Hospice May 25 starting at 11am from the Villa at 517 Davies Ave. in Salmo, were all in attendance.

**Salmo & District Arts Council:** Next meeting TBD

**RDCK:**

**Board:** Chair Watson took a moment of silence for the family of RDCK staff member Jon Jackson.

The Board approved the calculations of Total Costs for the Fees and Charges for Indoor Facilities which was presented by general manager Joe Chirico. The schedule of Fees and Charges will be implemented for September 2, 2025. The review was needed to see if we are charging appropriately so we can continue with recreation going forward.

There was a direction for staff to prepare an amendment to the Kootenay Lake West Transit Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1783, 2005 to update the method of apportionment to reflect the Hybrid Method and to update apportionment percentages in the bylaw to reflect the Hybrid Methods apportionment of current transit costs. Salmo will see a large hike in transit going forward with hopes this will be implemented over a span of time.

RDCK & BC Transit staff will negotiate a funding agreement with Health Connections (IHA) to ensure a consistent level of Health Connections Service based on the 2019 hours funded benchmark which has been frozen since 2021.

The Rural Mobility Community Advisory Committee Bylaw No. 3005, 2025 has been adopted. This committee will help advise all RDCK participants on making mobility easier for all.

The unqualified 2024 Audited Financial Statements as audited by BDO Canada LLP were adopted.

**All Recreation:** Next meeting June 25, 2025

**Salmo & Area G Recreation Commission:** Next meeting May 12, 2025

**Economic Trust of the Southern Interior – BC (ETSI-BC):** Next meeting June 19, 2025

**Central/Joint Resource Recovery:** Next meeting April 16, 2025, was cancelled. Next meeting is May 14, 2025

**West Kootenay Hospital Board:** Next meeting June 26, 2025.

**Nelson, Salmo, E, F, & G Regional Parks:** Next meeting March 25, 2025, was cancelled. Next meeting June 10, 2025

**West Transit:** Next meeting June 10, 2025

**Other meetings of note:**

**Mayor's and chair Highway 3 Coalition:** May 7, 2025

**Fortis:** They will be updating the natural gas meters in May 2026 here in Salmo and it will take approximately 5 weeks.

**Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG) Conference:**

I started the conference by joining the walking tour with the planning department for the City of Kimberley. The feeling is that opening areas to bike or skateboard allows people more freedom for transportation and reduces the work on the Bylaw Officer and they feel most people are respectful and those that are not held accountable through the public. Public parking seems to be only a concern when an event is happening within the downtown core, and they encourage residents to walk or carpool to the event. They are looking to see how they can promote other means of transportation. Their parking for residential housing has been changed from requiring two parking spaces for every resident to being determined by the size of housing if you require parking and how much parking.

Four MLAs were at the opening ceremonies - Brittny Anderson, Pete Davis, Scott McInnis, and Steve Morissette - and this gave me an opportunity to discuss with them about reducing the requirement to have an Alternative Approval Process or a Referendum to replace a fire apparatus that the residents already stated at one time they wanted. This could save thousands of dollars that could be put towards purchasing the equipment. I will be writing a formal ask to MLA Anderson.

Opportunities, Cooperation, and Connectivity for a dynamic Kootenay Region: A State of the Local Economy by Mike Bushore, Chief Risk Officer, Kootenay Savings Credit Union. This session gave a good insight how our credit unions must navigate the world economics such as technology, regulatory environment, competition, member expectation, and global reordering. World Economics look at Debt, Deficit, Dollar, and National Defence.

Credit Unions are Not-for-profits organizations, members have a hand in decisions made in the organization, by voting during the election time. There are not many branches that give a more personalized approach. He spoke about Canada as a whole

and how it affects us as a region, things like undersea cables, US satellites, cloud kingdoms, and Canadian Contributions to Digital Economy.

Undersea cables are fiber-optic cables laid on the ocean floor that transmit data across continents. The USA owns 22% of the world's 475 undersea cable system. This system conducts things such as web browsing, money transactions, emails and video calls. So, you can appreciate that this system could be compromised. Without this system the global internet speeds would be like dial up using satellites. This system is needed to conduct real time global commerce.

Cloud Kingdom are data centers that hold data. There has been a significant increase due to artificial intelligence apps. Canada has over 200 centers with 35 of them right here in BC. Going forward there may be challenges for the grid because it is moving so fast.

Ways that Canada can lead in Global Infrastructure:

- Power, Process and Feed: Invest in future-proof industries [oil, gas, mining, processing, agriculture, clean energy, advanced automation]
- Optimize Domestically: Strengthening domestic supply chains, building homes, investing in energy, Policies to build not to block
- Banking Reform: Strengthen AML, fraud regulations, legal
- Scale Human Capital: Investing in technology, trades, and treatment (healthcare)
- Govern & Regulate: Reasserting out global governance role (AI, Quantum, Banking)

What does a borrowed calm and a silent squeeze have to do with finance?

A borrowed calm refers to a temporary sense of financial stability and may not be sustainable for the long run. A silent squeeze refers to a significant pressure on the financial system but may not be noticeable to the public quickly but can lead to increased borrowing costs while decreasing access to credit. So put these two terms together and witness the delicate dance between them so the central banks maintain immediate liquidity and ensure financial stability while watching for issues that may need to be addressed to avoid other severe problems.

I attended Leading with Heart: Building Relationships that Strengthen Governance Christina Benty, Strategic Leadership Solutions. Christina always has something that we

can learn from. Does your local government have a policy defining service levels, and if so, are you making it hard for staff to meet those levels? Are you hearing from your residents about issues you are discussing at your council table, if so, how did you reach out and if not, why not? Whether good or bad council should be hearing how the residents think things are going within your community because you have a relationship. Take the time to hear from your residents so council can make good decisions going forward.

I attended Supporting Economic Development in the Southern Interior – Lessons Learned Laurel Douglas, CEO & Paul Weist, Project Consultant, ETSI-BC. Laurel and Paul spoke about how many projects have been funded since changing course and the ability to have a consultant help you through your project to make it better and stronger. Biggest key factor is collaboration!

I attended the Value of Tourism Chris McCurry, Destination Development & Sustainability, Kootenay Rockies Tourism. Destination Development hopefully brings people back to your area. Employment rates for tourism are 4.8% on average. He talked about promoting your own community, not forgetting about Indigenous tourism and supporting sustainable tourism.

AKBLG Business Meeting is where the resolutions are presented. Below is the resolution that Salmo put in and I had the opportunity to speak to it with no one speaking against it.

Referendum for the Replacement of Fire Apparatus Village of Salmo

Whereas local governments need to replace aging fire apparatus to ensure continued effective emergency response capabilities;

And whereas pursuant to local government legislation, a referendum is required for the authorization to spend public funds to replace fire apparatus, and the process of holding a referendum can bring significant costs to local governments, in particular small communities:



Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to remove the requirement to hold a referendum to replace fire apparatus for local governments under 15,000 in population. **ENDORSED BY MEMBERSHIP**

I attended the foundational relationships with First Nations and local governments with Jared Basil, Cultural Framework Educator, Ktunaxa Nation. It was informative and he reinforced the need to build a relationship instead of blame.

I attended Easy Methods and Best Practices to Build Ongoing Public Engagement Capacity in Your Community – And in turn Build Higher Public Trust Kent Waugh, Managing Partner, The W Group. Engaging with residents telling them what is happening and why, allowing them to voice their thoughts and concerns. Tell the story of what we are responsible for as local government vs provincial and federal governments. Use simple language so there is not the confusion in what you are saying. Create a communication plan along with a calendar when things are happening. Newsletters are way more effective than social media because you can give more information, and it can be easily found again. Share with the residents what you have done to keep them engaged.

I attended Strong Towns: A Bottom-Up Revolution to Rebuild Prosperity Norm Van Eeden Petersman, Director of Membership and Development, Strong Towns. Norm strongly stated that we as local government get in the way for people to build and we need to get out of their way, and we would prosper.

I attended Regional Districts – Legislative Reform Don Lidstone, Lidstone & Company. Don spoke about the differences between regional and municipal powers and how they need to change to give regional areas more power to do the same as municipal governments. He talked about the Natural Person's Power that only Municipalities can use. He encouraged us all to look at the road map for changing the Local Government Act. There have been motions put forward to UBCM for 25 years and the provincial government (whoever is in power) has not taken on the challenge to change it. I attended Leading Through Ambiguity: Cultivating Resilience for Kootenay & Boundary Leaders Dr. Caroline Brookfield. She spoke about people in general like to work in a world of certainty where ambiguity is about not knowing what something means, and uncertainty is about not knowing what will happen and when we are ambiguous or uncertain the public trust can be broken down or we allow creativity. Reducing ambiguity in our jobs could easily be reduced by following your strategic plan.

Practice the ability to handle ambiguity with the three C's.

- 1- Catch On – Recognize we are in ambiguity
- 2- Consider – Mindfulness Data
- 3- Create – New Options Innovation

Try Creative Problem Solving:

Key Elements of Creative Problem Solving:

1. Clarify the Problem – Understand the issue deeply, sometimes redefining the problem itself.
2. Generate Ideas – Brainstorm many ideas without immediately judging them.
3. Develop Solutions – Evaluate and refine promising ideas into workable solutions.
4. Implement and Test – Put the solution into action and adjust based on results.

Thank you to the taxpayers and council for giving me this opportunity to attend this conference and bring back as much as possible to benefit our community.