



The Royal Canadian Legion

Branch 261 Forest Grove

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Face Book: Forest Grove Royal Canadian

Legion Branch 261

President Jerry Billups

Cariboo Regional District

File No.1950-01.....

April 10, 2019

Margo Wagner, Director Area H
Cariboo Regional District
80 3rd Ave North
Williams Lake, BC

APR 18 2019

Referred To ...mcs/Chair.....

Dear Ms. Wagner,

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 261 Forest Grove has for the past 6 years been granted exemption of all CRD taxes. This has been a great help to our Branch and has allowed us to continue to serve our local veterans, our community of Forest Grove and surrounding region. I am writing this letter to request a continued exemption of taxes for 2019 for the Royal Canadian Legion located at 4535 Canim-Hendrix Lake Rd Forest Grove.

The Royal Canadian Legion is a not for profit organization. This Branch would have an extremely difficult if not impossible time to continue to operate without this tax exemption we have been able to maintain our programs for veterans, seniors and others in the community with the support of this exemption by the CRD Board.

The purpose of the Legion is to support Canada's military and RCMP veterans, their families and the community in which the Branch resides. At present 85% of our members and guests are senior citizens. We at Branch 261 are striving to become more family oriented. With the changes to the Liquor regulations we now consistently see families coming in our doors for meals. It is no longer required to be a veteran or family member of a veteran to join the Legion.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 261 has served the community of Forest Grove and surrounding region for over 50 years. The Legion provides leadership within the community. Over the years we have developed programs to meet the needs of our small community.

On Saturdays we have a Meat Draw and 50/50 draw to raise the funds that are donated to our Community and area. We give donations to a variety of community services. The Royal Canadian Army Cadets, Forest Grove Ball Club, Forest Grove Volunteer Fire Department, South Cariboo Search and Rescue, Hawkins Lake Fire

Department, 100 Mile Minor Hockey, 100 Mile Food Bank, Forest Grove Elementary School CPAC and families in our area in need of assistance. The Branch awards two \$500 bursaries to local students continuing on to post secondary education programs.

We sponsor fund-raiser events for the community providing the hall and kitchen along with volunteers as needed. We also provide the venue for Church services every Sunday.

Branch 261 runs a Seniors Outreach Program with an Over 50's Club, which is an informal gathering for seniors every Wednesday for games, socializing and Legion volunteers offer a freshly prepared luncheon.

The Forest Grove Hospitality Program offers a neighbourly drop in policy, which encourages members and their guests to come together and socialize, play a game, and/or enjoy a meal in a comfortable environment. We have regularly scheduled games such as crib, poker, pool and shuffleboard. Our dart players are a highly successful team at the Circuit Dart Tournament.

Our volunteer kitchen provides hot meals 3 evenings a week and for special events. Themed dinners are scheduled monthly. Our hall provides a venue for smaller group events, such as company Christmas dinners, family gatherings and other special occasions. We hosts dances, karaoke nights, and jam sessions.. and to bring the community members together.

We participate in the Poppy Campaign along with the 100 Mile House Legion to raise funds for veterans and veteran services. We commemorate Remembrance Day every year with a parade, Remembrance ceremony and a community gathering. Various military accomplishments are given special recognition such as Vimy Days.

Branch 261 has introduced cost saving initiatives such as debt reduction strategies, reduce power consumption plan and power smart appliances and lighting. These cost savings measures have allowed us to keep our doors open and continue to serve the community of Forest Grove. There is a constant need to raise money and to meet our financial obligations. Exemption of taxes would be of great assistance.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 261 strengthens the fabric of the Forest Grove community. We are a small Legion with a big heart. Families gather here.

Sincerely,

Wendy Clarke
President
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 261