



Date: 26/02/2020

To: Chair and Directors, Finance/Budget Committee

And To: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Emily Epp, Manager of Communications

Date of Meeting: Finance-Budget Committee_Mar05_2020

File: 1700-01

Short Summary:

2020 Budget Consultation and Public Feedback

Voting:

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Memorandum:

At the end of January 2020, the CRD began its budget consultation efforts, as per the Board's budget consultation policy. The following tools were used to raise awareness of the 2020 budget and to encourage residents to email or call with their feedback:

- We developed a short summary of the 2020 budget – it was posted on our website, emailed to all our email subscribers, linked in social media posts, and paper copies were placed at the front desk of all three CRD offices;
- A news release was sent to the public and media;
- Several local news outlets reported on our budget (100 Mile Free Press, Williams Lake Tribune, Quesnel Observer, My Cariboo Now [radio] and the PG Daily News);
- Our budget webpage was updated with all relevant budget information and business plans;
- We made several social media posts encouraging residents to review the budget and email in feedback; and
- Binders with the budget summary, charts, financial plan and business plans were made available at the three libraries and CRD offices in Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House.

Two digital submissions were received with feedback from the public and are attached. The Chief Financial Officer did not receive any phone calls regarding the budget.

Attachments:

- 1) 2020 Budget Feedback – 1
- 2) 2020 Budget Feedback – 2

Financial Implications:

All of the tools used to communicate about the 2020 budget had no direct financial costs, other than staff time and internal printing costs.

Policy Implications:

The efforts taken align with the current budget consultation policy (No. 2015-7-66), which was adopted in 2015:

That the Board discontinue the centralized public budget consultation meetings and instead have the information available on the CRD website as well as having a copy available for public viewing at the front counter of the CRD offices and libraries.

A revised version of the CRD's budget consultation policy is currently being reviewed by the Policy Committee.

The CRD's budget consultation practices will also be reviewed in developing a community engagement/consultation strategy, which is a goal in the current strategic plan.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- ☒ **Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- ☐ **Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- ☐ **Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- ☒ **Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

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CAO Comments:

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Options:

- 1) Endorse recommendation;
- 2) Receipt and other action.

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Emily Epp, Manager of Communications, dated February 26, 2020, regarding the 2020 Budget Consultation and Public Feedback, be received.