

Sept 20/2020

Dear Mr. Campbell, Cariboo Regional District.

**RE: Community Works Fund**

The Gavin Lake Forest Education Society would be very interested in applying for support from the Community Works Fund.

As you may know, we are a registered charity that provides a huge resource and benefit to the Cariboo. We have two main focuses. The first is the hosting of community groups, especially non-profits, in a unique setting that encourages healthy recreation and outdoor education. We provide below cost or “subsidized” rental which allows any local school group, youth group or other non-profit to use the camp facility for their own programming and keep costs to a minimum. Our second focus is our grade 6 outdoor education program which brings students from around the Cariboo to the Education centre for 3 days of Outdoor education at no cost at all to students, parents or schools.

We have recently embarked on a grid-tied solar energy project in camp. We will be covering the South facing roof of the main washrooms building with Solar panels. This site was chosen for its excellent sun exposure but also for its high visibility. This is important to us as we are very interested in using this as a demonstration of alternate energies during our school programs and feel this is a great concept demonstration projects for other small rural halls and organizations to explore PV solar systems.

The total cost of this project is \$35,277.90. We have already received a kick start donation of \$10,000 from a private citizen in Williams Lake and would be requesting \$25,277.90 to finish the project off before winter sets in. The first \$10,000 has already been spent purchasing the panels which are now stored in Williams Lake.

The total cost includes:

- 28-370W Mono 72 cell Hanwha photovoltaic panels
- aluminum mounting rails and hardware
- 7 – 1200 APS micro inverters which provide roof top rapid shut down and an internet based monitoring platform
- electrical wiring and equipment to connect inverters to existing distribution at the main panel
- trenching and backfill
- electrical permit and BC Hydro Net metering application
- labour

Project Outcomes:

-this system will produce around 10.3kwh when producing so using a low average over the year of 4 hours of production/day, it will produce a minimum of 41.44 kwh/day (15125kwh/year) which should save approximately \$2200 in Hydro costs annually.

-any reduction in energy use and cost will be beneficial as we are losing our BC Hydro e-plus status in 2022 as the program is finally completely phased out. This program has given us a reduced rate for many years on our electrical heating costs.

-any electricity reduction will help in our overall drive to lower the carbon footprint of the camp but will also free up funds to be used for our core youth programs.

-an excellent, highly visible demonstration of alternative energies in action.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply and for past funding from the CRD which has benefited the Gavin Lake Forest Education Centre immensely. Please feel free to contact me directly if you would like any more information about our school programs or any other aspect of our operation.

Mike Tudor (Camp Manager)