

March 3, 2021

via email: LSchick@cariboord.ca

Cariboo Regional District
ATTN: North Cariboo Rural Caucus
Suite D 180 North Third Avenue
Williams Lake, BC
V2G 2A4

Re: Improved access to Quesnel Canyon

The City of Quesnel would like to request up to \$5,000 from the North Cariboo Economic Development budget towards improving access to the Quesnel Canyon. This request comes from discussion with Council at the February 2, 2021 Council meeting.

Through work on the City's Waterfront Plan, and ongoing discussions with tourism stakeholders, we have heard that Quesnel Canyon presents an opportunity for destination development in the North Cariboo. In the past, paddlers accessed whitewater via the Blue Road from Barkerville Highway, and were able to exit the water just downstream from the whitewater section allowing for a short shuttle back to the starting point. Recently, the downstream exit point has washed out, so paddlers enter the whitewater from the Blue Road, and then float all the way into Ceal Tingley Park to exit the water and shuttle back around to their starting point.

Preliminary discussions with staff from BC Rec Sites & Trails indicate an interest in creating a formalized Recreation Site to support paddlers, and identifying a new takeout point, but significant ground work is needed in consultation with placer miners, users, Rec Sites & Trails, possible private land owners, and other stakeholders to determine the appropriate location for entry, and a possible exit point (possibly switching to the opposite side of the river for both entry and exit).

The City of Quesnel is proposing to hire a local contractor to initiate these conversations and report back on the opportunity. Once an appropriate site has been identified, further planning and budget will be needed to move the project forward.

Increased whitewater access improves the North Cariboo as a destination for visitors and offers local residents additional recreational amenities. The City of Quesnel is simultaneously moving forward with a feasibility study to add a standing wave to the Quesnel River, with access from the Riverfront Trail. Council has committed up to \$40,000 for the development of this study.



There are seems to be a growing number of vehicles with both kayaks and mountain bikes strapped to them each summer. These two projects, in combination with the expanding network of mountain bike trails in the region, will make the North Cariboo an (even more) attractive destination for active travelers and adventure seekers. Projects like this increase opportunities for economic diversification and resiliency of the region.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Yours Sincerely,

Mayor Bob Simpson
City of Quesnel