



## **2023 Business Plan Likely and Area Community Services (1112)**

*Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services*

***Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.***

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### **Department/Function Services**

The Likely and Area Community Services function was established in 2003 through Bylaw No. 3782. This establishment was done in tandem with the repeal of the Likely Airstrip Specified Area Establishment Bylaw No. 1033 (1981) and all assets were transferred into the new service.

The service was established with a mandate to maintain the Likely airstrip, acquire, develop, operate or maintain local public assets and facilities, and support community events of a cultural or heritage nature.

In conjunction with the creation of the function, the Likely Community Services Commission was appointed by the Regional District Board to ensure the community has input into recommendations regarding service delivery.

A three-year contribution agreement (2023-25) is in place between the Regional District and the Likely Chamber of Commerce to maintain public privies at the Bullion Pit, Quesnel Forks and downtown Likely.

Casual labour is retained by the Likely Chamber of Commerce, on an as required basis, to maintain public spaces, including improvements to local trails, as well as landscaping and minor repairs at the Bullion Pit, Quesnel Forks, and Goat Island Park. The Chamber is reimbursed for these costs from the function budget.

Requisition is by means of tax applied to the assessed value of land and improvements within the local service area. The maximum taxation rate for this service is the greater of \$15,000 or \$0.42126/\$1,000.

As Electoral Area F is the only stakeholder, and the *Local Government Act* requires more than one vote, the entire Board is responsible for the governance of this service. Local guidance for the service is provided via the Likely Community Services Commission.

## **Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies**

### **2023 Goals**

- 1. Goal:** Review the airport service to determine if it is beneficial to the community to continue.  
**Rationale:** The airport service utilizes approximately one third of the function budget; possibly, these funds could be used more effectively in the maintenance of other Likely public assets and facilities, or to support community events of a cultural or heritage nature.  
**Strategy:** Regional District will work with the Chamber of Commerce to determine if the airport service should continue or be discontinued.
- 2. Goal:** Maintain public spaces including improvements to local trails as well as landscaping and minor repairs at the Bullion Pit, Quesnel Forks, Goat Island Park and downtown Likely.  
**Rationale:** These local public spaces are key tourism attractions and a source of community pride and investment.  
**Strategy:** Local contractors will be hired to perform the work on an as needed basis under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce.
- 3. Goal:** Undertake community beautification activities.  
**Rationale:** Numerous infrastructure and aesthetic improvement projects have been completed in downtown Likely and some final finishing of flowers and other items is appropriate.  
**Strategy:** The project will be managed through the Chamber of Commerce with support from Regional District staff.
- 4. Goal:** Install information signs along the Gold Rush Trail Backroad to Barkerville and other community signage.  
**Rationale:** The backroad signs have been vandalized in recent years and many are missing, potentially leading to lost travelers. The route is an important tourism promotion for the community hoping to attract visitors looking for a different route to popular Barkerville. Other community signs in public areas explain local points of interest. Improving signage at locations such as downtown Likely, Goat Island Park, Cedar Point Park, and Quesnel Forks Historic Site, will add value to the area as a tourism destination.

**Strategy:** The project will be managed through the Chamber of Commerce with support from Regional District staff.

5. **Goal:** Advertise local events in several tourism publications and distribute community information.

**Rationale:** Promotion of local events will draw more tourism traffic and increase community participation.

**Strategy:** Ads will be arranged through the Chamber of Commerce with support from Regional District staff.

### **Overall Financial Impact**

The 2023 requisition is increased by 2% from the 2022 requisition amounting to \$544 for a total of \$27,766. A 2% increase is also included throughout the financial plan to accommodate ongoing inflationary increases to operating costs.

The function has projected capital reserve funds for the airstrip in the amount of \$22,121 at the end of 2022, with an annual increase of \$1,000 in years 2023-2027 of the financial plan.

### **Significant Issues & Trends**

Operations and activities under the community services function have recovered from the COVID-19 situation and are expected to stabilize to pre-pandemic levels in 2023.

The unprecedented wildfire events during the summer of 2017 had a major impact on rural communities throughout the region and although the Likely area was not evacuated or put on alert the highway roads to the community were cut off for extended periods of time. This severely limited visitation to the areas for tourism and was a challenge for locals to acquire food and medical supplies.

The breach on August 4, 2014, of the tailings pond at the Mount Polley Mine and subsequent release of material into Quesnel Lake, drew national attention to the small community of Likely. Recovery from the event through 2015 and forward presented many challenges - social, economic, and environmental - for area residents and resulted in opportunities for local projects and community improvements. Numerous projects were undertaken in 2016 and 2017 such as installation of a shower house and boat launch at Cedar Point Park as well as construction of a commercial kitchen at the community hall. Capacity of the local residents to implement the worthwhile plans will remain an ongoing issue; however, a community coordinator position has been created and has made a significant positive impact. The position is not funded through the Regional District, but primarily through the community forest and other local sources.

The establishment of the Area F Community Halls Support Service in 2008 has augmented the financial resources available to the community services commission by allowing the community services function to shift its focus away from maintenance and operation of the community hall.

The commission also works closely with the Likely and District Chamber of Commerce and regularly receives project support from the Central Cariboo and Chilcotin Economic Development function.

The Cariboo Regional District is a signatory on the Province of BC/UBCM Climate Action Charter and has committed to continuing work towards carbon neutrality in respect of corporate operations.

### **Measuring Previous Years Performance**

**Goal:** Review the contribution agreement with the Likely Chamber of Commerce to maintain public privies at the Bullion Pit, Quesnel Forks and downtown Likely.

- Completed. The agreement was renewed for another three-year term with no material changes.

**Goal:** Maintain public spaces including improvements to local trails as well as landscaping and minor repairs at the Bullion Pit, Quesnel Forks, Goat Island Park and downtown Likely.

- Completed.

**Goal:** Undertake community beautification activities.

- Completed.

**Goal:** Install information signs along the Gold Rush Trail Backroad to Barkerville and other community signage.

- Planned for completion in 2022. If not completed, goal will be carried forward to 2023.

**Goal:** Advertise local events in several tourism publications as well as produce and distribute the community information newsletter.

- Completed.