



The Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 261 Forest Grove
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Face Book: Forest Grove Royal Canadian
Legion Branch 261
President Wendy Clarke

September 16, 2023

Cariboo Regional District
80 3rd Ave North
Williams Lake, BC

Dear Ms. Wagner,

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 261 Forest Grove has for the past 10 years has been granted exemption of property 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 the coming tax year 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 community members 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 60 years, this year being our 65nd year anniversary on July 28th, 2023. The Legion provides leadership within the community. Over the years we have developed programs to meet the needs of our small community. We are always open to new ideas to benefit those in need.

On Saturdays we have a Meat Draw and 50/50 draw to raise the funds that are donated back into 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 \$750 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.

We are also now home to the Forest Grove "94" Lions

The Forest Grove Hospitality Program offers a neighborly 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, darts, and pool. Our dart players are a highly successful team at the Circuit Dart Tournament.

Our 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 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 assisted 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. Like many not for profits Covid has made a huge impact to our business and we have worked many hours as volunteers to keep our doors open and it has not been easy.

We take pride in our contribution to our Community, veterans and those is service.

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

There are not the words to explain what your support of this legion means to us all.

We hope to be able to maintain keeping our doors open for another 65 years.

Sincerely,

Wendy Clarke
President
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 261
Forest Grove