



Date: 28/02/2024

To: Chair and Directors, Finance/Budget Committee

And To: Murray Daly, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Gerald Pinchbeck, Manager of Communications

Date of Meeting: Finance-Budget Committee_Feb29_2024

File: 1700-20/2024

Short Summary:

AIS – Consultation Report for 2024 - 2028 Financial Plan Engagement

Voting:

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Memorandum:

Pursuant to section 166 of the *Community Charter*, the Regional District is required to undertake a process of public consultation regarding the proposed financial plan before it is adopted. The Board directed staff to do so at its January 11, 2024 Finance-Budget Committee meeting.

Data and results from the consultation are summarized below and detailed in the attachments. The Board has discretion as to how to use the information from the consultation process in its decision making.

A public survey was available online for residents to submit feedback, from February 1, 2024 to February 28, 2024. In addition, the following methods were also employed:

- Media Release and interviews to promote awareness about CRD Budget.
- Social Media advertising and posts to promote participation in survey.
- Mailouts to each electoral area to promote awareness about CRD Budget and encourage participation.

Feedback was also received through written submissions to CRD staff and on social media posts.

A total of 377 survey responses were received, with an overwhelming majority (63.93%) being from the South Cariboo (Areas G, H, L, and 100 Mile House). Central Cariboo (Areas D, E, F, J, K and Williams Lake) was the next highest source of feedback at 22.56%, and North Cariboo (A, B, C, I and Quesnel) was the lowest at 11.68% of total responses. Most survey participants were over the age of 55 (58.51% of total responses) and female (66.94%), and overwhelmingly indicated they were homeowners (87.80%).

While results varied somewhat between subregions, residents rated the importance of services as follows:

	Entire Region (299*)	North Cariboo (34)	Central Cariboo (63)	South Cariboo (241)
1.	Fire Protection & 911 (242)	Fire Protection & 911 (24)	Fire Protection & 911 (45)	Fire Protection & 911 (168)
2.	Recreation, Community Halls, Arts & Culture (184)	Recreation, Community Halls, Arts & Culture (22)	Emergency Programs (37)	Recreation, Community Halls, Arts & Culture (131)
3.	Emergency Programs (167)	Emergency Programs (18)	Solid Waste & Invasive Plants Management (33)	Emergency Programs (108)
4.	Land Use Planning & Development Regulation (135)	Regional Airports (13)	Land Use Planning & Development Regulation (29)	Economic Development (92)
5.	Solid Waste & Invasive Plants Management (121)	Land Use Planning & Development Regulation (13)	Recreation, Community Halls, Arts & Culture (27)	Land Use Planning & Development Regulation (90)

* 78 survey participants skipped answering this question.

Participants were asked to indicate whether they wished to *increase, decrease, or maintain* service levels for a variety of service categories, and 299 participants provided their input while 78 skipped the question. The data indicates a greater desire to increase the following three services (note, a service is only listed if responses were greater than 50%, excluding N/A responses):

1. Structural Fire Protection (160 / 56.14%)
2. Recreation (152 / 54.68%)
3. Emergency Services (153 / 52.94%)

Most services saw most participants request service levels to be maintained:

1. Airports (42 / 71.11%)
2. Libraries & Literacy Programs (58 / 70.70%)
3. Solid Waste Management (77 / 66.55%)
4. Land Use Planning & Development Regulation (67 / 64.98%)
5. Community Sewer Systems (41 / 63.70%)
6. Building Inspection & Bylaw Enforcement (59 / 63.60%)
7. Arts, Culture & Community Centres (96 / 57.60%)
8. Invasive Plants Management (91 / 54.41%)
9. Community Water Systems (61 / 52.90%)
10. Access to Information & Public Engagement (116 / 51.59%)

No service saw a majority of participants express a desire to decrease the level of service.

Participants also were given opportunities to provide open ended comment on:

1. Programs or services desired in their area
2. Improvements to existing CRD services
3. General Feedback on CRD Services

Responses are summarized in the below charts:

Q8 Are there any programs or services that you would like to see available in your area?



Q9 If we could make ONE improvement to our services, what would it be?



Q10 Is there anything you would like to add about service levels and availability in your area?



Attachments:

1. 2024-2028 Financial Plan Engagement Report – Entire Region
2. 2024-2028 Financial Plan Engagement Report – South Cariboo
3. 2024-2028 Financial Plan Engagement Report – Central Cariboo
4. 2024-2028 Financial Plan Engagement Report – North Cariboo
5. Written Submission #1 – Barb and Dave Collin (Feb 18, 2024)
6. Written Submission #2 – Margaret Maibauer (Feb 17, 2024)
7. Written Submission #3 – Henry Van Soest (Feb 19, 2024)
8. 2024-2028 Financial Plan Consultation Post – Facebook Comments

Financial Implications:

None.

Policy Implications:

None.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Infrastructure and Asset Management:** To establish a systematic, predictable approach to managing the regional district's assets and infrastructure that builds on current asset management data and condition assessments.
- Enhanced Communications and Engagement:** To build trust and credibility of the regional district by enhancing our communications and engagement with citizens, stakeholders, and volunteers.
- Effective and Responsive Land Use Planning and Development:** To ensure our land use planning and development is responsive to future growth and housing needs, anticipates risks and hazards associated with climate change and provides efficient and consistent processes for landowners and developers.
- Relationships with First Nations:** To foster a healthy and inclusive region by building and strengthening our relationships with First Nations and embracing the principles of reconciliation.

The Board has committed to increased levels of communications and engagement. While part of an annual exercise of a legal requirement, budget consultations can serve as opportunities to connect with residents and gather useful information about how the CRD is perceived and understood by those it serves.

CAO Comments:

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Options:

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Recommendation:

No action necessary.