



building communities together

2025 Business Plan Likely and Area Community Services (1112)

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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.

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.

Under this local service delivery structure, casual labour is retained by the Likely Chamber of Commerce, on an as required basis, to maintain public spaces, including the outdoor privies, 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

2025 Goals

- 1. Goal:** Install awareness signage and pilot drop boxes to track activity at the airport.

Rationale: The airport service utilizes approximately one third of the function budget and a review of the benefit for these expenditures is ongoing. There is the potential that 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: The Chamber of Commerce will install the airport signs and drop boxes and work with Regional District staff to determine if the airport service should continue.
- 2. Goal:** Increase the funding for maintenance of 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: Seasonal contractors will be hired as a community works crew to perform the work on an as needed basis under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce.
- 3. Goal:** Undertake community beautification activities and the Farm to School partnership.

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 in partnership with the School District with support from Regional District staff.
- 4. Goal:** Install information signs along the Gold Rush Trail Backroad to Barkerville.

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 and was carried forward from 2024.

5. **Goal:** Install directional signage around the community.

Rationale: Directional signage will direct visitors to local points of interest, such as Goat Island Park, Cedar Point Park, and Quesnel Forks Historic Site, which 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 and was carried forward from 2024.

6. **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 2025 requisition is increased by 2% from the 2024 requisition amounting to \$566 for a total of \$28,888. 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 \$23,600 at the end of 2024.

Significant Issues & Trends

Discussion of the viability of the Likely Airstrip is ongoing and will be supported by increased activity tracking at the registered aerodrome in 2025. For many years, flights to the airport are estimated at 5-10 annually. The BC Wildfire Service has a storage container for ground equipment at the site but does not use it regularly for aircraft mobilization. There are no recorded medivac flights to the airstrip and BC Emergency Health Services aircraft generally have other landing options, often much closer to the scene of an incident.

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 airport service to determine if it is beneficial to the community to continue.

- Carried forward to 2025 with a plan to install awareness signage and aircraft use documentation at the airport.

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. Service scope now includes the Likely outdoor privies as well.

Goal: Undertake community beautification activities.

- Completed.

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

- Carried forward to 2025 due to contractor delays.

Goal: Install directional signage around the community.

- Carried forward to 2025 due to contractor delays.

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

- Completed.