



# REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

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## REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION

TO: Chair and Directors File No.: BOA 1.8

FROM: Chris Calder, Chief Administrative Officer and  
Renee McCloskey, Manager of External Relations

DATE: January 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Support for Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum Society  
SUMMARY: Purpose: For information

Attachments: Letter dated January 17, 2024 from Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum Society  
Previous Reports: February 2023, Item No. 11.4.1

### RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT the report and letter dated January 17, 2024 from the Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum Society be received for information.

ENTITLEMENT	HOW VOTE COUNTED
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority

### ISSUE(S):

In February 2023, the Board approved adjustments to the quarterly disbursement schedule in the funding agreement it holds with the Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum Society (the "Society"), which operates Exploration Place.

The change was made to assist with operational challenges the Society faced related to COVID and construction issues which delayed the re-opening of the museum.

The Society has advised that operational challenges continued through 2023, putting the Society at financial risk. The Society has requested additional support from the Regional District.

### RELEVANT POLICIES:

N/A

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

- Climate Action       Economic Health       Indigenous Relations       Strong Communities
- None – Statutory or Routine Business

### SERVICE RELEVANCE:

Heritage Conservation Service was established to support museums and societies that have contracts with the Regional District to provide heritage services and programming within the Regional District, consistent with the Regional Cultural Plan.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

The funding agreement for the Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum Society allotted \$848,000 to the Society for 2023. During 2007, the Regional District entered into an agreement with the Society to refinance their long-term debt with the Municipal Finance Authority of BC using 20-year debenture financing. The debt service payments (currently approximately \$113,000 annually) are deducted from the funding the Society receives along with the cost of annual property insurance for the Exploration Place building.

For 2024, a 4% lift has been proposed. If approved as part of the 2024 budget, the Society would receive \$881,290 with debt service payments deducted from that.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

N/A

**DECISION OPTIONS:**

1. Approve recommendations.
  - the Board receives the report for information.

**COMMENTS:**

The Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum Society (Exploration Place) is the largest cultural organization supported by the Regional District and plays a valuable role in supporting the goals of the Regional Cultural Plan through its own programs and services as well as support and mentoring of smaller museums and galleries in the region.

During the pandemic, the Society undertook a \$1.4 million renovation and was closed from March 2020 until its reopening in October 2022. The pandemic, along with construction issues that delayed the re-opening of the museum, has presented ongoing operational challenges for the Society. The Society has advised it continues to face serious financial pressures.

At the end of 2023, the Regional District advanced the Society \$250,000 from its 2024 grant to assist with cashflow pressures. The attached document shows how the Society applied that funding.

Respectfully submitted,

*“Chris Calder”*

Chris Calder  
Chief Administrative Officer

*“Renee McCloskey”*

Renee McCloskey  
Manager of External Relations

CC/RM



January 17, 2024

Lara Beckett, Chair  
Regional District Fraser-Fort George  
155 George Street  
Prince George, BC V2L 1P8

Dear Chair Beckett

In late December, the Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum Society received \$250,000 from the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

This support is greatly appreciated as we manage through financial challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and construction issues that delayed the re-opening of the museum last year.

The table below shows how this funding has been applied:

Debt Type	Payment Amount
Accounts Payable	\$167,165.64
Dec 22/23 Payroll	\$53,264.12
Line of Credit	\$10,962.84
EFT Kitchen Vendors pay online	\$6,607.42
WorkSafe 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	\$3,503.38
GST 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	\$8,496.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$250,000.00</b>

Thank you again for your support during this challenging time. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress we are making to address the financial challenges we face.

Sincerely



Helena Trudel, President  
Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum Society