

BACKGROUNDER – COMMUNITY WORKS FUND

The original Community Works Fund Agreement was signed in December 2005 and provided for the transfer of federal gas tax funding to local governments in British Columbia. This agreement stipulated that the funds could only be used for capital projects that are owned by the local government and supported the outcomes of cleaner air, cleaner water, or reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

In April 2014, the Regional District and the Union of BC Municipalities entered into a new Community Works Agreement. All funds from the 2005 agreement were carried forward and able to be utilized on the eligible projects as defined in Schedule B of the April 2014 agreement. Eligible projects are capital projects that are owned by the local government and meet one of the seventeen categories which include: public transit, short-line rail, short-sea shipping, local roads, bridges, broadband connectivity, brownfield redevelopment, drinking water, waste water, solid waste, community energy systems, sport infrastructure, recreational infrastructure, cultural infrastructure, tourism infrastructure, disaster mitigation, regional and local airports, and capacity building.

In 2021, the program stream through which the funds are received under the Agreement was amended from the Federal Gas Tax Fund (gas tax) to the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) and fire hall infrastructure was added as an eligible investment category.

The Regional District has Policy RD-08-14, “Community Works Fund Expenditure”, in place that outlines the process for approving the use of Community Works Fund (CWF) funding.

As of February 28, 2025, the Regional District has received a total of \$13,495,511.30 in CWF funding and approved a total of \$13,162,388.98 to fund eighty-four projects, including:

- sewer system construction and upgrades
- water system upgrades
- Village of McBride Water System upgrade
- the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan
- landfill gas main header extension
- energy efficient upgrades to the Tete Jaune, Robson Valley and Canoe Valley Recreation Centres and the Beverly, Ness Lake, Red Rock, McBride, Buckhorn, Valemount and Shell-Glen fire halls
- landfill gas well field expansion and hydrogeological survey
- Village of McBride's Phase 2 of its wastewater upgrade project
- Canoe Valley Recreation Centre enhanced condenser
- Canoe Valley Recreation Centre Universal Access Doors
- Robson Valley Exploration & Learning Centre Retrofit
- Mackenzie Community Hall Improvements
- Beverly Fire Hall Roof Replacement
- 155 George Street Energy Efficiency Upgrades
- Pilot Mountain Volunteer Fire Department Energy Efficient Upgrades
- Sinclair Mills Energy Efficient Upgrade Project
- Bear Lake Volunteer Fire Department and Community Commission Building Energy Efficient Upgrades
- Facility Condition Assessment and Life Cycle Report No. 1
- Bear Lake Drinking Water System Upgrade
- Summit Lake Repairs to Lagoon System to Improve Long-Term Wastewater Structure Reliability and Operation
- City of Prince George Four Seasons Leisure Pool replacement project
- Ferndale/Tabor Volunteer Fire Department Hall Energy Efficient Upgrades
- Robson Valley Exploration and Learning Centre Registered Professional Renovation Requirements
- Mackenzie Regional Transfer Station Scale, Foundation and Accessory Installation
- Robson Valley Recreation Center Heaters
- Facility Condition Assessment and Life Cycle Report No. 2
- Robson Valley Exploration and Learning Centre LED Upgrades
- Public Safety Operations Building EV Charging Station
- Tabor Lake Community Sewer Embankment Rehabilitation
- Mackenzie Regional Transfer Station Erosion Control
- Cummings Road Transfer Station Reconstruction
- Transtor Refuse Collection Container Replacement

- Nukko Lake Community Hall Roof Replacement
- Picnic Tables and Outhouses for Regional Parks
- Robson Valley Recreation Centre Dehumidifiers
- Facility Condition Assessments and Life Cycle Report No. 3
- George Hicks Regional Park Bridge Replacement
- Drinking Water and Sanitary Sewer Asset Management Reporting
- Azu Community Water System Infrastructure Replacement
- Dome Creek Recreational Facility Upgrades
- Official Community Plan Reviews
- Miworth Community Hall Upgrades
- Facility Enhancements at Rural Transfer Stations
- RD Volunteer Fire Department Facilities Upgrades; and
- Ness Lake Firehall Roof Replacement
- Bear Lake Recreation Facilities Upgrades
- Robson Valley Exploration and Learning Air Conditioning Installation
- Building Lifecycle Cost Analysis – Recreation Facilities
- Azu Community Water System Infrastructure Replacement
- Nukko Lake Community Hall Water and Sewer Systems
- Robson Valley Recreation Center - Exterior Upgrades

The uncommitted balance, as of February 28, 2025, in the CWF, including interest earned on the investment of funds, is \$2,321,754. A new Community Works Fund Agreement is in place effective from 2024 to 2034 with anticipated annual funding of \$762,356 per year.