

Update (#6) Community Transition Planning

McBride, B.C. Monday May 15, 2017

The Transition team consisting of representatives of several Ministries and local organizations continues to meet on a regular basis each Wednesday to review progress on activities and plan for future actions as the community works to plan for economic diversification and recovery following the BKB fire. The team met on Wednesday May 10 and will meet again on May 17, 2017.

The primary focus of the transition team has been to ensure that the needs of affected employees are met. Robson Valley Support Society (RVSS) and the Valemount Learning Centre (VLC) continue to focus on the immediate needs of affected workers. They are also working with Ministry staff in planning long term training opportunities for the community.

Robson Valley Support Services (RVSS) reports that the activity level for affected employees has not changed over the last week. Some workers have found work with other employers in the valley. Clients continue to access the many services of RVSS and other support agencies. Community members are reminded that donations to the local food bank are greatly appreciated.

The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation (SDSI) reported on opportunities that may be available for active clients of WorkBC to participate in some Job Creation Partnerships (JCP). Job Creation Partnerships enable clients to gain valuable work experience during job transition. Additional information on JCP's can be found on the ministry website.

The Village of McBride recently gave approval to move ahead with several grant applications to Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) and the Rural Dividend program for improvements to the historic train station and additional trail development at the McBride Mountain Bike Trail System. The Village of McBride met with the McBride and District Chamber of Commerce on Thursday May 11th to discuss several initiatives that can be supported by both organizations. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the strategic planning session for the Village of McBride had to be rescheduled to a later date.

JTSTL Regional Manager Myles Bruns is working with McBride Secondary School and Community Futures to develop and support youth entrepreneur programs.

Work is being undertaken by the McBride Community Forest Corporation, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to better understand the fibre supply in the Robson Valley. This work will help the local community identify new business opportunities in the forest sector.

There is a suggestion box at the Village Office. Community members with ideas for the short and long term of McBride are encouraged to drop these off in the box. Suggestions can be anonymous or signed. The Village wants your input as a strategy is developed.

Contacts

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