

Update (#7) Community Transition Planning

McBride, B.C. Tuesday June 27, 2017

The transition team consisting of representatives of several Ministries and local organizations has continued to meet on a regular basis. Meetings were held on May 17, 24, 31 and June 7, 21. The primary focus of these meetings has been to address worker transition and support. The support mechanisms for affected employees have been very effective and they are either back to work (at BKB or elsewhere) or are accessing government programs/support. Robson Valley Support Services (RVSS) and the Valemout Learning Centre (VLC) in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation continue to be the lead organizations providing worker transition assistance.

The focus of the transition team is shifting to community economic development (CED) to enable the team to identify and implement actions and strategies for the short and long-term sustainability and growth of McBride and area. The frequency of the meetings will shift from weekly to every three weeks as the team works on projects, opportunities, or action items with a CED focus.

There is significant work being undertaken on several fronts in support of the community. Staff at the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) along with local mills and licence holders have been investigating the cedar fibre supply in the Robson Valley and Prince George timber supply areas and this information will assist BKB Cedar and other mills to make long terms plans.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) is working with stakeholder groups from Valemout and McBride to address signage in the Robson Valley. A goal of this initiative is to improve signage of local attractions and to generate cross promotion of recreation and tourism opportunities through the entire corridor providing benefit to the entire region. An example is signage for the local McBride Peak Trail development and the Valemout Mountain Bike Park. Working groups from both communities will be forwarding recommendations to the MOTI in the next weeks. This initiative will assist in bringing awareness to our many physical assets and drive additional economic activity in the area with an increase in overnight stays and more visitors to our restaurants, businesses and other service providers.

The Village of McBride and other community organizations have completed grant applications, and several Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) grants were approved at the Regional Advisory Committee on June 9th. NDIT grant funds will provide additional support for trail development for the McBride Peak Trail system, replacement of tables and chairs at the Robson Valley Community Centre, and assist in the building of a new back country cabin by the Ozalenka Alpine Club.

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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