



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Supplementary Memorandum

To: Chair Thiessen and Board of Directors
From: Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
Date: October 22, 2020
Regarding: **Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) –
Destination Development Stream**

Recommendation:

That the Board apply, in partnership with Hudson Bay Mountain for a Year-Round, Multi-use Outdoor Recreation Area project at the Hudson Bay Mountain Resort, to the Destination Development Stream of the CERIP.

Background:

In an effort to support mountain resorts, which have been identified as particularly hard-hit as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the recently announced CERIP includes a Destination Development stream that considers Regional Districts eligible applicants on behalf of a mountain resort.

The application limit of two applications does not apply to applications submitted in partnership with a Mountain Resort, therefore this application will not impact the eligible number of applications from the RDBN.

The program is open to mountain resorts designated as All-Seasons Resorts operating on Crown land under the All-Seasons Resort Policy. There are two mountain resorts in this category operating in the RDBN. The other resort, Murray Ridge, is an eligible applicant without a partner, as they are a non-profit society. Staff are supporting Murray Ridge to submit an application.

The RDBN's Regional Business Liaison will support the submission of an application in partnership with Hudson Bay Mountain as part of the regular duties of this position. There is no anticipated ongoing impact to staff time as a result of this application. If the application is successful, staff will prepare a contribution agreement that will transfer all obligations of the RDBN as the CERIP applicant to Hudson Bay Mountain Resort.

The deadline for the Program is October 29, 2020.
Project Proposal attached for more information.

British Columbia is known for its incredible beauty, and we believe our community deserves safe, accessible opportunities to enjoy physical activity in nature to benefit their physical and mental health.

The challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic require that we create spaces for the public to physically distance, but more importantly we have an obligation to support opportunities for our community to access the benefits of outdoor recreation. The reduction in social, leisure, and sporting opportunities and events has had a negative impact on our community, increasing the demand on healthcare and social services and presenting unique challenges for families, employers, and educators.

As the central location for outdoor activity in the winter months, Hudson Bay Mountain has provided residents of Northern BC with the opportunity for outdoor recreation, operating exclusively for skiers and snowboarders. We recognize that in addition to being physically challenging skiing is becoming an increasingly costly sport and our community needs more affordable, accessible opportunities for outdoor activity to maintain their health and wellness.

Hudson Bay Mountain is proposing the development of a year-round, multi-use outdoor recreational area to provide a safe space for the public to access, regardless of socio-economical background.

As part of this grant we are requesting funding to complete the following projects:

- Multi-use, accessible interpretive trail network for easy/moderate hiking, snowshoeing, and mountain biking. The trails would feature information about the Wet'suwet'en territory, flora & fauna, wildlife, mountain ranges, local history, featuring signage designed by an indigenous artist.
- An outdoor, all-season gazebo – designed similar to a traditional pit house that is accessible all year round to hikers, bikers, skiers, snowshoers, and available for educational programs and groups.
- An improved beginner area serviced by an accessible carpet lift.
- Improved accessibility to existing infrastructure to accommodate people with disabilities and required distancing.
- Chairlift rehabilitation to provide required electrical upgrades, braking systems, and adaptation to accommodate mountain biking and support the development of the Smithers Mountain Bike Association.).

Hudson Bay Mountain is moving forward with developing plans to create an outdoor mountain adventure centre for the public to access. Our community partners have demonstrated their commitment to supporting the development of recreational access and we have a proven network of enthusiastic volunteers to provide ongoing maintenance for the facilities.

The development will contribute to the local economy, providing temporary jobs for contractors as well as long term employment in the tourism industry. The multi-use design will support shoulder and winter season tourism, benefitting the hoteliers and stimulating the regional economy for the benefit of our community.

Hudson Bay Mountain would like to work with Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and submit an application for a Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program grant for a development project to be led by the mountain, moving towards providing maintenance and sustainable operations for future generations to enjoy.



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Thiessen and Board of Directors
From: Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services
Date: October 22, 2020
Subject: Update: Conditional Suspension of Carboard Ban at the Knockholt Landfill

RECOMMENDATION

(All/Directors/Majority)

That the Board authorize staff to temporarily suspend the cardboard ban at the Knockholt Landfill to accommodate the final stages of the establishment of an OCC baling facility provided the conditions are still being met.

BACKGROUND

Since the receiving facility in Smithers was destroyed in a fire in May 2019, Knockholt Landfill has been receiving and landfilling ICI cardboard from the western portion of the RDBN. The additional material has made it necessary to expand the landfill in 2020 rather than in 2021 and has potentially impacted the overall integrity and stability of the landfill.

On May 21, 2020, the Board approved the recommendation to reinstate the cardboard ban at Knockholt Landfill on August 1, 2020. Shortly after reinstating the cardboard ban, RDBN was approached by a private business interested in establishing a receiving and baling facility in the region. The current limiting factor for opening a receiving facility is the availability of an appropriate space for the operation. Once a building is secured, the interested business can finalize the plan and begin operations within several weeks.

On July 16, 2020, the Board approved a temporary extension of the cardboard ban as per below:

2020-8-26

“That the Board rescind motion 2020-5-21 that reads as follows:

“That the Board re-establish the ban on cardboard at the Knockholt Landfill on August 1, 2020.”

And that the Board temporarily suspend the cardboard ban at the Knockholt Landfill on a month-by-month basis, but not to exceed November 1, 2020, to support the progress that is being made on an ICI (Industrial Commercial Institutional) cardboard solution for the region.”

UPDATE

Until recently, the above-mentioned business has had difficulties securing a facility adequate for the intended use. The business is currently in the process of establishing a lease contract with a private landowner and expects to have an agreement in place by early November. The property owner will not commence necessary improvements to the existing building until the contract is finalized and will require approximately four (4) weeks to complete the upgrades. The expected commencement date of ICI cardboard baling operations is December 4, 2020



CONDITIONAL SUSPENSION OF CARDBOARD BAN

In the event that a private business is ready to establish a receiving facility Staff believe that it would be fair to suspend the Cardboard ban for a maximum of 1-month intervals providing the following conditions are met:

1. The business continues to provide updates to the RDBN outlining their plans and schedule for establishing receiving/baling operations.
2. The plan has an appropriate time of completion.
3. The business has secured an appropriate facility.

If it is necessary to lift the ban for an entire month, the above criteria must be re-addressed and an extension granted only if reasonable justification can be provided. Upon commencement of receiving and baling operations, the cardboard ban will be enforced immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alex Eriksen".

Alex Eriksen
Director of Environmental Services