



DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON  
Regular Meeting of Council  
Monday January 5, 2026  
Council Chambers  
Public Meeting - 6:45pm  
Regular Meeting – 7:00pm

**1. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING - 6:45PM**

- To discuss the 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 390, 2025

**2. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING - 7:00PM**

**3. MINUTES**

- 3.1 Accept Minutes of December 1, 2025 regular meeting

**4. PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS: NONE**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 5.1 2026 Business Facade Improvement Program Approval Letter
- 5.2 New Hazelton rail traveller's platform area and train pick up
- 5.3 Canada Community-Building Fund: Second Community Works Fund Payment for 2025/2026
- 5.4 Bill M 216 - Professional Reliance Act

**6. REPORTS**

- 6.1 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2025 Financial Update
- 6.2 Council Reports

**7. BYLAWS**

- 7.1 Third reading of the 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 390, 2025

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- 8.1 2026 Council Meeting Schedule
- 8.2 Council New Business
- 8.3 Council Schedule

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**10. INFORMATION PACKAGE**



**DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON  
BYLAW NO. 390, 2025**

A bylaw to adopt the 2026-2030 Financial Plan

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WHEREAS pursuant to Section 165 of the Community Charter, being Chapter 26 of the Statutes of British Columbia, 2003, a Municipality must have a Financial Plan that is adopted annually, by Bylaw, before the Annual Property Tax Bylaw is adopted;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the District of New Hazelton in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Schedule "A", attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw, is hereby adopted as the Financial Plan for the 5 years ending December 31, 2030;
2. Schedule "B", attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw, is hereby adopted as the Statement of Objectives and Policies; and
3. This Bylaw may be cited as "**District of New Hazelton 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 390, 2025.**

Read a first time this 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025

Read a second time this 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025

Public Hearing held this 5TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026

Read a third time this 5TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026

Adopted this DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

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MAYOR

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CORPORATE OFFICER

**DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON**  
**FINANCIAL PLAN (CONSOLIDATED)**  
**FOR THE FIVE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2030**  
**SCHEDULE "A"**

**BUDGET 2026      BUDGET 2027      BUDGET 2028      BUDGET 2029      BUDGET 2030**

**REVENUE:**

Residential, Class 1	\$ 351,702	\$ 358,735	\$ 365,910	\$ 373,228	\$ 380,694
Utilities, Class 2	\$ 101,388	\$ 103,416	\$ 105,484	\$ 107,594	\$ 109,746
Major Industry, Class 4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Light Industry, Class 5	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Business, Class 6	\$ 120,219	\$ 122,624	\$ 125,076	\$ 127,578	\$ 130,129
Rec/Non-Profit, Class 8	\$ 517	\$ 527	\$ 538	\$ 548	\$ 559
Farm, Class 9	\$ 287	\$ 293	\$ 299	\$ 305	\$ 311
Grants in Lieu	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000
<b>TAXATION REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 623,113</b>	<b>\$ 634,595</b>	<b>\$ 646,307</b>	<b>\$ 658,253</b>	<b>\$ 670,439</b>
Frontage Taxes	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500
Services Provided for Other Agencies	\$ 483,000	\$ 483,000	\$ 483,000	\$ 483,000	\$ 483,000
Utility Rates and Fees	\$ 277,000	\$ 277,000	\$ 277,000	\$ 277,000	\$ 277,000
Other Revenue	\$ 254,100	\$ 123,100	\$ 123,100	\$ 123,100	\$ 123,100
Non capital grants	\$ 108,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 1,801,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 625,000
Capital grants	\$ 3,477,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Conditional Transfers	\$ 126,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Collections for Other Governments	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$ 5,934,713</b>	<b>\$ 2,749,195</b>	<b>\$ 3,936,907</b>	<b>\$ 2,772,853</b>	<b>\$ 2,785,039</b>

**EXPENDITURES**

General Municipal	\$ 2,752,800	\$ 2,480,800	\$ 2,540,865	\$ 2,602,598	\$ 2,753,103
Water	\$ 193,982	\$ 391,981	\$ 209,705	\$ 205,665	\$ 210,874
Sewer	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000
Collections for other governments	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000
Amortization of Assets	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 3,881,782</b>	<b>\$ 3,807,781</b>	<b>\$ 3,685,570</b>	<b>\$ 3,743,264</b>	<b>\$ 3,898,977</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 2,052,931</b>	<b>\$ (1,058,586)</b>	<b>\$ 251,337</b>	<b>\$ (970,411)</b>	<b>\$ (1,113,938)</b>

**Adjust for non-cash items**

Amortization	\$ (350,000)	\$ (350,000)	\$ (350,000)	\$ (350,000)	\$ (350,000)
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**Adjust for cash items non-PSAB**

TCA expenditures	\$ 4,735,000	\$ 454,500	\$ 355,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 430,000
Transfer to (from) reserve	\$ (576,000)	\$ 74,000	\$ 805,000	\$ 74,000	\$ 74,000
Transfer to (from) Operating surplus	\$ (1,756,069)	\$ (1,237,086)	\$ (558,663)	\$ (1,029,410)	\$ (1,267,938)
	<b>\$ 2,052,931</b>	<b>\$ (1,058,586)</b>	<b>\$ 251,337</b>	<b>\$ (970,410)</b>	<b>\$ (1,113,938)</b>

Financial Plan Balance	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ 0
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Cumulative Operating Surplus (deficit)	\$ 243,931	\$ (993,155)	\$ (1,551,817)	\$ (2,581,228)	\$ (3,849,166)
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**SCHEDULE 'B'**

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

In accordance with Section 165(3.1) of the Community Charter, the District of New Hazelton is required to include in the Five Year Plan, objectives and policies regarding each of the following:

1. The proportion of total revenue that comes from each of the funding sources described in Section 165(7) of the Community Charter;
2. The distribution of property taxes among the property classes; and
3. The use of permissive tax exemptions.

**FUNDING SOURCES**

Table 1 shows the proportion of total revenue proposed to be raised from each funding source in 2022. As a revenue source, property taxation offers a number of advantages, for example, it is simple to administer and it is fairly easy for residents to understand. It offers a stable and reliable source of revenue for services that are difficult or undesirable to fund on a user-pay basis. These include services such as general administration, fire protection, and street lighting.

Many services can be measured and charged on a user-pay basis. Services where fees and charges can be easily administered include water and sewer usage, building permits, business licenses, and sale of services – these are charged on a user pay basis. User fees attempt to apportion the value of a service to those who use the service.

**Table 1**

Revenue Source	% of Total Revenue	Dollar Value
Taxation	10.499%	\$ 623,113
User Fees & Charges	10.003%	\$ 593,600
Other Sources	8.139%	\$ 483,000
Grants	62.530%	\$ 3,711,000
Borrowing	0%	-
Reserves & Surplus	8.829%	\$ 524,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 5,934,713</b>

**OBJECTIVE**

The District will annually review the portion of revenue that is received from user fees and charges.

## **POLICY**

The District will review all user fee levels to ensure they are adequately meeting both the capital and delivery costs of the service.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAXES**

Table 2 outlines the distribution of property taxes among the property classes. The residential and business property classes provide the largest portions of property tax revenue. This is primarily due to no industrial classes within the District.

**Table 2**

<b>PROPERTY CLASS</b>	<b>% of Property Taxation</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>	
Residential	56.44%	\$	351,702
Utilities	16.28%	\$	101,388
Major Industrial	0.00%		-
Light Industrial	0.00%		-
Business & Other	19.29%	\$	120,219
Recreation/Non-Profit	0.08%	\$	517
Farmland	0.05%	\$	287
Grants In Lieu	7.86%	\$	49,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>623,113</b>

## **OBJECTIVES**

The District wishes to maintain the property tax levy percentages for 2026 at the prior levels plus 2%, adjusted for the impact of non-market changes to assessments. Utility class will be less than the maximum allowable by Provincial statute (BC Reg. 329/96).

## **POLICIES**

The District will continue to maintain and encourage economic development initiatives designed to attract more retail, commercial and industrial businesses to invest in the community.

The District will regularly review and compare the District's distributions of property tax burden relative to other municipalities in British Columbia.

The District will review annually, with a view of lowering both the residential and business property tax rates using new, non-market industrial assessment.

## **PERMISSION TAX EXEMPTIONS**

The District has an existing permissive tax exemption policy which guides the administration and approval of permissive tax exemptions.

## OBJECTIVES

The District will continue to provide permissive tax exemptions to non-profit societies and churches pursuant to District policy.

## POLICY

The District will accept Permissive Tax Exemption applications from non-profits, charitable organizations, and churches. Permissive tax exemptions will run on a three-year cycle. Applications for exemption must be resubmitted at the end of each cycle.

### Permissive Tax Exemption

Value of Permissive Exemptions granted by the District under Section 220, 224, or 225 of the Community Charter

	2026 (est)	2027 (est)	2028 (est)	2029 (est)	2030 (est)
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church	\$3,229.18	\$3,293.76	\$3,359.64	\$3,426.83	\$3,495.37
BC Conf Mennonite Brethren Churches	\$1,972.00	\$2,011.44	\$2,051.67	\$2,092.70	\$2,134.55
New Hazelton Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses	\$629.02	\$641.60	\$654.44	\$667.53	\$680.88

Note: Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw expires in 2027. Applicants will need to reapply for further years. Numbers are based on the assumption that an application will occur.



DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON  
Regular Meeting  
Monday December 1, 2025  
4633 10<sup>th</sup> Ave – Room #2 Council Chambers

Public Meeting – 6:45PM  
Regular Meeting – 7:00PM

**1. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING – 6:45PM**

Present: Mayor G. Lowry  
Councillor R. Sturney  
Councillor M. Weeber  
Councillor A. Berg  
Councillor B. Henwood  
Councillor J. Hobenshield

Staff: Chief Administrative Officer, W. Hunt  
Chief Financial Officer, L. Roe  
Corporate Officer, B. White

Absent: Councillor G. Burns

- To discuss District of New Hazelton Zoning Bylaw No. 389, 2025, there was one member of public in attendance. No questions were raised regarding Zoning Bylaw No. 389, 2025.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.

**2. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING – 7:00PM**

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 Accept Minutes of November 3, 2025 regular meeting

**RESOLUTION 8445/25**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, the minutes of the November 3, 2025 regular meeting be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

4.1 Stanley Walker – to discuss widening of the pull out on the West end of town, and concerns regarding explosive combination of trucks in the same place at the same time within town limits.

- Stanley Walker did not attend the meeting.

4.2 Laurie Gallant from Making Agriculture Sustainable in the Hazeltons (MASH) – regarding mobile slaughterhouse and cold storage, as well as an update on their composting program.

- Laurie Gallant gave an update on 2025 MASH initiatives which included the continuation of the Community Composting Program, the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Apple Pressing event, continuing to expand their equipment library and beginning to develop innovative food system solutions. This led into the mobile slaughterhouse and cold storage topic. MASH is

requesting the following from the District; help to promote their new website which is launching December 15<sup>th</sup>, a letter of support for Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) and Prince Rupert Port Authority grant applications. They are also seeking to discuss a long-term lease for a facility to house the collective cold storage.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

5.1 Gitxsan Torchmen Basketball Club request for sponsorship for Heat Tournament December 19-21<sup>st</sup>

- Received for information purposes only, no further action taken. The Torchmen are volunteering at Winterfest and will receive a donation of \$500.00 for their assistance.

5.2 Bill M 216 2025 Professional Reliance Act

**RESOLUTION 8446/25**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council authorizes Staff to write a letter to the Province urging them to no approve Bill M 216 – 2025 Professional Reliance Act.

**CARRIED**

## **6. REPORTS**

6.1 Council Reports

- Councillor Berg has a Skeena TV Association meeting coming up and asked if there is anything to bring to their attention.
- Councillor Hobenshield advised that the Hazelton District Public Library will be coming out with their strategic plan soon.
- Mayor Lowry met with local and regional staff regarding the shutdown and sale of the Hazelton Community College.
- CAO, Hunt attended an Upper Skeena Recreation Centre Meeting, and the new kitchen is in however it is not operating quite yet. Also advised that CAO, Hunt and CFO, Roe attended an Asset Management WORKSHOP IN Smithers and they have an opportunity to take an Asset Management course that will assist the District to become self-sufficient when it comes to Asset Management.

## **7. BYLAWS**

7.1 Third reading and Adoption of District of New Hazelton Zoning Bylaw No. 389, 2025

**RESOLUTION 8447/25**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council gives the Third reading and Adoption of District of New Hazelton Zoning Bylaw No. 389, 2025.

**CARRIED**

7.2 First and Second Reading of District of New Hazelton 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 390, 2025

**RESOLUTION 8448/25**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council gives the First and Second reading of the District of New Hazelton 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 390, 2025.

**CARRIED**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

8.1 Annual Review of Workplace Bullying and Harassment Policy

**RESOLUTION 8449/25**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council accepts the updates to the annual review of the Workplace Bullying and Harassment Policy.

**CARRIED**

8.2 Travel Expense Policy

**RESOLUTION 8450/25**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council accepts the updates to the Travel Expense Policy as amended.

**CARRIED**

8.3 Utilities Policy

**RESOLUTION 8451/25**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council accepts the updates to the utilities Policy.

**CARRIED**

8.4 Public Use of Equipment Policy

**RESOLUTION 8452/25**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council accepts the updates to the Public Use of Equipment Policy.

**CARRIED**

8.5 Building Bylaw Enforcement Policy

**RESOLUTION 8453/25**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council accepts the updates to the Building Bylaw Enforcement Policy.

**CARRIED**

8.6 Council New Business

- Mayor Lowry advised that this will be the last year that the South Hazelton Women's Institute will host the Seniors Christmas Dinner. Hoping to find another organization or group of people who would be willing to sponsor this dinner.

8.7 Council Schedule

- Council Meeting Schedule for 2026

**RESOLUTION 8454/25**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, Council approves the 2026 Council Meeting Schedule

**CARRIED**

- Council reviewed their schedule for the upcoming months.

**9. CLOSED MEETING**

Moved to exclude the public and staff and enter a closed meeting pursuant to S. 90(1)(c) of the *Community Charter*, regarding labour relations or other employee relations at 8:24PM.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**RESOLUTION 8455/25**

**MOVED/SECONDED**

THAT, the regular meeting be adjourned at 8:35PM

**CARRIED**

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Mayor

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Corporate Officer



301 - 1268 Fifth Avenue  
Prince George, BC V2L 3L2  
Tel: 250-561-2525  
Fax: 250-561-2563  
info@northerndevelopment.bc.ca  
www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca

December 18, 2025

District of New Hazelton  
PO Box 340  
New Hazelton, BC V0J 2J0

**Attention:** Mayor Gail Lowry

**Subject:** 2026 Business Façade Improvement Program  
Northern Development Project Number IA-12461

Northern Development Initiative Trust was created by the province to be a catalyst for central and northern B.C. to grow a strong diversified economy by stimulating sustainable economic growth through strategic and leveraged investments.

We are pleased to advise you that the District of New Hazelton's Business Façade Improvement application for the 2026 year has been approved, effective January 1, 2026, for up to \$20,000 from the Northwest Regional Development Account.

Funding under this program is provided as a reimbursement upon Northern Development's receipt of reporting documents. Complete reporting is due by January 31, 2027. Reporting materials can be found on Northern Development's website at [www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/funding-programs/community-development/business-facade-improvement/](http://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/funding-programs/community-development/business-facade-improvement/).

We wish you every success with your project. We are excited to see how your Business Façade Improvement projects will stimulate economic growth and strengthen our region.

Sincerely,  
Northern Development Initiative Trust

c: Wendy Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer, District of New Hazelton

Building a  
**Stronger North**



Outlook

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**New Website Contact**

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**From** District of New Hazelton <wordpress@sprucetreemedia.ca>**Date** Wed 12/10/2025 9:49 AM**To** info <info@newhazelton.ca>**Name**

Lorraine Hnidan-Kendall

**Email**

lhnidankendall@gmail.com

**Subject**

New Hazelton rail traveller's platform area @ train pick up

**Your Message**

Sunday Dec 7, I waited with an elder and her daughter at the Via rail train stop. They had bags to hold off the muddy, wet gravel; no place to sit or set any luggage down safely, and asked me about where the elder parked her nice car. For many decades I've wished for an adequate covered platform, with a bench; just a weather barrier for those waits, when rides can't stay for the trains arrival. Surely CN has an interest in supporting our limited modes of transportation in the north, and Via rail also: the train was quite full, and the attendant unclear about our small town facilities {parking access}. I am sending emails to CN, and will also send RDKS an ask about what can be done to enhance and actually provide a safe, dry, visibly accessible "train platform" for the travellers who utilize this Canadian iconic transport system. I can be reached @ 778 210 3110; a simple post & beam atop a cement base, with a bench; seems due; the train is not going away and we can impact our care for community. Sincerely respectful, Lorraine Hnidan-Kendall

December 12, 2025

Mayor Gail Lowry and Council  
District of New Hazelton  
Box 340  
New Hazelton, BC V0J 2J0

Dear Mayor Gail Lowry and Council:

**RE: CANADA COMMUNITY-BUILDING FUND: SECOND COMMUNITY WORKS FUND  
PAYMENT FOR 2025/2026**

I am pleased to advise that UBCM is in the process of distributing the second Community Works Fund (CWF) payment for fiscal 2025/2026. An electronic transfer of \$45,411 is expected to occur in December 2025. This payment is made in accordance with the payment schedule set out in your CWF Agreement with UBCM (see section 4 of your Agreement).

CWF is made available to eligible local governments by the Government of Canada pursuant to the Administrative Agreement. Funding under the program may be directed to local priorities that fall within one of the eligible project categories.

Further details regarding use of CWF and project eligibility are outlined in your CWF Agreement and details on the Canada Community-Building Fund can be found on our [website](#).

For further information, please contact Canada Community-Building Fund Program Services by e-mail at [ccbf@ubcm.ca](mailto:ccbf@ubcm.ca) or by phone at 250-356-5134.

Sincerely,



Councillor Cori Ramsay  
UBCM President

PC: Laura Roe, Chief Financial Officer



## TOWN OF VIEW ROYAL

45 View Royal Avenue, Victoria, BC, Canada V9B 1A6  
Ph. 250-479-6800 • E. [info@viewroyal.ca](mailto:info@viewroyal.ca) • [www.viewroyal.ca](http://www.viewroyal.ca)

November 27, 2025

Written Submission of Mayor Tobias

Town Of View Royal

### **RE: Bill M-216 – Professional Reliance Act**

#### **I. Introduction**

As Mayor of the Town of View Royal, I submit the following concerns regarding Bill M-216.

While framed as a measure to improve efficiency within development approvals, this Bill removes municipal authority and oversight without public demand, municipal request, or evidence demonstrating that such governance restructuring is necessary or beneficial. It conflicts with the foundational responsibilities established under the Community Charter and continues a legislative direction that diminishes local democratic decision-making in favour of private and industry interests.

#### **II. An Unusual Legislative Pathway**

It is unusual for legislation with province-wide impact on governance structures to be introduced as a Private Member's Bill. Reforms of this scale are typically introduced through government legislation, with Cabinet review, intergovernmental consultation, and analysis of administrative feasibility. Introducing structural governance change outside those pathways raises questions regarding due process, transparency, and the drivers behind this proposal.

#### **III. Lack of Public or Municipal Mandate**

A foundational question must be asked:

If municipalities are not asking for this, and the public is not asking for this, then who is?

No municipality, professional regulatory body, local government association, affordable housing advocate, or community organization has requested the removal of municipal oversight or the outsourcing of public decision-making to private applicant-hired professionals. The only formally documented support comes from the Urban Development Institute (UDI) and the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade — entities representing the financial interests of the development sector. Legislation reshaping public governance should not be led by those who stand to benefit financially from reduced oversight.

#### **IV. Alignment with Lobby-Supported Legislative Direction**

Bill M-216 follows recent legislation that removed public hearing requirements, mandated provincial rezoning baselines, constrained municipal cost-recovery tools, shortened review timelines, and centralized development authority. Each of these measures aligns closely with the long-term lobbying objectives of the same industry organizations supporting this Bill. Bill M-

216 appears not as an isolated reform, but as the next step in a coordinated agenda that reduces local authority and expands private-sector influence over public decisions.

#### **V. Conflict with the Community Charter**

The Community Charter clearly establishes municipalities as an order of government responsible for good government, stewardship of public assets, and ensuring the well-being of present and future communities. These duties require independent review, discretion, judgment, and accountability — all of which Bill M-216 restricts. If the Province intends to redefine municipal authority in British Columbia, such a shift must be undertaken transparently through amendments to the Community Charter, not through piecemeal legislation that erodes its application.

#### **VI. Legal Concern: Authority Removed, Responsibility Retained**

Administrative law is clear: a public body cannot be held responsible for decisions it is prevented from making. Bill M-216 requires municipalities to accept private professional certifications as sufficient to satisfy regulatory obligations — yet leaves municipalities legally and financially responsible for emergency and fire response capacity, policing and enforcement, roads, water, sewer and stormwater servicing, transportation and emergency access planning, long-term maintenance, and climate resiliency. This creates an administratively unreasonable governance structure, amounting to improper delegation of public authority to private actors.

A municipality cannot be accountable for risks it is prohibited from evaluating.

#### **VII. The Practical Gap: Who Is This Professional?**

Municipal review requires a team — planners, engineers, building officials, fire prevention staff, transportation analysts, environmental specialists, and asset managers. Bill M-216 assumes one registered professional is capable of performing all these functions. No such designation exists, no competency standard defines one, and no liability framework assigns accountability. If we would not permit one private professional to run a municipality, we should not legislate a system where one can overrule one.

#### **VIII. A Pattern of Democratic Erosion**

This Bill continues a trend recognizable in governance research as democratic erosion — where the structures of public decision-making remain visible, but their authority is gradually transferred to private actors or centralized administrative bodies. Efficiency must not become a substitute for democracy.

#### **IX. Legislative Timing and the Systematic Exclusion of Municipal Input**

UBCM exists to ensure municipalities can participate meaningfully in provincial legislative development. Its structured resolution system, requiring formal submissions by June 15 each year, ensures that local governments can collectively identify concerns, seek clarification, and propose alternatives.

However, recent housing-related legislation has been introduced and passed outside these engagement windows. In November 2023, three major housing bills were introduced between November 1 and 8 and received Royal Assent by November 30. Given the UBCM resolution cutoff months earlier, municipalities had no procedural avenue to collectively respond. The same pattern is repeated with Bill M-216: a significant restructuring of municipal governance introduced outside UBCM's consultative cycle and without any obligation for structured municipal engagement.

This pattern demonstrates not only a lack of consultation but the removal of the opportunity for consultation. Bypassing the formal system designed to give municipalities a voice is, in effect, bypassing municipalities themselves.

#### **X. The Core Public Interest Question: What Problem Are We Solving?**

Before proceeding, the province must clearly articulate the rationale behind this Bill:

- Is the objective simply to build more housing?
- Is the goal to build more affordable housing?
- Are we preserving existing affordability or replacing naturally affordable housing with higher-priced units?
- Are we still legislating based on outdated demand forecasts when thousands of new units remain unsold or unoccupied?
- Have projections been updated to reflect reduced foreign student enrolment, lower investor demand, and changing immigration policy?

Policy must reflect current data, not outdated assumptions or industry momentum.

This question is especially important because recent trends in British Columbia make one reality clear: increasing housing supply does not automatically mean improving housing affordability. Supply and affordability are often conflated, yet they are not interchangeable. New units entering the market frequently do so at price points far beyond the reach of ordinary working households. If older, naturally affordable rental housing is demolished or redeveloped and replaced with higher-priced units, then the net effect is increased housing supply without increased affordability. In that scenario, the system produces more housing, yet makes cities less affordable.

Vacancy rates, income-to-shelter-cost ratios, and cost-of-living pressures across BC demonstrate that supply growth alone does not correct price volatility or speculation-driven value structures. Without alignment between construction and local wages, additional supply risks reinforcing market pressures rather than relieving them.

Simply put: more units do not guarantee more affordability.

#### **XI. Looking Ahead: Remaining Lobby Priorities**

UDI's remaining lobbying priorities — not yet realized in legislation — provide insight into what future bills may seek to accomplish. These include tying transit and infrastructure funding to

municipal compliance with housing targets, reducing or capping Development Cost Charges and Amenity Contributions, further shortening or eliminating public participation mechanisms, establishing provincial oversight positions empowered to intervene in municipal approvals, expanding blanket upzoning areas beyond those already mandated, and redefining affordable housing in ways that allow market-priced units to qualify. Municipalities must therefore anticipate continued attempts to reduce local autonomy, oversight capacity, and democratic accountability.

## **XII. Growth and Taxation Evidence**

Across British Columbia, a clear pattern has emerged: the fastest-growing municipalities are experiencing some of the highest increases in taxation. This trend reflects a simple reality — growth demands immediate investment in infrastructure and public services, while revenue from development arrives slowly, unevenly, or in constrained forms when cost-recovery tools are limited. This pattern is visible across the West Shore, Surrey, Kelowna, Sooke, and other rapidly expanding communities.

Growth does not pay for growth under the current model — existing taxpayers do.

Removing municipal authority while increasing growth pressure exacerbates this imbalance.

## **XIII. Final Reflection**

British Columbians expect decisions affecting their communities, safety, infrastructure, and future to be made by accountable democratic institutions — not delegated to private consultants. If the sponsoring MLA's genuine objective is to strengthen democracy, uphold the responsibilities of the Community Charter, and preserve the integrity of public governance in British Columbia, then the responsible action is clear:

Bill M-216 should be withdrawn.

Withdrawal would not end the conversation — it would place it back on the proper foundation: evidence, transparency, consultation, and alignment with the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,



**Mayor Sid Tobias**  
Town of View Royal

# District of New Hazelton

## COUNCIL REPORT

**Date:** Jan 1, 2026

**From:** Laura Roe, Chief Financial Officer

**SUBJECT: 4th Quarter of 2025 Financial Update**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

For information.

**REASON FOR REPORT:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a financial update as of December 31, 2025.

**DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS:**

At the end of 2025 we had a total of \$41,114.86 in outstanding taxes.

The balances for the District's accounts are:

General Account	\$190,520.37
Community Works Fund	\$279,417.88
Cemetery Care Fund	\$4,370.61
DONH Jaws of Life	\$123,535.45
Fire Department Reserve	\$27.12
WTP Sand Replacement	\$111,808.73
Beautification Fund	\$120,183.31
LGCAP	\$107,809.49
NWBC Regional FA Reserve	\$317,392.70
Asset Management Reserve	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,255,067.66</b>

The balances for the District's Term Deposit accounts are:

Land Sale Term	\$238,223.92
Fire Department Reserve Term	\$367,787.09
Growing Communities Reserve Fund Term	\$843,767.18
NWBC Regional FA Reserve Term	\$1,231,579.70
Asset Management Reserve Term	\$2,974,243.47
ILOC Term	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,656,601.36</b>

Total Accounts and Term Deposits	\$6,911,669.02
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**ATTACHMENT:**

- Revenue & Expense Report
- Accounts Payable Report

**CONCLUSION:**

Overall, the District is in a strong financial position. Administration will provide the next quarterly update at the April 13th meeting.



Laura Roe,  
Chief Financial Officer

From G/L Account: 3511110000  
 To G/L Account: 8298410000  
 Zero Balance Accounts NOT Included

For Periods: 1 to 12 Budget Year 2025

Budget Cycle: PROVISIONAL

Account Number and Description	Period Budget	Period Actual	YTD Actual	Period Variance
<b>REVENUE</b>				
3511110000 TAXES-REAL PROPERTY	562,856.00-	569,896.59-	569,896.59-	7,040.59
TOTAL TAXES	562,856.00-	569,896.59-	569,896.59-	7,040.59
<b>GRANTS IN LIEU</b>				
3521210000 GRANTS IN LIEU-FED	30,000.00-	45,434.09-	45,434.09-	15,434.09
3521240000 GRANTS IN LIEU-HYDRO	9,700.00-	17,202.76-	17,202.76-	7,502.76
3521270000 GRANTS IN LIEU-TELUS	1,500.00-	1,488.66-	1,488.66-	11.34-
3521271000 GRANTS IN LIEU-CITYWEST	2,500.00-	2,925.55-	2,925.55-	425.55
TOTAL GRANT IN LIEU	43,700.00-	67,051.06-	67,051.06-	23,351.06
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>				
3521310000 ICBC COMMISSIONS	375,000.00-	511,414.74-	511,414.74-	136,414.74
3521452000 CEMETERY BURIAL & OTHER	0.00	1,050.00-	1,050.00-	1,050.00
3521512000 BUSINESS LICENSES	3,000.00-	4,623.13-	4,623.13-	1,623.13
3521517000 BUILDING PERMITS	1,000.00-	3,029.00-	3,029.00-	2,029.00
3521520000 LAND RENTAL	7,600.00-	7,623.00-	7,623.00-	23.00
3521561000 PENALTIES ON TAXES	9,500.00-	18,964.77-	18,964.77-	9,464.77
3521562000 INTEREST ON TAXES	1,000.00-	2,566.03-	2,566.03-	1,566.03
3521563000 INTEREST EARNED	50,000.00-	176,511.93-	176,511.93-	126,511.93
3521575000 BOWSER STREET OFFICE REVENUE	23,000.00-	23,225.00-	23,225.00-	225.00
3521580000 COMMUNITY CENTER REVENUE	35,000.00-	58,079.05-	58,079.05-	23,079.05
3521598000 MEETING CENTER REVENUE	8,000.00-	8,600.00-	8,600.00-	600.00
3521599000 MISCELLANEOUS	10,000.00-	88,460.17-	88,460.17-	78,460.17
3521599200 SOUTH HAZELTON WATER AND PARKS	60,000.00-	76,202.12-	76,202.12-	16,202.12
3521599300 SOUTH HAZELTON FIRE	17,000.00-	17,000.00-	17,000.00-	0.00
3521599500 CURBSIDE COLLECTION	70,000.00-	69,960.00-	69,960.00-	40.00-
3521621000 PROV OF BC GRANTS	450,000.00-	448,000.00-	448,000.00-	2,000.00-
3521720000 GRANT REVENUE	183,000.00-	3,594,252.20-	3,594,252.20-	3,411,252.20
3521721000 COMMUNITY WORKS FUND	80,000.00-	90,822.84-	90,822.84-	10,822.84
3521721500 CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM	0.00	16,360.00	16,360.00	16,360.00-
3521722000 GOVT GRANT PROJECTS	50,000.00-	49,506.06-	49,506.06-	493.94-
3521754000 ESS GRANT - RKDS	5,000.00-	5,000.00-	5,000.00-	0.00
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	1,438,100.00-	5,238,530.04-	5,238,530.04-	3,800,430.04
<b>OTHER GOVT COLLECTIONS</b>				
3521981000 OTHER GOVT LEVY-SD BASIC	150,000.00-	147,281.58-	147,281.58-	2,718.42-
3521981010 OTHER GOVT LEVY-SD LOCAL	120,000.00-	129,317.28-	129,317.28-	9,317.28
3521982100 OTHER GOVT LEVY-REG DIST	200,000.00-	219,926.94-	219,926.94-	19,926.94
3521982200 OTHER GOVT LEVY-HOSPITAL	50,000.00-	50,885.21-	50,885.21-	885.21
3521983000 OTHER GOVT LEVY-MFA	0.00	19.91-	19.91-	19.91
3521984000 OTHER GOVT LEVY-BC ASSESS	4,000.00-	4,883.09-	4,883.09-	883.09
TOTAL OTHER GOVT	524,000.00-	552,314.01-	552,314.01-	28,314.01
TOTAL REVENUE	2,568,656.00-	6,427,791.70-	6,427,791.70-	3,859,135.70
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>				
4111000000 MAYOR-INDEMNITIES	12,000.00	12,083.10	12,083.10	83.10-
4113000000 COUNCIL-INDEMNITIES	48,000.00	48,905.40	48,905.40	905.40-
4119100000 COUNCIL-ADVERTISING	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
4119200000 COUNCIL-MEMBERSHIPS	5,500.00	5,929.73	5,929.73	429.73-
4119300000 COUNCIL - TRAVEL	20,000.00	26,286.56	26,286.56	6,286.56-
4119400000 COUNCIL-GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS	13,000.00	5,108.23	5,108.23	7,891.77
4119500000 COUNCIL-SPONSORSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS	6,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	2,000.00
TOTAL GEN GOVT	105,500.00	102,313.02	102,313.02	3,186.98
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>				
4221200000 ADMIN-SALARIES	524,000.00	542,037.99	542,037.99	18,037.99-
4221300000 ADMIN-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	50,000.00	68,655.37	68,655.37	18,655.37-
4221410000 ADMIN-TELEPHONE	14,000.00	12,108.94	12,108.94	1,891.06
4221430000 ADMIN-OFFICE HEAT/POWER	25,000.00	23,089.76	23,089.76	1,910.24
4221440000 ADMIN-BLDG INSURANCE	15,000.00	13,468.00	13,468.00	1,532.00
4221450000 ADMIN-JANITOR SERVICE	12,000.00	14,811.59	14,811.59	2,811.59-
4221460000 ADMIN-JANITOR SUPPLIES	1,600.00	0.00	0.00	1,600.00
4221500000 ADMIN-LEGAL	10,000.00	11,707.78	11,707.78	1,707.78-
4222500000 ADMIN-AUDIT	26,000.00	25,462.49	25,462.49	537.51

From G/L Account: 3511110000  
 To G/L Account: 8298410000  
 Zero Balance Accounts NOT Included

For Periods: 1 to 12 Budget Year 2025

Budget Cycle: PROVISIONAL

Account Number and Description	Period Budget	Period Actual	YTD Actual	Period Variance
4224200000 ADMIN-TAX BILLING	1,000.00	652.70	652.70	347.30
4291000000 ADMIN-ELECTIONS	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
4291500000 ADMIN-PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	25,000.00	19,675.15	19,675.15	5,324.85
4292000000 ADMIN-TRAVEL	15,000.00	18,965.27	18,965.27	3,965.27
4293000000 ADMIN-LIAB INSURANCE	14,000.00	11,719.00	11,719.00	2,281.00
4295000000 ADMIN-SPONSORSHIPS	2,500.00	1,820.00	1,820.00	680.00
4299100000 ADMIN-EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	130,000.00	140,588.03	140,588.03	10,588.03
4299200000 ADMIN-PHOTOCOPYING	8,000.00	9,051.32	9,051.32	1,051.32
4299300000 ADMIN-POSTAGE	2,000.00	2,760.28	2,760.28	760.28
4299400000 ADMIN-PRINT/STAT	3,000.00	173.34	173.34	2,826.66
4299410000 ADMIN-OFFICE SUPPLIES	9,000.00	7,682.48	7,682.48	1,317.52
4299450000 ADMIN-COMPUTER MTCE	15,000.00	27,692.85	27,692.85	12,692.85
4299455000 ADMIN - WEB SITE	2,500.00	375.00	375.00	2,125.00
4299500000 ADMIN-GEN ADVERT	5,000.00	8,755.56	8,755.56	3,755.56
4299910000 ADMIN-CONSULTANTS	35,000.00	17,650.00	17,650.00	17,350.00
4299920000 ADMIN-OTHER	10,000.00	7,992.04	7,992.04	2,007.96
<b>TOTAL ADMIN</b>	<b>956,600.00</b>	<b>986,894.94</b>	<b>986,894.94</b>	<b>30,294.94</b>

PROT SERVICES

4341100000 PROT SERV-FIRE CHIEF	48,573.00	39,441.18	39,441.18	9,131.82
4341200000 PROT SERV-BENEFITS	10,000.00	3,692.47	3,692.47	6,307.53
4341300000 PROT SERV-WCB	1,500.00	1,206.40	1,206.40	293.60
4342000000 PROT SERV-REMUNERATION	14,000.00	10,055.32	10,055.32	3,944.68
4344000000 PROT SERV-TELEPHONE	3,500.00	2,001.90	2,001.90	1,498.10
4346000000 PROT SERV-TRAINING	20,000.00	13,811.60	13,811.60	6,188.40
4348000000 PROT SERV-INSURANCE	4,200.00	681.35	681.35	3,518.65
4348200000 PROT SERV-R/M	7,000.00	6,054.54	6,054.54	945.46
4348300000 PROT SERV-GAS/OIL	1,200.00	782.46	782.46	417.54
4348350000 TRAVEL -TRAINING	4,500.00	0.00	0.00	4,500.00
4348400000 PROT SERV-SUPPLIES	135,000.00	18,949.20	18,949.20	116,050.80
4349000000 PROT SERV-OTHER	2,000.00	3,371.27	3,371.27	1,371.27
4349500000 PROT-CONSULTANTS	30,000.00	29,500.00	29,500.00	500.00
<b>TOTAL PROT SERV</b>	<b>281,473.00</b>	<b>129,547.69</b>	<b>129,547.69</b>	<b>151,925.31</b>

TRANSPORTATION SERV

4411000000 TRANS-SALARIES	424,800.00	338,735.74	338,735.74	86,064.26
4412000000 TRANS-CONSULTANTS	90,000.00	150,939.15	150,939.15	60,939.15
4413000000 TRANS-GEN INSURANCE	25,000.00	20,850.00	20,850.00	4,150.00
4413100000 TRANS-R/M	45,000.00	44,335.64	44,335.64	664.36
4413200000 TRANS-GAS/OIL	42,000.00	32,598.13	32,598.13	9,401.87
4414000000 TRANS-SMALL TOOLS/EQUIP	4,000.00	2,990.48	2,990.48	1,009.52
4414100000 TRANS-GENERAL SUPPLIES	12,000.00	11,683.99	11,683.99	316.01
4415100000 TRANS-TELEPHONE	6,000.00	6,380.78	6,380.78	380.78
4415200000 TRANS-HEAT/POWER	23,000.00	17,703.43	17,703.43	5,296.57
4415300000 TRANS-YARD REPAIRS	2,500.00	1,086.34	1,086.34	1,413.66
4415400000 TRANS-BLDG REPAIRS	20,000.00	15,198.70	15,198.70	4,801.30
4417000000 TRANS-WCB	24,000.00	26,448.07	26,448.07	2,448.07
4419100000 TRANS-SUBSCRIPTIONS	5,000.00	4,442.81	4,442.81	557.19
4419200000 TRANS-TRAVEL	4,000.00	4,466.33	4,466.33	466.33
4419250000 TRANS-PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	15,000.00	5,029.57	5,029.57	9,970.43
4419300000 TRANS-BENEFITS	98,000.00	116,763.62	116,763.62	18,763.62
4419900000 TRANS-OTHER	5,000.00	8,091.10	8,091.10	3,091.10
4423110000 TRANS-PAVED ROADS	5,000.00	4,425.59	4,425.59	574.41
4423120000 TRANS-GRAVEL ROADS	15,000.00	4,598.00	4,598.00	10,402.00
4423400000 TRANS-DITCHES & CULVERTS	7,500.00	1,776.20	1,776.20	5,723.80
4423500000 TRANS-GRAVEL PIT	2,000.00	2,150.00	2,150.00	150.00
4423720000 TRANS-SANDING	6,000.00	2,969.55	2,969.55	3,030.45
4425000000 TRANS-STREET LIGHTING	40,000.00	40,737.32	40,737.32	737.32
4426100000 TRANS-SIGNS	1,000.00	1,337.64	1,337.64	337.64
4426400000 LIGHTING AND BANNERS	7,000.00	9,023.66	9,023.66	2,023.66
4426500000 LANDSCAPING	12,000.00	5,048.76	5,048.76	6,951.24
4426600000 SOUTH HAZELTON WATER EXPENSES	25,000.00	32,439.83	32,439.83	7,439.83
<b>TOTAL TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>965,800.00</b>	<b>912,250.43</b>	<b>912,250.43</b>	<b>53,549.57</b>

4521410000 MEETING-ALARM	700.00	479.40	479.40	220.60
4521430000 MEETING-HEAT/POWER	3,500.00	3,561.88	3,561.88	61.88
4521440000 MEETING-INSURANCE	700.00	700.00	700.00	0.00

TOTAL MEETING C.

4612800000 CURBSIDE COLLECTION	100,000.00	96,792.00	96,792.00	3,208.00
4612900000 CEMETERY	2,000.00	385.19	385.19	1,614.81

From G/L Account: 3511110000  
 To G/L Account: 8298410000  
 Zero Balance Accounts NOT Included

For Periods: 1 to 12 Budget Year 2025

Budget Cycle: PROVISIONAL

Account Number and Description	Period Budget	Period Actual	YTD Actual	Period Variance
4612910000 DOG CONTROL	12,600.00	7,686.23	7,686.23	4,913.77
4614000000 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	20,000.00	15,252.66	15,252.66	4,747.34
4615200000 EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES	12,000.00	17,097.51	17,097.51	5,097.51-
4615600000 COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS	20,000.00	20,083.14	20,083.14	83.14-
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>166,600.00</b>	<b>157,296.73</b>	<b>157,296.73</b>	<b>9,303.27</b>
<b>COMMUNITY CENTRE</b>				
4708000000 COMMUNITY CENTER-ALARM	1,000.00	960.00	960.00	40.00
4709000000 COMMUNITY CENTER-HEAT/POWER	24,000.00	23,477.67	23,477.67	522.33
4710000000 COMMUNITY CENTER-INSURANCE	5,000.00	4,831.00	4,831.00	169.00
4711000000 COMMUNITY CENTER-SUPPLIES	3,000.00	2,765.74	2,765.74	234.26
4712000000 COMMUNITY CENTER-CUSTODIAL	9,000.00	7,069.58	7,069.58	1,930.42
4713000000 COMMUNITY CENTRE - BUILDING REPAIRS	10,000.00	11,716.74	11,716.74	1,716.74-
<b>TOTAL - FITNESS CENTRE</b>	<b>52,000.00</b>	<b>50,820.73</b>	<b>50,820.73</b>	<b>1,179.27</b>
<b>FISCAL SERVICES</b>				
4819000000 DEBIT/CREDIT CARD CHARGES	8,000.00	9,027.33	9,027.33	1,027.33-
4822120000 COMPUTER SYSTEM	50,000.00	48,602.40	48,602.40	1,397.60
4822130000 ROADS	213,000.00	185,109.57	185,109.57	27,890.43
4822140000 FIRE STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
4822150000 RECREATIONAL	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
4822160000 GENERAL GOVERNMENT	15,000.00	96,797.50	96,797.50	81,797.50-
4822170000 PUBLIC WORKS & EQUIPMENT	833,000.00	590,472.44	590,472.44	242,527.56
4822180000 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION	181,400.00	176,400.00	176,400.00	5,000.00
4822190000 TOURISM	12,500.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	0.00
4822500000 TRANS TO RESERVE ACCOUNT	1,245,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,245,000.00
<b>TOTAL FISCAL</b>	<b>2,567,900.00</b>	<b>1,118,909.24</b>	<b>1,118,909.24</b>	<b>1,448,990.76</b>
4941000000 SCHOOL-BASIC	150,000.00	153,218.78	153,218.78	3,218.78-
4941100000 SCHOOL-LOCAL	120,000.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00
4942100000 REG. DIST	200,000.00	230,108.00	230,108.00	30,108.00-
4942200000 HOSPITAL	50,000.00	53,454.00	53,454.00	3,454.00-
4944200000 BC ASSESS	4,000.00	5,275.21	5,275.21	1,275.21-
<b>TOTAL OTHER GOVT</b>	<b>524,000.00</b>	<b>442,055.99</b>	<b>442,055.99</b>	<b>81,944.01</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>5,624,773.00</b>	<b>3,904,830.05</b>	<b>3,904,830.05</b>	<b>1,719,942.95</b>
<b>WATER REVENUE</b>				
6196110000 WATER USER	128,000.00-	124,789.20-	124,789.20-	3,210.80-
6196120000 WATER CONNECTION	20,000.00-	0.00	0.00	20,000.00-
6196130000 WATER FRONTAGE TAX	34,000.00-	34,328.62-	34,328.62-	328.62
6196150000 WATER-HAGWILGET	15,000.00-	15,984.30-	15,984.30-	984.30
<b>TOTAL WATER REVENUE</b>	<b>197,000.00-</b>	<b>175,102.12-</b>	<b>175,102.12-</b>	<b>21,897.88-</b>
<b>WATER EXPENSES</b>				
6296150000 WATER-R/M	25,000.00	12,391.19	12,391.19	12,608.81
6296160000 WATER-HOUSE CONNECTIONS	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
6296410000 WATER CAPITAL	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
6297100000 WTP-SALARIES	81,034.00	85,816.93	85,816.93	4,782.93-
6297200000 WTP-TELEPHONE	7,500.00	7,689.82	7,689.82	189.82-
6297300000 WTP-HEAT/POWER	18,000.00	14,895.93	14,895.93	3,104.07
6297400000 WTP-CHEMICALS	5,000.00	821.03	821.03	4,178.97
6297450000 WTP-REPAIR/MAINTENANCE	7,500.00	16,577.62	16,577.62	9,077.62-
6297490000 WTP-INSURANCE	9,000.00	9,289.00	9,289.00	289.00-
6297500000 WTP-MISCELLANEOUS	5,000.00	16,243.30	16,243.30	11,243.30-
6298200000 WTP-SAND ADDITIONS	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
<b>TOTAL WATER EXPENSES</b>	<b>207,034.00</b>	<b>163,724.82</b>	<b>163,724.82</b>	<b>43,309.18</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE SEWER OPER.</b>				
8198150000 SEWER-USER RATES	42,000.00-	41,163.00-	41,163.00-	837.00-
8198160000 SEWER-CONNECTION CHARGES	2,000.00-	0.00	0.00	2,000.00-
8198170000 SEWER-FRONTAGE TAX	28,500.00-	28,776.55-	28,776.55-	276.55
8198210000 TRANSFER FROM RESERVE	800,000.00-	0.00	0.00	800,000.00-
<b>TOTAL REV SEWER OPER</b>	<b>872,500.00-</b>	<b>69,939.55-</b>	<b>69,939.55-</b>	<b>802,560.45-</b>

Report: M:\live\gl\glrpt005.p  
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User ID: Laura

District of New Hazelton  
Revenue & Expense

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Date: 05/01/26  
Time: 08:39:24

From G/L Account: 3511110000

For Periods: 1 to 12 Budget Year 2025

To G/L Account: 8298410000

Budget Cycle: PROVISIONAL

Zero Balance Accounts NOT Included

Account Number and Description	Period Budget	Period Actual	YTD Actual	Period Variance
<b>SEWER OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
8298270000 SEWER CAPITAL	800,000.00	281,231.39	281,231.39	518,768.61
8298310000 SEWER-PUMPING MAIN	13,000.00	11,996.90	11,996.90	1,003.10
8298320000 SEWER-LAB. TESTING	4,000.00	5,191.09	5,191.09	1,191.09-
8298330000 SEWER-TREATMENT CHEMICALS	8,000.00	6,328.92	6,328.92	1,671.08
8298350000 SEWER-HYDRO	16,500.00	15,553.12	15,553.12	946.88
8298360000 SEWER-TELEPHONE	4,000.00	4,399.86	4,399.86	399.86-
8298370000 SEWER-REPAIR/MAIN	8,000.00	7,405.00	7,405.00	595.00
8298375000 SEWER-INSURANCE	2,500.00	2,553.00	2,553.00	53.00-
8298410000 SEWER-LICENSES & PERMITS	2,500.00	1,878.84	1,878.84	621.16
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES SEWER OPER</b>	<b>858,500.00</b>	<b>336,538.12</b>	<b>336,538.12</b>	<b>521,961.88</b>
<b>TOTAL TRIAL BALANCE</b>	<b>3,052,151.00</b>	<b>2,267,740.38-</b>	<b>2,267,740.38-</b>	<b>5,319,891.38</b>
<b>--- Report Totals ---</b>	<b>3,052,151.00</b>	<b>2,267,740.38-</b>	<b>2,267,740.38-</b>	<b>5,319,891.38</b>

\*\*\* End of Report \*\*\*



**DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON  
BYLAW NO. 390, 2025**

A bylaw to adopt the 2026-2030 Financial Plan

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WHEREAS pursuant to Section 165 of the Community Charter, being Chapter 26 of the Statutes of British Columbia, 2003, a Municipality must have a Financial Plan that is adopted annually, by Bylaw, before the Annual Property Tax Bylaw is adopted;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the District of New Hazelton in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Schedule "A", attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw, is hereby adopted as the Financial Plan for the 5 years ending December 31, 2030;
2. Schedule "B", attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw, is hereby adopted as the Statement of Objectives and Policies; and
3. This Bylaw may be cited as "**District of New Hazelton 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 390, 2025.**

Read a first time this 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025

Read a second time this 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025

Public Hearing held this 5TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026

Read a third time this 5TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026

Adopted this DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

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MAYOR

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CORPORATE OFFICER

**DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON**  
**FINANCIAL PLAN (CONSOLIDATED)**  
**FOR THE FIVE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2030**  
**SCHEDULE "A"**

**BUDGET 2026      BUDGET 2027      BUDGET 2028      BUDGET 2029      BUDGET 2030**

**REVENUE:**

Residential, Class 1	\$ 351,702	\$ 358,735	\$ 365,910	\$ 373,228	\$ 380,694
Utilities, Class 2	\$ 101,388	\$ 103,416	\$ 105,484	\$ 107,594	\$ 109,746
Major Industry, Class 4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Light Industry, Class 5	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Business, Class 6	\$ 120,219	\$ 122,624	\$ 125,076	\$ 127,578	\$ 130,129
Rec/Non-Profit, Class 8	\$ 517	\$ 527	\$ 538	\$ 548	\$ 559
Farm, Class 9	\$ 287	\$ 293	\$ 299	\$ 305	\$ 311
Grants in Lieu	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000
<b>TAXATION REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 623,113</b>	<b>\$ 634,595</b>	<b>\$ 646,307</b>	<b>\$ 658,253</b>	<b>\$ 670,439</b>
Frontage Taxes	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500
Services Provided for Other Agencies	\$ 483,000	\$ 483,000	\$ 483,000	\$ 483,000	\$ 483,000
Utility Rates and Fees	\$ 277,000	\$ 277,000	\$ 277,000	\$ 277,000	\$ 277,000
Other Revenue	\$ 254,100	\$ 123,100	\$ 123,100	\$ 123,100	\$ 123,100
Non capital grants	\$ 108,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 1,801,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 625,000
Capital grants	\$ 3,477,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Conditional Transfers	\$ 126,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Collections for Other Governments	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$ 5,934,713</b>	<b>\$ 2,749,195</b>	<b>\$ 3,936,907</b>	<b>\$ 2,772,853</b>	<b>\$ 2,785,039</b>

**EXPENDITURES**

General Municipal	\$ 2,752,800	\$ 2,480,800	\$ 2,540,865	\$ 2,602,598	\$ 2,753,103
Water	\$ 193,982	\$ 391,981	\$ 209,705	\$ 205,665	\$ 210,874
Sewer	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 61,000
Collections for other governments	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000	\$ 524,000
Amortization of Assets	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 3,881,782</b>	<b>\$ 3,807,781</b>	<b>\$ 3,685,570</b>	<b>\$ 3,743,264</b>	<b>\$ 3,898,977</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 2,052,931</b>	<b>\$ (1,058,586)</b>	<b>\$ 251,337</b>	<b>\$ (970,411)</b>	<b>\$ (1,113,938)</b>

**Adjust for non-cash items**

Amortization	\$ (350,000)	\$ (350,000)	\$ (350,000)	\$ (350,000)	\$ (350,000)
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**Adjust for cash items non-PSAB**

TCA expenditures	\$ 4,735,000	\$ 454,500	\$ 355,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 430,000
Transfer to (from) reserve	\$ (576,000)	\$ 74,000	\$ 805,000	\$ 74,000	\$ 74,000
Transfer to (from) Operating surplus	\$ (1,756,069)	\$ (1,237,086)	\$ (558,663)	\$ (1,029,410)	\$ (1,267,938)
	<b>\$ 2,052,931</b>	<b>\$ (1,058,586)</b>	<b>\$ 251,337</b>	<b>\$ (970,410)</b>	<b>\$ (1,113,938)</b>

Financial Plan Balance	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ 0
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Cumulative Operating Surplus (deficit)	\$ 243,931	\$ (993,155)	\$ (1,551,817)	\$ (2,581,228)	\$ (3,849,166)
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## SCHEDULE 'B'

### STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

In accordance with Section 165(3.1) of the Community Charter, the District of New Hazelton is required to include in the Five Year Plan, objectives and policies regarding each of the following:

1. The proportion of total revenue that comes from each of the funding sources described in Section 165(7) of the Community Charter;
2. The distribution of property taxes among the property classes; and
3. The use of permissive tax exemptions.

#### FUNDING SOURCES

Table 1 shows the proportion of total revenue proposed to be raised from each funding source in 2022. As a revenue source, property taxation offers a number of advantages, for example, it is simple to administer and it is fairly easy for residents to understand. It offers a stable and reliable source of revenue for services that are difficult or undesirable to fund on a user-pay basis. These include services such as general administration, fire protection, and street lighting.

Many services can be measured and charged on a user-pay basis. Services where fees and charges can be easily administered include water and sewer usage, building permits, business licenses, and sale of services – these are charged on a user pay basis. User fees attempt to apportion the value of a service to those who use the service.

**Table 1**

Revenue Source	% of Total Revenue	Dollar Value
Taxation	10.499%	\$ 623,113
User Fees & Charges	10.003%	\$ 593,600
Other Sources	8.139%	\$ 483,000
Grants	62.530%	\$ 3,711,000
Borrowing	0%	-
Reserves & Surplus	8.829%	\$ 524,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 5,934,713</b>

#### OBJECTIVE

The District will annually review the portion of revenue that is received from user fees and charges.

## **POLICY**

The District will review all user fee levels to ensure they are adequately meeting both the capital and delivery costs of the service.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAXES**

Table 2 outlines the distribution of property taxes among the property classes. The residential and business property classes provide the largest portions of property tax revenue. This is primarily due to no industrial classes within the District.

**Table 2**

<b>PROPERTY CLASS</b>	<b>% of Property Taxation</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
Residential	56.44%	\$ 351,702
Utilities	16.28%	\$ 101,388
Major Industrial	0.00%	-
Light Industrial	0.00%	-
Business & Other	19.29%	\$ 120,219
Recreation/Non-Profit	0.08%	\$ 517
Farmland	0.05%	\$ 287
Grants In Lieu	7.86%	\$ 49,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 623,113</b>

## **OBJECTIVES**

The District wishes to maintain the property tax levy percentages for 2026 at the prior levels plus 2%, adjusted for the impact of non-market changes to assessments. Utility class will be less than the maximum allowable by Provincial statute (BC Reg. 329/96).

## **POLICIES**

The District will continue to maintain and encourage economic development initiatives designed to attract more retail, commercial and industrial businesses to invest in the community.

The District will regularly review and compare the District's distributions of property tax burden relative to other municipalities in British Columbia.

The District will review annually, with a view of lowering both the residential and business property tax rates using new, non-market industrial assessment.

## **PERMISSION TAX EXEMPTIONS**

The District has an existing permissive tax exemption policy which guides the administration and approval of permissive tax exemptions.

## OBJECTIVES

The District will continue to provide permissive tax exemptions to non-profit societies and churches pursuant to District policy.

## POLICY

The District will accept Permissive Tax Exemption applications from non-profits, charitable organizations, and churches. Permissive tax exemptions will run on a three-year cycle. Applications for exemption must be resubmitted at the end of each cycle.

### Permissive Tax Exemption

Value of Permissive Exemptions granted by the District under Section 220, 224, or 225 of the Community Charter

	2026 (est)	2027 (est)	2028 (est)	2029 (est)	2030 (est)
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church	\$3,229.18	\$3,293.76	\$3,359.64	\$3,426.83	\$3,495.37
BC Conf Mennonite Brethren Churches	\$1,972.00	\$2,011.44	\$2,051.67	\$2,092.70	\$2,134.55
New Hazelton Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses	\$629.02	\$641.60	\$654.44	\$667.53	\$680.88

Note: Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw expires in 2027. Applicants will need to reapply for further years. Numbers are based on the assumption that an application will occur.

## \*AMENDED VERSION\*



### DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2026

Regular Council & Committee of the Whole (COTW) meetings for the District of New Hazelton for 2026 will take place on the following dates:

January	5 <sup>th</sup>
February	2 <sup>nd</sup>
March	2 <sup>nd</sup>
April	13 <sup>th</sup>
April	23 <sup>rd</sup> (COTW)
May	4 <sup>th</sup>
June	1 <sup>st</sup>
July	6 <sup>th</sup>
August	10 <sup>th</sup>
September	14 <sup>th</sup> 8th
October	5 <sup>th</sup>
November	2 <sup>nd</sup>
November	19 <sup>th</sup> COTW (budget meeting)
December	7 <sup>th</sup>

All council meetings commence at 7:00 pm and the November 19<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting will commence at 10:00 am. All meetings are held in Room #2 of the Erwin Stege Community Center (Council Chambers). Members of the public are welcome to attend these and other periodic meetings of the Council.

Wendy Hunt  
Chief Administrative Officer



## Agenda Meeting Schedule

DATE	TIME	WHERE	DETAILS OF EVENT
January 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Virtual	Registration Open for Minerals North Conference – <b>Who wants to go?</b>
January 14th	12:00-1:00pm	Virtual Webinar	NCLGA - Addressing the Development of Substance Use & Mental Health Services in a Psychiatric Hospital for Northern BC
January 20-22 <sup>nd</sup>	All Day	Prince George Conference & Civic Centre	2026 BC Natural Resources Forum – Councillors Burns and Sturney going
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:00PM	Council Chambers	Regular Council Meeting
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:00PM	Council Chambers	Regular Council Meeting
April 8-10 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Vancouver @ JW Marriot Parq	2026 COFI Convention
May 6-8 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Smithers	Minerals North Conference & Trade Show – Mayor Lowry going
May 20-22 <sup>nd</sup>	All Day	Prince George	2026 NCLGA AGM & Convention

**January 2026**  
**Information Package**

# CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE



December 10, 2025

File No. 0530-01

Hon. Christine Boyle  
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

*Via email: hma.minister@gov.bc.ca*

Dear Minister Boyle:

**Re:** Bill M216 – *Professional Reliance Act*

On behalf of City of Williams Lake Council, I am writing to express our concerns and opposition to Bill M216, the *Professional Reliance Act*. While we acknowledge the Province's commitment to addressing housing supply challenges and streamlining approvals, this legislation represents a significant overreach into municipal jurisdiction and is likely to create unnecessary risks related to both human and environmental health and safety.

It appears to us that Bill M216 would undermine local government decision-making authority and oversight over development projects, bypassing the professional expertise of municipal planners, engineers, and building officials, whose knowledge of local context is essential for responsible and sustainable development.

### **Protection of Local Knowledge**

The City of Williams Lake, like many local governments, has been diligently striving to improve and streamline development approval processes in alignment with local and provincial housing goals, while also ensuring the long-term tenets of public safety and economic and environmental sustainability are protected. Members of the development review staff, regulated by their respective professional bodies, work closely and collaboratively with developers to ensure the above goals are met, and yet frequently find themselves reviewing plans and drawings created by individuals that are unfamiliar with local, regional, or even provincial context. City staff often note omissions and concerns with designs that would have a significant local impact if implemented - for instance related to unique geotechnical or transportation conditions - but would go unnoticed and unaddressed by those unfamiliar with such dynamics. Often developers' professionals face pressure to prioritize budget and schedule constraints over the need to build safer and more sustainable neighbourhoods that reflect community needs and protect the environment over the long-term.

### **The Opposite Effect – Increased Delays**

It is ultimately inevitable that a local government will face a situation where concerns about the quality, accuracy, or assumptions of a professional cannot be left unaddressed in good conscience. Often resolved quickly via open dialogue and comments from staff, Bill M216 will force a new practice of referring the matter to the provincial Superintendent of Professional

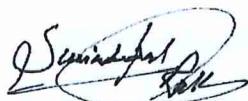


Governance for formal dispute resolution. This office focuses on professional regulation, not deliberation on the unique technical aspects of professional work in settings across the province. As such, requiring the Superintendent to resolve potential disputes from multiple municipalities, each with the potential for many annual developments, will almost certainly lead to increased inefficiencies and processing delays, exacerbating the very issue Bill M216 seeks to address.

In short, British Columbians that live, play, and raise families in local communities expect decisions regarding their safety and health to be made by those with local accountability and vested, personal interest in their neighbours – not delegated to remote consultants or developers that are motivated primarily by financial gain.

Although the City of Williams Lake recognizes the need for increased housing and supports efforts to accelerate delivery, we urge the Province to pause Bill M216 and engage in meaningful consultation with local governments and professional organizations before proceeding. Respecting municipal authority and democratic processes is critical to achieving housing goals while safeguarding public trust.

Yours truly,



Mayor Surinderpal Rathor

c: Premier David Eby *premier@gov.bc.ca*  
Hon. Brittny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments &  
Rural Communities *MSP.Minister@gov.bc.ca*  
MLA Lorne Doerkson, Cariboo Chilcotin Lorne.Doerkson.MLA@leg.bc.ca  
MLA George Anderson *george.anderson.MLA@leg.bc.ca*  
Cori Ramsay, President, UBCM *cori.ramsay@princegeorge.ca*  
BC Municipalities  
Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bills *PMBCommittee@leg.bc.ca*





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**City of Parksville**  
*Office of the Mayor*

December 12, 2025

The Honourable David Eby, Premier  
The Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance  
Stephanie Higginson, MLA, Ladysmith-Oceanside  
George Anderson, MLA, Nanaimo-Lantzville

**Re: Bill M216 - Professional Reliance Act**

On behalf of the Council of the City of Parksville, I am writing to express our strong opposition to Bill M216, the Professional Reliance Act.

While we recognize the intent of the legislation to streamline development approvals and reduce administrative costs, we have serious concerns about the implications for local governance and community planning. Bill M216 would force local governments to accept submissions certified by registered professionals as meeting permit or bylaw requirements, effectively removing municipal discretion and oversight. This represents a serious erosion of local authority and undermines the role of local governments as the order of government closest to citizens and best positioned to reflect community priorities. Moreover, the proposed changes create liability for local governments, with limited recourse for reparations.

Furthermore, the bill was introduced without meaningful engagement or consultation with local governments or the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). Systemic changes of this magnitude should be developed collaboratively to avoid unintended consequences. Shifting approval processes from local governments to private professionals and provincial dispute resolution mechanisms raises questions about accountability, liability, and public interest. It also places additional strain on the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance, which may not be adequately resourced for this expanded role.

Moreover, local governments are already adapting to significant legislative changes handed down from the Province, including housing targets under the *Housing Supply Act*, Bills 44 and 47 on small-scale multi-unit housing and transit-oriented development, and the *Infrastructure Projects Act*, among numerous others. Adding another sweeping change without consultation risks overwhelming municipal capacity and delaying critical housing and infrastructure projects.

.../2

For these reasons, the City of Parksville supports UBCM's position and urges the Province to withdraw Bill M216. Any future changes to local approval processes should be developed through a transparent, consultative process that respects local autonomy and ensures practical implementation. We also request that the Province engage with local governments and UBCM to explore alternative solutions that balance efficiency with accountability and community input.

The City of Parksville sponsored resolution EB77, which was endorsed at both the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities annual convention and the Union of BC Municipalities annual convention. The resolution urges the Province to conduct meaningful technical level consultation with local governments about the feasibility and practicality of implementation, prior to amending legislation that affects the capacity and authority of local governments; to consider reasonable timelines for local governments to adapt to legislative changes; to consider the timing of multiple significant changes to core legislation across multiple topics; to coordinate the release of regulations and policy with statute amendments to assist local government staff in meeting timelines; and to provide sustained core funding to local governments to accompany permanent changes that create additional workload for local government staff. We strongly encourage the Province to heed the voices of many local governments across BC who endorsed this resolution.

Thank you for considering the concerns being voiced by the City of Parksville, the Union of BC Municipalities and many other local governments. We look forward to working collaboratively on solutions that strengthen, rather than diminish, local governance.

Sincerely,



DOUG O'BRIEN  
Mayor

cc: Council  
Union of BC Municipalities Executive  
Union of BC Municipalities Members



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the North West Regional Hospital District held Saturday, November 22, 2025, at the RDKS Boardroom and virtually using Microsoft Teams, commencing at 11:00 a.m.

#### Members Present:

Chair Pages presided.

Stoney Stoltenberg	Bulkley-Nechako Regional District	Electoral Area A
Chris Newell	Bulkley-Nechako Regional District	Electoral Area G
Gladys Atrill (Vice-Chair)	Bulkley-Nechako Regional District	Town of Smithers
Annette Morgan	Bulkley-Nechako Regional District	Village of Telkwa
Eric Nyce	Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	Electoral Area A
Cyra Yunkws (Vice-Chair)	Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	Electoral Area B
Bruce Bidgood	Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	Electoral Area C
Dave Brocklebank	Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	Electoral Area D
Tina Etzerza	Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	Electoral Area F
Julie Maitland	Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	Village of Hazelton
Gail Lowry	Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	District of New Hazelton
Terry Marleau	Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	District of Kitimat
Angela Brand-Danuser	Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	District of Stewart
Brian Downie	Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	City of Terrace
Sean Bujtas	Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	City of Terrace
Sheldon Martin	Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	Nisga'a Nation
Ocean Rutherford	North Coast Regional District	Electoral Area A
Karl Bergman	North Coast Regional District	Electoral Area C
Evan Putterill	North Coast Regional District	Electoral Area E
Lisa Pineault	North Coast Regional District	Village of Daajing Giids
Herb Pond	North Coast Regional District	City of Prince Rupert
Barry Cunningham	North Coast Regional District	City of Prince Rupert
Knut Bjorndal	North Coast Regional District	District of Port Edward
Barry Pages (Chair)	North Coast Regional District	Village of Masset
Scott Cabianca	North Coast Regional District	Village of Port Clements

#### Others Present:

Cormac Hikish  
Michael Hoefer  
Interim Northwest Senior Operating Officer, Northern Health  
Executive Director, Capital Planning, Facilities Operations & Logistics,  
Northern Health

#### Staff Present:

Alisa Thompson  
Marc Schibli  
Executive Director  
Treasurer

#### Members Absent:

Shane Brien  
Ted Ramsey  
Bulkley-Nechako Regional District  
Kitimat-Stikine Regional District

District of Houston  
Electoral Area E

Chair Pages called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

R074-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the November 22, 2025 North West Regional Hospital District Agenda be adopted.

Carried.

**CLOSED:**

R075-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that:

This Meeting be closed to the public as the subject matters being considered relates to 226 (1) of the Local Government Act and the following Sections of the Community Charter:

- Section 90(1)(j) of the Community Charter – information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;
- Section 90(1)(k) of the Community – related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

Carried.

The meeting moved In-Camera at 11:05 a.m.

The open meeting resumed at 12:30 p.m.

**RISE AND REPORT FROM THE CLOSED BOARD MEETING:**

There were no resolutions released from the Closed Board Meeting.

**DELEGATIONS & GUESTS:**

**Cormac Hikisch, Interim Northwest Senior Operating Officer, Northern Health – Stikine Pharmacy Services Review**

Mr. Hikisch provided an update on Pharmacy Services in the Stikine region. Retail pharmacy services are not a mandate of Northern Health. In 2020 retail pharmacy services in the Stikine region were discontinued by the retail provider and services were provided from pharmacies in Smithers and Terrace and then shipped to communities in the Stikine. Northern Health has been subsidizing the cost of shipping prescriptions to the Stikine communities.

There have been several meetings to discuss the situation, and discussions are underway at the Indigenous Health Action Table. The Ministry of Health has also reached out regarding this issue. Northern Health supports the establishment of a retail pharmacy provider in Iskut or Telegraph Creek. Northern Health offers an earn and learn program for pharmacy technicians to encourage residents to consider work in this field. Industry support is being explored as is a three nations agreement. A solution to providing retail services in the Stikine region will require a multi-agency approach.

Mr. Hikish was asked to elaborate on how Northern Health will support pharmacy services. Previously, the retail pharmacy was offered rent free space at the Stikine Health Centre. Room is available and Northern Health is open to discussion with retail pharmacy providers. The previous provider left due to business barriers, a lack of financial viability, difficulty with finding employees (Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians), and changing tele-pharmacy regulations. There will continue to be barriers but also there are opportunities for partnerships with First Nations and industry partners. One barrier to accessing prescription medication from Stewart is the need for patients to provide a credit card to pay for the prescription.

**Michael Hoefer, Executive Director, Capital Planning, Facilities Operations & Logistics, Northern Health – Ksyen Regional Hospital Project Report**

Mr. Hoefer reviewed his report which was included in the Agenda. The Kysen Regional Hospital received substantial completion last August and the parking lot and redevelopment of the former hospital site is complete. Final completion is expected to be in January 2026. The hospital is one year through the warranty period and there is one year remaining on the warranty.

The parking lot at Ksyen Regional Hospital is often full. There are more staff at the new hospital. The old facility had 172 parking spaces and the new hospital has 333 parking spaces. The back parking lot/snow storage area can be used for overflow parking when there are constraints.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Presented were the Minutes of the August 16, 2025 Regular North West Regional Hospital District.

R076-2025      MOVED/SECONDED that the Minutes of the August 16, 2025 Regular North West Regional Hospital District Meeting be adopted as presented.      Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Cormac Hikisch, Interim Northwest Senior Operating Officer, Northern Health – Stikine Pharmacy Services Review**

R077-2025      MOVED/SECONDED that the presentation from Northern Health regarding the Stikine Pharmacy Services Review be received.      Carried.

**Michael Hoefer, Executive Director, Capital Planning, Facilities Operations & Logistics, Northern Health – Ksyen Regional Hospital Project Report**

R078-2025      MOVED/SECONDED that the presentation from the Northern Health regarding the Ksyen Regional Hospital Project be received.      Carried.

**Correspondence from Minister of Health, dated August 6, 2025 re: Partnering to Strengthen Health Care Recruitment**

This memo was deferred from the August 16, 2025 Regular meeting.

R079-2025      MOVED/SECONDED that the memo from the Minister of Health regarding Partnering to Strengthen Health Care Recruitment be received.

Carried.

**Correspondence from the Corcan Meadowood Residents Association, dated October 6, 2025 to Minister Osborne re: Request to Expand Health System Review to Include Regional Hospital Districts**

R080-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the correspondence from the Corcan Meadowood Residents Association be received.

Carried.

**Correspondence from Northern Health, dated August 26, 2025 re: Invitation to Join the Wrinch Memorial Hospital Master Planning Steering Committee**

R081-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the Executive Director be appointed to represent the North West Regional Hospital District on the Wrinch Memorial Hospital Master Planning Steering Committee.

Carried.

**Correspondence from Minister of Health, dated November 7, 2025 re: Provincial Rural Retention Incentive and Remote Recruitment Incentive Programs**

R082-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the correspondence from the Minister of Health regarding the Provincial Rural Retention Incentive and Remote Recruitment Incentives Program be received.

Carried.

**REPORTS:**

**North West Regional Hospital District 2026 Provisional Budget**

The Treasurer presented a report on the 2026 Provisional Budget. This budget is not prepared using new assessment information, but it is a starting point for a discussion about the direction of the draft budget in January. New to the provisional budget bylaw is an additional schedule that provides information on the reserve for greater clarity.

A surplus of \$13.9 million is expected at year-end, following reserve contributions. This surplus is largely accounted for with bylaw obligations and previously approved projects. Previously, when considering long-term planning for major project, the Board considered a 7% tax increase for a year without a major project, and a 10% tax increase when a new hospital has been announced. Assessment rolls will be released in January, and the draft budget will be adjusted to reflect the assessments. The 2026 Provisional Budget includes the full request from Northern Health (\$4.5 million). Some of the Northern Health projects will begin in 2027 due to their fiscal calendar. Should the Board wish to reduce the Northern Health allocation, it was not recommended that taxes be reduced. There was a discussion about how sustainable it is to maintain taxes at a 7% annual tax increase.

R083-2025 MOVED/SECONDED the North West Regional Hospital District Board consider the 2026 Provisional Budget in the bylaw section of this Agenda.

Carried.

## **Medical Imaging Services in the Northwest**

The Executive Director reported back on some of the complexities of determining where medical imaging equipment is installed in the region and the funding of these capital projects. Directors expressed concern about relying on local fundraising initiatives to acquire a CT scanner particularly in smaller communities.

R084-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that Northern Health be asked to provide information regarding their minimum standards and prioritization of medical imaging equipment and that they invited to present on that topic.

Carried.

R085-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the Spirit of the North be invited to present to the North West Regional Hospital District.

Carried.

## **Draft 2026 Meeting Schedule**

The draft 2026 NWRHD Board meeting schedule was presented for feedback. The 2026 meeting schedule will be determined at the Inaugural Meeting in January.

R086-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the report of the draft 2026 meeting schedule be received.

Carried.

## **Union of BC Municipalities Annual Convention 2025**

A report on the meetings that were held during the Union of BC Municipalities Annual Convention was presented. The information fact sheets provided by Northern Health were discussed. Not all the services that were listed are provided by Northern Health during the meeting at UBCM. The Board discussed ambulance service in the northwest, particularly in Stewart where the community has been left without coverage.

R087-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the report of the 2025 Union of BC Municipalities Annual Convention be received.

Carried.

R088-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that staff be directed to write to Northern Health and BC Emergency Health Services asking about Stewart and Kitwanga's paramedicine program and staffing in these communities.

Carried.

R089-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that BC Emergency Health Services be invited to present an update on staffed positions in the Northwest.

Carried

## **2025 Fall Joint Meeting with Northern Health and Regional Hospital Districts**

A report of the meeting with Northern Health and northern Regional Hospital Districts was presented.

R090-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the report of the 2025 Fall Joint Meeting be received.

Carried.

### **Directors' Report**

R091-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the Directors' Report dated November 22, 2025 be received.

Carried.

### **BYLAWS:**

Introduced and presented for three readings and adoption was the North West Regional Hospital District 2026 Provisional Budget Bylaw No. 201, 2025.

R092-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the North West Regional Hospital District 2026 Provisional Budget Bylaw No. 201, 2025 be read for a first and second time by title only and passed in its first and second readings.

Carried.

R093-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the North West Regional Hospital District 2026 Provisional Budget Bylaw No. 201, 2025 be read for a third time by title only and passed in its third reading.

Carried.

R094-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the North West Regional Hospital District 2026 Provisional Budget Bylaw No. 201, 2025 be adopted.

Carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Next Meeting is Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 11 a.m.

### **INFORMATION ONLY:**

R095-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that news articles provided for information on this Agenda be received.

Carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

R096-2025 MOVED/SECONDED that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

Chair Pages adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

**DULY APPROVED:**

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Chair

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Executive Director

NOT RATIFIED



## DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

File No. 0400-08

December 16, 2025

Hon. Christine Boyle  
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
Via email: [hma.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:hma.minister@gov.bc.ca)

BC Municipalities Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bills  
[P.MBCCommittee@leg.bc.ca](mailto:P.MBCCommittee@leg.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Boyle and BC Municipalities Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bills,

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**Re: Bill M216 - Professional Reliance Act**

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On behalf of the District of Metchosin Council, I am writing to express our deep concerns and opposition to Bill M216, the *Professional Reliance Act*. We acknowledge the Province's commitment to address housing supply challenges and streamline approvals; however, this legislation challenges municipal authority in its significant overreach into municipal jurisdiction and is likely to create unnecessary risks.

As stated, it appears that Bill M216 would undermine local government decision-making authority and oversight over development projects, bypassing the professional expertise of municipal planners, engineers, and building officials, whose knowledge of local context is essential for responsible and sustainable development. It proposes to weaken local government oversight over approvals, bypassing local government oversight at the expense of due diligence in local decision-making in favour of expedited approvals. Under Bill M216, oversight over development shifts from our realm in the public sector, where it is transparent and democratically accountable, to the private sector, where the primary obligation is to the client rather than the broader community. Essentially, the bill removes authority from local governments potentially causing regulatory deadlock leaving projects entwined in the under-resourced dispute resolution process. Furthermore, local governments will be left in a precarious liability situation.

The lack of consultation on Bill M216 is concerning. The bill was introduced without any substantive discussions with local government officials as part of a clear and transparent process. Several local governments have raised questions and valid concerns about how Bill M216 would impact local government powers as defined in the *Local Government Act* and the *Land Title Act*. We believe that

significant legislative changes affecting development, land use and municipal authority need to be developed through a process of dialogue and engagement with local governments.

We respectfully request that the provincial government pause consideration of Bill M216 and engage in meaningful and substantive consultation with local governments before moving forward with changes that fundamentally alter local land use authority and the development process.

Sincerely



Marie-Térèse Little, PhD  
Mayor

cc: Premier David Eby [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)  
Hon. Britny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments & Rural Communities  
[MSP.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MSP.Minister@gov.bc.ca)  
MLA Lorne Doerkson, Cariboo Chilcotin Lorne.Doerkson.MLA@leg.bc.ca  
MLA George Anderson [george.anderson.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:george.anderson.MLA@leg.bc.ca)  
Cori Ramsay, President, UBCM [cori.ramsay@princegeorge.ca](mailto:cori.ramsay@princegeorge.ca)  
BC Municipalities  
Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bills  
[P.MBCCommittee@leg.bc.ca](mailto:P.MBCCommittee@leg.bc.ca)



December 9, 2025

Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bills  
c/o Parliamentary Committees Office  
Room 224, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Chair Amna Shah:

**Re: Town of Osoyoos concerns with the proposed *Professional Reliance Act* (Bill M216)**

On behalf of the Council of the Town of Osoyoos, I am writing to express concerns regarding the recently introduced *Professional Reliance Act* (Bill M216), currently before the Legislative Assembly as a private member's bill.

While we support provincial efforts to streamline development approvals and improve housing delivery, several aspects of the proposed legislation raise substantial governance, risk management, and operational issues for local governments. More specifically, Council's concerns relate to the following matters:

**1. Loss of Local Government Flexibility and Oversight**

The Bill proposes to prohibit local governments from requiring peer reviews of professional reports certified under the *Professional Governance Act*, except with authorization from the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG). As drafted, this restriction applies broadly to "submissions" provided under a development approval process, including rezonings, OCP amendments, development permits, variances, temporary use permits, phased development agreements, heritage permits, and building permit-related assessments.

This approach would effectively impose a one-size-fits-all approval framework across B.C. and remove an important tool that local governments rely on to ensure that professional reports are complete, reliable, and consistent with local bylaws, development guidelines, environmental protection measures, and hazard mitigation standards. Even though the Town of Osoyoos has not historically required third-party reviews, maintaining the authority to do so remains essential to ensure due diligence and uphold public interest.

**2. Risk of Increased Delays to Development**

Contrary to the Bill's stated intention of accelerating development, the proposed dispute-resolution mechanism—relying on the OSPG to assess disagreements over professional findings—poses a significant risk of introducing new delays. The OSPG is not currently mandated or resourced to adjudicate such disputes, and local governments may experience extended application stalls while awaiting provincial direction. This outcome would be inconsistent with the Province's recent efforts to streamline land-use approvals and increase housing supply.



### **3. Liability and Risk Exposure**

Although the Bill asserts that local governments will be shielded from liability for relying on certified submissions, it does not prevent local governments from being named in legal claims. In cases where the responsible professional is unavailable or underinsured, local governments may face joint and several liability exposure. This represents a material financial risk for the public sector and contradicts the Bill's stated purpose of reducing administrative burdens.

### **4. Loss of Local Government Flexibility and Oversight**

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) has advised that the proposed Act was not subject to the typical policy development or consultation processes associated with government bills. System-wide changes to local government approval authority should not be advanced without meaningful engagement with the municipalities and regional districts who will be responsible for administering the resulting framework. Early consultation ensures policies are practical, aligned with public expectations, and grounded in operational realities.

### **5. Proposed Mandatory Timelines for Development Processing**

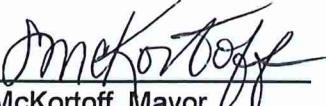
The Town is also concerned by the Bill's enabling provisions to establish mandatory processing timelines for development applications through regulation. In other jurisdictions, failure to issue a decision within a prescribed timeline results in deemed approvals. Such an approach does not account for the significant variation in resources, complexity of applications, and statutory obligations across B.C.'s diverse local governments, and may lead to sub-optimal or unsafe development outcomes.

In light of these issues, the Town respectfully requests that:

1. The Province suspend further consideration of Bill M216 pending comprehensive consultation with local governments and UBCM;
2. The Ministry undertake a detailed review of potential liability impacts, dispute-resolution timelines, and operational implications; and
3. Any future professional-reliance reforms be developed collaboratively with local governments to ensure they support both efficient development and public safety.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns and please know that the Town of Osoyoos would welcome the opportunity to participate in further dialogue on this matter and that I can be reached at 250-498-1857 or by email at [smckortoff@osoyoos.ca](mailto:smckortoff@osoyoos.ca).

Yours truly,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue McKortoff, Mayor

Town of Osoyoos

Enclosure(s)

C: The Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs

CC: Union of British Columbia Municipalities



Honourable David Eby

**Premier of British Columbia**

Honourable Christine Boyle

**Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs**

Donegal Wilson

**Member of the Legislative Assembly, Boundary - Similkameen**

December 15, 2025

**Subject: Bill M216 Professional Reliance Act – City of Greenwood Remarks**

On behalf of the City of Greenwood, following a motion passed by Council on December 15, 2025. The City of Greenwood Council has directed that I convey our concerns regarding *Bill M216, the Professional Reliance Act*. While we share the Province's objective of increasing housing supply, we believe this legislation undermines the foundations of local democracy and responsible community planning.

Municipal councils are elected to represent their residents and are entrusted with balancing growth, sustainability, and community character. *Bill M216* would diminish that role by transferring key decision-making powers away from local governments and into provincial processes that lack the nuance of local context. Greenwood's professional staff and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary's planners bring essential expertise to these matters, and their work is grounded in the realities of our community. Removing or sidelining that expertise risks poor outcomes and erodes public confidence.

Greenwood has consistently met housing requirements established by both the Province and our own Council. This demonstrates that municipalities are capable of delivering solutions without heavy-handed provincial intervention. Imposing a uniform framework across diverse communities disregards the unique circumstances of each municipality and penalizes those that have acted responsibly.

We are also troubled by the dispute resolution mechanism proposed in *Bill M216*. Assigning authority to the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance - an office without mandate or capacity in local land-use planning - creates uncertainty and weakens accountability. Residents expect their elected representatives to make these decisions, not an external body removed from community realities.

For these reasons, Greenwood Council urges the Province to suspend implementation of *Bill M216* and to engage in genuine consultation with municipalities and professional organizations. Constructive dialogue will ensure that housing goals are advanced while respecting local autonomy and preserving democratic governance.

We remain committed to working with the Province on housing solutions that strengthen communities, respect municipal authority, and uphold public trust.

Sincerely,



Mayor John Bolt

cc: Dean Trumbley, Chief Administrative Officer  
Brooke McCourt, Corporate Officer  
Donna Dean, RDKB Manager of Planning and Development  
Brian Champlin, RDKB Manager of Building Inspection Services  
BC Municipalities & Regional District

December 18, 2025

Via email: [ben@northerndevelopment.bc.ca](mailto:ben@northerndevelopment.bc.ca)

Ben Campbell, CEO  
Northern Development Initiative Trust  
301 – 1268 Fifth Avenue,  
Prince George, BC  
V2L 3L2

**Re: Letter of Support - Prince George–North Vancouver Railway Engagement and Assessment**

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Dear Mr. Campbell;

At the December 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of Quesnel City Council, Council resolved:

***J.2) Railroad from Prince George to North Vancouver - Mayor Paull to discuss***

26-06-44 MOVED Councillor Vik, Seconded Councillor McKelvie and resolved:  
THAT Council direct staff to prepare a letter to Northern Development Initiative Trust in support of their granting the funding necessary to conduct the study to save the Prince George to North Vancouver railroad.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Quesnel City Council supports the funding request to Northern Development Initiative Trust for the proposed assessment of the Prince George to North Vancouver rail corridor, including the section CN plans to return to BC Rail in July 2026.

This line from Vancouver to Prince George not only has benefits for freight, but also for passenger movement, taking into account the Rocky Mountaineer that stops overnight in Quesnel. The restoration of this rail line would enhance passenger travel, especially given the Rocky Mountaineer's existing overnight stop in Quesnel. Building on this established tourism connection, renewed rail service would improve mobility between communities, support local businesses that benefit from increased visitor traffic, and offer residents a reliable alternative to long highway trips.

The restoration of passenger rail service along the Prince George and North Vancouver corridor would significantly enhance mobility for Indigenous communities throughout the region. Many Nations are dispersed across vast distances, and reliable transportation is

**Mayor Ron Paull**

**Councillors** Scott Elliott, Tony Goulet, Debra McKelvie, Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Martin Runge, Mitch Vik,



essential for accessing education, health care, cultural events, and inter-community gatherings. Improved passenger service would support stronger connections between Indigenous communities, foster greater participation in regional economic and cultural activities, and contribute to long-term reconciliation efforts by honouring Indigenous needs for safe and dependable transportation.

On behalf of Quesnel City Council, please give favourable consideration to the Prince George–North Vancouver Railway Engagement and Assessment.

Thank you for your time,

Mayor Ron Paull  
City of Quesnel

Cc:  
BC Municipalities and Regional Districts  
[reception@lhtako.com](mailto:reception@lhtako.com)  
[BandAdmin@nazkoband.ca](mailto:BandAdmin@nazkoband.ca)  
[bandmanager@esdilaghfn.com](mailto:bandmanager@esdilaghfn.com)  
[bandadministrator@lhooskuz.com](mailto:bandadministrator@lhooskuz.com)

**Dear Mayor and Council,**

In previous correspondence, I described how senior governments have used stigma and structural design to shift the consequences of their decisions onto municipalities. I am writing today to flag a new and concerning development: residents in Langford and Colwood are being subjected to a [targeted messaging campaign](#) that appears designed to manufacture public consent for further cost-downloading.

Specifically, over recent weeks the BC Crown Counsel Association (BCCA) has been running radio advertisements directed at Langford and Colwood listeners, urging residents to write their MLAs and demand increased funding for Crown prosecutors. These ads do not appear to be running province-wide. Instead, they seem to be narrowly targeted at two municipalities that have already shown resistance to unchecked downloading of justice-system costs from senior governments.

Because these advertisements have had limited circulation and may not be widely known, I believe it is important to outline their core claims and implications.

### **What the Ads Claim**

The advertisements assert that:

- case loads are too high,
- files and laws are becoming more complex,
- front-line prosecutors are burned out and understaffed, and
- as a result, “lower-level offenders may not face accountability.”

The clear implication (or threat?) is that public safety is at risk unless additional funding flows to Crown.

However, this framing does not withstand closer scrutiny once the structural incentives jointly created by Crown and RCMP leadership are examined.

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#### **1. Non-Arrest Is Now a Feature, Not a Bug**

In my October 1st letter, I documented evidence from Kamloops where RCMP acknowledged witnessing repeat, non-violent property crimes without making arrests — even when GPS-tracked stolen items were located inside the home. These non-arrests were later used to help justify a civil forfeiture threat.

Across the province it now appears:

- the 2020 MOU increased disclosure burdens dramatically,
- high case loads lead Crown to triage only the most serious files,
- so police implicitly avoid arresting lower-level offenders whose cases will likely be dropped anyway,
- police avoid overwhelming paperwork,
- Crown avoids untenable intake volumes,
- municipalities see escalating disorder, and
- vulnerable homeowners become targets for civil forfeiture.

When a major incident finally occurs — such as an overdose death — civil forfeiture becomes profitable, using the smaller, previously ignored offences as leverage. This is after hundreds of complaints of low level offences by members of our communities are completely ignored or even mocked.

This is not a justice system dysfunction; **it is a business model.**

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## **2. The Five Revenue Pathways Created by the 2020 MOU**

The 2020 Disclosure MOU, jointly authored by federal prosecutors, BC Crown, and RCMP leadership during the pandemic when arrests were much less frequent, has enabled the following monetization channels:

### **1. Case-Load Inflation**

More paperwork → slower cases → higher case volumes → increased budget justification and job security for Crown.

### **2. Civil Forfeiture Growth**

Non-arrest → unresolved disorder → major incident → property seizure → government revenue during defund police movement.

### **3. Municipal Funding of Clerks**

RCMP pressure municipal councils for “major crime” disclosure clerks to compensate for MOU-created bottlenecks — new civilian positions that previously belonged to the very institutions that authored the MOU (and should probably only be staffed by sworn officers).

### **4. Delayed Bodycam Rollout**

Disclosure burdens create an excuse to delay the province-wide implementation of bodycams — reducing transparency and institutional risk.

(Thanks and applause to the District of North Saanich Council for asking about this at the November 17th meeting; every municipality should be asking about bodycams prior to further funding.)

### 5. The BCCCA Manufactured-Consent Campaign

Rather than advocating for systemic reform, Crown now targets specific municipalities with pressure messaging to expand its budget.

**Notably, the MOU itself refers to its signatories as “key players” in the justice system.** This is not neutral language. It explicitly frames prosecution, policing, and disclosure governance as a closed group of institutional actors coordinating policy among themselves, rather than as public servants accountable downstream to municipalities or the public.

In regulatory and competition contexts, the term “key players” is commonly used to describe coordinated market actors whose decisions shape outcomes for others who lack bargaining power. In the justice context, its use signals centralized control over disclosure rules, timelines, and burdens — without corresponding obligations to fund or absorb the operational consequences of those choices.

In other words, this is *cartel language*, not something anyone should ever expect coming from senior leadership in Justice.

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### 3. Why Langford and Colwood Were Targeted

The ads are likely only aimed at these two communities because:

- they have resisted unchecked cost-downloads,
- the West Shore RCMP detachment has documented workload concerns,
- and they are part of the South Island coalition that stood together to oppose E-Comm downloading.

Municipal resistance apparently makes these municipalities targets for pressure campaigns. Targeted messaging is an intimidation tactic — not a public safety measure.

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### 4. Mayoral Unity and Strategic Timing

Municipal unity matters. We have seen mayors — including the recent alliance of Vancouver and Surrey leaders — stand together to demand accountability from Metro Vancouver leadership on shared issues. This model of cross-municipal cooperation can be exceptionally powerful when confronting systemic cost-shifting and accountability gaps.

It was telling when District of North Saanich Mayor Peter Jones recently mentioned that bad provincial news often arrives at **4:30 pm on a Friday** — a reminder that senior governments treat municipal politicians no better than they do any other British Columbians (hence the need for municipal unity).

Funding a disclosure clerk — as DNS chose to do — can be a pragmatic interim step, but **only if it demonstrably alleviates case backlogs and improves accountability for all offences**. If clerks do not materially help address lower-level crime and systemic delays, municipalities should reconsider ongoing funding. I do appreciate their willingness to help tackle the ongoing crime and disorder, but let's not forget who caused it (or why they seem to have caused it).

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## 5. The Broader Federal Context and Guaranteed Livable Income

This targeted pressure campaign must also be understood within a broader federal context.

Since the 2025 federal leadership transition, Prime Minister Mark Carney has made clear that his government will not pursue a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) pilot. Requests from provinces and policy advocates to test GLI-style programs have been met with an explicit refusal, even as federal spending expands significantly in other areas, including policing, defence, and security.

This is a consequential choice. The evidence around GLI is not speculative. Historical and contemporary pilots — including Manitoba's Mincome experiment — demonstrated reductions in poverty, improved health outcomes, and lower downstream social costs. More recent modelling has consistently shown that **a GLI would reduce crime, stabilize housing, decrease calls for police service, and ease pressure on courts and prosecutors**.

In other words, GLI *directly addresses* the root conditions that senior justice institutions now cite to justify ever-expanding budgets.

The federal government's refusal to test GLI, while simultaneously increasing spending on enforcement and prosecution, reveals a structural preference: managing the consequences of poverty and disorder rather than reducing them. In that environment, crime, backlog, and social instability become permanent budget justifications instead of problems to be solved.

This is why the BCCCA's targeted advertising matters. These messages do not merely misdiagnose the problem; they reinforce a system in which scarcity, backlog, and public fear are operationally useful. They are not isolated communications — they are the visible edge of a deeper structural choice.

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## 6. What Municipal Leaders Must Now Recognize

Langford and Colwood are being positioned as leverage points in a provincial-federal strategy to normalize:

- downloading costs,
- pressure campaigns,
- selective enforcement,
- non-arrest practices,
- opaque disclosure burdens, and
- civil forfeiture against the vulnerable.

The public is being told to demand more funding for a system that systematically avoids addressing its own self-created failures.

Municipalities must *not* allow targeted messaging to wedge communities into funding a structure whose incentives are fundamentally misaligned with public safety and justice.

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## Conclusion

The BCCA advertisements tell residents that “lower-level offenders may not be held accountable.”

The evidence shows otherwise. This is not a staffing failure — it is a policy choice.

A justice system that selectively enforces, selectively prosecutes, and selectively seizes is not malfunctioning. It is operating as designed by those who benefit from the resulting bottlenecks. When institutions prioritize obedience to process over responsibility for outcomes, harm becomes normalized and accountability evaporates.

History teaches us that unquestioning obedience to broken systems can lead to catastrophe. From residential schools to other institutional failures now being reckoned with across this country, the lesson is consistent: when people follow rules without challenging their consequences, damage compounds quietly — until it can no longer be ignored.

This is why municipal unity matters. Municipalities must continue standing together. Meaningful change will not come from within systems that profit from dysfunction; it will come from principled pressure applied from below — unified, informed, and unwavering.

The Christmas Truces of 1914 remind us that civil disobedience, exercised thoughtfully and collectively, can be an ethical act — and sometimes a necessary one. I trust that this will be a topic of discussion over the holiday season for those who are in receipt of this correspondence.

If the current trajectory of unchecked crime and disorder continues into the new year, another unified stance on the steps of the legislature by municipal leaders may again be required. Perhaps it should take place at the end of the day on a Friday.

Thank you again for your service and dedication to your communities.

Sincerely,

**Philip Perras**

4510 Bedwell Harbour Road

Pender Island, BC

V0N2M1

[philip\\_perras@hotmail.com](mailto:philip_perras@hotmail.com)