



# AGENDA CITY OF MERRITT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

2185 Voght Street

Merritt, B.C

Mission Statement: *The City of Merritt is a progressive, attractive, economically viable City that is socially responsible and environmentally sustainable.*

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER
  - 1.1 Call to Order
2. LATE ITEMS
3. PUBLIC INPUT 10 m
4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
  - 4.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - December 17, 2019 3  

**Recommendation:**  
**THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 17, 2019 be adopted**
5. PUBLIC HEARING
6. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions
  - 6.1 Bayshore Minerals Inc. Presentation 10  

*Grant Carlson and Ron Woo of Bayshore Minerals Inc., will present to Council regarding the Elk Gold Project, located about 50km east of Merritt, just South of Highway 97C.*
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.	<u>BYLAWS</u>	
8.1	<u>2019-2023 Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw</u>	24
	<b>Recommendation:</b> <b>THAT City of Merritt Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2279, 2019 be adopted.</b>	
9.	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
9.1	<u>2020 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning Grant Application</u>	28
	<b>Recommendation:</b> <b>THAT Council support the City’s application for \$150,000 from the 2020 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Flood Mapping;</b>	
	<b>AND THAT Council directs staff to handle the application and provide overall grant management if the application is successful.</b>	
9.2	<u>Gold Country Communities Society Membership</u>	30
	<b>Recommendation:</b> <b>THAT Council direct staff to inform the Gold Country Communities Society that Merritt will not be continuing membership with the Society past January 2020.</b>	
9.3	<u>CAO Update</u>	
10.	<u>NOTICES OF MOTION</u>	
11.	<u>REPORTS FROM COUNCIL</u>	
12.	<u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u>	
12.1	<u>Letter from Premier Horgan - UBCM Follow-up</u>	32
12.2	<u>Letter from Ministry of Mental Health &amp; Addictions - UBCM Follow-up</u>	33
12.3	<u>Strategic Planning Priorities</u>	37
13.	<u>TERMINATION OF MEETING</u>	



**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF MERRITT**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Tuesday, December 17, 2019  
7:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
2185 Voght Street  
Merritt, B.C

**PRESENT:**

**Mayor L. Brown**  
**Councillor M. Bhangu**  
**Councillor K. Christopherson**  
**Councillor A. Etchart**  
**Councillor T. Fehr**  
**Councillor T. Luck**

**Councillor M. White**

**Mr. S. Smith, Director of Corporate Services**  
**Ms. S. Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT**  
**Mr. D. McArthur, Planning Services Manager**

**MEDIA & PUBLIC:**   **Q101**  
                              **Merritt Herald**

**1.    CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1   Call to Order**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

**2.    LATE ITEMS**

**3.    PUBLIC INPUT**

Craig Gray spoke to item 7.1, expressing his concern regarding safety and criminal activity in the City of Merritt, noting the high incident rate of property

crime on his street. He further expressed concern regarding the effectiveness of the RCMP and felt that a municipal police force could be more responsive. Suggestion that the City of Merritt consider a municipal police force.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - November 26, 2019**

*THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 26, 2019 be adopted*

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**5. PUBLIC HEARING**

**6. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions**

**6.1 Work BC - Thriving Communities Labour Market Study**

Presentation by Julie Bayman, Program Manager/Business Coach for Work BC

Julie Bayman presented to Council regarding the role of WorkBC to ensure worker supports following the shift reduction at Aspen Planers. Julie discussed the extensive career fair that was held at NVIT on November 15th, 2019, as well as the Thriving Community survey that was to be used to gather data regarding the labour market in and around the City of Merritt. The survey has received over 260 responses so far.

Julie discussed how the data would be used to support initiatives in the area moving forward. Julie requested that the use of the Civic Centre be gifted for the presentation of findings on February 27, 2019.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**7.1 Notice of Motion**

Councillor Fehr made the following notice of motion at the November 26, 2019 Meeting:

Councillor Fehr introduced his notice of motion, emphasizing the increase in property crime across Canada, and the factors that contribute to crime, particularly in BC.

He noted potential solutions around increasing social supports, and increased community involvement, including a call for vigilant reporting.

**Recommendation:**

***That Council elevate a long term crime reduction strategy as a top priority in Council's strategic plan.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**8. BYLAWS**

**8.1 Zoning Amendment Bylaw – Health and Fitness Facilities**

**Recommendation:**

***THAT Council give first reading to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2278, 2019;***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**Recommendation:**

***THAT Council give second reading to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2278, 2019;***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**8.2 2019-2023 Financial Plan Amendment**

**Recommendation:**

***THAT City of Merritt Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2279, 2019 be read a first time.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**Recommendation:**

***THAT City of Merritt Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2279, 2019 be read a second time.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**Recommendation:**

***THAT City of Merritt Five Year Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2279, 2019 be read a third time.***

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 **Youth Advisory Committee Appointments**

*The City of Merritt put out a request for applicants for the Youth Advisory Committee and received five applications, one from an NVIT student, one MSS graduate, one SCIDES Graduate, and two current MSS students. All applications have been reviewed by both staff and the Mayor, and each applicant has been contacted to confirm their interest in being appointed.*

**Recommendation:**

***THAT Council appoint Darian Krajci, Susanna Scholtens, Nkikaxni (Honey) Grismer, Beckett Finch, and Marius Auer to the Youth Advisory Committee in a voting capacity, and Adam Etchart in a non-voting capacity;***

***AND THAT Council authorize Mayor Brown to make further appointments to this Committee, up to the limit prescribed in the Terms of Reference for this Committee.***

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

9.2 **Airport Advisory Committee - Terms of Reference Adoption**

*On December 2, 2019, the Airport Select Committee met to establish terms of reference for the Airport Advisory Committee. Staff made three amendments to the proposal. First, as this is a standing Committee, the Community Charter requires that at least half of the committee must be made of of Council members. As such, staff amended the proposed composition to meet this requirement.*

*Second, a minor change was made to one of the Committee Duties, to ensure that the Committee only works through Council (as opposed to the CAO). This is a minor change, but it is important to acknowledge that any Committee cannot direct staff, as that is exclusively the role of Council.*

*Third, a number of administrative provisions were omitted, as the Council Committee Policy, which applies to all City Committees addresses these items.*

*THAT Council amend the Terms of Reference to make the Airport Advisory Committee a Select Committee, with 5-7 members and a single member of Council*

Absent (1): Melvina White

***Recommendation:***

***THAT Council establish the Airport Advisory Committee with the attached Terms of Reference;***

***AND THAT Council direct staff to advertise to the public for appointments to this Committee.***

**9.3 North Bench Lands – Crown Land Tenure Application**

***Recommendation:***

***THAT Council direct staff to consult with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, as well as First Nations, regarding potential Crown Land Tenure applications for the Crown lands north of Mountain Drive in the Bench area (the “North Bench Lands”).***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

***Recommendation:***

***THAT Council direct staff to prepare budgetary information regarding the creation of a North Bench Lands Neighbourhood Development Plan, as indicated in the Official Community Plan.***

**Moved, Seconded, CARRIED**

**9.4 MFA Equipment Financing for Loader Purchase**

***Recommendation:***

***THAT Council of the City of Merritt authorize \$205,665 to be borrowed, under section 175 of the Community Charter, from the Municipal Finance Authority, for the purpose of purchasing a 2019***

*Hyundai HL940 Wheel Loader, with attached 3.0 cubic yard bucket;  
and*

*THAT the loan be repaid within 5 years, with no rights of renewal.*

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

**9.5 Fire Protection Agreement Renewal**

*Recommendation:*

*THAT Council authorize staff to renew the Fire Protection Agreement between the City of Merritt and the Thompson Nicola Regional District, resulting in a 5 year total payment to the City of \$397,000.*

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

**9.6 Town Hall Meeting**

*Recommendation:*

*THAT Council direct staff to schedule an open invitation Town Hall meeting in January 2020, to communicate the 2019 year in review, current City initiatives, and hear from the public about their issues and concerns.*

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

**9.7 CAO Update**

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**11. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL**

Council wished the public and staff a Merry Christmas.

**12. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**12.1 B.C. PNP Entrepreneur Immigration Pilot Committee - Quarterly Report**

*THAT Council accept for information the B.C. PNP Entrepreneur Immigration Pilot Quarterly Report.*

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

**12.2 Strategic Planning Priorities**

**13. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The Mayor declared the meeting ended at 8:40pm

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Corporate Officer

Sean Smith

Certified correct in accordance with Section 124(2) (c) of the Community Charter

Confirmed on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

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Mayor

Linda Brown

# The Elk Gold Mine

## Project Information Package

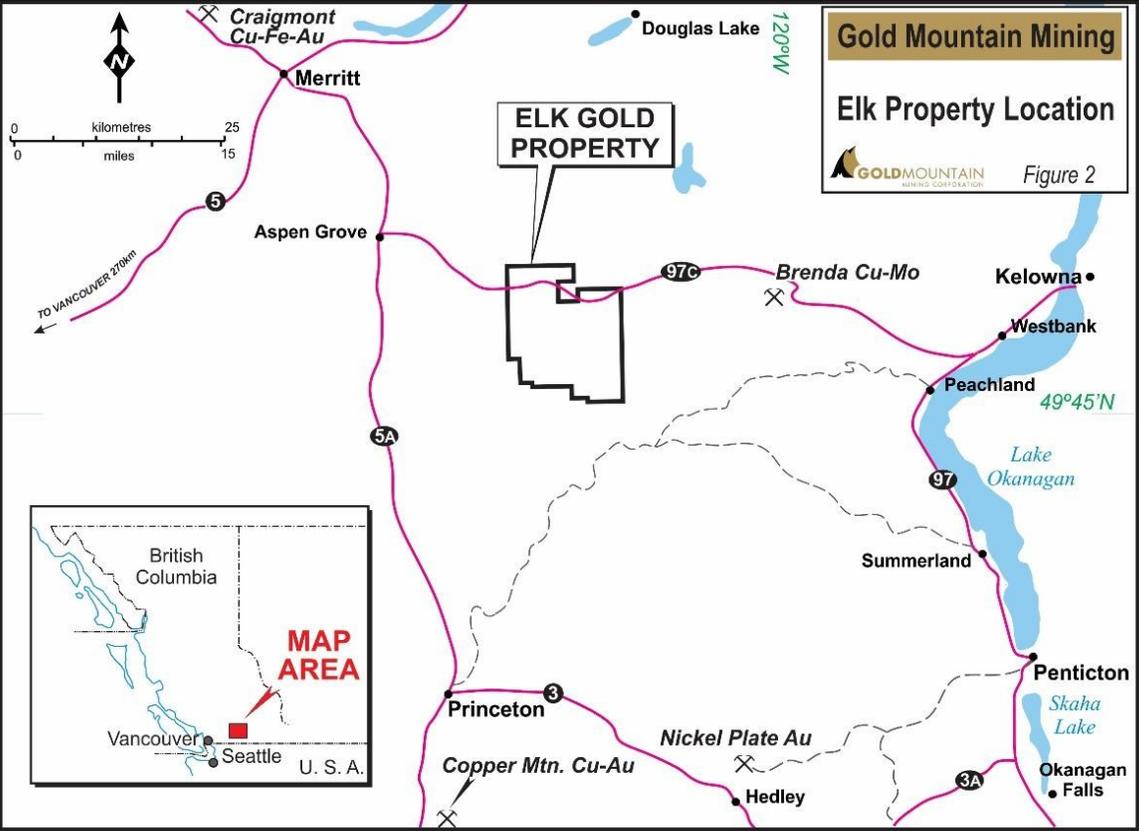
Gold Mountain Mining Company

A wholly owned subsidiary of

Bayshore Minerals Inc.

January 2020

# Project Location



# Project Team

Bayshore Minerals Inc. is run by co-founders Ron Woo and Grant Carlson.



Ron is a mining engineer who has worked throughout BC, Alberta, South America and the Northwest Territories.



Grant is a mining engineer who has lived and worked in Vancouver, the Yukon and Williams Lake, BC.

# Mining History

- ▶ First explored in 1986-91
- ▶ Small scale mining 1992-94
- ▶ Further exploration 2002-2010
- ▶ Bulk Sample Mined 2012-14
- ▶ On Care and Maintenance from 2015 to present



# Mining History

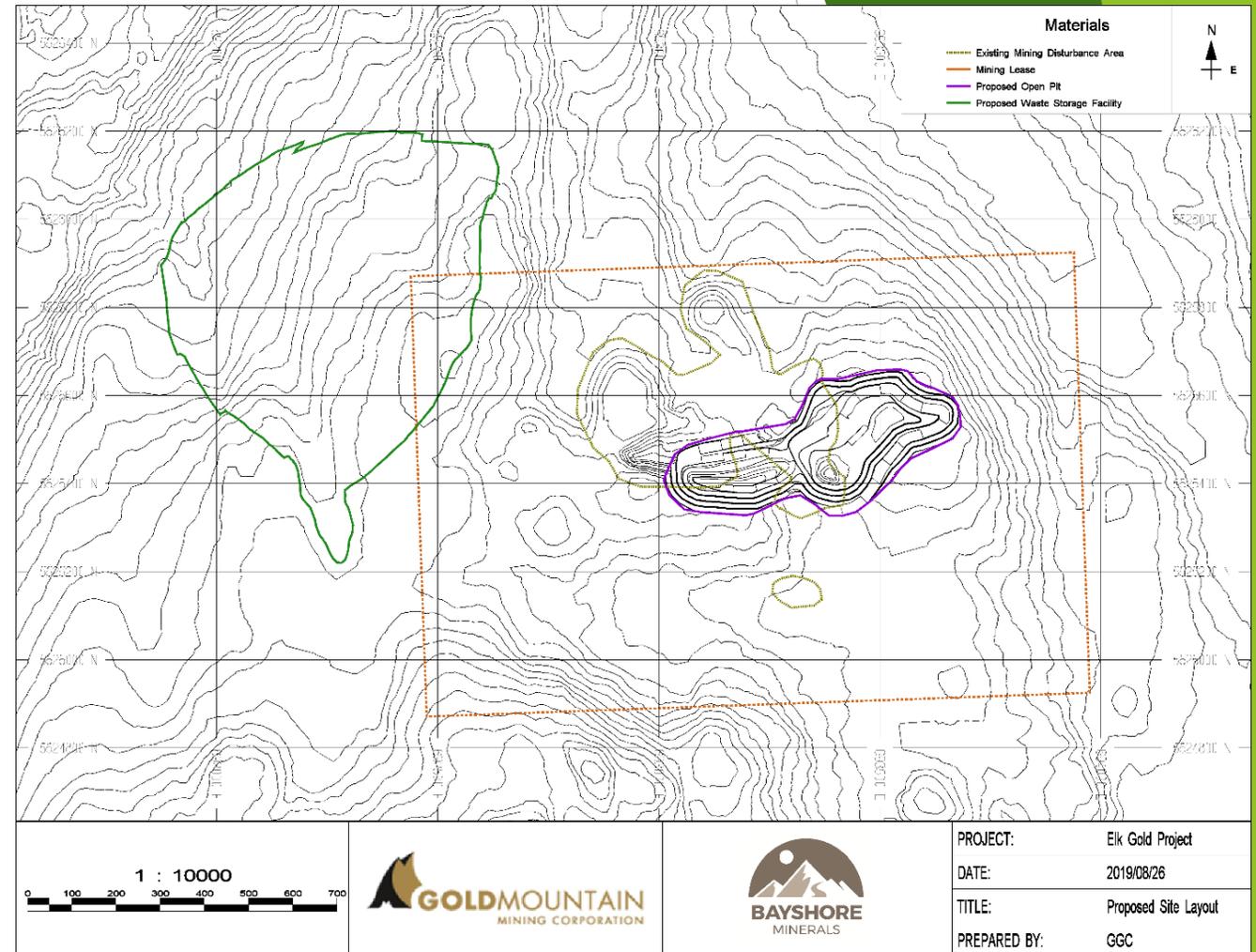


# Archeology and Cultural Resources

- ▶ First Archeological Resource Overview Assessment Completed in 1992
- ▶ Second AOA and Field Reconnaissance in 2011 by USIB and UNIB (lead by Brenda Gould)
- ▶ Project area classified as Low to Moderate archeological potential
- ▶ No archeological sites found
- ▶ Chance Find Procedure in place
- ▶ Further field assessment required

# Proposed Project

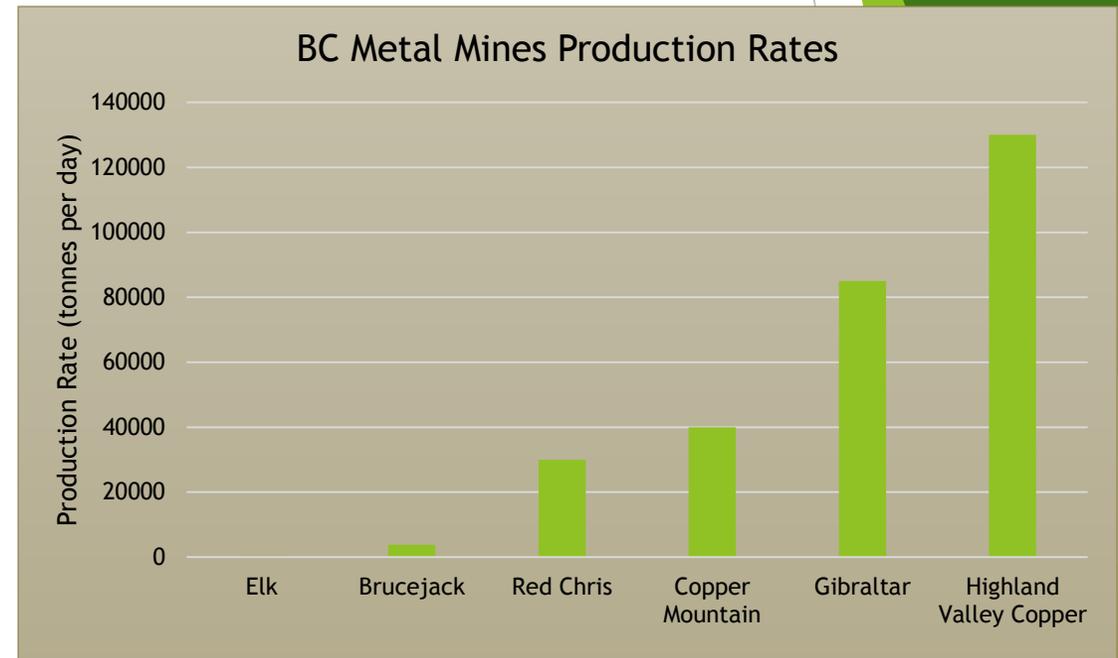
- ▶ Proposed Open Pit Gold Mine
  - ▶ 70,000 tonnes per year (200 tonnes per day)
  - ▶ 12 year mine life
  - ▶ 15 employees
  - ▶ Ore shipped offsite for processing
    - ▶ *This mean no contaminated process water to manage*
  - ▶ No tailings stored on-site
    - ▶ *This means to tailings dam and no risk of tailings dam failure!!*



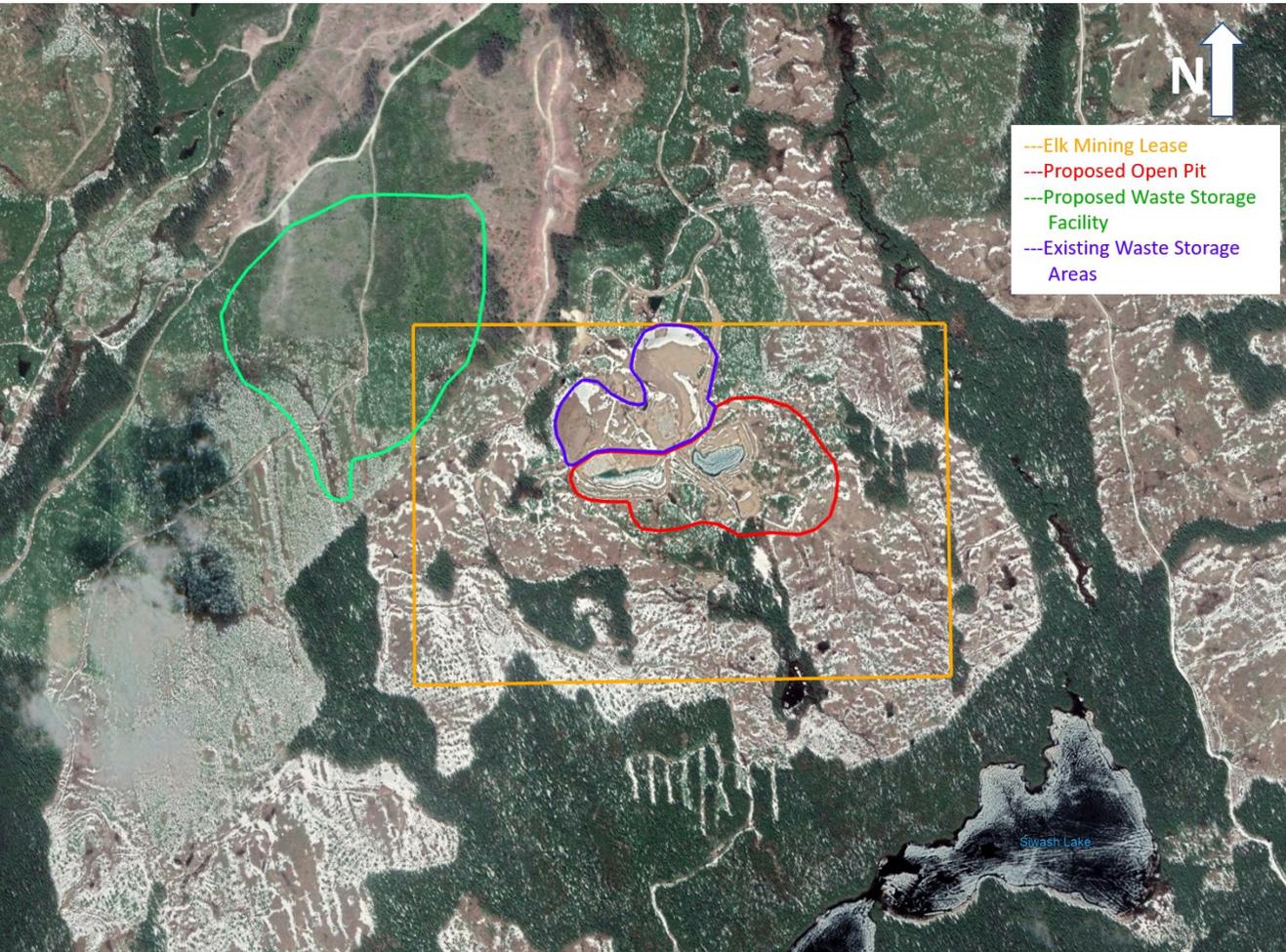
# Proposed Project

- ▶ Proposed Facilities
  - ▶ Open Pit Excavation
  - ▶ Overburden, top soil and waste rock storage areas
  - ▶ Water Management features
  - ▶ Mine Site Office, explosives magazine and fuel store, and
  - ▶ Upgraded mine access road

***At 200 tonnes per day, the Elk is a small-scale gold mine.***



# Environment



- ▶ Okanagan Highland Ecosystem
- ▶ Cold winters, short warm summers
- ▶ Rainbow trout in Siwash Lake, Siwash Creek
- ▶ Area 85% clear-cut

# Environment

- ▶ *With no process plant and no tailings pond, Elk is designed to be a low-impact operation that protects the land and water.*
- ▶ *By the time the operation is complete, all areas of the property will be fully reclaimed.*



# Community Impacts

- ▶ Employment
  - ▶ 20 employees who will operate and maintain the mining equipment
  - ▶ Ore haulage contract to Nicola Mill (Craigmont Mine Site)
  - ▶ Nicola Mill personnel
- ▶ Training - opportunities to develop new skills in:
  - ▶ Operating and Maintaining Equipment
  - ▶ Environmental Monitoring
  - ▶ Drilling and Blasting
  - ▶ Surveying
- ▶ Suppliers
  - ▶ Fuel
  - ▶ Tires
  - ▶ Parts
  - ▶ Explosives
  - ▶ Services (potable water, waste disposal)

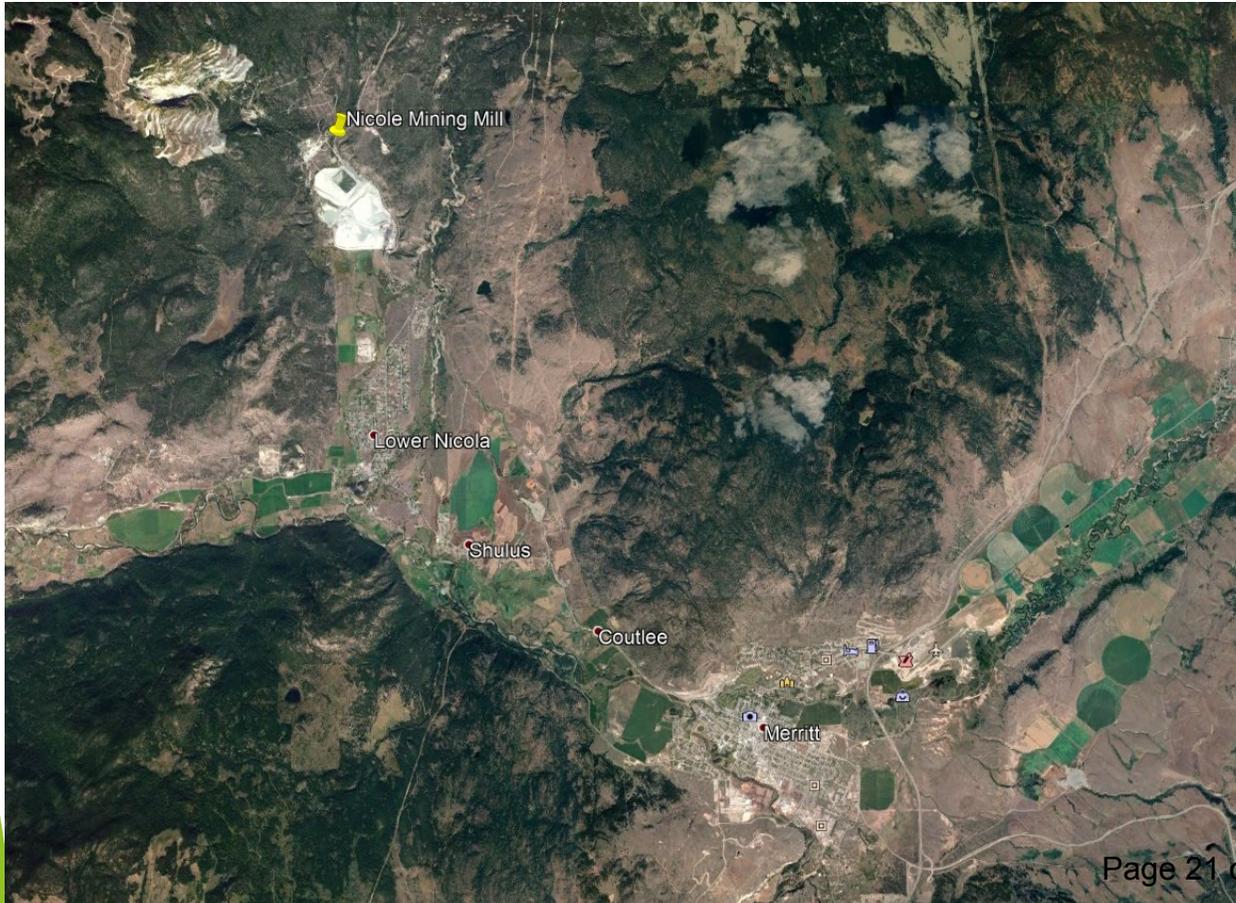


# Mineral Processing

Mineralize material will be processed offsite.

Rock will be hauled to Nicola Mining's mill at the old Craigmont Mine Site.

The mill feed will be six truck loads per day.



# Timeline

- ▶ May 2019 - Project acquisition
- ▶ Summer 2019 - Environmental Baseline
- ▶ June 2019 - Ongoing - Community and First Nations Engagement
- ▶ March 2020 - Submit Mining Permit Applications
- ▶ Estimated October 2020- receive mining permits, construction decision.

# Bayshore's Request to Merritt City Council:

Support from Merritt City Council would be extremely valuable as we go through the permitting process.

Would Council pass a motion of support or offer a letter of support to Bayshore in favor of developing the Elk Gold mine to the benefit of the residents of Merritt?

Thank you for your time.

Any Questions?

**CITY OF MERRITT**

**BYLAW NO. 2279, 2019**

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**A BYLAW TO AMEND CITY OF MERRITT FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL  
PLAN (2019-2023) BYLAW NO. 2279, 2019**

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The Municipal Council of the City of Merritt, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw shall be cited as "**City of Merritt Five-Year Financial Plan ( 2019-2023) Amendment Bylaw No. 2279, 2019**".
2. THAT Schedule "A" of City of Merritt Five Year Financial Plan (2019-2023) Bylaw 2261, 2019 be replaced in its entirety with Schedule "A" attached.
3. THAT Schedule "B" of City of Merritt Five Year Financial Plan (2019 -2023) Bylaw 2279, 2019 be replaced in its entirety with Schedule "B" attached.

**READ A FIRST TIME THIS** 17th day of December, 2019

**READ A SECOND TIME THIS** 17th day of December, 2019

**READ A THIRD TIME THIS** 17th day of December, 2019

**ADOPTED THIS** day of

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**Linda A. Brown,**  
**MAYOR**

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**Sean Smith,**  
**CORPORATE OFFICER**

**CITY OF MERRITT**  
**2019 to 2023 Financial Plan**  
**Schedule "A"**  
**Bylaw 2261, 2019 as amended by Bylaw 2279, 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Annual</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Taxation, net	7,571,549	7,904,878	8,241,114	8,580,315	8,922,540
Parcel taxes	1,231,395	1,231,395	1,231,395	1,231,395	1,231,395
1% Utility Tax	154,138	154,138	154,138	154,138	154,138
Grants in lieu of taxes	136,500	136,500	136,500	136,500	136,500
Federal government grants	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Provincial government grants	1,301,690	715,000	615,000	615,000	615,000
Regional grants	309,866	315,732	321,714	327,817	334,041
Sales of services and rentals	4,148,526	4,352,526	4,352,526	4,352,526	4,352,526
Licenses, permits and fines	220,800	220,800	220,800	220,800	220,800
Penalties and interest on taxes	155,000	155,000	155,000	155,000	155,000
Return on investments	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000
Other revenue	280,500	280,500	280,500	280,500	280,500
Transfer from Utilities	520,000	520,000	520,000	520,000	520,000
Gas Tax Funds	726,149	356,730	356,730	356,730	356,730
	<b>16,982,613</b>	<b>16,569,699</b>	<b>16,811,917</b>	<b>17,157,221</b>	<b>17,505,670</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Departmental expenditure					
General government	2,271,360	2,359,963	2,387,099	2,414,777	2,443,009
Protective services	4,129,794	4,244,245	4,336,135	4,430,533	4,527,509
Transportation services	2,605,538	2,620,663	2,636,090	2,651,825	2,667,875
Environmental health services	718,465	722,278	726,168	730,135	734,182
Development services	699,540	581,528	488,655	495,925	503,341
Public health and welfare services	102,185	102,628	103,080	103,541	104,012
Recreational and cultural services	3,118,621	3,164,851	3,197,012	3,229,816	3,263,276
Water utility	1,204,669	1,212,833	1,221,161	1,229,655	1,238,318
Sewer utility	1,180,320	1,188,335	1,196,511	1,204,850	1,213,356
Debt servicing costs	308,414	308,414	308,414	305,700	305,700
Bank charges	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
	<b>16,353,906</b>	<b>16,520,738</b>	<b>16,615,325</b>	<b>16,811,757</b>	<b>17,015,578</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit for the year)</b>	<b>628,707</b>	<b>48,961</b>	<b>196,592</b>	<b>345,464</b>	<b>490,092</b>
<b>Adjust for Cash Items</b>					
MFA debt principal payments	(360,399)	(360,399)	(360,399)	(311,301)	(311,301)
Short term debt principal payments	(39,709)	(39,709)	(39,709)	(39,709)	(39,709)
Capital expenditures	(8,160,752)	(2,097,400)	(1,685,000)	(1,685,000)	(1,685,000)
Transfer from (to) reserve for future	675,865	300,000			
Transfer (to) from reserve funds	536,732	(401,730)	(401,730)	(401,730)	(401,730)
Transfer from prior years surplus	2,161,306	801,527	541,496	343,526	198,898
Proceeds from debt	2,809,500				
Amortization	1,748,750	1,748,750	1,748,750	1,748,750	1,748,750
	<b>(628,707)</b>	<b>(48,961)</b>	<b>(196,592)</b>	<b>(345,464)</b>	<b>(490,092)</b>

**CITY OF MERRITT**  
**2019 - 2023 CAPITAL PLAN**  
**Schedule "B"**  
**Bylaw 2261, 2019 as amended by Bylaw 2279, 2019**

<u>GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROJECTS</u>	<u>ALL YEARS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
ADMINISTRATION	460,500	260,500	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
PROTECTIVE SERVICES	3,268,625	2,816,225	422,400	10,000	10,000	10,000
PUBLIC WORKS	4,576,945	2,456,945	530,000	530,000	530,000	530,000
RECREATION AND FACILITIES	659,810	619,810	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	<b>8,965,880</b>	<b>6,153,480</b>	<b>1,012,400</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>

<u>FUNDING SOURCES</u>	<u>ALL YEARS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
General Revenue	4,915,649	2,503,249	612,400	600,000	600,000	600,000
Non-statutory Reserves	826,011	526,011	300,000	0	0	0
Grant	414,720	314,720	100,000	0	0	0
Proceeds from Debt	2,809,500	2,809,500	0	0	0	0
	<b>8,965,880</b>	<b>6,153,480</b>	<b>1,012,400</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>

<u>WATER FUND CAPITAL PROJECTS</u>	<u>ALL YEARS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<b>3,515,000</b>	<b>1,255,000</b>	<b>565,000</b>	<b>565,000</b>	<b>565,000</b>	<b>565,000</b>

<u>FUNDING SOURCES</u>	<u>ALL YEARS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Water Revenue	2,825,000	565,000	565,000	565,000	565,000	565,000
Statutory Reserves	690,000	690,000	0	0	0	0
	<b>3,515,000</b>	<b>1,255,000</b>	<b>565,000</b>	<b>565,000</b>	<b>565,000</b>	<b>565,000</b>

<u>SEWER FUND CAPITAL PROJECTS</u>	<u>ALL YEARS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<b>2,732,272</b>	<b>732,272</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>

<u>FUNDING SOURCES</u>	<u>ALL YEARS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Sewer Revenue	2,732,272	732,272	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
	<b>2,732,272</b>	<b>732,272</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>

<u>TRANSIT FUND CAPITAL PROJECTS</u>	<u>ALL YEARS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<b>100,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>

<u>FUNDING SOURCES</u>	<u>ALL YEARS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Transit Revenue	100,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
	<b>100,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>

<u>GRAND TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS</u>	<u>ALL YEARS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<b>15,313,152</b>	<b>8,160,752</b>	<b>2,097,400</b>	<b>1,685,000</b>	<b>1,685,000</b>	<b>1,685,000</b>

<u>FUNDING SOURCES</u>	<u>ALL YEARS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
General Revenue	10,572,921	3,820,521	1,697,400	1,685,000	1,685,000	1,685,000
Non-Statutory Reserves	826,011	526,011	300,000	0	0	0
Statutory Reserves	690,000	690,000	0	0	0	0

Grants	414,720	314,720	100,000	0	0	0
Proceeds from Debt	2,809,500	2,809,500	0	0	0	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>15,313,152</b>	<b>8,160,752</b>	<b>2,097,400</b>	<b>1,685,000</b>	<b>1,685,000</b>	<b>1,685,000</b>

# Report

**City of Merritt**  
**REGULAR Council Meeting**  
**January 14, 2020**

**File Number: 1853**

**To:** Scott Hildebrand, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Sheila Thiessen, Director of Finance & IT

**Date:** January 8, 2020

**Subject:** 2020 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning Grant Application

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT Council support the City’s application for \$150,000 from the 2020 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Flood Mapping;**

**AND THAT Council directs staff to handle the application and provide overall grant management if the application is successful.**

**Background:**

In January 2019, the City of Merritt applied to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for \$150,000 for funds for flood mitigation planning. That application wasn’t successful, and Council resolved to use gas tax funds to do the required flood mitigation planning for the Voght Corner design and subsequent grant application for flood mitigation infrastructure funding.

One of the possible reasons for not receiving the funds in the last round is that there were some regional initiatives in progress that could be a duplication of effort.

The Fraser Basin Council, through the Thompson Flood/Disaster Mitigation Advisory Committee has been coordinating flood risk prioritization, assessment, LiDAR acquisition and flood mapping in the Thompson River Watershed since late 2017. This has involved local governments (including Merritt), First Nations and the province (FLNRORD, EMBC, MOTI) in a watershed-wide, comprehensive approach.

The City, with Council's approval would apply for the CEPF for \$150,000 for flood mapping, and if successful, those funds would be leveraged through the work of the Fraser Basin and Committee to provide detailed flood hazard maps that are required to make informed decisions about public safety, development, bylaw implementation and mitigation planning.

The regional approach to this project will result in more seamless regional flood mapping and will address impacts both upstream (Nicola Lake Dam) and downstream.

### **Options / discussion**

1. Council can direct staff to proceed with the application for CEPF funding in the amount of \$150,000 for Flood Mapping.
2. Council can receive this report for information.
3. Council can direct staff to apply for an independent project.

### **Financial / Risk Implications:**

The CEPF for Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping & Flood Mitigation Planning is open until January 24, 2020. Working with the Fraser Basin Council and the Thompson Flood/Disaster Mitigation Advisory Committee and leveraging the work being done in the watershed will result in comprehensive flood mapping that is seamless with the regional mapping and will provide information for future decisions of Council related to development, mitigation and other items related to the rivers that run through Merritt.

### **Strategic Priorities:**

Flood mitigation and control is one of Council's top priorities.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sheila Thiessen, CPA, CMA  
Director of Finance & IT**

# Report

**City of Merritt**  
**REGULAR Council Meeting**  
**January 14, 2020**

**File Number: 0382**

**To:** Scott Hildebrand, Chief Administrative Officer  
**From:** Will George, Economic Development & Tourism Manager  
**Date:** January 8, 2020  
**Subject:** Gold Country Communities Society Membership

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT Council direct staff to inform the Gold Country Communities Society that Merritt will not be continuing membership with the Society past January 2020.**

## **Background:**

The Gold Country Communities Society was incorporated in 1991 and currently includes the municipalities of Ashcroft, Cache Creek, Clinton, Lillooet, Lytton, Merritt and the TNRD electoral areas of E, I, J, M and N. Gold Country assists small communities and regional electoral areas to provide tourism coverage and marketing.

Regional Gold Country projects include: updating the Gold Country website and social media channels, a regional Visitor Guide, trail guides and maps, the Geocaching program, tourism symposium events and image bank/videography inventories. The City of Merritt currently spends \$8,400 for an annual membership fee to the Gold Country Communities Society. This is in addition to funding that the City of Merritt provides to Gold Country on special projects such as advertising and regional collaboration (i.e. Tourism Symposium).

At the Regular Council Meeting of November 24, 2015, Council passed a resolution to enter into a 3-year tourism marketing and development partnership with the Gold Country Communities Society for \$8,400 per year. This membership agreement expires January 2020. The agreement contains a renewal clause, whereby the agreement can be extended for a further three-year term by mutual consent of the parties.

In additional Gold Country, the City of Merritt currently has a membership with the Destination Development Association and works with other tourism bodies on a per project basis, such as the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association and Destination BC.

Since 2015, there has been an increase of tourism material being developed within the City of Merritt Tourism Department.

While staff greatly respects Gold Country and its long history of providing service for the City of Merritt, staff feels that Merritt is well positioned to leverage the annual \$8,400 by expanding existing relationships, exploring new partnerships with neighboring municipalities, and developing more material in house and in conjunction with other community partners.

Unfortunately, since Merritt is the largest community represented in the Gold Country Communities Society, not to renewing membership would likely have a negative impact on Gold Country operations.

### **Options / discussion**

1. THAT Council direct staff to inform the Gold Country Communities Society that Merritt will not be continuing membership with the Society past January 2020.
2. Council could direct staff to renew the existing agreement for a three-year term.
3. Council could direct staff to execute a new agreement, but for a one-year or a two-year term.

### **Financial / Risk Implications:**

The City currently spends staff time and \$8,400 on the Gold Country membership fees. Potential negative financial implications include a loss of grant leveraged funds through Gold Country, though this may be offset if the City is able to grant leverage the \$8,400.

### **Strategic Plan Reference:**

The below tourism related tactics are identified in the following Council Strategic Priorities:

- Economic Development Strategy: Review / Direction
- Communication Strategic Plan: Framework
- Marketing Strategy: Review

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Will George**  
**Economic Development, Communications and Tourism Manager**



**BRITISH  
COLUMBIA**

December 17, 2019

Her Worship Linda A. Brown  
Mayor, City of Merritt  
2185 Voght St.  
PO Box 189  
Merritt, BC V1K 1B8

Dear Mayor Brown and Councillors:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me during this year's UBCM Convention. These discussions play a significant role in creating government policy and help me to understand how my government can provide support to the many diverse communities of British Columbia.

I was grateful for the opportunity to sit down with you and discuss the forestry industry in Merritt. It was important to discuss the suspension of the Rural Dividend Program this year. Our government is temporarily reallocating funds to a new forestry worker program in an effort to adjust to recent devastating fire seasons and support workers and communities that have been heavily impacted. We recognize the impact this temporary suspension may have on rural and Indigenous communities and we will be working across ministries to identify options for alternative funding. Exploring diversification in the forestry industry is also important and I was interested to hear more about Sundial and your city's support for growing the cannabis industry in rural BC.

I was pleased to hear that the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Merritt and the Upper Nicola Indian Band, Lower Nicola Indian Band, Coldwater Indian Band, Nooaitch Indian Band, Shackan Indian Band and the Thompson Nicola Regional district was successfully signed. This was a momentous occasion for citizens of all these communities and marks another important step on the road of reconciliation.

Thank you for all you are doing for the people and City of Merritt and I want you to assure that I will continue to advocate for Merritt and the complex issues that your community is facing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John J. Horgan".

John Horgan  
Premier

cc: Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development



1146360

Her Worship Linda Brown  
Mayor of Merritt  
2185 Voght St  
Merritt BC V1K 1B6

Dear Mayor Brown, Mr. Hildebrand, and Councillor Bhangu:

I am writing to thank you for meeting with me at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention, which took place September 23 to 27, 2019, at the Vancouver Convention Centre, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

I appreciate you taking the time to meet with me and share a little about what is happening in your region.

In our meeting, you spoke of the recent success seen in Merritt in terms of developing an MOU with local First Nations, shared support for development of a longer-term detox centre, and the positive results seen from existing mental health and wellness services, though capacity issues are starting to arise.

You also spoke of some of the challenges your region is facing, including an escalation of RCMP reports of aggressive encounters with people experiencing mental health and substance use challenges and significant amounts of RCMP time being dedicated to transporting Merritt residents to assessment services in other cities.

With respect to issues with RCMP drop-off, I encourage you to reach out to Justine Patterson, Executive Director of the Overdose Emergency Response Centre, who will be able to provide you with information on a pilot project currently underway with Vernon RCMP. She can be reached at: [Justine.Patterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Justine.Patterson@gov.bc.ca) or (778) 572-2315. This project supports local RCMP members to provide facilitated referrals for people who have overdosed, or are at high risk of overdose, to an Interior Health substance use treatment nurse. I also recommend you connect with Interior Health to discuss telehealth options, which could help increase service delivery within Merritt.

I have taken the liberty of attaching a list of rural and remote mental health resources that may be of interest to you and your community.

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Thank you again for your input and participation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as we move forward to improve mental health and addictions services for all British Columbians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taryn Walsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Taryn" and last name "Walsh" clearly distinguishable.

Taryn Walsh  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Strategic Priorities and Initiatives



## Rural & Remote Mental Health and Substance Use Services

### Ensuring access through online and tele-health resources

We recognize British Columbians living in rural and remote areas are faced with unique challenges in accessing appropriate and culturally safe mental health and addictions services. Virtual care services have the potential to bridge existing gaps in service by providing timely access to appropriate interventions and helping people locate supports before they reach crisis.

To support this, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, along with the Ministry of Health, is investing in innovative technology to provide individuals and physicians with free, user-friendly access to reliable information, screening tools, and psychological support. This includes providing mental health and substance use services to rural and remote communities through mobile clinical teams, e-Mental Health, tele-health, and travel assistance programs for both patients and physicians.

### e-Mental Health and Substance Use Resources

**HealthLink BC:** ([healthlinkbc.ca](http://healthlinkbc.ca) or 811) provides medically-approved information on more than 5,000 health topics, including mental health and substance use

**Mental Health and Substance Use Service Map:** ([gov.bc.ca/gov/content/mental-health-support-in-bc/map](http://gov.bc.ca/gov/content/mental-health-support-in-bc/map)) a searchable listing of mental health and substance use resources and services, organized by community.

**Mental Health and Substance Use Hub:** ([gov.bc.ca/gov/content/mental-health-support-in-bc](http://gov.bc.ca/gov/content/mental-health-support-in-bc)) offers options for self-help, self-care, and links to resources.

**BC Mental Health and Substance Use:** ([bcmhsus.ca](http://bcmhsus.ca)) provides a network of services for BC residents across the province.

**HeretoHelp:** ([heretohelp.bc.ca](http://heretohelp.bc.ca)) is a project of the BC Partners for Mental Health and Addictions Information and offers resources to help people prevent and manage mental health and substance use problems.

**Bounce Back:** ([bouncebackbc.ca](http://bouncebackbc.ca) or 1 866 639-0522) is an evidence-based program for adults experiencing symptoms of mild to moderate depression and anxiety. Bounce Back offers self-directed Cognitive Behavioural Therapy with over-the-phone coaching.

#### Additional Useful Online Resources:

([interiorhealth.ca/YourCare/MentalHealthSubstanceUse/MentalHealth/Documents/Useful%20Online%20Resources.pdf](http://interiorhealth.ca/YourCare/MentalHealthSubstanceUse/MentalHealth/Documents/Useful%20Online%20Resources.pdf)) a substantive list of online resources created by Interior Health.



## Crisis Lines

**310-Mental Health:** call 310-MENTAL (310-6789 - no area code needed) toll-free anywhere in BC to access emotional support, information and resources specific to mental health and substance use issues.

**Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC:** ([crisiscentre.bc.ca](http://crisiscentre.bc.ca) or 1 800 SUICIDE – 1 800 784-2433) provides emotional support to youth, adults and seniors in distress, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Kuu-us Crisis Line Society:** (toll-free at 1 800 588-8717, local youth at 250-723-2040 or local adults at 250-723-4050) provides Indigenous, culturally safe 24/7 telephone crisis supports, with specific care for youth and elders.

**Youth in BC** ([youthinbc.com](http://youthinbc.com) or 1 866 661-3311) is a 24/7 crisis line that connects youth with support, information and resources. It also has an online chat feature available from 12pm – 1am daily.

## Child and Youth Resources

**erase** ([erase.gov.bc.ca](http://erase.gov.bc.ca)) – Expect Respect & a Safe Education is a government website with a section on substance use with resources for educators, students, and parents

**Compass Mental Health** ([compassbc.ca](http://compassbc.ca) or 1 855 702 7272) a provincial phone and web-based consultation service for primary care and community providers to access evidence-based supports for children and youth living with mental health challenges and problematic substance use.

**Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre** ([keltymentalhealth.ca](http://keltymentalhealth.ca) or 1 800 665-1822) is a free, provincial resource centre that provides information, resources, peer support and system navigation to children, youth and families across BC who are struggling with mental health and/or substance use challenges.

**Foundry Online:** ([foundrybc.ca](http://foundrybc.ca)) a youth and young adult-centric interactive website offering self-assessments and connections to early supports. This site aligns with brick and mortar Foundry sites across BC to better integrate care for youth and young adults with mental health and substance use challenges.

**Confident Parents: Thriving Kids:** ([cptka.inputhealth.com](http://cptka.inputhealth.com)) is a phone-based coaching service for parents to help reduce mild to moderate anxiety and behavioural problems in children aged 3 to 12.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CHART

July 2019

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES (Council/CAO)

### NOW

1. **FLOOD MITIGATION PLAN: Request for Proposals**
2. **TRANS MOUNTAIN IMPACT ANALYSIS: Options**
3. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: Review / Direction**
4. **AIRPORT MASTER PLAN: Review / Direction**
5. **YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
6. **DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN: Terms of Reference**

### TIMELINE

- August
- September
- September
- October
- September
- September

### NEXT

- COMMUNICATION STRATEGIC PLAN: Framework
- DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES/SUBDIVISION BYLAW: Review
- OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW: Terms of Reference
- LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN: Model
- MARKETING STRATEGY: Review
- HOUSING NEED ASSESSMENT: Scope
- LONG TERM CAPITAL PLAN: Draft

### ADVOCACY / PARTNERSHIPS

- *HOUSING NEED ASSESSMENT: Grant*
- *Community Forest: Application*

## OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES (CAO/Staff)

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. COMMUNICATION STRATEGIC PLAN – Oct.
2. Customer Service Consultations – Oct.
3. **TRANS MOUNTAIN IMPACT: Options** – Oct.
  - Human Resources Strategy: Scope
  - Integrated Capital Budget: Approach

### PUBLIC WORKS

1. **FLOOD MITIGATION PLAN: RFP** – Aug.
2. **AIRPORT MASTER PLAN: Review** – Oct.
3. Asset Management: Team Setup – Sept.
  - Function Review – Dec.
  - 5 Year Capital Plan - Review

### RECREATION

1. Department Restructuring Plan – Sept.
2. Asset Management Plan: Scope – Nov.
3. School Division Joint Use Agreement: Draft – Dec.
  - Trail Systems: Gap Analysis
  - Land Property Development: Options

### DEVELOPMENT

1. OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN: Review : ToR. – Dec.
2. SUBDIVISION SERVICING BYLAW: Update – Dec.
3. Planner: Hire – Aug.
  - DCC Bylaw review
  - TBD with new hire

### CORPORATE SERVICES

1. Human Resources Manager: Hire – Sept.
2. Meeting Management: Implementation – Sept.
3. **YOUTH ADVISORY: ToR** – Oct.
  - Business Licence Bylaw: First Reading – Sept.
  - **HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

### FINANCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1. Wireless Network: City Buildings – Sept.
2. LONG TERM FINANCIAL MODEL: Plan – Oct.
3. City-Wide IT Training
  - Improved Financial Report
  - Staff Cross Training

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. **DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN: ToR** – Sept.
2. MARKETING STRATEGY: Review – Oct.
3. **ECONOMIC DEV. STRATEGY: Review** – Sept.
  - GIS implementation
  - Rural Dividend Grant: Application

### PROTECTIVE

1. Bylaw Enforcement Policy: Direction – Sept.
2. Fire Services Master Plan: ToR – Oct.
3. Fire Station Addition: Options – Sept.
  - Bylaw Offence Notices: Options
  - Fire Safety Bylaw Review

**BOLD CAPITALS** = Council NOW Priorities; **CAPITALS** = Council NEXT Items; *Italics* = Advocacy; **Title Case Bold** = Organizational Excellence, Title Case = Departmental Strategic Initiatives