



Merritt

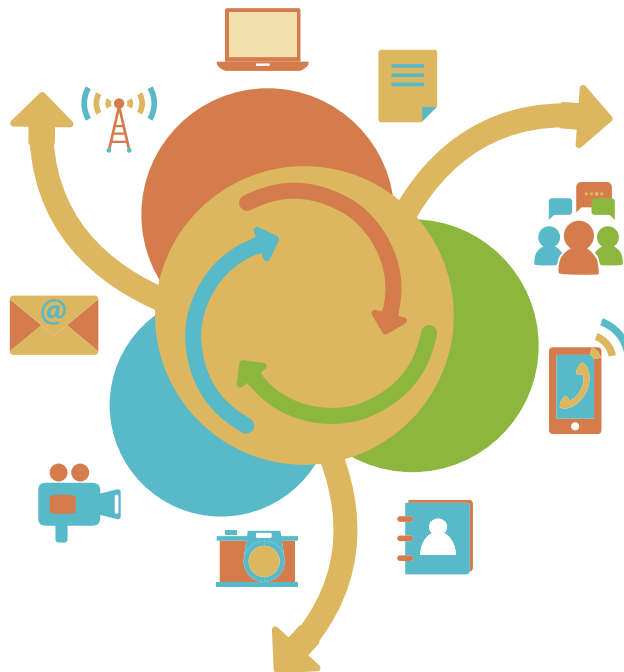
FLOURISH UNDER THE SUN



COMMUNICATION PLAN

August 2020

CREATING A
CULTURE OF
COMMUNICATION
REQUIRES AN
INVESTMENT IN
PEOPLE, TIME AND
TECHNOLOGY.



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INTRODUCTION

Council envisions a community where all residents have the opportunity to be informed of City initiatives and have the ability to engage with the City, through a variety of mediums.

To accomplish this vision, the City of Merritt established the Communications Department in 2019. Council determined that a top priority of this newly formed department would be the creation of a Communication Plan to identify how the City can increase, enhance and unify municipal communication.

In the development process, staff analyzed more than 20 communication plans from communities across North America. Staff incorporated the best elements of these documents, in addition to developing original content, to produce a plan tailored to the City of Merritt.

City staff conducted a survey with City council, staff & the local media, of which the results were taken into consideration for the creation of this document.

The City of Merritt has traditionally relied on local media as the primary mechanism to deliver information to community members. To reach citizens of all demographics, the City will continue relationships with local media, while enhancing and utilizing new media channels that support the City's goal of providing more first-party information.

This Communication Plan will also assist the flow of information between City departments and Council.

THE MISSION

The City of Merritt will build trust with its Citizens by communicating in a timely, engaging and transparent manner, reaching all demographics using a wide variety of communication channels.



HOW IS MUNICIPAL COMMUNICATION EVOLVING?

Citizens have a growing expectation that municipal business will be conducted in an open and transparent manner. Internet plays an ever increasing role to provide the ability to search, research and make decisions based on multiple sources of information.

The trends of municipal communication can be broken down into 3 categories:

TRANSPARENCY

Municipalities have always needed to be open and transparent with the public about their procedures and decisions. With the advent of new technologies, the understanding of what this means for communications has changed, particularly around the timeliness and wide distribution of information. Good communication using new tools and channels provided by the internet can aid transparency, helping to build public trust in the City.

TECHNOLOGY

Communications channels have changed dramatically over the last two decades, with the widespread adoption of social media, smartphones, tablets, and other tools that allow people to access information immediately from wherever they are. The need for visibility and engagement has driven increased use of still and moving images, and more recently, videos that can be served over high speed mobile connections. By embracing these changes, Merritt's communications can remain relevant and attractive to consumers.

"[...] it's important to note that marketing factors that include social media are growing faster than other types of marketing positions. Digital marketing has grown about 30% faster than other marketing positions. This aligns with Forrester Research's predictions, which projected that digital marketing will Kp \$100 billion and account for a total of 35% of all marketing spending by the end of 2019."¹

TIMING

Residents have come to expect that municipalities will release information promptly and strategically. This allows residents to be fully informed of municipal initiatives and essential information while that information is relevant. Timely communication can help avoid misinformation, caused by assumptions and unreliable sources predating the official communication.

Current technology allows us to send out information at any given time, and allows for increased engagement as citizens are able to respond immediately.



Credits: Frank Rizzardo

¹ Source: www.socialmediacollege.com/blog/social-media-career-growth-in-2019

CURRENT COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT

STRENGTHS INVOLVING CURRENT COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT

City Council, the CAO and the Communications Department have committed to increase and improve communications, and are implementing measures to meet this objective.

ISSUES INVOLVING PAST AND CURRENT COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT

In 2019, the City decided to take concrete steps to increase and improve communications. To that end, a Communications Department was created, added onto the Economic Development and Tourism Department. Prior to this, communications had been managed independently by each City department, leading to inconsistencies in materials and duplicated efforts. This contributed to a poor external image of the City and its communications efforts. Currently there is 1 part-time staff to assist in communications.

The City of Merritt has a history of battling with an overall negative image. To continue to address this, additional staff time will be required. (See section: *Communication References from master plans > Economic Development Plan (2014-2015)*)

Historically, communication was managed by each different City department. This led to inconsistent communication and additional time spent on producing communication materials.

PROPOSAL FOR THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

To execute this Communication Plan and maintain a good relationship with all audiences, it will require additional staff time.

Based on the above issues, the solution may require additional in-house staff members. This could lead to less outsourced costs for external communication and more efficient internal communication with less overhead costs.



AUDIENCES

A local government has distinctive variety in its audiences, which can be categorized into three areas:

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

External communication will be tailored to the following audiences:

- Citizens: Current & Prospective
- Businesses: Current & Prospective
- Tourists

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Internal communication involves communication with:

- Staff
- Council
- City Volunteers (e.g. Committee Members, event volunteers, etc.)



MEDIA RELATIONS

The City of Merritt recognizes different media relationships between:

- Local Media
- Media outside of the Nicola Valley

KEY FEATURES

The City will strive to meet the following goals in all its communications:

ACCESSIBLE

Communication is clear, relevant to intended audiences, uses plain language, and wherever possible, accommodates auditory or visual disabilities.

AUTHORITATIVE

The City embraces its role as the central entity responsible for providing municipal information to its citizens.

CONSISTENT

Information is written, designed, and communicated in ways that are aligned with branding, the channel's audience and intentional management of reputation.

TIMELY

Content is distributed promptly, proactively and with sensitivity to the urgency of information.

ACCURATE

Audiences can rely on information produced by the City to be accurate.

CREATIVE

Content is purposeful, captivating and memorable, in order to be effective in reaching the target audiences.

MEASURED

Communication are evaluated for effectiveness and efficiency based on metrics, goals, and public feedback that will improve future communication.

A stylized, light-colored graphic of a sun with long, pointed rays and a large circular center, positioned behind a white rounded rectangle. The background is a solid mustard yellow color.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION



ANALYSIS

HISTORICAL EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Activity Guide

ISSUES

- The layout makes it difficult to read and find information
- The overall layout design is outdated
- The guide is available as a digital magazine, but lacks a proper digital channel, which can be navigated to easily find the required information

MAIN AUDIENCES

- Citizens

EXAMPLES



City Website

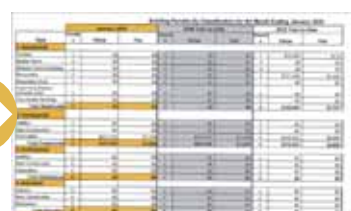
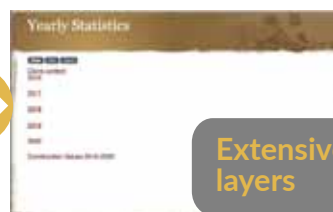
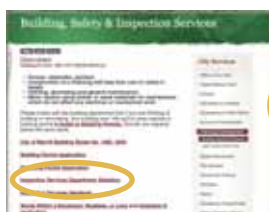
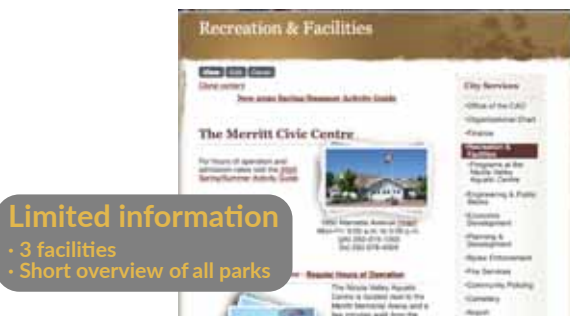
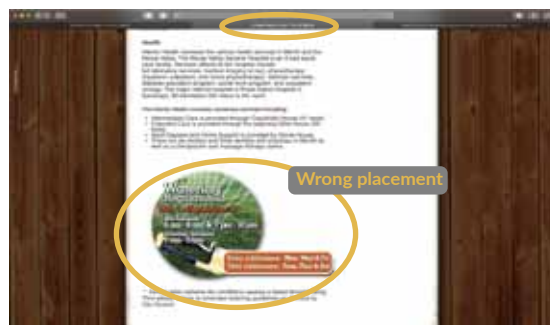
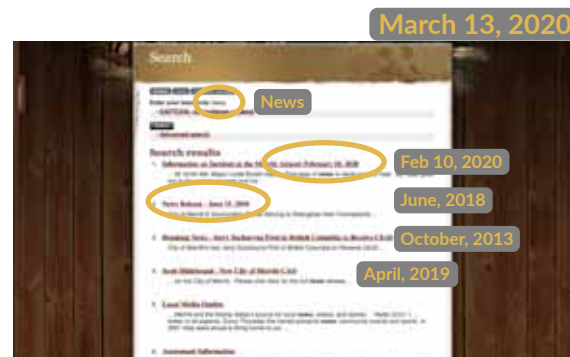
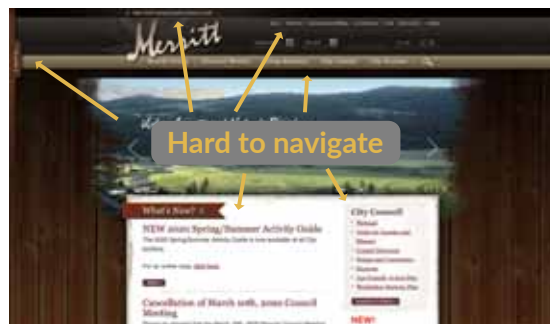
MAIN AUDIENCES

- Citizens
- Prospective Citizens
- Businesses
- Prospective Businesses

ISSUES

- Scattered and outdated information
- Difficult to navigate
- Not fully compliant with modern standards and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
- Data heavy website
- Hidden pages
- Broken links
- Limited information on certain topics
- Information posted on non-related pages
- Search function is not user-friendly
- Visually outdated
- Expensive web hosting & maintenance

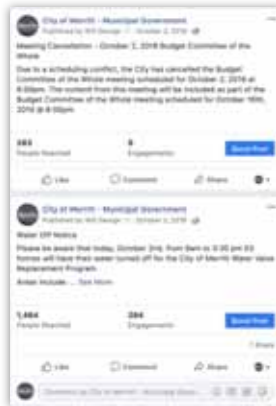
EXAMPLES



Social Media

ISSUES

- Lacking a social media strategy and social media policies
- More engagement needed



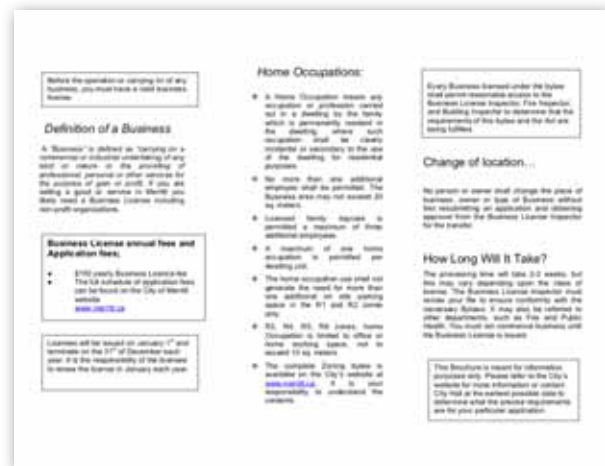
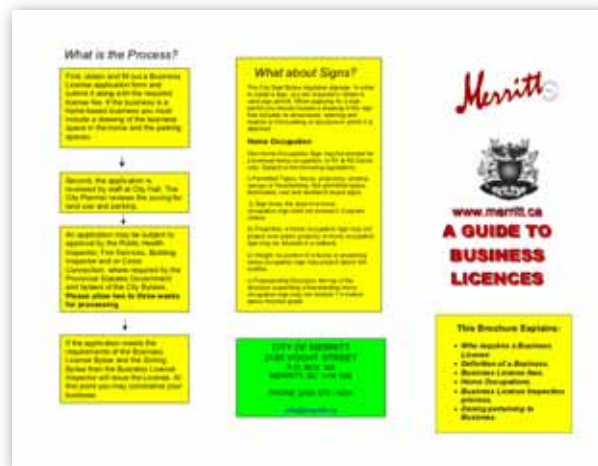
MAIN AUDIENCES

- Citizens
- Prospective Citizens
- Businesses
- Prospective Businesses
- Tourists

Business License Guide

ISSUES

- Text heavy
- Visually outdated
- Limited information



MAIN AUDIENCES

- Prospective Businesses

Notice Sheets

ISSUES

Notice sheets hung up in facilities are only able to communicate a message once people are on site. This form of communication is often necessary, but should be supported with information accessible from other locations.

MAIN AUDIENCES

- Citizens

ISSUE

Information is text-heavy and does not provide enough visual appeal to attract audience members.

4 • THURSDAY, November 7, 2019

www.merritherald.com



CITY page

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular Council Meeting - November 12, 2019
 Committee of the Whole - Immigration Programs to Recruit & Retain Foreign Workers - November 19 at 5 pm
 Committee of the Whole - Airport - November 19 at 6 pm
 Regular Council Meeting - November 26, 2019 at 6 pm

YOU'RE INVITED!

to meet with Mayor Brown every
Wednesday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
 in the Mayor's Office at City Hall (second floor), 2185 Voght Street.
 Interested citizens are welcome to stop by, say hello and discuss issues and opportunities for the City, its residents and businesses.
 If you would like to schedule a particular time to meet with the Mayor please contact Corporate Services at 250-378-8614



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MERRITT HALLOWEEN FIREWORKS

The City of Merritt would like to send out a HUGE THANK-YOU to all our local supporters for making the 2019 Halloween Fireworks a great success for the whole community to enjoy!

- Camp Tulahead • Canadian Tire
- Community Police Office
- Extra Foods • Girl Guides of Merritt • Save-on-Foods
- ICS - Teen Center • MSS Grad 2020

Thanks again for another successful Halloween event!

Please note a Notice of Public Hearing scheduled for November 12th, 2019 at 7:00 PM is on page 5

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING ON IMMIGRATION PROGRAMS TO RECRUIT & RETAIN FOREIGN WORKERS

The City of Merritt invites residents to an upcoming Committee of the Whole Meeting to discuss Immigration Programs to Recruit & Retain Foreign Workers. The presentation will be held **Tuesday Nov. 19** from 5 to 6 pm in City Hall Council Chambers.
 You'll learn about immigration pathways to hire foreign workers and what supports are available for employers in our City.
 Don't miss this meeting to discuss Immigration Programs to Recruit & Retain Foreign Workers and hear from both provincial and federal program leads.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Position: The City of Merritt is inviting applications for the positions of:
 PROGRAM ASSISTANT
 CASUAL MAINTENANCE LABOURER
 CASUAL ARENA ATTENDANT I
 CASUAL LIFEGUARD/INSTRUCTOR II

For complete details, visit City of Merritt website at www.merritt.ca

Current resumes reflecting applicants' knowledge, skills and abilities relevant to the position; detailing education and qualifications, and proof of required education and licenses will be accepted prior to 4:00 p.m. Friday, November 15, 2019 by:

Sky McKeown, Recreation and Facilities Manager
 PO Box 189, 2185 Voght Street, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8 Or by email: smckeown@merritt.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

2020 GRANT IN AID APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Are you part of an organization that delivers a positive contribution to the community? Do you have a great idea for an event? Each year Council carefully considers providing assistance to non-profit groups that operate in the City of Merritt and provide valuable social and community services in the municipality. Nicola Valley non-profits also have access to the Community Grant Writer for grant writing support.

The City of Merritt has two Grant in Aid types (Financial Aid and In-kind) available to non-profit and community groups. Please review the updated City policy on the Grant in Aid program, "Policy 4-01 Community Grant in Aid" prior to completing your 2020 grant application.

The 2020 Grant Application, along with a link to the new policy, is now available online at www.merritt.ca/city-services/finance/grants-aid. Printed copies of the application form are available at City Hall, 2185 Voght Street.

The 2020 Grant in Aid application deadline is Monday December 16, 2019.
 For further information contact Wayne Anderson, Financial Services Manager, at 250-378-8616 or wanderson@merritt.ca

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Are you between the age of 14-24 living in the Nicola Valley and seeking leadership experience? The City of Merritt Youth Advisory Committee is seeking seven youth members for a new opportunity to be involved in the community.

The City of Merritt Youth Advisory Committee members will:

1. Keep Council informed about important matters affecting youth;
2. Act as a positive advocate for youth and youth initiatives;
3. Proactively consider policies, strategies, and proposals which the Committee believes could improve the lives of youth in Merritt;
4. Actively seek input from youth on important matters and matters delegated to the Committee by Council;
5. Provide leadership experience for youth.

Deadline to apply is Nov. 15th

If this is of interest to you Application to Volunteer for the Youth Advisory Committee can be completed at www.merritt.ca or picked up at City Hall.

SNOW ANGELS PROGRAM LAUNCH

The City of Merritt is pleased to introduce a Snow Angel program for the 2019-2020 snowseason. This program will attempt to unite people who need help clearing their driveways and sidewalks of snow, with eager volunteers from our community who want to help.

Eligible for assistance include residents of Merritt who:

- Are 65 years of age or older;
- Are under 65 years of age, with a disability;
- Are unable to clear the snow on your driveway or sidewalk;
- Claim the Seniors or Disability Homeowner Grant;
- Are property owners (tenants should contact their landlord for assistance);
- Do not have able-bodied persons living at their address.

Service recipients are responsible for providing any necessary snow removal equipment. However, many Snow Angels may have their own equipment they are willing to or would prefer to use. These arrangements will be made directly between the Snow Angel and the Service recipient.

Volunteer must:

- Be 16 years of age or older
- Complete criminal record check
- Be in adequate physical shape and capable of clearing snow
- Be willing to commit for the entire snow season (excepting breaks for travel or holidays)
- Be willing to communicate with your assigned Service Recipient in the event you are unable to clear their sidewalk and driveway within 24 hours of a snowfall.

To participate in the Merritt Snow Angels Program please complete an application available at www.merritt.ca and dropped off at City Hall. For program inquiries call 250-378-8634.



VISIT TOURISM MERRITT FOR MORE TO SEE AND DO

Add your event and see all other events in Merritt at www.tourismmerritt.com/events



#ExploreMerritt



(Published on Nov 7, 2019)

REVIEW OF HISTORICAL COMMUNICATION

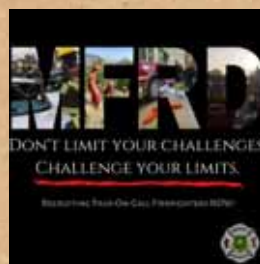
The City's historical communication had no distinct brand identity or style, so communication did not stand out and was not easily identified as being from the City of Merritt. In addition, communications were often text-heavy and did not utilize enough channels to reach our diverse range of residents.

Therefore the City's communications should have a consistent style which can be easily recognized, in order to effectively explain the type of message being shared and to maximize reach. Where relevant, communications should be distributed across multiple channels and platforms to spread the message as widely as possible.



EXAMPLES OF HISTORICAL EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Below you can find examples of different types of City media, which are visually without consistency or brand recognition. For examples of coherent visual communication, please view p. 22



COMMUNICATION REFERENCES FROM MASTER PLANS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2014-2015)

SWOT analysis - Weaknesses (p. 17)

First Impression

Merritt does not currently provide a positive first impression for visitors or investment. The entrance signage is dated, faded and does not provide any sense of a community brand. Once inside the community signage or way-finding is lacking.

Communication

There is lack of communication and cohesiveness within the community. Stakeholders are not collaborating or sharing information with each other. There is little communication between stakeholders, groups and local council.

Poor Local Perception

Respondents to the online survey felt that both in the community and out that Merritt does not possess a positive image. - The entrances into the community are unattractive, Merritt is not open for business and there is a perceived notion that goods and services are more expensive or not available.

SWOT analysis - Threats (p. 18)

Dissatisfaction

Residents are dissatisfied with some of the current conditions within Merritt - lack of direction, level of communication, Council's lack of involvement at the local level and community branding. These issues threaten to separate and divide the community.

Lack of Awareness

Respondents felt there was a lack of awareness of Merritt as a place to do business or to visit. There needs to be an improved effort to attract new residents and investment.

Competitive Advantages for Attracting Investment (p.20)

Merritt will need to begin to make a concerted effort towards marketing the strengths of community [...]

Making it Easier To Do Business (p. 34)

[...] Furthermore, a streamlined understanding of the various approval processes involved within the City may encourage new business and investment to locate in Merritt, [...]

Marketing the Tax Exemption (p. 35)

[...] In discussion with the local businesses through individual drop ins and during focus groups, it was discovered that some businesses were not even aware that the program existed. [...]

Website (p. 40)

In today's changing economic development marketing world, a community's number one marketing tool is their website. When site selectors, investors, potential businesses and residents are seeking information the first place they look is the internet. According to a recent study, site selectors go to community websites and are looking for real-time data, statistics that accentuate strengths and challenges, property searches, GIS analysis and social media. [...] A review of the current economic development website pages show a lack of demographic information and target industry specific information. The information currently available is out of date or not relevant. A thorough review of the existing pages needs to be completed. At this time, utilizing the existing City website for economic development is sufficient but it is recommended that discussions take place in year two of the plan to investigate the option of establishing a standalone, dedicated economic development website.

External Awareness (p. 41)

Many of the recommendations in this Action Plan centre on retaining and expanding local business. Although this is viewed as a priority for Merritt, there is also a need for the City to market itself to attract new companies and investment. Respondents felt that Merritt has a negative image both internally and externally. They also expressed the desire for Merritt to market themselves as a viable place to do business.

Signage (p. 44)

During the public consultation process, the quality of signage into the City was severely criticized and did not provide a positive impression of the community. It was also noted the signage within the community to inform visitors was extremely poor and lacking.

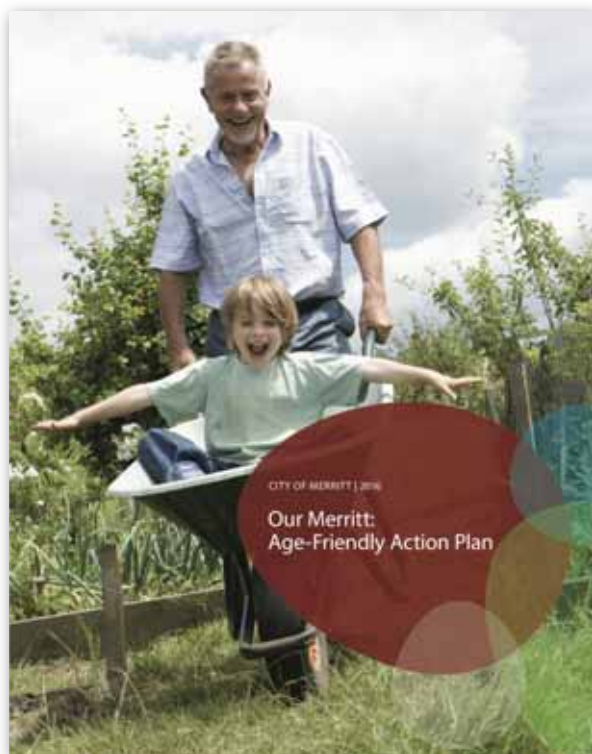


AGE FRIENDLY ACTION PLAN (2016)

Communication + Information (p. 5)

Access to and the wide distribution of clear, relevant information is essential for aging residents to be able to maintain strong social ties and community connections.

Proper communication and information is essential to ensuring that Merritt's aging population is aware of programs, services and opportunities available to them within the community. Is information about Merritt programs and services readily available and easy to access? Are members of City staff friendly and helpful to aging residents? Do aging residents have access to public computers? Is the information that the City distributes easy to read and printed in legible font sizes? These questions and many more were considered when assessing Communication and Information in Merritt.



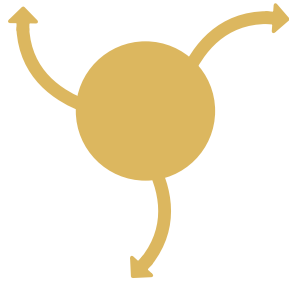
Goals and Recommended Actions (p. 20)

[...] Early and ongoing communication is required and will result in increased success and enhanced age-friendly features for the community. It is equally necessary to recognize the implementation of the Age-Friendly Action Plan will require sufficient resources. From inception to completion, City departments must maintain close communication to ensure internal efforts - departmental work plans, budgeting and capital works planning - are coordinated.





STRATEGY



OBJECTIVES

Proactively share information and news with the City of Merritt's diverse audiences.

Increase awareness and share information on the City of Merritt's services.

Gain additional engagement and input from the public in a meaningful way.

Present a consistent image, messaging, and branding. Share information in a timely, professional manner.

Increase participation in public consultation and dialogue.

Communicate Council decisions with the public and stakeholders.

Ensure the visibility of Council members.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

VISUAL STANDARDS AND BRANDING

- Create new branding for the City of Merritt, including a new logo and brand colours.
- Adopt the tagline, "Flourish under the Sun" and incorporate it into branding.
- Create a Visual Standards Guideline to ensure a consistent look and branding throughout the organization.
- Implement the new logo and branding in all locations where the previous City of Merritt logo exists of both promotional and legislated material, through a phased approach.
- Departments will route all requests for external uses of the City of Merritt logo to the Communication Manager for review.
- Identify ways to incorporate multiple forms of media into communications, such as video and images, and adapt to changing environments and audience needs.
- Purchase branded promotional items as giveaways to strengthen brand visibility.
- Build a stock of reusable City of Merritt branded functional items, e.g. Banners, pins, etc.
- Departments will utilize photo releases for all submitted images, and model releases when clearly, identifiable people appear in pictures excluding public events.
- Expand the library of owned visual assets, including photography and graphics.
- Continue with regular photo contests open to residents throughout the Nicola Valley to increase awareness of the City of Merritt and build the City of Merritt photo library.

GET TO KNOW MERRITT - CAMPAIGN

- Develop a high-level document explaining the City of Merritt's purpose, its services and functions, presenting a work-life-play balance, including business opportunities.
- Create a targeted Communications Plan for the campaign and promote the services and purpose of the City of Merritt to reach new Citizens as well as Prospective Businesses.
- Explore opportunities to distribute the "Get to know the City of Merritt" document with new residents, along with a welcome package and online material.
- Consider a specific campaign focused on the businesses that the Citizens of Merritt are in need of or desire, in cooperation with Economic Development.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Ensure social media channels for the City of Merritt are following the graphics guidelines and are consistent with messaging.
- Enact a social media policy with guidelines and internal procedures.
- Create campaigns to educate Citizens about the City of Merritt's bylaws.

AUDIENCE

- Define audience groups based on communication channels.
- Match communication channels to the target audience for each campaign or promotion.

ADVERTISING

- Review advertising contracts for efficiency and value.
- Update current promotional and legislated advertising in line with the updated branding.
- Create a short and long-term media creation and advertising plan.

WEBSITE

- Create a new website design based on the branding, ease of navigation and modern web practices.
- Establish the www.merritt.ca website as the main communications tool. Whenever possible and appropriate, information should be posted to the City of Merritt website before being spread across additional channels.
- Bring the website in line with modern standards and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 compliance. WCAG compliance ensures that the website is accessible to people of all abilities and ages.
- Focus on presenting information as one voice rather than as information from various departments.
- Build in opportunities for users to provide feedback.
- Implement a website policy and procedures.
- Develop a plain language guide to increase understanding and readability of the website.
- Create a library of industry-specific definitions on the website and link to it when it's not possible to avoid a technical term.
- Merge all department specific websites, as subdomains, with the main City website: www.merritt.ca.
- Display all available communication channels on the website.

ISSUES MANAGEMENT/CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS

- Create and implement an issues management procedure and develop tools to be used across the organization (risk analysis template, Crisis Communication Plan, standby messages, key messaging template).

- Staff and Council will notify the Communications Manager immediately of public relations issues. The Communications Manager will work with the affected department to create and implement a response strategy.
- Monitor media and the broader environment for mentions of the City of Merritt and identify existing and emerging issues.
- Debrief after the issue has been mended to identify tactics that worked well, and opportunities for improvement.
- Develop communication guidelines and a template for major event organizers in the Nicola Valley.

PUBLICATIONS / NEWSLETTERS

- Identify, analyze and adapt ongoing City publications.
- Collect and compose information material, then distribute accordingly to the required channels.
- Create e-newsletters, for which Citizens can opt-in.
- Collect department notices to communicate in the News section on the website, publications and newsletters.
- Explore options to share updates, bylaw changes and City events in an attractive print form (e.g. Mini-magazine/booklet)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Create guidelines and resources to plan engagement activities after exploring best practices in public engagement.
- Promote opportunities for feedback with the audience's communication preferences in mind.
- Clearly display options for providing feedback on the City website, as well as legislated processes (public hearings) and optional/additional processes (open houses/forums).
- Create more informal opportunities for feedback.
- Research the need for an online community engagement platform, e.g a forum or rotating survey.
- Consider bringing consultation activities occasionally outside of City Hall to places that are convenient to the public when possible and appropriate.
- Have staff attend trade shows/expos and promote awareness of the City of Merritt's services, functions, and ongoing projects when possible and appropriate.
- Include opportunities for feedback on communication at all public engagement activities.
- Produce an annual review of communication channels (see Appendix A)

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- Create specific implementation plans for listed items in the Communication Plan.
- Create communication plans customized for City priority projects.
- Develop key messages, fact sheets, and background information when appropriate.
- Departments will inform the Communications Manager of upcoming projects with as much time as possible to create a project based communication plan.
- Seek opportunities to provide updates to Council throughout a City project. Memorandums are an encouraged method of communication.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

- Continue to produce an annual document with services listed, summaries and the past year's budget and present it to the public, after presenting it to Council.
- Provide research and drafting support in writing speeches for the Mayor, or their designate, when they represent the City of Merritt at events to ensure key messages are captured.
- Encourage Council Members to attend and participate in community events as representatives of the City of Merritt.
- Share media material and highlights from the events involving Council through the City of Merritt's communication channels as appropriate.

TOURISM

- Create a Tourism Communication Action Plan based on the goals and priorities set in the Merritt and Nicola Valley Tourism Plan, in line with this Communication Plan.
- Continue to provide promotional information with the the Merritt Visitor Centre and Mobile Visitor Info Kiosk. This includes City information and information from non-profits and event organizers.



Below you can find examples of different types of City media, with an overall consistency and brand recognition.



A stylized, light-colored graphic of a sun with long, pointed rays and a large circular disk, partially obscured by a white rounded rectangle. The background is a solid mustard yellow.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION



ANALYSIS

HISTORICAL INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

Staff

1. Inter-departmental communication is largely dependant on email, phone and face-to-face communication.
2. Responsibility for external communication and advertising is not centralized.

Council

1. Email is a primary communication method.
2. Council Meetings
3. CAO updates
4. Information about City projects and announcements are first sent to Council, then to the media.



STRENGTHS INVOLVING THOSE PLATFORMS

Inter-departmental Communication

The centralized location of the offices allows for staff to easily communicate with each other. This allows for quick follow-ups, spontaneous meetings and overall good relations between staff.

ISSUES INVOLVING THOSE PLATFORMS

Inter-departmental Communication

It has been identified that information does not move freely between departments. More automated processes and tools could be implemented to further improve internal communication.

External Communication

The lack of centralized communication result in inconsistent messaging, in terms of both quality and style.





STRATEGY



OBJECTIVES

Foster an environment where the value of communication is recognized.

Create a flow of communication, where City Departments communicate to the public, with and through the Communication Department.

Create a culture where the website is the primary source of information regarding the City of Merritt.

Communicate Council decisions with the public and stakeholders.

Develop efficient communication policies for Committee members.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

- Provide communications reports with analytics to the CAO and Council as required.
- Encourage Council to follow all City communication channels.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

- Create a guideline for the flow of communication content. (See Appendix B for a visual proposal of the communication flow)
- Schedule quarterly meetings with City departments for updates or questions on the communication flow.
- All communication content will be collected by the Communications Department through the email address: communications@merritt.ca
- Support the Human Resources Department in their communication flow for hiring and welcoming new staff.
- Implement a single digital source of information for internal communication.

COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION

- Compile information for new Committee members, to inform about Committees in general and about the Committee they joined specifically, while including Council's strategic priorities and connected City Master Plans.
- Create a platform for efficient communication between Committees and Council.

PUBLICATIONS / NEWSLETTERS

- Share publications and newsletters with all City staff and Council.
- Create a recurring newsletter specifically for all front line employees to ensure they are aware and informed of any City updates.



A stylized, light-colored graphic of a sun with long, pointed rays and a large circular center, partially obscured by a white rounded rectangle. The background is a solid mustard yellow color.

MEDIA RELATIONS



ANALYSIS

HISTORICAL MEDIA RELATIONS

1. Media Meeting with Mayor Brown, Communications Manager, Director of Corporate Services and the local media, covering the agenda for the upcoming Council meeting
2. Press releases sent to local media
3. Local media is tagged on City social media posts
4. Approved Council items and CAO updates from Council meetings are presented to the local media and general public
5. Regular communications with media
6. Media is present at Council Meetings, Committee of the Whole Meeting and City events



Zoning Bylaw Headed for Expanded Public Consultation

Written by Michael Reeve Published: 06 July 2020



The City of Merritt is in the midst of a massive overhaul of the zoning bylaw. Last week, the newly formed document was presented to the City Council for debate on first and second reading.

If passed, city staff would then schedule a public hearing, however, the Council felt more consultation was needed before the public hearing.

"I think this document is immensely important. I would like (the public) to have the opportunity to look at this document and question it," said Coun. Kurt Christopherson.

The statement from Christopherson was backed by the rest of the table with Council passing a resolution to hold two open house style sessions before the document heads to a public hearing.

Those wishing to have their voices heard can also provide input and ask questions through email with staff.

The dates of the open houses have not been set.

For additional information on the zoning bylaw visit <https://www.merritt.ca/agendas-minutes/> and click on the agenda for Tuesday, June 30, 2020. The zoning bylaw information runs from page 16 – 226.



STRATEGY



OBJECTIVES

Foster good working relationships with the media.

Ensure that the City of Merritt has a consistent image and voice.

Share accurate information with the media.

MEDIA RELATIONS

PROACTIVE MEDIA RELATIONS

- Prepare backgrounders, fact sheets, frequently asked questions, or other appropriate documents for the media.
- Identify newsworthy stories and present them to the media in a compelling way.
- Amplify select articles about the City of Merritt by sharing links on the website landing page and social media.
- Encourage staff to share milestones and good news stories with the Communication Manager, for the purpose of distribution to the media.
- Departments will ensure inquiries from the media are given high priority and responded to as quickly and efficiently as possible.
- Send out a message to local media when a new staff member is hired.

MEDIA/PRESS RELEASE TEMPLATE

- Redesign the media/press release template to fit with best practices.

MEDIA MONITORING

- Utilize media monitoring software efficiently and respond or notify administration and Council as necessary to keep them informed of major coverage and trends.
- Promptly address typos, misinformation, and misquotes.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

- The Mayor, or their designate is the authorized spokesperson for all Council business and decisions. The Communications Department will assist the Mayor or their designate in preparing for media interviews.
- The CAO, or their designate, is the authorized spokesperson on all operational and administrative matters. Designated City of Merritt employees may be called upon to speak to the media regarding specific areas of responsibility or subject matter. The Communications Department will assist staff with media interviews.
- If departments receive media interview request, they will notify the Communication Department.

MEDIA TRAINING

- Provide media training to Council, staff and subject matter experts in the organization.
- Create a media standards booklet for all trained spokespersons.

MEDIA POLICIES

- Distribute media relations policy with staff.



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

TIMELINE

The below timeline proposes a quick overview of the 3 phases in which the City of Merritt will implement the Communication Plan.

A detailed Implementation Plan can be found on the following pages.

PHASE 1

Initial Strategy Implementation

- Create & develop a structured system to implement the Communication Plan.
- Create more specific implementation plans for items listed in the Communication Plan.
- Begin implementation of the Visual Standards Guideline, the new City website and continue with existing communication channels, following the new guideline.

AUG 2020 - JAN 2021

Strategy Implementation and Refining

PHASE 2

- Commence implementing the Communication Plan as a whole.
- Refine the newly structured system.
- Follow up with departments on the communication flow and overall plan.

FEB 2021 - JAN 2023

PHASE 3

Planning Ahead

- Review the progress, based on metrics, goals, and public feedback.
- Follow up with departments on the communication flow and overall plan.
- Begin analyzing changes in external factors, such as technology, for updating the Communication Plan.

FEB 2023 - JAN 2025

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | PHASE 1 | EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
Create new branding for the City of Merritt, including a new logo and brand colours.	Fresh and revitalized City branding	Communications	Completed
Adopt the tagline, "Flourish under the Sun" and incorporate it into branding.	The City connects with its historical identity	Communications	Completed
Create a Visual Standards Guideline to ensure a consistent look and branding throughout the organization.	Consistent branding material, including use by 3rd party contributors	Communications	Completed
Implement the new logo and branding in all locations where the previous City of Merritt logo exists of both promotional and legislated material, through a phased approach.	Consistent image of the City in a cost-effective way	Communications / All departments	1 year
Departments will route all requests for external uses of the City of Merritt logo to the Communication Manager for review.	The City logo will be properly presented on 3rd party channels	Communications	Ongoing
Identify ways to incorporate multiple forms of media into communications, such as video and images, and adapt to changing environments and audience needs.	Drawing viewers attention with video and imagery	Communications	Ongoing
Purchase branded promotional items as giveaways to strengthen brand visibility.	Increased number of City branded promotional items	Communications	Ongoing
Build a stock of reusable City of Merritt branded functional items, e.g. Banner, pins, etc.	Additional City branded material for exposure	Communications	1 year
Departments will utilize photo releases for all submitted images, and model releases when clearly, identifiable people appear in pictures excluding public events.	Approved use of shared images	Communications / All Departments	Ongoing
Expand the library of owned visual assets, including photography and graphics.	Easy access to visual content	Communications	Ongoing
Continue with regular photo contests open to residents throughout the Nicola Valley to increase awareness of the City of Merritt and build the City of Merritt photo library.	An expanded photo library	Communications/ Tourism	Annual
Ensure social media channels for the City of Merritt are following the graphics guidelines and are consistent with messaging.	Streamlined City social media channels	Communications	Completed
Enact a social media policy with community guidelines and internal procedures.	Consistent social media messaging	Communications	3 months
Create campaigns to educate Citizens about the City of Merritt's bylaws.	Citizens will have a better understanding of City bylaws	Communications / Corporate Services	1 year

VISUAL STANDARDS AND BRANDING

SOCIAL MEDIA

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | PHASE 1 | EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION (CONT.)

AUDIENCE	RECOMMENDED ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
	Define audience groups based on communication channels.	Increased City understanding of target audience groups	Communications	1 month
	Match communication channels to the target audience for each campaign or promotion.	Enhanced communication towards target audience groups	Communications	Ongoing
ADVERTISING	Review advertising contracts for efficiency and value.	Higher quality and lower cost of City communication	Communications / Corporate Services	Ongoing
	Update current promotional and legislated advertising in line with the updated branding.	Consistent City branding within advertising	Communications	1 year
	Create a short and long-term media creation and advertising plan.	Ability to execute effective City advertising	Communications	1 year
WEBSITE	Create a new website design based on the branding, ease of navigation and modern web practices.	Improved City website utilization	Communications	3 months
	Establish the www.merritt.ca website as the main communications tool. Whenever possible and appropriate, information should be posted to the City of Merritt website before being spread across additional channels.	Improved website functionality	Communications	Ongoing
	Bring the website in line with modern standards and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 compliance. WCAG compliance ensures that the website is accessible to people of all abilities and ages.	Online platform accessible to all abilities and ages	Communications	3 months
	Focus on presenting information as one voice rather than as information from various departments.	Unity of information	Communications / All Departments	Ongoing
	Build in opportunities for users to provide feedback.	Increased feedback from the public	Communications	Ongoing
	Implement a website policy and procedures.	Organizational understanding of the website policy and procedures	Communications	3 months
	Develop a plain language guide to increase understanding and readability of the website.	Increased accessibility of the City website	Communications	3 months
	Create a library of industry-specific definitions on the website and link to it when it's not possible to avoid a technical term.	Increased understanding and readability of the website	Communications	3 months
	Merge all department specific websites, as subdomains, with the main City website: www.merritt.ca .	Ease of access to all City websites	Communications	3 months
	Display all available communication channels on the website.	Citizens are aware of all opportunities to stay connected with the City	Communications	3 months

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | PHASE 1 | EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION (CONT.)

RECOMMENDED ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
Identify, analyze and adapt ongoing City publications.	Refinement of City publications	Communications	Ongoing
Collect and compose information material, then distribute accordingly to the required channels.	Higher quality of City communication	Communications	Ongoing
Collect department notices to communicate in the News section on the website, publications and newsletters.	Citizens are informed about City updates	Communications	Ongoing
Create guidelines and resources to plan engagement activities after exploring best practices in public engagement.	Improved public engagement resources	Communications	3 months
Promote opportunities for feedback with the audience's communication preferences in mind.	Additional public engagement and feedback	Communications	3 months
Clearly display options for providing feedback on the City website, as well as legislated processes (public hearings) and optional/ additional processes (open houses/ forums).	Additional public engagement and feedback	Communications	3 months
Create more informal opportunities for feedback.	Additional public engagement and feedback	Communications	Ongoing
Research the need for an online community engagement platform, e.g a forum or rotating survey.	Additional public engagement and feedback	Communications	1 year
Consider bringing consultation activities occasionally outside of City Hall to places that are convenient to the public when possible and appropriate.	Additional public engagement and feedback	Communications	Ongoing
Have staff attend trade shows/expos and promote awareness of the City of Merritt's services, functions, and ongoing projects when possible and appropriate.	Additional public engagement and feedback	Communications	Ongoing
Include opportunities for feedback on communication at all public engagement activities.	Additional public engagement and feedback	Communications	Ongoing
Produce a review of communication channels (see Appendix A)	Increased understanding of public engagement	Communications	Annual

PUBLICATIONS/
NEWS LETTERS

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | PHASE 1 | EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION (CONT.)

RECOMMENDED ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
Create specific implementation plans for recommended action items in the Communication Plan.	Detailed plans for recommended action items	Communications	1 year
Create communication plans customized for City priority projects that follow the values, principles and objectives of this Communications Plan.	Improved public communication Regarding City projects	Communications / All Departments	Ongoing
Develop key messages, fact sheets, and background information when appropriate.	Improved public communication Regarding City projects	Communications	1 year
Departments will inform the Communications Manager of upcoming projects with as much time as possible to create a project based Communication Plan.	Improved public communication regarding City projects	Communications / All Departments	Ongoing
Seek opportunities to provide updates to Council throughout a City project. Memorandums are an encouraged method of communication.	Council is aware and efficiently able to communicate to the public about City projects	Communications	Ongoing
Create a Tourism Communication Action Plan based on the goals and priorities set in the Merritt and Nicola Valley Tourism Plan, in line with this Communication Plan.	Improved communication tailored for City tourism initiatives, in line with City branding	Communications / Tourism	1 year
Continue to provide promotional information with the Merritt Visitor Centre and Mobile Visitor Info Kiosk. This includes City information and information from non-profits and event organizers.	Increased City Tourism communication	Communications / Tourism	Ongoing

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

TOURISM

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | PHASE 1 | INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
Encourage Council to follow all City communication channels.	All Council members following City communication channels	Communications	1 month
Create a guideline for the flow of communication content. (See Appendix B for a visual proposal of the communication flow)	Coordinated public information published in a timely manner	Communications	Proposal included
Schedule quarterly meetings with City departments for updates or questions on the communication flow.	Improved Internal City communication	Communications / All Departments	Ongoing
When new staff is hired, send out an email to all City Staff welcoming them onboard.	City Staff are aware of new colleagues	Communications / Human Resources	Ongoing
Implement a single digital source of information for internal communication.	A simplified platform for internal communication	Communications / IT / Human Resources	3 months
Encourage Council to follow all City communication channels.	City Council is aware of the external communication material	Communications / CAO	1 month
Support the Human Resources department in their communication flow for hiring and welcoming new staff.	Enhanced communication to new staff and current staff	Communications / Human Resources	3 month

STAFF COMMUNICATION

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | PHASE 1 | MEDIA RELATIONS

RECOMMENDED ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
Prepare backgrounds, fact sheets, frequently asked questions, or other appropriate documents for the media.	Efficient information for media purposes	Communications	1 year
Identify newsworthy stories and present them to the media in a compelling way.	Additional positive City news are circulated	Communications	Ongoing
Amplify select articles about the City of Merritt by sharing links on the website landing page and social media.	Additional positive City news are circulated	Communications	Ongoing
Encourage staff to share milestones and good news stories with the Communication Manager in order to share the information with the media.	Additional positive City news are circulated	Communications / All Departments	Ongoing
Departments will ensure inquiries from the media are given high priority and responded to as quickly and efficiently as possible. Send out a message to local media when a new staff member is hired.	Positive relations with the media are beneficial in the media output	Communications / All Departments	Ongoing
Send out a message to local media when a new staff member is hired.	Shared information to media and residents on new City staff	Communications / All Departments	Ongoing
Redesign the media/press release template to fit with best practices.	Improved resources for media purposes	Communications	3 months

PROACTIVE MEDIA RELATIONS

MEDIA RELEASE TEMPLATE

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | PHASE 1 | MEDIA RELATIONS (CONT.)

RECOMMENDED ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
Utilize media monitoring software efficiently and respond or notify administration and Council as necessary to keep them informed of major coverage and trends.	An improved understanding of the City image in the media	Communications	Ongoing
Promptly address typos, misinformation, and misquotes.	Enhanced community trust	Communications Department	Ongoing
The Mayor, or their designate is the authorized spokesperson for all Council business and decisions. The Communications Department will assist the Mayor or their designate in preparing for media interviews.	Better prepared media interviews will lead to more correct information being circulated in a fashion that will improve the City image	Mayor / Communications	Ongoing
The CAO, or their designate, is the authorized spokesperson on all operational and administrative matters. Designated City of Merritt employees may be called upon to speak to the media regarding specific areas of responsibility or subject matter. The Communications Department will assist staff with media interviews.	Better prepared media interviews will lead to more correct information being circulated in a fashion that will improve the City image	CAO / Communications	Ongoing
If departments receive media interview request, they will notify the Communication Department.	Better prepared media interviews will lead to more correct information being circulated in a fashion that will improve the City image	Communications / All Departments	Ongoing
Create a media standards booklet for all trained spokespeople.	Enhanced prepared messaging	Communications	1 year
Distribute media relations policy with staff.	Enhanced prepared messaging	Communications	1 year

MEDIA
MONITORING

MEDIA
INTERVIEWS

MEDIA
TRAINING

MEDIA
POLICIES

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | PHASE 2 | EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
Develop a high-level document explaining the City of Merritt's purpose, its services and functions, presenting a work-life-play balance, including business opportunities.	New Citizens are fully aware of the City's purpose, services and functions.	Communications	By the end of 2021
Create a targeted Communication Plan for the campaign and promote the services and purpose of the City of Merritt to reach new Citizens as well as Prospective Businesses.	New Citizens will be able to easily find the "Get to know the City of Merritt" document	Communications	By the end of 2021
Explore opportunities to distribute the "Get to know the City of Merritt" document with new residents, along with a welcome package and online material.	New Citizens will be able to easily find the "Get to know the City of Merritt" document	Communications	By the end of 2021
Consider a specific campaign focused on the businesses that the Citizens of Merritt are in need of or desire, in cooperation with Economic Development.	Higher chance of successful businesses and more useful amenities available for Citizens	Communications / Economic Development	By the end of 2021
Create and implement an issues management procedure and develop tools to be used across the organization (risk analysis template, Crisis Communication Plan, standby messages, key messaging template).	Communication issues can be addressed in a more timely manner	Communications	By the end of 2021
Staff and Council will notify the Communications Manager immediately of public relations issues. The Communications Manager will work with the affected department to create and implement a response strategy.	Communication issues can be addressed in a more timely manner	Communications	Ongoing
Monitor media and the broader environment for mentions of the City of Merritt and identify existing and emerging issues.	Communication issues can be addressed in a more timely manner	Communications	Ongoing
Debrief after the issue has been mended to identify tactics that worked well, and opportunities for improvement.	Improved preparedness communication for future issues	Communications	Ongoing
Develop communication guidelines and a template for major event organizers in the Nicola Valley.	Improved communication with major festival organizers, which improves communication towards Citizens	Communications / Economic Development / Tourism	1 year

GET TO KNOW
MERRITT CAMPAIGN

ISSUES MANAGEMENT/
CRISIS COMMUNICATION

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | PHASE 2 | EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION (CONT.)

	RECOMMENDED ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
PUBLICATIONS/ NEWSLETTERS	Create e-newsletters, for which citizens can opt-in.	Additional information channel	Communications	Ongoing
	Explore options to share updates, bylaw changes and City events in an attractive print form (e.g. Mini-magazine/booklet).	A City managed print communication material	Communications	Ongoing
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION	Continue to produce an annual document with services listed, summaries and the past year's budget and present it to the public, after presenting it to Council.	The public is aware of City operations and budget	Communications	Annual
	Encourage Council Members to attend and participate in community events as representatives of the City of Merritt.	Increased Council community engagement	Communications	Ongoing
	Share media material and highlights from the events involving Council through the City of Merritt's communication channels as appropriate.	Increased awareness on Council's involvement in community events	Communications	Ongoing
TOURISM	Execute the Tourism Communication Action Plan based on the goals and priorities set in the Merritt and Nicola Valley Tourism Plan, in line with this Communication Plan.	Improved communication towards towards tourism attraction in the City	Communications / Tourism	Ongoing
	Create more visual material to highlight the City of Merritt's activities.	Additional City visual material assets	Communications / Tourism / Recreation & Facilities	Ongoing

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | PHASE 2 | INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

COUNCIL COMM.	RECOMMENDED ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
	Provide communications reports with analytics to the CAO and Council as required.	Council and the CAO are updated on City operations and residents feedback	Communications	Ongoing
	Compile information for new Committee members, to inform about Committees in general and about the Committee they joined specifically, while including Council's strategic priorities and connected City Master Plans.	Improved communication to Committee Members	Communications / Corporate Services	1 year
	Create a platform for efficient communication between Committees and Council.	Improved communication between Council and Committees	Communications / Corporate Services	1 year
PUBLICATIONS/ NEWSLETTERS	Share publications and newsletters with all City staff and Council.	Staff and Council are better prepared to respond to inquiries	Communications	Ongoing
	Create a recurring newsletter specifically for all front line employees to ensure they are aware and informed of any City updates.	Improved communication at the front desks of all City facilities	Communications	Ongoing

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | PHASE 2 | MEDIA RELATIONS

MEDIA TRAINING	RECOMMENDED ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
	Provide media training to Council, staff and subject matter experts in the organization.	Improved media training for City spokespeople	Communications / Council / Staff	Annual

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN | PHASE 3

RECOMMENDED ACTION	OUTCOME	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
Review the progress, based on metrics, goals and public feedback.	Enhanced understanding the City Communication	Communications	By 2025
Follow up with departments on the communication flow.	A more efficient communication flow	Communications	By 2025
Begin analyzing changes in external factors, such as technology, for the follow-up Communication Plan.	A smooth transition into the new Communication Plan	Communications	By 2025





APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: REVIEW OF COMMUNICATION CHANNELS AS OF JULY 3RD, 2020

WEBSITES

MEDIUM	DETAILS	TARGET AUDIENCE	LINK
Websites			
City of Merritt	All City Information	Citizens	www.merritt.ca
Tourism Merritt	Activities & Events for Locals & Tourists	Citizens & Tourists	www.tourismmerritt.ca
Fire Rescue Merritt	Fire Rescue Information & Safety Awareness	Citizens	www.firerescue.merritt.ca
Claybanks RV Park	Information on the City operated RV Park	Tourists	www.claybanksrv.ca

SOCIAL MEDIA

MEDIUM	FOLLOWING	DETAILS	TARGET AUDIENCE	LINK
Facebook Pages				
City of Merritt - Municipal Government	1984	All General City Information	Citizens	www.facebook.com/CityofMerritt/
Tourism Merritt	2251	Touristic Updates, Activities & Events	Tourists	www.facebook.com/tourismmerritt/
City of Merritt - Department of Recreation & Facilities	697	City Programs & Facility Information	Citizens	www.facebook.com/Merritt.Civic.Centre/
Merritt Fire Rescue Department	3138	Fire Rescue Department Updates	Citizens	www.facebook.com/MerrittFire/
Instagram Accounts				
City of Merritt	174	City Updates	Citizens	www.instagram.com/Cityofmerritt/
Tourism Merritt	507	Touristic Activities and Tourism Outreach	Tourists	www.instagram.com/tourismmerritt/
Merritt Fire Rescue	194	Promotion of the Fire Rescue Department & Safety awareness	Citizens	www.instagram.com/merrittfirerescue/
Twitter Accounts				
City of Merritt	335	City Updates	Citizens	www.twitter.com/Cityofmerritt/
Tourism Merritt	643	Upcoming Events & Amenities	Tourists	www.twitter.com/tourismmerritt/
YouTube Channels				
Tourism Merritt	70	Promotional Videos	Tourists	www.youtube.com/user/tourismmerritt
City of Merritt	6	City Information	Citizens & Prospective Citizens	www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ9kB7UHeX4XFPeEOYduFaQ
LinkedIn Accounts				
City of Merritt	85	Employment Opportunities	Citizens & Prospective Citizens	www.linkedin.com/company/City-of-merritt/

PRINT MATERIAL

MEDIUM	FREQUENCY	DETAILS	LINK
Downtown Merritt Visitor Info Map	As Required	Food & Attractions Downtown	www.tourismmerritt.ca/images/visitor_guide/Merritt-Downtown-Map-2019.pdf
Merritt & Nicola Valley Trail Guide	As Required	Trails in the Nicola Valley	www.tourismmerritt.ca/images/visitor_guide/Merritt-Traill-Guide-2019.pdf
Community Map	As Required	City Services & Facilities	www.tourismmerritt.ca/images/Images/38262_city_of_merritt_tear_away_map_11x17_PROOF-REV4.pdf

LOCAL MEDIA

MEDIUM	FREQUENCY	DETAILS	LINK
Activity Guide	Seasonal	Recreational Info, Programs & Facilities	ssuu.com/merritt-herald/docs/winter_activity_guide_2020_lr
Merritt & Nicola Valley Visitor Guide	Annual	Tourism Activities	issuu.com/merritt-herald/docs/merrittvg-2019
Merritt & Nicola Valley Area Map	Annual	Accommodations, Food, Shops & Services	tourismmerritt.ca/images/Images/Regional_Map_of_Nicola_Valley.png
Merritt Herald pg. 4 Info page	Weekly	City Information Updates	www.issuu.com/merritt-herald
Merritt Herald Advertisement	As Required	Support Organizations & Causes	www.issuu.com/merritt-herald
Q101 (radio)	As Required	Campaigns & City Updates	www.q101.ca
Merritt Connector Phone Book	Annual	General City Ads	www.issuu.com/merritt-herald/docs/connector_2019?e=9313076/68037206
Merritt Morning Market	Weekly	City Info Updates	www.merrittmorningmarket.com
Community Boards	As Required	Event Posters	

3RD PARTY PRINT MEDIA

MEDIUM	FREQUENCY	DETAILS	LINK
Invest in BC	Annual	Promoting Merritt	www.issuu.com/canadawidemediacanada/docs/investbc_lowres
Backroad Map Books	Annual	Promoting Merritt	www.backroadmapbooks.com
BC Business	Annual	Promoting Merritt	www.bcbusiness.ca/Magazine
Right Sizing Magazine	Annual	Promoting Merritt	www.rightsizingmedia.com/magazine/
BC Living	Annual	Promoting Merritt	www.bcliving.ca/magazines.php

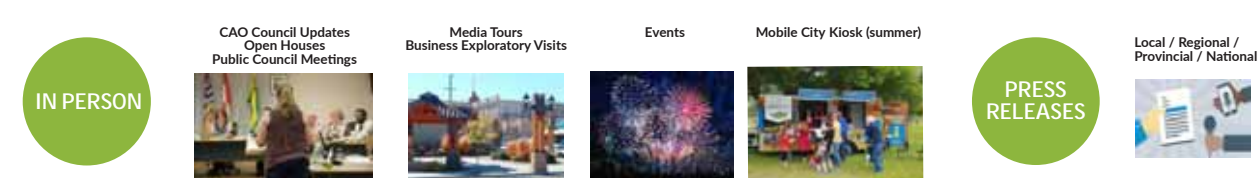
3RD PARTY ONLINE CHANNELS

MEDIUM	FREQUENCY	DETAILS	LINK
Destination BC	As Required	Promoting Merritt	www.destinationbc.ca
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association	As Required	Promoting Merritt	www.thompsonokanagan.com
BC Living	As Required	Promoting Merritt	www.bcliving.ca

IN PERSON

MEDIUM	FREQUENCY	DETAILS
CAO Council Updates	Bi-weekly	Department Info
Open Houses	As Required	Project Based
Council Meetings (Regular & Committee of the Whole)	Bi-weekly	City Info
Media Tours	As Required	Promoting Merritt
Business Exploratory Visits	As Required	Promoting Merritt
Events (Canada Day, Kid's Triathlon, New Year Fireworks, etc.)	As Required	City Info
Mobile City Kiosk (Summer)	As Required	Promoting Merritt Events & Tourism

VISUAL REPRESENTATION



APPENDIX B: COMMUNICATION FLOW PROPOSAL

