

NOTICE: That a Regular Meeting of the District of Barriere Municipal Council will be held at District Hall, 4936 Barriere Town Road, in Barriere, B.C. on October 27, 2025, at 5:30pm for the transaction of business listed below.

Daniel Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer

AGENDA

*"We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples of Simpcw First Nation
within whose lands we are meeting today."*

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

That Council approve the October 27, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- a. That Council adopt the minutes of the October 6, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

3. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS – none scheduled.

4. BYLAWS and POLICIES

- a. Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 222, Amendment Bylaw No. 261 – adoption.
Recommendation: THAT Council adopt Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 222, Amendment Bylaw No. 261
- b. Rescinding of Policies No.03 – T. Buchanan, CO
Recommendation: THAT Council rescind Policy No. 3 – Council Conflict of Interest Policy

5. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Quarterly (Q3) Budget Review – K. Abel, Finance Officer
**submitted for information*
- b. UBCM Emergency Preparedness Fund – Resolution – A. Hovenkamp, Fire Chief
Recommendation: THAT staff be directed to apply for funding in the amount of \$30,000 under the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.
- c. Official Community Plan DRAFT Review – T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer & TRUE
**submitted for information*
- d. Strategic Priorities Update – D. Drexler, CAO
**submitted for information*

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. For Information

- b. For Action - none submitted

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

9. PUBLIC INQUIRIES

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

11. CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Sections 90(1)(c)(k) of the Community Charter, that the public interest requires that persons other than Council Members and required staff be excluded from the meeting and that Council continues the meeting in closed session to discuss confidential matters.

12. RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

13. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION *(if required)*

14. NEXT MEETINGS

- a. *CLOSED – Strategic Planning Workshops:*
 - November 7, 2025 @ 5:30pm
 - November 8, 2025 @ 9am
- b. *Regular Council Meeting – November 17, 2025 @ 5:30pm*

15. ADJOURNMENT

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday, October 6, 2025 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers at Municipal Hall
4936 Barriere Town Road, Barriere, B.C.

*“We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples of Simpcw First Nation
within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.”*

Present:	Mayor Rob Kerslake Councillor Judy Armstrong Councillor Scott Kershaw Councillor Donna Kibble Councillor Colin McInnis
Regrets:	Councillor Louise Lodge Councillor Brody Mosdell
Staff:	Daniel Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer Kathy Abel, Finance Officer Jamie Mosdell, Deputy Corporate Officer Chris Matthews, Public Works Manager Alexis Hovenkamp, Fire Chief

Mayor Kerslake called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor McInnis
Seconded by Councillor Kershaw
That Council approve the October 6, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- a. Moved by Councillor Kershaw
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong
That Council adopt the minutes of the September 15, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

3. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- a. Cpl. Kyle Camalush, Barriere RCMP Detachment – Policing Update

Cpl. Camalush provided Council with a Barriere Detachment policing update. The following key items were noted:

- The Barriere Detachment is operating with a full complement of four Officers.
- Approx. 1000 Calls for Service to date which is about on par from previous years.
- Crime Trends: Pressure remains on prolific offenders.

- Community Consulting Group (CCG) is looking for more members. Meetings are held quarterly.
- Mayor mentioned that the number one complaint the District has been hearing over the past year is speeding throughout town. It was asked if there was a way to accommodate additional enforcement throughout town whenever their schedule allows.
- It was reported to Cpl. Camalush that some residents are upset about reported vehicles not stopping at the downtown four way stop and are choosing to patrol the intersection themselves.
- Other speed issues noted were at the PetroCan highway/BTR intersection.
- Is there going to be a Bike Rodeo/Bike riding training program that used to be offered by the RCMP taking place this year? Cpl. Camalush answered that staffing shortages meant that this year's Bike Rodeo wasn't able to go forward. However, other education methods could be explored and the detachment is hoping to reinstate the event next year. Councillor Armstrong suggested that training be offered to volunteers who may be able to offer the program when RCMP is unable to provide the service.

4. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Department Updates – Department Heads
**submitted for information*

Council was provided an overview of the written report. The following verbal additions were noted:

- The next OCP Public Open House is scheduled for November 5, 2025 at 6pm – 8pm and held at the Seniors Centre.
- Upon starting DW3 today in order to complete the required flushing, it was noticed that the pump wasn't holding prime and the water was going back to the well. Luckily, the contractor hired to perform the screen repair was still on site and it was diagnosed that the issue is unfortunately a problem with the check valve. To complete this repair, the pump from DW3 must be pulled in order to replace the check valve. An estimated cost to complete this additional work is approximately \$9,800.00.

- b. Capital Project Update – J. Mosdell, DCO
**submitted for information*

Council was provided an overview of the PowerPoint presentation outlining the current status of each Capital project presently underway or recently completed.

- c. FireSmart Funding Application Resolution – A. Hovenkamp, Fire Chief

Moved by Councillor McInnis
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong

THAT Council directs staff to prepare and submit an application to the 2026 UBCM Allocated - FireSmart Community Funding and Support Program for the amount of up to \$400,000 over a two year time period.

CARRIED

- d. REDIP Grant Application – Capacity Building - D. Drexler, CAO

Moved by Councillor Kibble

Seconded by Councillor Armstrong

THAT Council supports a grant funding application to the REDIP fund under the Capacity funding stream for up to \$150,000 over a maximum 3-year span, to continue building the economic capacity of the District of Barriere and improve our ability to support economic diversification.

CARRIED

- e. Wayfinding – ETSI-BC - Chamber – D. Drexler, CAO

Moved by Councillor Kershaw

Seconded by Councillor Kibble

THAT Council supports the Wayfinding project in the amount of up to \$20,000 to be funded from Surplus; AND THAT Council instructs Staff to amend the Financial Plan accordingly.

CARRIED

5. BYLAWS and POLICIES

- a. Rescinding of Policies No. 11, No. 22, & No. 43 – J. Mosdell, DCO

Moved by Councillor McInnis

Seconded by Councillor Kershaw

THAT Council rescind Policy No. 11 – Political Representatives Meeting Protocol

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Kershaw

Seconded by Councillor McInnis

THAT Council rescind Policy No. 22 – Holiday Office Closure.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor McInnis

Seconded by Councillor Armstrong

THAT Council rescind Policy No. 43 – Covid Relief Grants in Aid: Organizations

CARRIED

- b. DRAFT Reserve Fund Establishment Bylaw No. 259 – adoption
**w/attachments*

**Moved by Councillor Kershaw
Seconded by Councillor McInnis
THAT Council adopt Reserve Fund Establishment Bylaw No. 259.**

CARRIED

- c. DRAFT Utility Billing Bylaw No. 260 – adoption
**w/attachments*

**Moved by Councillor McInnis
Seconded by Councillor Kibble
THAT Council adopt Utility Billing Bylaw No. 260.**

CARRIED

**Moved by Councillor Kibble
Seconded by Councillor McInnis
THAT Council rescinds Water Leak Adjustment Policy No. 27.**

CARRIED

**Moved by Councillor McInnis
Seconded by Councillor Kibble
THAT Council rescinds Overpayment Refund Policy No. 33.**

CARRIED

Councillor Kershaw declared a conflict of interest as a member of the LNTCFS Board and left the meeting 6:35pm.

- d. Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 222, Amendment Bylaw No. 261 – 1st, 2nd, 3rd readings.
**w/attached staff report*

**Moved by Councillor Kibble
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong
THAT Council give first three readings to Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 222, Amendment Bylaw No. 261.**

CARRIED

Councillor Kershaw returned to the meeting at 6:40pm

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. For Information

- b. For Action - *none submitted*

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councillor Kershaw provided a verbal report on the following:
- A resident reached out and had a good conversation regarding the history of fire protection in the area and how the establishment of the Barriere Fire Department came to be.
- b. Councillor Kibble provided a verbal report on the following:
- Attended the Truth & Reconciliation event held in Clearwater on September 30th.
 - Attended the 80th Birthday party of past Mayor, Virginia Smith and presented a Recognition Certificate from the District commemorating the milestone birthday.
 - The IHA Clinic's walkway is a bit of hazard for seniors and those with disabilities. The Mayor offered to bring the issue forward to the next TNRH Board meeting.
- c. Councillor McInnis provided a verbal report on the following:
- Attended the 2025 UBCM Convention in Victoria – (attended many sessions including topics of Housing, Resources, etc.), and was granted private tour of Legislature by MLA Stamer with the other Council attendees and the CAO.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor provided a verbal report on the following:

- Attended the 2025 UBCM Convention in Victoria with Councillor McInnis, Councillor Mosdell, CAO and Simpcw Chief Lamperau. Had the opportunity to lobby for the District's FireHall Grant Application with UBCM & the Ministry, met with BC Hydro regarding outage issues, Telus regarding connectivity in the region, enjoyed a private tour of the legislature from MLA Stamer, and made contacts with legislative reporters.
- Thanked Chief Lampreau and Area 'O' Director Jill Hayward for their participation and support at the Convention.
- Attended wide range of sessions & seminars. The key takeaway from the Province is that funding opportunities will be severely limited this year and potentially going forward due to financial constraints.

9. PUBLIC INQUIRIES – *none presented*.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION - *none presented*

11. CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor McInnis

Seconded by Councillor Armstrong

THAT pursuant to Sections 90(1)(c)(e) of the Community Charter, that the public interest requires that persons other than Council Members and required staff be excluded from the meeting and that Council continues the meeting in closed session to discuss confidential matters at 6:54p.m.

CARRIED

12. **RECONVENE OPEN MEETING** – *the meeting reconvened into open session at 8:05p.m.*

13. **NEXT MEETING** – *Regular Council Meeting – October 27, 2025 @ 5:30pm*

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor that the meeting adjourn at 8:05p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor Rob Kerslake

T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE

BYLAW NO. 261

**A BYLAW TO AMEND DISTRICT OF BARRIERE COMMUNITY USE PROPERTY TAX
EXEMPTION BYLAW NO. 222**

WHEREAS it is provided by Section 224 of the *Community Charter* that on or before the 31st day of October in any year, Council may, by bylaw, exempt from taxation for up to ten years, land and improvements, or both, and the exemption may apply to the whole or a part of the taxable assessed value of land or improvements, or both.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the District of Barriere in open meeting assembled, hereby enacts as follows:

1. This Bylaw may be cited as "*District of Barriere Community Use Property Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 222, Amendment Bylaw No. 261.*"
2. *Community Use Property Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 222* is hereby amended by adding the following corporations to Section 1 of Bylaw No. 222 which shall be exempt from taxation for the year 2026:
 - (i) Lower North Thompson Community Forests Society (LNTCFS)
will receive a 100% exemption of the non-profit portion of the property, but will receive no exemption for the commercial portion of the property.

Lot 2, District Lot 1445, KDYD, Plan KAP5534 – PID #010-286-055
573 Barkley Road
Roll Number: 1390040

READ A FIRST TIME this **6th** day of **October, 2025**

READ A SECOND TIME this **6th** day of **October, 2025**

READ A THIRD TIME this **6th** day of **October, 2025**

ADOPTED this day of , 2025

Mayor Rob Kerslake

Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer

Certified Copy
Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Request for Decision

Date: October 27, 2025	File: 4b
To: Council	From: T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer J. Mosdell, Deputy Corporate Officer
Re: Rescindment of Outdated Policy No. 3 – Conflict of Interest Guidelines	
Recommendation: THAT Council rescind Policy No. 3 – Conflict of Interest Guidelines	

Purpose

To seek Council's approval to rescind *Policy No. 3 – Conflict of Interest Guidelines*, that is redundant after the adoption of *Bylaw No. 250 - Council Code of Conduct*.

Background

Policy No. 3 was approved on December 17, 2007. Council adopted *Council Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 250* on December 16, 2024. The bylaw sets out standards on conflicts of interest, gifts, respectful conduct, and procedures and prevails over conflicting policies.

Benefits or Impact

General

Clearer policy framework and improved administrative flexibility.

Finances

N/A

Strategic Impact

Priority 2 – Fiscally Responsible Operations

Goal 2 – Develop a strategy to mitigate costs increases and downloading pressures

Result D – Business cases to align current and future operational needs to increase efficiencies and capacity is presented for Council consideration.

Risk Assessment

Compliance: There is no legislation that requires a policy to remain in force while the bylaw governs conduct so this change will not affect Council procedures.

Risk Impact:

Low – Recission aligns written guidance with current governing bylaw.

Internal Control Process:

N/A – Matters will be governed by Bylaw No. 250.

Next Steps / Communication

Upon approval, remove Policy No. 3 from the active policy manual. The policy will be archived, and Staff will be notified.

Attachments

- Policy No. 3 – Conflict of Interest Guidelines
- Bylaw No. 250 – Council Code of Conduct

Recommendation

THAT Council rescind Policy No. 3 – Conflict of Interest Guidelines

Alternative Options

1. Council could choose not to rescind the policy. This is not recommended as this would result in redundancy.

Prepared by: Jamie Mosdell, Deputy Corporate Officer

Reviewed by: T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer



DISTRICT OF BARRIERE COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL

Page 1 of 10

Approval Date: December 17, 2007

NO: 3

SECTION: GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

[NOTE: Where the masculine is used in these Guidelines, it includes the feminine where the context requires.]

The proper operation of democratic local government requires that elected officials be independent, impartial and duly responsible to the people. To this end, it is imperative that the following three principles be followed:

1. Government decisions and policy be made through the proper and lawful channels of government structure.
2. Public office not be used for personal gain.
3. The public have confidence in the integrity of its government.

(1) THE LAW

It is your personal responsibility to comply with the law and to avoid conflicts of interest.

Therefore, make sure that you have read and understood the provisions of the Community Charter, the Financial Disclosure Act, the Criminal Code of Canada and the summary of the common law provided to you with this Guide.

You should remember that if some or all of your financial or property interests are held otherwise than in your own name and the nature of them does not appear in your disclosure statement under the Financial Disclosure Act that in certain circumstances you may have to declare those interests in order to comply with these guidelines. Similarly you may have to declare the interest of your family.

If you are in any doubt as to the meaning, requirements or application of any of these laws you should seek advice; possibly from your own solicitor, from experienced Councillors, or from senior Staff.

You shall not assume that any unethical activities not covered by or specifically prohibited by these guidelines, or by legislation, are therefore condoned.

Remember that the responsibility is always yours.

(2) PUBLIC DUTY AND PRIVATE INTERESTS

- (i) Your overriding duty as a Councillor is to all of the residents of the District of Barriere.
- (ii) Whenever you have, or any member of your family has, a private or personal interest in any question which Councillors must decide, you must not do anything to let that interest influence the decisions.

You shall:

- Declare to Council at the first opportunity your interests or known interests of any close relatives, in any enterprise which proposes to transact business with the Municipality;
 - Make no effort whatsoever to influence Council or Staff in any decisions on the matter;
 - Leave the place of the meeting prior to discussions and vote on the subject, and;
 - Of course, not vote on the matter
- (iii) Do nothing as a Councillor which you could not justify to the public.
- (iv) It is not enough to avoid actual impropriety; you should at all times avoid any occasion for suspicion or the appearance of improper conduct.
- (v) As each matter comes before Council, each member shall decide for himself whether he has a specific property, business or financial interest, direct or indirect, which could be affected to the benefit or detriment of the member, his family or associates. If he has, he should then decide whether the effect would be a personal benefit to himself, family, or associate as opposed to an effect on the community as a whole. If it would not affect the whole community, but would have a similar effect on a majority of, or substantial number of persons in the community with similar interest, then his acting on the matter would probably not result in a conflict of interest.

(3) DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

- (i) The law makes specific provision requiring you to disclose pecuniary interest, direct and indirect. But interests which are not pecuniary can be just as important. Kinship, friendship, membership of an association,

religion, partisanship, institutional or ethnic interests and so forth can sometimes influence your judgment and give the impression that you might be acting for personal motives. A good test is to ask yourself whether others will think that the interest, in the circumstances of the matter at issue, is of a kind to make this possible. If you think they would, or if you are in doubt, disclose the interest and withdraw from the meeting unless you are specifically invited to stay.

- (ii) The principles about disclosure of interest should be borne in mind in your unofficial relations with other Councillors or informal or social occasions no less scrupulously than at formal meetings of Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees.

(4) MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRMANSHIP OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

- (i) You, or a firm or body with which you are personally connected, may have professional business or personal interests within an area for which the Council is responsible; such interests may be substantial and closely related to the work of one or more of the Council's Committees or Sub-Committees, concerned with (say) planning or developing land, personnel matters or the letting of contracts for supplies, services or works. Before seeking or accepting membership of any such Committee or Sub-Committee, you should seriously consider whether your membership would involve you:
 - (a) In disclosing an interest so often that you could be of little value to the Committee or Sub-Committee, or;
 - (b) In weakening public confidence in the impartiality of the Committee or Sub-Committee.
- (ii) You should not seek or accept the Chairmanship of a Committee or Sub-Committee whose business is closely related to a substantial interest or range of interests of yourself or of any body with which you are associated.

(5) COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

- (i) Both Councillors and Officers are servants of the public, and they are indispensable to one another. But their responsibilities are distinct. Councillors are responsible to the electorate and serve only so long as their term of office lasts. Officers are responsible to the Council and are permanently appointed. An Officer's job is to give advice to Councillors and the Council, and to carry out the Council's work under the direction and control of the Council and its Committees.

- (ii) Mutual respect between Councillors and Officers is essential to good local government. Close personal familiarity between individual Councillors and Officers can damage this relationship and prove embarrassing to other Councillors and Officers.

(6) USE OF CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVATE INFORMATION

- (i) As a Councillor you necessarily acquire much information that has not yet been made public and is still confidential. It is a grave betrayal of trust to use confidential information for personal advantage of yourself or of anyone known to you.
- (ii) You must not communicate information designated confidential to anyone not entitled to receive it.

If you disagree with the designation of such information as confidential, or the designation of those entitled to receive it, under no circumstances should you arbitrarily disclose it. First you should advise Council in writing at an “In Camera” meeting of your disagreement and the reasons for it. If the disagreement is not resolved before you decide to disclose the information, you should carefully reflect your decision against the first and third principles which preface these guidelines.

(7) GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

Treat with extreme caution any offer or gift, favour or hospitality that is made to you personally. The person or organization making the offer may be doing or seeking to do business with the Council, or may be applying to the Council for planning permission or some other kind of decision. Working lunches and other social occasions arranged or authorized by Council or by one of its Committees or Sub-Committees may be a proper way of doing business, provided that no extravagance is involved. Nor can there be any hard and fast rule about acceptance or refusal of tokens of goodwill on special occasions. But you are personally responsible for all such decisions and for avoiding the risk of damage to public confidence in local government. The receipt or offer of gifts should be reported to the Chief Administrative Officer.

(8) EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES

There as a Councillor. These rules should be scrupulously observed.

(9) USE OF COUNCIL FACILITIES

Make sure that any facilities – such as transport, stationery, or administrative support services – provided by the Council for your use in your duties as a Councillor are used strictly for those duties and for no other purpose.

(10) UNDUE INFLUENCE

Do not use your position to secure special privileges, favours or exemptions for yourself or any other person.

(11) CONDUCT AFTER LEAVING OFFICE

For a period of twelve months after leaving office, abide by these guidelines except those related to confidential information which shall apply in perpetuity, or until public release of such information as authorized by Council.

GUIDELINES FOR COUNCIL APPOINTEES TO
CIVIC BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

[NOTE: Where the masculine is used in these Guidelines, it includes the feminine where the context requires.]

All such bodies are called “Committees” in the Guidelines.

It is essential that Council, in its deliberations and in its conduct of municipal affairs, should have available to it the wisdom, expertise, experience and advice of competent members of the community. It is also essential that members of such Committees be seen to act with integrity to ensure a continued confidence in the process by the citizenry.

In most cases, the advice and guidance of such persons is sought because they have practical experience and special knowledge in the areas of endeavor covered by the mandate of the particular Committee on which they are invited to serve and generally will have business and property interests in those fields of endeavor.

But it is essential and is a matter of law that such members not allow themselves to become involved in conflict of interest situations.

A summary of the law on conflicts of interest is available to you through the Corporate Administration Office.

A member of a Committee stands as a trustee for the local community and he is not to vote or to deal so as to gain or appear to gain private advantage out of matters over which he is asked to comment and advise.

1. Your overriding duty as a member of a Committee is to all residents of the District of Barriere.
2. Whenever you have, or any member of your family has, a private or personal interest in any question on which you must advise, you must not do anything to let that interest influence the advice.

3. It is not enough to avoid actual impropriety; you should at all times avoid any occasion for suspicion or the appearance of improper conduct.
4. As a Committee member you often acquire information that has not yet been made public. It is a grave betrayal of trust to use confidential information for personal advantage of yourself or anyone known to you.
5. You must not communicate information designated confidential to anyone not entitled to receive it.
6. Do not use your position to secure special privileges, favours or exemptions for yourself or any other person.
7. Avoid any situations that may cause any person to believe that you may have brought bias or partiality to a question before Council.
8. As each matter comes before a Committee, each member should decide for himself whether he has a specific property, business or financial interest, direct or indirect, which could be affected to the benefit or detriment of the member, his family or associates. If he has, he should then decide whether the effect would be a personal benefit to himself, family or associate as opposed to an effect on the community as a whole. If it would not affect the whole community, but would have a similar effect on a majority of, or substantial number of persons in the community with similar interests, then his acting on the matter would probably not result in a conflict of interest.

Such a financial business or property interest would include an interest as an advocate or lobbyist whether the member was being paid for his services or not. It would be difficult to conceive of a situation where such advocacy would not result in a conflict of interest. Therefore, a member should always withdraw and take no part whatsoever to influence the Committee on any question if he has been engaged to influence in any way the decision on that question. He should always declare such an interest – preferably for his own protection – in writing.

If a member does have such an interest whether personal or community as above discussed, he should declare it to the Committee as soon as possible. The Committee Chair shall then report the conflict in writing to Council as soon as possible.

If it is personal, the member should:

1. Leave the place of a meeting'
2. Take no part in the discussion
3. Do nothing to influence the other members of the Committee;
4. Not vote; and,

5. Take no part in drafting the report of the Committee insofar as it touches on that particular matter.

If he deems his to be a community interest he should continue to act as a member of the Committee.

It may be that a member has business or property interests which, for sound business or other reasons, it would be imprudent to declare at that time. Therefore, because secrecy, no matter how prudent, can give rise to suspicion in others, the member should proceed as though for the time being at least, his interest is personal – even if when it becomes public knowledge it would be clearly a community interest.

In summary, before seeking or accepting membership on any Council-appointed Board, Committee or Commission, an individual should seriously consider whether such membership would involve the individual;

1. In disclosing an interest so often that he would be of little value to the Board, Committee or Commission, or
2. In weakening public confidence in the impartiality of the Board, Committee or Commission.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE (MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES)

“District” means the District of Barriere

“Employee” means an Officer of the District or a Management/Excluded Employee of the District as designated by “**MANAGEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**” AND THE DISTRICT OF BARRIERE INDEMNIFICATION BYLAWS.

Impartiality and Equality of Service:

1. An Employee shall carry out his/her duties with integrity, impartiality and equality of service to the general public.

Preferential Treatment:

2. An Employee shall not go beyond his/her official duty to assist those dealing with the District where this would result in preferential treatment.

Public Interest:

3. An Employee shall exercise care in the management of his/her private affairs so as not to benefit, or be perceived by the public to benefit from, any District transactions over which he/she can influence decisions (for example: investments, borrowing, purchases, sales, contracts, grants, regulatory or discretionary approvals and appointments).

Confidential information:

4. An Employee shall not use information which is not available to the general public for his/her own personal profit or advantage, and shall not provide such information to others unless it is in the course of the Employee's duties to do so.

Outside Remuneration:

5. An Employee may engage in outside employment, carry on business or receive public funds for personal activities provided that it does not place demands inconsistent with his/her job, or jeopardize his/her objectivity, and in particular that:
 - (i) It does not interfere with the performance of his/her duties;
 - (ii) It does not represent a conflict of interest as herein set out;
 - (iii) He/she does not have an advantage derived from his/her employment;
 - (iv) It is not performed in such a way as to appear to be an official act; and
 - (v) It does not involve the use of District premises, services, equipment, information or supplies which he/she has access to by virtue of his/her employment with the District.
6. An Employee shall forthwith file a written disclosure of any activity as set out in Section 5 with the Chief Administrative Officer.
7. On receipt of a written disclosure by an Employee, the Chief Administrative Officer shall forward a copy of same to members of Council.

Hospitality, Gifts and Other Benefits:

8. An Employee shall not solicit or accept hospitality, gifts or other benefits which might influence his/her conduct at work, or which could compromise the objectivity of the Employee or result in a public perception that his/her objectivity is compromised.

District Materials, Equipment and Facilities:

9. An Employee shall not use, or allow the use of, District materials, equipment and facilities for unapproved activities.

Property (Land):

10. An Employee shall not deal in property directly or indirectly within the District other than his/her personal residence without first informing the Chief Administrative Officer in writing.
11. An Employee shall declare to the Chief Administrative Officer his/her interest, direct or indirect, in any property which is subject to a rezoning proposal or subdivision within the District.

Private Interests:

12. An Employee shall declare to the Chief Administrative Officer, in writing, any personal or corporate interest held directly or indirectly by the Employee or by an immediate relative of the Employee in a contract or a proposed contract with the District, or in any enterprise which proposes to transact business with the District.

For the purpose of this Section:

“immediate relative” means a spouse (including common-law spouse), parent, child, brother, sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law.

“indirectly” means through any other person, including a company, trustee or immediate relative.

Plans for, or Offers of, Outside Employment:

13. An Employee shall not allow himself/herself to be influenced in the pursuit of his/her official duties and responsibilities by plans for, or offers of, outside employment.

Post-Employment Behavior:

14. Former Officers of the District who have provided advice to the District on ongoing, specific matters may not switch sides by acting for another employer on the same matter.

Reporting of Conflict of Interest:

15. An Employee shall report to the Chief Administrative Officer any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest of which he/she is aware involving himself/herself or his/her family, or any other Employee of the District. The Chief Administrative Officer shall then report the conflict to District Council.

16. The Chief Administrative Officer shall report to the District Council any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest of which he/she is aware involving himself/herself or his/her family, or any other Employee of the District.

Previous Revision/s: None

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE

BYLAW NO. 250

A BYLAW TO REGULATE THE CONDUCT FOR COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WHEREAS Council and Committee Members are keepers of the public trust and must uphold the highest standards of ethical behaviour in order to build and inspire the public's trust and confidence in local government;

AND WHEREAS Council and Committee Members are expected to:

- (a) make decisions that benefit the community;
- (b) act lawfully and within the authority granted by the Community Charter, Local Government Act and other applicable enactments; and
- (c) be free from undue influence and not act to gain financial or other benefits;

AND WHEREAS Council and Committee Members wish to conduct their business in a transparent, efficient, accountable and respectful fashion;

AND WHEREAS it is to the benefit of the community for Council and Committee Members to conduct their business in accordance with the guiding principles of integrity, accountability, respect, leadership and collaboration;

AND WHEREAS Council and Committee Members intend to demonstrate their leadership in ethical behaviour, while promoting the principles of transparency, accountability and civility through their decisions, actions and behaviour;

AND WHEREAS a Code of Conduct Bylaw expresses standards of conduct expected for members of District Council and Committees;

AND WHEREAS Council and Committee Members have primary responsibility for ensuring that the standards of conduct herein are understood and met, thereby fostering public confidence in the integrity of the government of the District of Barriere;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the District of Barriere in open meeting assembled, hereby ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

PART 1 – GENERAL

1.1 Title

This Bylaw may be cited as “*District of Barriere Council Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 250*”.

1.2 Definitions

In this bylaw:

Advisory Body Member means a person sitting on an advisory committee, task force, commission, board, or other Council-established body.

Bullying and Harassment and **Bully** or **Harass** means and includes:

- (a) any conduct that would be contrary to any of the policies or guidelines established by the District concerning bullying or harassment;
- (b) any unwelcome or objectionable conduct or comment that would be considered discriminatory under the Human Rights Code;
- (c) Sexual Harassment;
- (d) any other unwelcome or objectionable conduct or comment by a Member toward another person that causes that individual to be humiliated or intimidated, including verbal aggression or insults, making derogatory comments, including questioning the professional competence of a Member, Staff, or Volunteer, calling someone derogatory names, or spreading malicious and untrue rumours.

CAO means the Chief Administrative Officer appointed by Council for the District of Barriere or their designate under the *Community Charter*.

Committee means a committee, advisory board, sub-committee, task force, working group, commission, board, or other body established by Council under the Community Charter Division 4 of Part 5 – Committees, Commissions and Other Bodies, or under the *Local Government Act*.

Committee Member means a person appointed to a Committee who is not a Council Member.

Complaint means a formal allegation, in accordance with the complaint procedure set out in this policy, that a Council Member has breached this policy.

Complainant means a person who has submitted a Complaint.

Confidential Information means information that could reasonably harm the interests of individuals or organizations, including the District of Barriere, if disclosed to persons who are not authorized to access the information, as well as information to which section 117 of the *Community Charter* applies.

Conflict of Interest means a situation when an individual is, or could be, influenced, by a personal interest, financial or otherwise, when carrying out their public duty. Personal interest can include direct or indirect financial interest, bias, pre-judgment, close-mindedness or undue influence.

Corporate Officer means the District Officer position that has been designated the Corporate Officer under section 148 of the *Community Charter*.

Council means the governing body of the District of Barriere.

Council Member means the Mayor and Councillors for the District.

District means the District of Barriere.

Gifts and Personal Benefits means items or services of value that are received by Members for personal use. These would include, but are not limited to, cash, gift cards, tickets to events, items of clothing, jewellery, pens, food or beverages, discounts or rebates on purchases, free or subsidized drinks or meals, entertainment, and invitations to social functions.

Investigator means the person appointed to fulfill the duties and responsibilities assigned in this Bylaw.

Member means a Council Member or Committee Member; including the Mayor.

Municipal Officer means a member of staff designated as an Officer under section 146 of the *Community Charter* or a bylaw under that section.

Personal Information means the same meaning as in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Respondent means a Council Member or Committee Member whose conduct is the subject of a Complaint.

Sexual Harassment means any verbal, written, or physical conduct, comment, gesture, or contact of a sexual nature that may cause offence or humiliation to a Member, Staff, Volunteer, or a member of the public or that might reasonably be perceived by Staff, a Volunteer, or a Member as placing a condition of a sexual nature on employment or on any opportunity for appointment, training, or promotion, and examples of sexual harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) unwelcome remarks, questions, jokes, innuendo, or taunting, about a person's body or sex, including sexist comments or sexual invitations;
- (b) verbal abuse and threats of a sexual nature;

- (c) leering, staring, or making sexual gestures;
- (d) display of pornographic or other sexual materials in the form of degrading pictures, graffiti, cartoons, or sayings;
- (e) unwanted physical contact such as touching, patting, pinching, or hugging;
- (f) intimidation, threat, or actual physical assault of a sexual nature; and
- (g) sexual advances with actual or implied work-related consequences.

Staff means an employee, contractor, consultant, or other service provider of the District of Barriere, and includes volunteer firefighters.

Volunteer means a person serving the District who is not a Member or Committee Member.

Workplace means and includes, but is not limited to, work sites owned, operated, or controlled by the District, including the municipal hall, meeting rooms, operations centres, fire hall, parks locations and buildings, construction or maintenance sites, business related social functions, work locations away from the foregoing venues, work related conferences and training sessions, work related travel, telephone conversations, voice mail, and electronic messaging.

1.3 Purpose and Interpretation

1.3.1 This Bylaw governs the conduct of all Members, and sets out the rules Members must follow in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as elected officials or appointed Committee Members, and the powers and procedures of Investigators in exercising oversight over Member conduct. Without limitation, this Bylaw applies in respect of the Workplace and elsewhere, including the use of social media by a Member.

1.3.2 The provisions of this Bylaw are to be interpreted broadly and in a manner that is consistent with the *Community Charter S.B.C. 2003, c. 36*.

1.4 Application

(a) This Bylaw applies to Council Members and Committee Members.

(b) For clarity, the provisions of this bylaw that reference Committee Members only, are intended to apply also to Council Members acting in their capacity as Committee Members.

(c) Unless otherwise provided, this Bylaw does not apply to a Member's conduct in their personal life, except to the extent that such conduct reasonably undermines public confidence in District governance.

(d) This Bylaw does not apply to Staff; except as it pertains to Part 5 of this Bylaw.

- (e) In the event of a conflict between this Bylaw and another District bylaw or Council policy governing Member conduct, this Bylaw prevails.
- (f) Nothing in this bylaw is intended to preclude Members, prior to the filing of a Complaint, from speaking to each other in order to resolve matters which may otherwise be captured by this Bylaw.

1.5 Severability

If any definition, section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, clause or phrase in this Bylaw is held invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid definition, section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, clause or phrase must be severed and the remainder of this Bylaw is deemed to have been adopted without the severed definition, section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, clause or phrase.

PART 2 – STANDARDS AND VALUES

2.1 Foundational Principles

The key statements of principle that underline this Code of Conduct are as follows:

- (a) **Integrity:** Members are keepers of the public trust and must uphold the highest standards of ethical behaviour. Members must:
 - i. make decisions that benefit the community;
 - ii. act lawfully and within the authorities of the *Community Charter, Local Government Act* and other applicable enactments; and
 - iii. be free from undue influence and not act, or appear to act, in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, family, friends, organized associations for which they are a member of, or personal business interests.
- (b) **Accountability:** Members are obligated to answer for the responsibility that has been entrusted to them. Members are responsible for decisions that they make. This responsibility includes acts of commission and acts of omission. In turn, decision-making processes must be transparent and subject to public scrutiny; proper records must be kept.
- (c) **Leadership:** Members must demonstrate and promote the key principles of the Code of Conduct through their decisions, actions and behaviour. Their behaviour must build and

inspire the public's trust and confidence in local government. Members will provide leadership to District staff through the CAO.

(d) **Respect:** Members must conduct public business efficiently and with decorum. They must treat each other and others with respect at all times. Members must:

- i. not use derogatory language in formal meetings or towards others;
- ii. respect the rights of other people; and
- iii. treat people with courtesy and recognition of the different roles others play in local government decision making.

(e) **Openness:** Members have a duty to be as open as possible about their decisions and actions. This means communicating appropriate information openly to the public about decision-making processes and issues being considered; encouraging appropriate public participation; communicating clearly; and providing appropriate means for recourse and feedback.

2.2 Interpretation

2.2.1 The foundational principles above are to inform the interpretation of the substantive provisions of this Bylaw and are not stand-alone bases for complaints.

2.2.2 In this Bylaw, a reference to a person who holds an office includes a reference to the persons appointed as deputy or appointed to act for that person from time to time.

2.2.3 This bylaw applies to the use of social media by Council Members in relation to District related matters.

PART 3 – CONDUCT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

3.1 General Conduct

3.1.1 Members must adhere to the key principles and provisions of the Code of Conduct.

3.1.2 Members must act lawfully and within the authorities of the Community Charter, Local Government Act and other applicable enactments and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence in carrying out their functions.

3.1.3 Members have an obligation to consider issues and exercise powers, duties and functions in a manner that avoids arbitrary and unreasonable decisions.

3.1.4 Members must avoid behaviour that could constitute an act of disorder or misbehaviour. Specifically, Council Members must avoid conduct that:

- contravenes this bylaw;
 - contravenes the law, including the *BC Human Rights Code*, and other enactments, and District Bylaws; and
 - is an abuse of power or otherwise amounts to improper discrimination, intimidation, harassment or verbal abuse of others.
- 3.1.5 Council Members are prohibited from utilizing any District facilities or resources for personal or non-official purposes to ensure transparency, fairness, and the proper use of public resources.
- 3.1.6 For a period of twelve months after leaving office, abide by these guidelines except those related to confidential information which shall apply in perpetuity, or until public release of such information as authorized by Council.
- 3.1.7 Council Members must not attend meetings, conferences, seminars, educational courses, or other functions while representing the District of Barriere under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any other substance that impairs ability to perform duties effectively, ethically, and responsibly. After hours social events at any function are excluded, as is the use of medically prescribed substances.
- (a) If a Council Member is found to be under the influence at a meeting, conferences, seminars, education course, or other function, the Council Member will be required to leave the meeting and take appropriate steps to address the impairment before returning to official duties.
 - (b) Repeated instances of such behavior may be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in this Bylaw under Part 4.

3.2 **Roles, Responsibilities, and Interactions with Staff and Advisory Body Members**

- 3.2.1 Members have a responsibility to govern the District in accordance with the *Community Charter* and other legislation.
- 3.2.2 The Mayor has a statutory responsibility to provide leadership to the Council and to provide general direction to the CAO, respecting the municipal policies, programs and other directions of Council as set out in the *Community Charter*. Outside of this additional function and being the Chair of Council Meetings, the Mayor is an equal member of Council in the way of the decision-making process of Council.
- 3.2.3 The District follows the one employee model where Council's point of contact with staff is the CAO.

- 3.2.4 Members are not to contact Staff other than the CAO, unless it is in regard to basic inquiries, such as, but not limited to, conference attendance or accommodation bookings.
- 3.2.5 Members are to direct inquiries regarding departmental issues or questions to the CAO and refrain from contacting other Staff without first discussing the issue with the CAO whenever possible.
- 3.2.6 Advice to Members from Staff will be vetted and approved by the CAO.
- 3.2.7 Members will refrain from seeking opinions of staff directly.
- 3.2.8 Members will invite the CAO to be present at any meeting between a member and a member of staff where such attendance is requested by the staff member.
- 3.2.9 Members are not to issue instructions to any of the District's contractors, tenderers, consultants, or other service providers unless expressly authorized to do so.
- 3.2.10 Outside of a Council or Committee meeting, a Member shall not communicate with a tenderer or proponent regarding the subject matter of the procurement.
- 3.2.11 Members must not make public statements attacking or disparaging staff or Advisory Body Members and shall show respect for the professional capacities of staff.
- 3.2.12 Members must not involve staff in matters for political purposes (local or otherwise).
- 3.2.13 Members must not publish or report information or make statements attacking or reflecting negatively on the work of staff or Advisory Body Members except to the CAO as appropriate to bring a complaint to the attention of the CAO for follow up.
- 3.2.14 Significant information provided to any member, which is likely to be used in Council or in political debate, should also be provided to all other members of Council, and to the CAO.
- 3.2.15 Members must treat members of the public, other members of Council, Advisory Body Members and staff appropriately, and without bullying, abuse or intimidation in order to preserve a workplace free from harassment.
- 3.2.16 Staff provide professional advice to the Council and carry out decisions in an effective, efficient, and non-partisan manner.

3.3 Interactions with the Public and the Media

- 3.3.1 Members will accurately communicate the decisions of the Council, even if they disagree with the majority decision of Council, and by so doing affirm the respect for and integrity in the decision-making processes of Council.
- 3.3.2 When discussing the fact that a decision was not supported, or voted against the decision, or that another Council Member did not support a decision or voted against a decision, a Council Member will refrain from making disparaging comments about other Council Members or about Council's processes and decisions.
- 3.3.3 A Member must not communicate on behalf of the District unless authorized to do so:
 - (a) pursuant to a District Communication Policy;
 - (b) by Council resolution;
 - (c) or by virtue of a position or role the Member has been authorized to undertake by Council.
- 3.3.4 Without limiting the ability of the Council Member to hold a position on an issue and respectfully express an opinion, a Member must ensure that:
 - (a) their communications relating to Council business are accurate and not issue any communication that the Member knows, or ought to have known, to be false; and
 - (b) all communications by, and on behalf of a Member, including communications made via social media, are respectful and do not discriminate against, harass, or defame any Member, Staff, or Volunteer.

3.4 Public Meetings

- 3.4.1 A Member must act with decorum at Council and Committee meetings and in accordance with District of Barriere's Council Procedure Bylaw, as amended or replaced from time to time.

3.5 Collection and Handling of Information

- 3.5.1 Members must:
 - (a) Collect and use personal information in accordance with *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* legislation and the Protection of Privacy Policy;
 - (b) Protect information that is specifically marked confidential, that is Personal Information and other material identified or understood to be confidential in nature;

- (c) not discuss or disclose Confidential Information with or to Staff, or with persons outside the organization except as authorized;
 - (d) not discuss or disclose any Personal Information with or to other Members, Staff, or with persons outside the organization except in a manner consistent with the duty to protect Personal Information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
 - (e) Take reasonable care to prevent the examination of confidential material or access to Personal Information by unauthorized individuals;
 - (f) Not use Confidential Information except for the purpose for which it is intended to be used;
 - (g) Only release information through the FOI Head and in accordance District policies, procedures and in compliance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
 - (h) Not disclose decisions, resolutions or report contents forming part of the agenda for or from an in-camera meeting of Council until a corporate decision has been made for the information to become public; and
 - (i) Not disclose details on Council's in-camera deliberations or specific detail on whether individual Councillors voted for or against an issue.
- 3.5.2 Except in the normal course of duties, Members must not in any way change or alter District records or documents.
- 3.5.3 When dealing with Personal Information, Members must comply fully with the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. All reasonable and necessary measures must be taken to ensure that the personal or private business information of individuals is protected. Personal information includes information or an opinion about a person whose identity is apparent, or can be determined from the information or opinion.

3.6 Use of Social Media

- 3.6.1 The provisions of this Bylaw apply, without limitation, to the use of a Member's personal and official social media accounts.
- 3.6.2 Members will use caution in reporting decision-making by way of their social media profiles and websites ensuring that any material they publish is accurate, precise and communicates the intent of Council.
- 3.6.3 Members will refrain from using or permitting use of their social media accounts for purposes that include generating or recirculating:
- (a) defamatory remarks, obscenities, profane language or sexual content;

- (b) negative statements disparaging other members of Council;
- (c) negative statements disparaging staff or calling into question the professional capabilities of staff or their work;
- (d) content that endorses, promotes, or perpetuates discrimination or mistreatment on the basis of race, religion or belief, age, gender, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation;
- (e) statements that indicate an actual attitudinal bias in relation to a matter that is to be the subject of a statutory or other public hearing;
- (f) promotion of illegal activity;
- (g) information that may compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems;
- (h) statements that may be construed as bias regarding development, planning or bylaw matters in which a public hearing has not yet been conducted;
- (i) Comment or interact with a social media post relating to bylaw enforcement matters or, planning and development matters.

3.6.4 Members must regularly monitor their social media accounts and immediately take measures to remove messages or postings by others that violate this bylaw.

3.6.5 Members must not create or use false identity social media accounts.

3.7 Conflict of Interest

3.7.1 Members shall not participate in a discussion of a matter or vote on a question in respect of that matter, in respect of which the Member has a Conflict of Interest as required in the *Community Charter*.

3.7.2 In respect of each matter before Council, a Council Member shall:

- (a) assess whether they have a Conflict of Interest; and
- (b) determine whether it is necessary to seek independent legal advice, at their own cost except where the CAO approves the cost, with respect to any situation which may result in a Conflict of Interest.

3.7.3 If a Member believes they have a Conflict of Interest in respect of a matter in a Council or Committee meeting, the Member shall:

- (a) notify the Mayor or the Chair of the meeting that the Member has a Conflict of Interest prior to the matter being considered, and the Member shall restate the Conflict of Interest each time the matter arises before Council;
- (b) refrain from discussing the matter with any other Member publicly or privately; and

- (c) leave any meeting if the matter is discussed and not return until the discussion has ended or voting on the matter has been concluded.

3.8 Use of Influence

- 3.8.1 Members must not attempt to influence a decision of the Council, a Committee, a Municipal Officer, or Staff if the Member has a pecuniary Conflict of Interest in relation to that decision.
- 3.8.2 Members must not use their office to provide preferential treatment to any person or organization except as warranted by the ordinary and lawful discharge of their duties.
- 3.8.3 Members must not intimidate, improperly influence, threaten, or coerce Staff.

3.9 Gifts and Personal Benefits, and Reporting

- 3.9.1 Section 105(1) of the *Community Charter* prohibits Council Members from directly or indirectly accepting a fee, gift or personal benefit connected with the official's performance of the duties of office.
- 3.9.2 Section 105(2) of the *Community Charter*, a Council Member may accept gifts and personal benefits received as an incident of the protocol or social obligations that normally accompany the responsibilities of elected office.
- 3.9.3 Members must disclose a Gift or Personal Benefit, received in accordance with section 105 of the *Community Charter*, as per section 106 of the Community Charter.
- 3.9.4 Committee Members must comply with 3.9.1, 3.9.2 and 3.9.3 as though they were Council Members.
- 3.9.5 Where a gift or personal benefit that may be accepted under the *Community Charter* has a value in excess of \$100.00, the member who receives the gift will do so on behalf of the District and turn over the gift to the District, except as otherwise permitted by Council.
- 3.9.6 Members must not accept a gift or personal benefit that could reasonably be expected to result in a real or perceived conflict of interest, and to assist in avoiding that situation.

- 3.9.7 Members will not accept gifts or personal benefits from business or commercial enterprises having a value that exceeds \$50.00 or, where the total value of such gifts and benefits, received directly or indirectly from one source in any twelve (12) month period, would exceed \$250.00.
- 3.9.8 If a Members receives a gift or personal benefit that they do not wish to accept, regardless of value, they may immediately relinquish the gift or personal benefit to the District, in which case a disclosure form would not be required. If the gift or personal benefit is not immediately relinquished to the District, then the member must file a disclosure form.
- 3.9.9 The content of the disclosure must comply with section 106(2) of the *Community Charter* and must be filed “as soon as reasonably practicable” with the Corporate Officer.
- 3.9.10 It is the responsibility of Members to be familiar with the provisions in the Community Charter relating to acceptance and disclosure of gifts and to ensure that they comply with these requirements as contemplated by the statute.
- 3.9.11 The value of each gift or personal benefit shall be determined by its replacement cost.
- 3.9.12 Where a gift or personal benefit is relinquished to the District, the Corporate Officer will record the receipt of the item, nature of the gift or personal benefit, source (including the addresses of at least two individuals who are directors, in the case of a corporation), when the gift was received, and the circumstances under which it was given and accepted.

PART 4— BREACHES, COMPLAINT HANDLING, AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 This section, Breaches, Complaint Handling and Disciplinary Action, is for internal use only. Members and Staff within the District of Barriere can use this section to lodge a complaint against a member of Council in relation to their own interactions with that Council Member.
- 4.1.2 Members are to abide by the requirements of the *Community Charter* and this bylaw and shall endeavour to resolve interpersonal disputes in good faith, recognizing that interpersonal rancour does not facilitate good governance.

4.2 Members of Council (and Committees)

- 4.2.1 Alleged breaches by members shall be submitted in a written complaint, as per the Breach Sample Template 1 attached to and forming part of this bylaw, or a similar written form containing all the information required as per the Sample Template 1 form, addressed to the Mayor and the CAO within six (6) months of the last alleged breach.

In the event that the:

- (a) Mayor is the subject of, is in a conflict of interest related to the complaint, or is implicated in the complaint, the complaint shall be addressed to the current Acting Mayor and the CAO unless that individual is the subject of, or implicated in the complaint; or
 - (b) CAO is the subject of, is in a conflict of interest related to the complaint, or is implicated in the complaint, the complaint shall be addressed to the Corporate Officer unless that individual is the subject of or implicated in the complaint.
- 4.2.2 Upon receipt of a complaint under section 4.2.1, the Mayor or designated Councillor, and the CAO or designate (Corporate Officer) shall review the bylaw and the details of the alleged breach.

The role of the Mayor and CAO (or designate) is to be the keeper of the process, not to adjudicate the complaint. Their role is to facilitate and seek a mutually beneficial resolution between the parties. Information from both parties should be obtained, reviewed and options for resolution canvassed. There is no ability for the Mayor / CAO or designates to give advice about the processing or quality of resolution of the complaint.

- 4.2.3 If the situation is not able to be resolved through the informal process within thirty (30) days, the Mayor and the CAO or designates will work to appoint an independent third party. Numerous third-party investigators will be identified. The Complainant(s) and Respondent(s) will be provided with the resumes of the identified parties. The Complainant(s) and Respondent(s) have the ability to agree or disagree that the proposed parties have the necessary professional skills, knowledge and experience to investigate the complaint (the "Third Party Investigator").

The Complainant(s) and Respondent(s) will notify the Mayor and CAO or designated if they have a conflict of interest with any of the proposed Third-Party Investigators.

The Third-Party Investigators will be contacted and the individual with the next available opening in their schedule will be appointed to the matter.

- 4.2.4 If the parties cannot agree on the choice of investigator, a nominee of the Complainant(s) and the Respondent(s) shall jointly select a suitable Third-Party Investigator.
- 4.2.5 If the Complainant(s) or Respondent(s) refuse to participate in a formal investigation, the investigation may continue without that individuals' participation. The Third-Party Investigator will make their determination based on the information they are provided.

Not participating in the processes as outlined in sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.3 may also be considered grounds for a complaint under the policy.

- 4.2.6 Throughout both the informal or formal investigation, either party can have legal counsel present to assist them. Legal counsel must follow rules of in-camera or procedural bylaws process that are applicable.
- 4.2.7 To protect confidentiality, information provided to the Respondent(s) will be limited to the Breach Sample Template completed by the Complainant, or a similar written form containing all the information required as per the Sample Template 1 Form.
- 4.2.8 The Third-Party Investigator may conduct a preliminary assessment of the complaint, at the conclusion of which the investigator may determine to continue the investigation or make a written recommendation that the complaint be dismissed as unfounded, beyond jurisdiction or unlikely to succeed.
- 4.2.9 If the Third-Party Investigator determines to continue the complaint, the Third-Party Investigator shall:
- (a) Conduct an independent and impartial investigation of the complaint in a manner that is fair, timely, confidential and otherwise accords with the principles of due process and natural justice;
 - (b) Provide an investigation update within ninety (90) days of their appointment to the Mayor and the CAO or designates, as applicable, and to the Complainant and the Respondent;
 - (c) Provide a written, confidential report (the "Report") of the findings of the investigation, including findings as to whether there has been a breach of this Code of Conduct, to the Mayor and the CAO or designates, as applicable;
 - (d) Provide recommendations regarding if a copy of or selected sections of the final Report should be provided to the Complainant and the Respondent; and

- (e) Provide recommendations in the Report as to the appropriate resolution of the complaint, which recommendations may include:
- i. dismissal of the complaint; or
 - ii. public censure¹ of the Council Member or Officials for misbehaviour or a breach of this Code of Conduct;
 - iii. a recommendation that a Council Member or Officials apologize to any person adversely affected by a breach of this Code of Conduct;
 - iv. training or counselling of a Council Member or Members;
 - v. mandatory training on District businesses, the *Community Charter*, or this Bylaw;
 - vi. mandatory training on respectful workplace communications or other interpersonal skills;
 - vii. a letter of reprimand from Council addressed to the Council Member;
 - viii. a request from Council that the Council Member issue a letter of apology;
 - ix. limitations and restrictions on access to certain District facilities and resources;
 - x. in accordance with the Community Charter, suspension or removal of the Member from some or all Committees and bodies to which the Member was appointed;
 - xi. prohibition from representing the District at events and/or attending conferences or seminars;
 - xii. directions to the CAO or their designate regarding the terms and conditions upon which the Member may receive Council or other District documents, including documents containing Confidential Information;
 - xiii. prohibition from representing the District at events and/or from being reimbursed for attending conferences and seminars;
 - xiv. referral to a prosecutor or police;
 - xv. suspension or removal of the appointment of a Council Member as the Acting Mayor;
 - xvi. reduction in compensation in accordance with the Council Remuneration and Expense Bylaw, as amended or replaced from time to time; and/or
 - xvii. Any other sanctions, corrective actions, and other measures recommended by the Investigator or considered appropriate by Council, so long as those sanctions, corrective actions, and other measures are within Council's authority.

1 *Note to Reader on Public Censure (ii.) - There is no defined or prescribed process related to public censure. The common law rules of natural justice would apply, meaning the right to a fair hearing, which includes the right to know the case against oneself, the right to be heard, the right to have an impartial adjudicator, and sometimes (but not always) the right to be represented by legal counsel.*

- 4.2.10 The Mayor and the CAO or designates shall consider whether the Report or an executive summary of the Report should be presented to Council.
- 4.2.11 The Corporate Officer will receive and retain all reports prepared related to the complaint.
- 4.2.12 At the conclusion of the process the Third-Party Investigator will destroy all notes that were taken or documents that were provided throughout the process of the investigation.
- 4.2.13 Where a Member alleges a breach of this Code of Conduct by a fellow Council Member, all Council Members shall refrain from commenting on such allegations at open meetings of Council pending the conclusion of the Report and any decision of Council on the Report.
- 4.2.14 Members who retain legal counsel to represent them in proceedings under this section may request in writing that the District indemnify them for their reasonable costs of representation, in accordance with section 740 of the *Local Government Act*.
- 4.2.14 Staff who retain legal counsel to represent themselves in proceedings under this section may request, in writing, reimbursement of reasonable costs from the District.

PART 5 - REPRISALS, OBSTRUCTION, AND VEXATIOUS ALLEGATIONS

5.1 No Interference or Obstruction

- 5.1.1 No Member, or Staff will threaten, interfere with, or otherwise obstruct the Investigator in relation to the Investigator carrying out their duties and responsibilities under this policy.
- 5.1.2 No Member or Staff will tamper with or destroy documents or electronic records related to any matter under investigation pursuant to this Bylaw or refuse to respond to the Investigator when questioned regarding an investigation.

5.2 No Reprisals

- 5.2.1 No Member shall threaten or undertake any reprisal against a Complainant or against a person who provides information to the Investigator in the context of an investigation.

5.3 Disciplinary Action

5.3.1 A breach by any person of sections 5.1.1, 5.1.2, or 5.1.3 may result in appropriate disciplinary action, including, without limitation:

- (a) in the case of Member, Council may impose censures, sanctions, corrective actions, and other measures described in section 4.2.9 (e); and
- (b) in the case of Staff and Volunteers, disciplinary action or the termination of employment or appointment for just cause, as applicable.

5.4 Vexatious Allegations and Complaints

5.4.1 Any person who makes an allegation or Complaint under this Bylaw that is subsequently found to have been made in a deliberately vexatious or malicious manner, or otherwise to have been made in bad faith, will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including, without limitation:

- (a) in the case of Members, Council may impose censures, sanctions, corrective actions, and other measures described in section 4.2.9 (e); and
- (b) in the case of Staff and Volunteers, disciplinary action or the termination of employment or appointment for just cause, as applicable.

PART 6 - ATTACHMENTS

6.1 Attachments

6.1.1 Attached to and forming part of this bylaw are the following sample templates that could be utilized as part of the information resolution process:

- Proactive Apology² by Council Member (Sample Template 2)
- Apology² by Council Member if held by Council to have violated the Code of Conduct (Sample Template 3)

2 – Note to Reader regarding Apology: British Columbia’s Apology Act provides that an “apology” made by or on behalf of a person in connection with any matter does not constitute an express or implied admission or acknowledgement of fault or liability. “Apology” is defined as “an expression of sympathy or regret, a statement that one is sorry or any other words or actions indicating contrition or commiseration, whether or not the words or actions admit or imply an admission of fault.” The Act further provides that an apology does not void, impair or otherwise affect any insurance coverage that is available, or that would, but for the apology, be available to the person in connection with the matter. Evidence of an apology made by or on behalf of a person in connection with any matter is not admissible in any court as evidence of the fault or liability of the person in connection with that matter and must not be taken into account in any determination of fault or liability.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 18th day of November, 2024.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 18th day of November, 2024.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 18th day of November, 2024.

ADOPTED THIS 16th day of December, 2024.

Original signed by,
Acting Mayor Rob Kerslake

Original signed by,
Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer

SAMPLE

TEMPLATE 1 – Complaint

DATE OF COMPLAINT: _____

NAME OF PERSON MAKING THE COMPLAINT: _____

NAME OF COUNCIL MEMBER WHO THE COMPLAINT IS AGAINST: _____

DATE OF THE BREACH: _____

SECTIONS OF THE COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT THAT HAVE BEEN BREACHED:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT AND HOW THE CODE OF CONDUCT WAS BREACHED:

HAVE YOU APPROACHED THE OTHER COUNCIL MEMBER TO LET THEM KNOW ABOUT YOUR CONCERNS?

Y____ N____

WHAT IS THE RESOLUTION THAT YOU ARE SEEKING?

SAMPLE

TEMPLATE 2 – Proactive Apology by Council Member

[DATE]

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

[Name of Recipient]

[Title]

District of Barriere

[Address]

[City, Province Postal Code]

Attention: [title] [last name]

Re: Apology [subject]

As you know, on [date], I [briefly set out the nature of the offending conduct. It is recommended you provide dates, times and a description of the conduct at issue as you understand it].

On [date], you confronted me about my behaviour/conduct and expressed [describe briefly the conduct complained of and how it affected the offended person]. I acknowledge that my conduct / actions made you feel [describe how it affected the offended person] and I admit that my [actions / conduct] were [reformulate why your actions were wrong in your own words – ex: offensive, derogatory, belittling, in poor taste, defamatory, wrong, discriminatory, callous, harmful to your reputation etc.].

Having reflected on [your complaint / our conversation], I take full responsibility for my [actions / conduct] and wish to apologize for the harm that I have caused you. My behaviour was not in keeping with the key principles of our Council's Code of Conduct. In particular, I acknowledge that my conduct was in violation of [identify the section(s) of the Code of Conduct breached].

Going forward, I commit to being more careful in my [words / actions] and to making better efforts to respect and abide by my obligations set out in the Code of Conduct. Please accept my heartfelt apology.

Sincerely,

[name]

[title]

SAMPLE
TEMPLATE 3 - If held by Council to have violated the Code of Conduct

[DATE]

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

[Name of Recipient]

[Title]

District of Barriere

[Address]

[City, Province Postal Code]

Attention: [title] [last name]

Re: Apology [subject]

As you know, on [date], I [briefly set out the nature of the offending conduct. It is recommended you provide dates, times and a description of the conduct at issue as you understand it].

On [date], you confronted me about my behaviour/conduct and expressed [describe briefly the conduct complained of and how it affected the offended person]. In light of Council having concluded that my conduct constituted a violation of the District's Council Code of Conduct, I acknowledge that my conduct / actions made you feel [describe how it affected the offended person] and I admit that my [actions / conduct] were [reformulate why your actions were wrong in your own words – ex: offensive, derogatory, belittling, in poor taste, defamatory, wrong, discriminatory, callous, harmful to your reputation etc.]

Having reflected on [the decision of Council], I take full responsibility for my [actions / conduct] and wish to apologize for the harm that I have caused you. My behaviour was not in keeping with the key principles of our Council's Code of Conduct. In particular, I acknowledge that my conduct was in violation of [identify the section(s) of the Code of Conduct breached].

Going forward, I commit to being more careful in my [words / actions] and to making better efforts to respect and abide by my obligations set out in the Code of Conduct. Please accept my heartfelt apology.

Sincerely,

[name]

[title]

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Memorandum

Date: Oct 27 th , 2025	File: 5a
To: Council	From: Chief Financial Officer
Re: Financial Update – Q3 2025	

Purpose

To provide Council with a Financial Update for Q3 2025.

Background

The attached financial reports are based on available information up until October 9th, 2025. The package consists of operating revenues and expenditures for General Operations and the Utilities, a summary of the Capital Projects progress, as well as a summary of Special Operating Grant related projects.

The timing of receipts or invoices may be a factor in whether certain revenues and expenses have been captured to date. The budget amounts used in these reports are those of the approved budget adopted by Council as part of the Financial Plan Bylaw in April 2025.

The following summary includes some highlights and additional information regarding the financial results.

Operating Revenue Highlights:

- Although the District sent invoices for all property taxes in May, there are still roughly \$333,831 in **Taxes** outstanding, down from \$428,293 last Quarter:
 - \$171,025 outstanding for 2025 taxes (Current)
 - \$114,540 outstanding for 2024 taxes (Arrears)
 - \$48,266 outstanding for 2023 and prior taxes (Delinquent)

District Staff have been working on the delinquent category with various residents. All files which had delinquent taxes and were at risk of tax sale paid prior to the tax sale deadline.

- Revenue from Own Sources** back on target. The Ridge Gym Rentals are still performing below expectations, however as the weather is changing, we are seeing an increase in bookings for the fall and winter months. Other highlights for this category include our Building Permit Fees and Building Information Requests, which are both ahead of budget as well as exceeding last year's results. Cemetery revenue remains ahead of budget, as noted previously there have been more funerals this year.

- **Revenue from Other Government** is on budget, having received the Small Communities Grant of \$421,000. We are still waiting for the second half of the Community Works Fund. Once our 2024 audit has been completed, we will be eligible for the remainder. We are awaiting payment from the TNRD's portion of the fire service contract (\$50,500). Funding from wildfire assistance is included in this category. Three deployments this year helped to exceed revenue budgets. There are, however, offsetting expenses captured in Fire Services noted below.

Operating Expense Highlights:

- Generally, most departments are within an acceptable percentage for expenses to this time of the year. Some anomalies are further discussed below.
- **Facilities** – the full amount of insurance has been charged in the first half of the year which skews the year to date (YTD) performance in this category. This budget also currently includes the phone system upgrade that was performed in January. Vandalism would also fall into this category.
- **Recreation** remains below budget. Staffing is back to full complement, and activity in the recreation department is expected to pick up.
- The **Fire Service** budgets show higher than expected expense amounts for the remainder of the year, due to the additional expenses for wildfire support calls which will have a corresponding revenue item (as mentioned above). Removing wildfire expenses, actual % of budget is 78%
- **Fleet and Equipment** is slightly above budget due to some repairs and maintenance on vehicles and equipment as well as a full year's worth of insurance being expensed early in the year.
- **Roads** is currently at 56% of budget, however we have 2 months of winter snow removal expenses ahead.
- **Development-Planning/Zoning** budgets have caught up from the last quarter.
- **Cemeteries** are above budget mainly because of salaries and wages. A portion of salaries have been allocated here to better reflect the time staff spend on cemetery-related tasks.
- **Parks** are ahead of budget. This is a result of the seasonal nature of this department. Most of the activities and expenses take place in the spring and summer.
- **Taxes Paid to Other Governments** – Payments have been made to other government authorities. If these other taxing authority payments are removed along with the corresponding revenue, the expenses to date would be closer to 77% across the organization instead of the listed 87%.

Utilities Revenue and Expenses Highlights

- 3 out of 4 utility billing periods are complete, and as such, the billed amounts are on budget; however, as outlined below, not every customer is paying on time:

- For Utility Bills, the District issues invoices at the beginning of each quarter. The average amount for the billing cycle is roughly \$220,000 to \$240,000. Out of three billing cycles for 2025, roughly \$287,736 is outstanding:
 - \$202,805 outstanding from currently billing (Q3 2025)
 - \$48,366 outstanding from the second quarter
 - \$36,562 outstanding from the first quarter

Any unpaid Utility Billing amounts will roll over to taxes at the end of the year.

- The expenses for Water are slightly below budget. We have been reclassifying the wages of the Public Works Manager to the various utilities and public works functions, moving forward we will also be shifting some of the administration expenses to these utility categories to better reflect the administrative time spent working on utility tasks.
- At this point, there are no concerns regarding the Utilities budgets.

Capital Projects and Grant Funded Operational Projects

- In the past, the District displayed Capital and other Grant Funded Operational projects within the day-to-day operational budgets which had the potential to drastically skew those dollar amounts. Staff are still working on separating some of those items within the system; however, since the budget was approved, considerable progress has been made and as such, we are able to break these project expenses out more clearly now.
- Most Capital Projects are substantially complete. Below are some additional details:
 - Hall Road – Project is complete including the asphalt repair work that was required. Payment has not yet been made as we are waiting on CN's invoice.
 - Roads Program shows \$8,000 over budget, this was needed to account for the purchase of the dump truck from Simpcw FN.
 - Garbage Dumpsters shows \$1,250 higher than anticipated. The costs were slightly higher for the 5 dumpsters and delivery.
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant – will not be complete until the end of 2026.
 - Turnout Gear- 2 sets of turnout gear were received in August. Forestry gear has just been received, and the invoice will be paid in October.
 - Emergency Repairs – this budget item was used to repair DW3, we are awaiting the final invoices.
- Several Grant Funded Operating Projects are now complete, while others are progressing as expected. A few of them also require public engagement components which further make the progress challenging as we try to align times and dates with key stakeholders. We also added the CEPF Emergency Operations Center (EOC) project which was awarded to the District just after the budget was approved.

Investments

- As per Policy 53FI – Investment of District Funds, staff is providing a summary on the investment activities of the District. Currently, the District has an investment portfolio of roughly \$2.4 Million, distributed across Credit Union Term Deposits (3x \$500,000, 1x \$300,000), and two separate wealth investment firms (4x \$81,000; and 1x \$200,000).
- The renewals for the various accounts are staggered throughout the year to allow the

possibility of closing out (instead of renewing) some of the accounts if needed to cover capital expenditures.

- In May of 2025, one \$500,000 term deposit was not renewed to allow for cash to be available for the Wastewater Treatment project. Further, at least one more term deposit will most likely not be renewed in the later part of 2025 for the same reason.
- At present, the interest rate spread for the term deposits is between 2.85% and 3.93% for our accounts.
- The District also maintains a High Interest Savings Account (HISA) with the Credit Union that provides a reasonable interest rate for having cash readily available compared to the locked in term deposits.
- In total, the above listed accounts will earn approximately \$83,000.00 as they are currently invested.
- As part of the 2025 budget process, Staff have re-invested the interest on renewing deposits. Moving forward, the interest in all accounts will be re-invested unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Surplus and Reserve Update

- Consolidation of reserve accounts as per Bylaw 259 has been processed.
-

Attachments

- Budget /Actual report items:
 - General Operating Summary
 - Utilities Summary
 - Capital Projects Summary
 - Operating Grant Projects

Prepared by:
K. Abel, Chief Financial Officer

District of Barriere - Financial Summary

09-Oct-25

Revenue				
	Approved Budget	Actuals	Variance	% of Budget
Taxes	\$ 2,557,810	\$ 2,552,285	\$ 5,525	100%
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 39,500	\$ 41,930	\$ 2,430	106%
Sales of Service	\$ 323,000	\$ 249,508	\$ 73,492	77%
Revenue from Own Source	\$ 200,850	\$ 175,153	\$ 25,428	72%
Transfer from Other Gov't	\$ 709,000	\$ 564,779	\$ 144,221	80%
Contract with Other Gov't	\$ 57,780	\$ 167,015	\$ 109,235	289%
	\$ 3,887,940	\$ 3,750,670	\$ 360,332	96%

Expenses				
	Approved Budget	Actual	Variance	% of Budget
Legislative	\$ 121,900	\$ 83,615	\$ 38,285	69%
General Govt	\$ 765,900	\$ 625,656	\$ 140,244	82%
Facilities	\$ 140,050	\$ 116,271	\$ 23,779	83%
Recreation	\$ 66,650	\$ 24,586	\$ 42,064	37%
Highway Rescue	\$ 6,250	\$ 4,637	\$ 1,613	74%
Fire Services	\$ 243,750	\$ 259,863	-\$ 16,123	107%
Fleet & Equipment	\$ 58,100	\$ 45,973	\$ 12,127	79%
Roads Services	\$ 487,750	\$ 274,536	\$ 213,214	56%
Solid Waste Services	\$ 178,450	\$ 142,224	\$ 36,226	80%
Development-Building	\$ 27,850	\$ 21,109	\$ 6,741	76%
Development-Planning Zoning	\$ 14,000	\$ 2,791	\$ 11,825	20%
Parks	\$ 166,150	\$ 144,328	\$ 21,822	87%
Cemetery	\$ 6,500	\$ 10,062	-\$ 3,562	155%
Taxes Paid to Other Gov't	\$ 1,401,319	\$ 1,417,181	-\$ 15,862	101%
	\$ 3,562,719	\$ 3,089,217	\$ 474,107	87%

Transfers				
	Approved Budget	Actual	Variance	% of Budget
Trans from Surplus	\$ 11,500	-\$ 11,500	\$ -	100%
Trans from Reserves	\$ 45,605	-\$ 45,605	\$ -	100%
Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 284,000	\$ -	\$ 284,000	0%
	\$ 341,105	-\$ 57,105	\$ 284,000	17%

District of Barriere - Utilities Summary

09-Oct-25

Revenue				
	Approved Budget	Actuals	Variance	% of Budget
WATER	\$ 528,675	\$ 426,627	\$ 102,048	80.70%
WASTEWATER	\$ 146,413	\$ 107,175	\$ 39,238	73.20%
	\$ 675,088	\$ 533,802	\$ 141,286	79.07%

Expenses				
	Approved Budget	Actuals	Variance	% of Budget
WATER	\$ 402,425	\$ 238,038	\$ 164,387	59.15%
WASTEWATER	\$ 205,150	\$ 141,994	\$ 63,156	69.21%
	\$ 607,575	\$ 380,032	\$ 227,543	62.55%



District of Barriere
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
For the Quarter Ending Sept 30th, 2025

		APPROVED BUDGET 2025	YTD Q3 2025	% OF BUDGET 2025	% OF PROJECT COMPLETE	FUNDING SOURCE
GENERAL OPERATIONS						
Hall Road - CN Crossing	Roads	25,000	-	0%	100%	Reserve - Roads
Roads Program	Roads	100,000	108,000	108%	100%	Reserve - Roads
Garbage Dumpsters	Environment	48,000	46,250	96%	100%	Reserve - Environment
BBC Energy Retrofit	Facilities	120,000	103,000	86%	100%	LGCAP Grant
Bush Truck Replacement	Fire	350,000	333,286	95%	100%	Loan / Reserve - Fire
Turnout Gear	Fire	20,000	9,183	46%	75%	Grant / Reserve - Fire
IT Equipment	IT	11,000	9,000	82%	85%	Surplus
WATER/WASTEWATER						
Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater	3,750,000	365,937	10%	10%	Grant / Reserve - GCF
SCADA System	Utilities	110,000	101,237	92%	95%	COVID Grant
Emergency Repairs	General	50,000	-	0%	100%	Water Reserve
TOTAL CAPITAL		\$ 4,584,000	\$ 1,075,893	23%		



District of Barriere
OPERATING PROJECT EXPENDITURES
For the Quarter Ending September 30th, 2025

		APPROVED BUDGET 2025	YTD Q3 2025	% OF BUDGET 2025	% OF PROJECT COMPLETE	FUNDING SOURCE
2024 Carry Forwards						
Indigenous EMCR	Corp / Fire	38,425	38,425	100%	100%	Grant
FireSmart & Resiliency	Fire	93,950	73,482	78%	75%	Grant
LGHI Housing Legislation Fund	Planning	113,416	36,929	33%	40%	Grant
LGDAP Development Approval Process	Planning	134,340	128,005	95%	25%	Grant
2022 CEPF - Leonie Lake Dam Study	PW	55,245	3,283	6%	75%	Grant
Fire Rescue Training	Fire	2,201	2,201	100%	100%	Grant
TNRD Bulk Water Station	TNRD	2,500		0%		Grant
E911 - TNRD until 2027	TNRD	33,000	12,000	36%	40%	Grant
Flood Mitigation Plan	Planning	150,000	84,932	57%	75%	Grant
Flood Plain Mapping	Planning	70,770		0%	100%	Grant
2025 Projects (New)						
Wayfinding Strategy	EcDev	-	-			Grant / TBD
Canada Day	Events	1,210	1,142	94%	100%	Grant
Asset Management Investment Plan	CAO	-	-			Grant / TBD
CEPF - EOC Training & Equipment	Fire	37,944	7,651	20%	15%	Grant
CEPF - Fire Dept Equip and Training	Fire	37,000	14,011	38%	30%	Grant
Community Forest - Regreening (w BC hydro)	Parks	4,661	3,824	82%	100%	Grant
BC Hydro - Regreening	Parks	8,000	8,000	100%	100%	Grant
EMCR - Indigenous Engagement Year 2	Corp / Fire	42,000	946	2%	5%	Grant
TOTAL CAPITAL		\$ 384,585	\$ 132,506	34%		

District of Barriere

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Date: October 27, 2025	Item: 5b
To: Council	From: A. Hovenkamp, Fire Chief
Re: UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training Grant	

Background: The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding streams intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by UBCM. One of these funding streams is specific to Composite and Volunteer Fire Halls.

Discussion: Training and Equipment is needed to keep Barriere Fire Rescue within the BC Structural Firefighting playbook standards. Barriere Fire Rescue is eligible to apply for up to \$30,000 worth of funding for training and equipment, this could include:

- Washer and Dryer for Gear.
- Small Equipment.
- Turn-out Gear (including helmets and boots).
- Training (as outlined in the BC Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards).
- Fire related training props to assist with in-house training.

In the past, the District of Barriere has been successful with this grant, and has received training, turn-out gear and small equipment.

A Council resolution is required for the application.

Recommendation: THAT staff be directed to apply for funding in the amount of \$30,000 under the *UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund*.

Prepared by: A. Hovenkamp, Fire Chief
Reviewed by: D. Drexler, CAO

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Memorandum

Date: October 27, 2025	File: 5c
To: Council	From: Corporate Officer
Re: DRAFT Official Community Plan (OCP) Refresh	

Purpose

To provide Council with a first look at the first formal draft of the refreshed Official Community Plan prior to the November 5, 2025 Public Open House.

Background

All local governments are legislatively required to review and revise their Official Community Plans by the end of 2025 as part of Provincial Bill 44. The Province provided funding to the District in the amount of \$158,596.00 through its *Local Government Housing Legislation Requirements Fund*. This fund is aimed to assist local governments in meeting the legislated requirements to update their Housing Needs Assessments, Official Community Plans, Zoning Bylaws and other planning documents necessary to meet the legislated requirements of Bill 44.

Council contracted TRUE Consulting Ltd. to facilitate the District's OCP Refresh Project in the spring of 2024. After a number of staff and Council workshops and conducting stakeholder surveys, the first Public Open House was scheduled in November of 2024. Data collected from those sessions, surveys and open house responses have been compiled and considered in this 1st formal draft presented for review.

Next Steps

- Council can make any desired changes to this initial draft prior to presenting it to the public at the upcoming open house.
- The draft, either as-is or with Council changes, will be presented to the Public Open House on **November 5, 2025 from 6pm – 8pm at the Seniors Centre**.
- The Draft will be referred to appropriate governing bodies and organizations.
- Comments will be collected by the District's consultant.
- A final draft will be presented to Council for formal readings prior to the scheduling of a Public Hearing and subsequent adoption.
- Upon adoption, staff will report to the Province that the District has fulfilled its legislative requirements.

Attachments

- DRAFT Schedule 'A' – Official Community Plan – 1st draft

Prepared by:
T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer

Reviewed by:
D. Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN



DRAFT

SCHEDULE A

BYLAW NO. ###

ADOPTED _____, 2025

- Bylaw Insert -



Acknowledgements

We express our heartfelt appreciation to the community members, interest groups, District Staff and District Council, who generously shared their insights and lived experiences, and who participated in various engagement events throughout the year it took to complete.

Mayor and Council

Rob Kerslake, Mayor

Ward Stamer, former Mayor

Louise Lodge

Brody Mosdell

Scott Kershaw

Judy Armstrong

Colin McInnis

Donna Kibble

Project Lead Staff

Daniel Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer

Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer

CONTENTS

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 What is an Official Community Plan?	2
1.2 A Guide for Decision Making	2
1.3 Location and Regional Context	3
1.4 Cultural and Historical Context of Barriere	4
SECTION 2: VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES	7
2.1 Community Vision	7
2.2 Guiding Principles	7
SECTION 3: FUTURE GROWTH	11
3.1 Population Overview	11
3.2 Population Growth	13
3.3 Education	14
3.4 Future Housing Needs	16
3.5 Economic Growth	22
3.6 Regional Context Statement	24
SECTION 4: LAND USE POLICIES	27
4.1 Growth Management	27
4.2 Land Use Designations	29
4.3 General Land Use Policies	30
4.4 Economic Resiliency	34
SECTION 5: COMMUNITY WELL-BEING POLICIES	38
5.0 Community Well-being Policies	38
5.1 Social System	39
5.2 Parks, Recreation, and Trails	42
5.3 Community Infrastructure	45
5.4 Arts, Culture, and Heritage	49

5.5 Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness	50
5.6 Indigenous Reconciliation	52
SECTION 6: CLIMATE RESILIENCY	55
6.1 Environment	57
6.2 GHG Management	61
SECTION 7: DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS	65
7.1 What is a DPA?	65
7.2 DPA Requirements & Exemptions	66
7.3 DPA 1 Downtown Core	67
7.4 DPA 2 Yellowhead Corridor	70
7.5 DPA 3 Industrial Lands	72
7.6 DPA 4 Environmental	75
SECTION 8: IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING	79
8.1 Implementation Tools	79
8.2 Plan Monitoring and Review	80
8.3 Temporary Use Permits	81
SECTION 9: MAPS	83
Map 1 - Land Use Plan	84
Map 2 - Transportation	85
Map 3 - Parks, Recreation and Trails	86
Map 4 – Infrastructure	87
Map 5 – Development Permit Areas 1-3	88
Map 6 – Development Permit Areas 4	89
APPENDICES	90
Definitions	91

List of Figures

Figure 1.3.1	Regional Context	3
Figure 1.3.2	Local Context	4
Figure 3.1	Historic population change 2007 - 2021	11
Figure 3.1.2	Age distribution 2021 vs 2016	12
Figure 3.1.3	Employment spectrum pie chart	12
Figure 3.4.1	Housing Needs Infographics	16
Figure 3.4.2	Household Characteristics	17
Figure 3.4.3	Housing Needs Wheel	18

List of Tables

Table 3.1.1	Population growth (2007-2021)	11
Table 3.2.1	Growth Projections 2021-2041	13
Table 3.3.1	Projected School Enrolment (as of January 2025)	14
Table 3.3.2	School Capacity and Utilization Rates (as of January 2025)	14
Table 3.4.1	Anticipated Units Required: 5-year and 20-year need. Urbanics Consultants, 2024.	19
Table 3.6.1	Regional Context Statement	25

Acronyms

ACC – Amenity Cost Charges

ALR – Agricultural Land Reserve

CPTED – Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

DCC – Development Cost Charges

FCL – Flood Construction Level

GIS – Geographic Information System

LGA – Local Government Act

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

MOE – Ministry of Environment

MoTT- Ministry of Transportation and Transit

QP – Qualified Professional

OCP – Official Community Plan

RAR – Riparian Area Regulation

RGS – Regional Growth Strategy

SRW - Statutory Right of Way

TNRD – Thompson-Nicola Regional District

TUP – Temporary Use Permit



SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION



1.1 What is an Official Community Plan?

An Official Community Plan (OCP) is the District's primary long-range planning document. It sets out a community-driven vision for the future and provides a structured framework for managing land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, parks and recreation, and environmental stewardship. The OCP is rooted in the values and aspirations of Barriere's residents and serves to guide decisions that shape the physical, social, and economic fabric of the community.

The Plan is intended to balance growth with sustainability, ensuring development is coordinated, resilient, and responsive to evolving local needs and global challenges. It informs how land is used, and services are delivered, promoting a healthy, connected, and vibrant community for current and future generations.

1.2 A Guide to Decision Making

The Official Community Plan serves as a guide for all who play a role in shaping Barriere's future — including residents, developers, Council, and staff. It offers guiding principles for evaluating land use proposals, infrastructure investments, and community initiatives.

Residents can use the OCP to understand the direction of community development and participate meaningfully in civic processes. Developers and landowners can consult the OCP to ensure their projects align with vision, principles and regulatory expectations. Local government decisionmakers rely on the OCP when reviewing zoning amendments, considering public investments, or responding to emerging opportunities and challenges.

Ultimately, the OCP helps ensure that Barriere grows in a thoughtful, coordinated manner — one that reflects shared values, supports economic and social resilience, and protects the natural systems that underpin long-term wellbeing.

1.3 Location and Regional Context

Often referred to as the “Gateway to the North Thompson,” the District of Barriere is located in the Lower North Thompson Valley, approximately 64 kilometres north of Kamloops along Highway 5, also known as the Yellowhead Highway. The community lies within the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), specifically surrounded by Electoral Area ‘O’.

Nestled on the east bank of the North Thompson River at its confluence with the Barriere River, the District spans 12.44 square kilometres and sits at an elevation of 373 metres above sea level, at a latitude of 51°11'N.

Barriere is the largest urban centre within Electoral Area ‘O’ and functions as a regional hub, providing services and amenities to surrounding communities including Little Fort, Darfield, Louis Creek, McLure, and the Simpcw First Nation community of Chu Chua.

Figure. 1.3.1: Regional Context

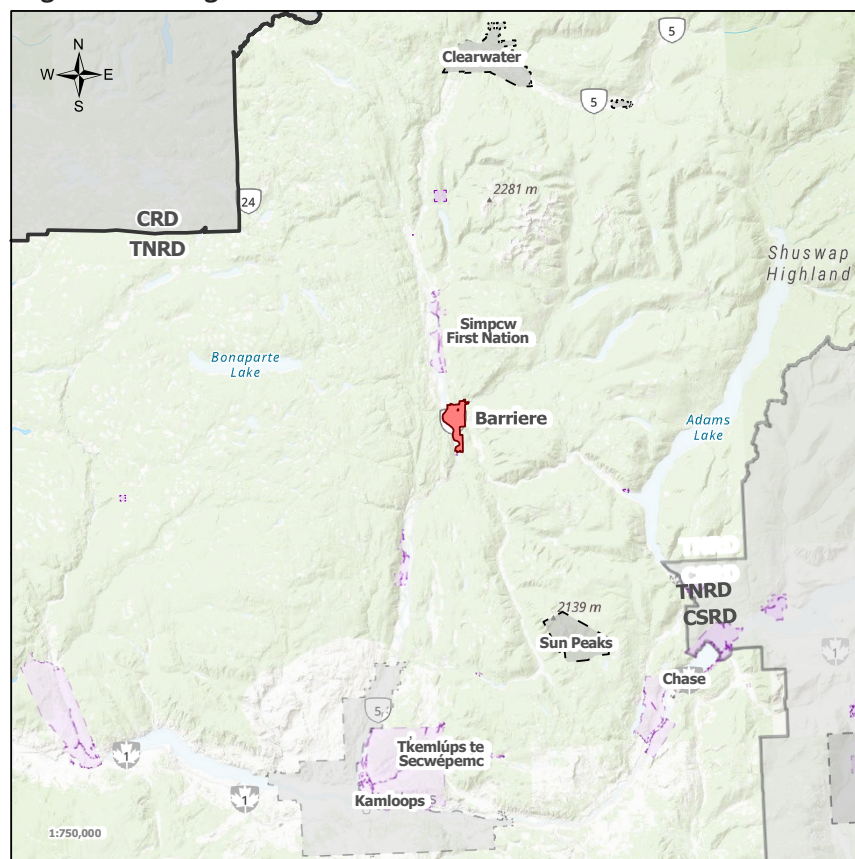
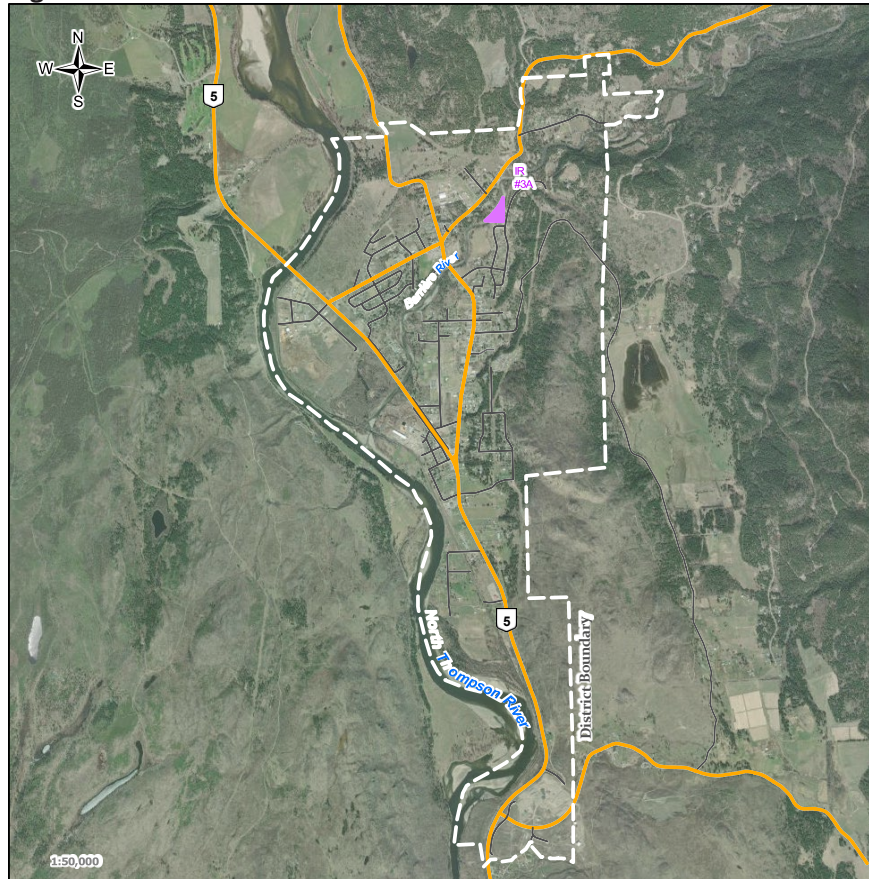


Figure. 1.3.2: Local Context



1.4 Cultural and Historical Context of Barriere

Indigenous History

The Simpcw First Nation, a division of the Secwépemc (Shuswap) people, have lived in the region encompassing the North Thompson Valley since time immemorial. Their traditional territory extends from McLure northward along the North Thompson River, reaching the headwaters of the Fraser River from McBride to Tête Jaune Cache, across to Jasper, and southward to the Athabasca River headwaters. The Simpcw speak Secwepemctsin, a language of the Salishan family, shared across the Fraser and Thompson River systems and integral to their cultural identity.

The Simpcw have always had a deep, reciprocal relationship with the land, traveling seasonally throughout the territory to harvest plants, fish, and game that sustained their communities. In winter months, families gathered in semi-subterranean dwellings in river valley villages. Archaeological evidence has confirmed traditional winter village and food storage sites throughout the region—at Finn Creek, Vavenby, Birch Island, Raft River, the Clearwater-North Thompson confluence (called *Styelltsucw* in Secwepemctsin), Chu Chua, Barriere River, Louis Creek, McLure, and Tête Jaune. These sites are tangible reminders of the enduring presence of the Simpcw in the area.

Approximately half of the Simpcw population of 628 live on reserves at Chu Chua—just north of Barriere—and Louis Creek. The Simpcw First Nation is governed by a Band Council, which oversees social, educational, and economic development, through collaborative processes with other Secwépemc communities and government bodies. The Simpcw value strong relationships with all residents of the North Thompson and Robson Valleys and are signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding and Protocol Agreement (2025) with the District of Barriere, which reflects a shared commitment to cooperation, mutual respect, and reconciliation.

The Simpcw First Nation's continued presence is central to the identity of the region, and their knowledge, language, and stewardship traditions remain vital to the future of the North Thompson Valley. They are actively working to ensure a place for future generations where traditional values and modern opportunities coexist with pride.

European Settlement History

European presence in the region began in the early 19th century with fur traders, and the area became part of a broader trade network centered on the North Thompson River. The 1850s brought increased activity as trappers and wood traders passed through, followed by prospectors heading north in search of gold in the 1860s. Permanent European settlement in Barriere began in earnest near the turn of the century.

The name “Barriere” is believed to originate from French Canadian fur traders in the late 1800s, who, upon encountering the flooded Barrière River, referred to it as “La Barrière”—a reference to the obstacle in their path. The name stuck, and by 1914 the community was officially known as Barriere. Prior to that, early settlers often simply called it “The Barriere.”

Significant development milestones followed. The Canadian National Railway (CNR) established a main line through the valley in 1914, which bolstered access and economic activity. In 1932, a road was completed connecting Kamloops to Clearwater, further linking the area. By the 1960s, construction of Highway 5 (Yellowhead Highway) was underway and completed in 1970, opening the valley to a new wave of residents and businesses.

Forestry became a central pillar of the local economy throughout the 20th century. However, in 2003, Barriere was severely impacted by a devastating wildfire that destroyed homes and infrastructure, including the Louis Creek Sawmill, a major employer. In response, the community demonstrated resilience and began diversifying its economy. Today, forestry remains important, alongside growing sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and an emerging mining industry.

In June 2007, Barriere residents voted to incorporate as a municipality. On December 4th, 2007, the District of Barriere was officially established, marking a new chapter in its civic development. Today, Barriere continues to evolve while honouring its rich Indigenous and settler histories. It is known for its natural beauty, small-town character, and spirit of collaboration with the Simpcw First Nation.



SECTION 2: VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES



2.1 Community Vision

The purpose of a vision statement in an Official Community Plan (OCP) is foundational. It serves as a guiding framework that articulates a shared, long-term aspiration for the future of the community.

In 2045, Barriere is a thriving, inclusive, and connected community at the heart of the North Thompson Valley. Its vibrant downtown, scenic parks, and pathways support healthy, active living and a resilient local economy. With diverse housing, quality healthcare, modern infrastructure, and recreational spaces for all ages, Barriere offers a high quality of life rooted in community pride. Balancing innovation with small-town charm, Barriere is a welcoming place to live, work, and play year-round.

2.2 Guiding Principles

1. Celebrating and Strengthening Small-Town Character

Barriere proudly maintains its distinct small-town charm while positioning itself as a welcoming regional destination. The community fosters a rural atmosphere that supports families, entrepreneurship, and retirement living. Through vibrant arts, cultural initiatives, and community events, Barriere continues to cultivate a sense of identity and belonging that defines its unique character.

2. Providing for Affordable and Diverse Housing

Barriere recognizes that access to safe, affordable, and appropriate housing is essential to the health, resilience, and inclusivity of the community. As housing needs continue to evolve—driven by demographic shifts, economic pressures, and changing household structures—the district is

committed to supporting a variety of housing forms, tenures, and price points.

3. Cultivating a Vibrant and Inclusive Downtown

Barriere's downtown serves as the civic and commercial heart of the community—a place that is lively, attractive, and accessible to all. Thoughtfully scaled development, cohesive streetscape design, and active public spaces create a dynamic and inclusive corridor that supports business, social interaction, and cultural expression.

4. Investing in Sustainable Infrastructure

Reliable, efficient, and well-maintained infrastructure—such as roads, water systems, and wastewater services—is fundamental to Barriere's livability. The District remains committed to ensuring long-term value and service excellence through thoughtful investment, innovation, and sustainable asset management. Investments into current assets will be prioritized.

5. Advancing Economic Development and Diversification

Barriere is home to a resilient and evolving local economy supported by a mix of small businesses, tourism, and industrial activity. The community actively encourages innovation and entrepreneurship, while highway-adjacent lands provide strategic opportunities for service-based enterprises and investment. Diversification remains central to long-term economic sustainability.

6. Fostering Beauty, Quality, and Cultural Collaboration

Barriere is a visually appealing and culturally rich community, set within a picturesque valley and surrounded by natural beauty. Clean streets, well-designed buildings, and attention to aesthetics enhance community pride. A strong, respectful partnership with the Simpcw First Nation contributes to shared stewardship, cultural exchange, and mutual prosperity.

7. Enhancing Mobility and Connectivity

Barriere prioritizes active and sustainable transportation. A connected network of safe, multi-use pathways supports walking, cycling, and other forms of non-motorized movement throughout the community. Regional transit options ensure accessibility to Kamloops and surrounding areas, strengthening connections beyond the community while reducing vehicle dependency.

8. Promoting Active and Healthy Lifestyles

Barriere offers year-round opportunities for active living, from serene nature trails to well-equipped parks and recreational facilities. Residents of all ages and abilities enjoy easy access to outdoor and indoor activities that support well-being, lifelong fitness, and a strong connection to the natural environment. Life here moves at a thoughtful pace—balanced, engaging, and fulfilling.

9. Supporting Health and Social Well-Being

A strong network of health and social services ensures that residents—whether young families, individuals, or seniors—are well supported throughout all stages of life. Accessible, reliable services contribute to a healthy, inclusive, and socially connected community.

10. Leading with Environmental Stewardship

Barriere is committed to sustainable development and environmental leadership. The community embraces green practices that promote clean air, water conservation, biodiversity, and low-impact living. Residents, businesses, and local government work together to reduce environmental footprints and preserve the region's ecological health for future generations.

11. Ensuring Community Safety and Environmental Resilience

Barriere is a safe, secure, and prepared community. Residents feel prepared for natural hazards, and environmental degradation. The protection of local ecosystems is valued to ensure health, resilience, and enjoyment for current and future generations.



SECTION 3:

FUTURE

GROWTH

3.1 Population Overview

Barriere has demonstrated modest population growth in recent years, even amidst the broader economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and periods of higher-than-average inflation. Historical data since the District’s incorporation in 2007 reveal a population trend characterized by fluctuations rather than consistent growth.

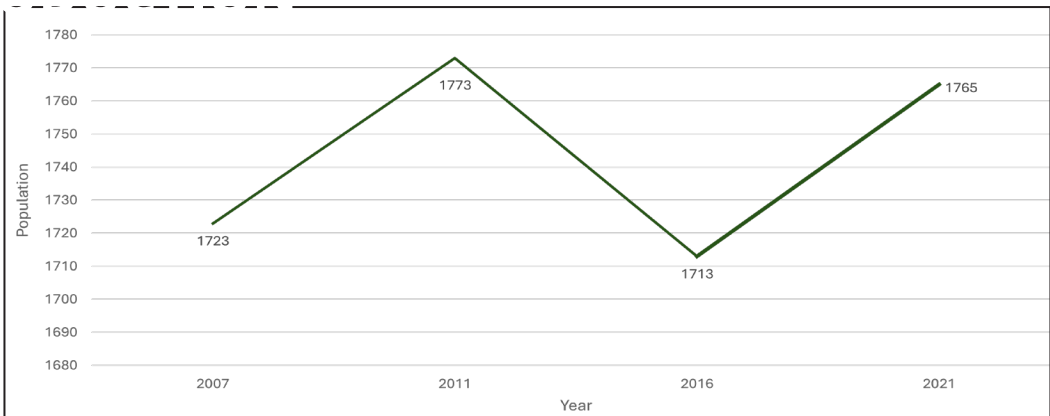
Between 2007 and 2011, the District experienced a population increase of 2.9%. This was followed by a notable decline of 3.9% between 2011 and 2016. While no major external events directly contributed to this decrease, the trend may reflect the broader demographic shifts experienced across rural British Columbia during that period. A modest rebound followed between 2016 and 2021, with the population increasing by 3.0%. In comparison, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) saw population increases of 3.3% (2011–2016) and 8.4% (2016–2021) over the same periods.

Table 3.1.1: Population growth (2007-2021)

Census Year	Population	5-Year Growth
2007*	1723	n/a
2011	1773	2.9%
2016	1713	-3.4%
2021	1765	3.0%

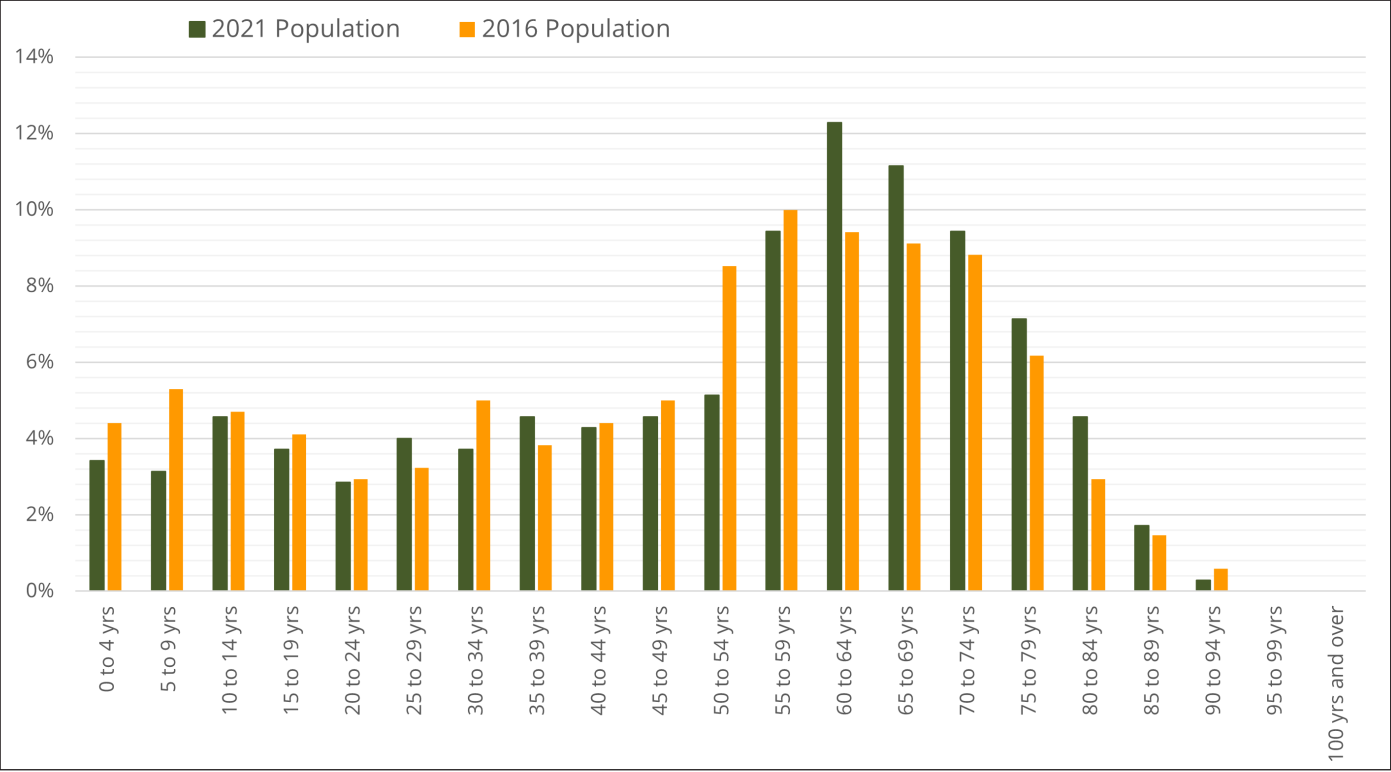
Figure. 3.1: Historic population change 2007 - 2021

**Note: 2007 population certified by the Province at time of incorporation (December 4, 2007)*



The District's age profile reflects a pattern common to many rural communities across the province—an aging population. In 2021, the median age in Barriere was 58, up from 53 in 2016. This is significantly higher than the median ages of 45 in the TNRD and 43 in British Columbia overall. Notably, the youngest age group (0–9 years) declined from 165 children in 2016 to 115 in 2021, indicating a shrinking base of young families.

Figure.3.1.2: Age distribution 2021 vs 2016



In terms of employment, the community is supported by a workforce concentrated on trade, transport, equipment operation, and sales and service roles—together comprising approximately 50% of all employment. The remaining half is distributed across a variety of other sectors, including education, healthcare, resource industries, and administrative services.

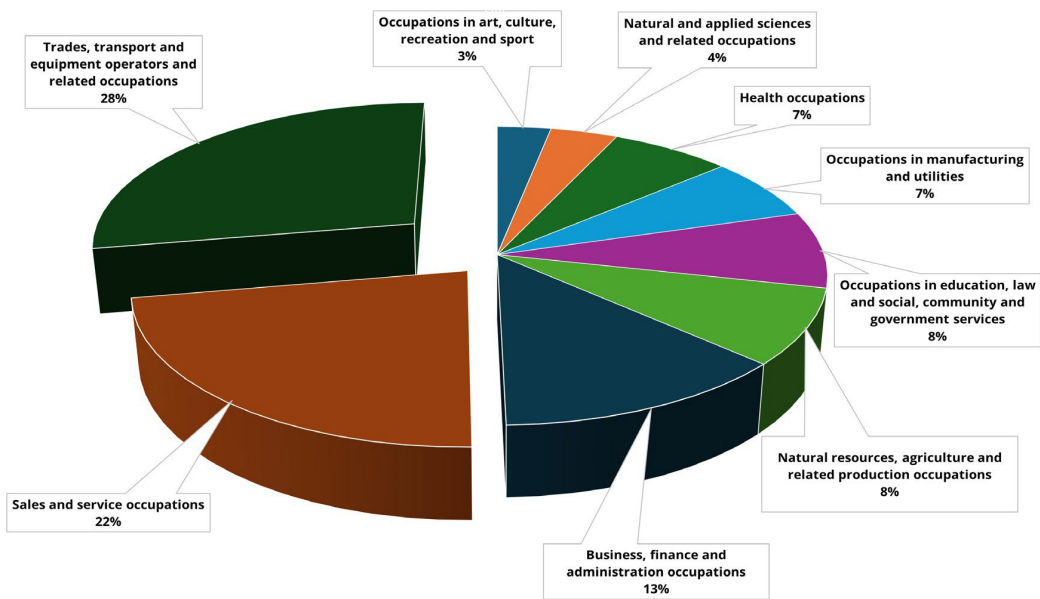


Figure. 3.1.3: Employment spectrum pie chart

3.2 Population Growth

Since incorporation in 2007, the District of Barriere has experienced modest population growth, averaging approximately 0.22% per year. Some periods—such as 2011 to 2016—saw a slight population decline; however, more recent trends suggest the District may be entering a period of renewed growth.

This anticipated increase is influenced in part by migration from the Lower Mainland and other regions of British Columbia and Canada, as residents seek more affordable and community-oriented alternatives to high-cost urban areas.

Table 3.2.1 Growth Projections 2021-2041

Year	Historical Population	Annual Growth Rate		
		0.50%	0.75%	1.00%
2021	1,765	1,765	1,765	1,765
2026		1,809	1,831	1,853
2031		1,854	1,900	1,946
2036		1,901	1,971	2,043
2041		1,948	2,045	2,145
2046		1,997	2,122	2,253

Looking ahead, annual growth rates between 0.5% and 1.0% are considered achievable and are reflected in Table 3.2.1. Based on this range, Barriere’s population could reach between 1,997 and 2,253 by 2046—an overall increase of approximately 13% to 28% over 25 years.

By comparison, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) anticipates regional population growth of roughly 30% between 2021 and 2041. While Barriere’s growth potential is somewhat constrained by factors such as flood-hazard areas, Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) designations, and steep terrain, future development can be accommodated through a strategic mix of infill and greenfield opportunities.

Further potential exists to increase residential density through sewer system extensions and interconnections. These investments would enable additional infill development and could support small-scale multi-unit housing, such as three or more dwellings per lot, within serviced areas.

3.3 Education

Education plays a vital role in the District of Barriere, contributing to the community's strength, cohesion, and long-term well-being. The town is served by School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson), which supports schools across Kamloops and the North and South Thompson regions. The district's guiding vision, *"Working together for quality public education,"* is evident in Barriere's two local schools that serve students from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Barriere Elementary School and Barriere Secondary School form the core of local public education, with the elementary school feeding directly into the secondary school. These schools offer a full range of provincial curriculum and provide supportive learning environments grounded in community engagement. While enrollment numbers may shift year to year, these schools continue to play a key role in community life and student development. As of 2024, School District No. 73 continues to prioritize inclusive learning environments and supports for rural and Indigenous learners.

Table 3.3.1 Projected School Enrolment (as of January 2025)

Projected School Enrolment (as of January 2025)													
		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Ministry Operating Capacity
Barriere Elementary	K-7	210	202	197	192	182	181	184	194	195	203	207	271
Barriere Secondary	8-12	221	212	206	196	201	190	204	201	205	199	187	325

Source: School District 73 Long-Range Facilities Plan / February 2025

Table 3.3.2 School Capacity and Utilization Rates (as of January 2025)

School Capacity and Utilization Rates (as of January 2025)													
Barriere Elementary	K-7	77%	75%	73%	71%	67%	67%	68%	72%	72%	75%	76%	271
Barriere Secondary	8-12	68%	65%	63%	60%	62%	58%	63%	62%	63%	61%	58%	325

Source: School District 73 Long-Range Facilities Plan / February 2025

Early learning is also supported through the StrongStart BC program located at Barriere Elementary, offering a free, drop-in early learning initiative for children aged 0 to 5. StrongStart programs provide high-quality learning environments where children engage in meaningful play and early literacy activities. The program also supports parents and caregivers in building confidence and capacity in early childhood development. And after-school care program is also in place through the North Thompson Activity Centre Society (NTACS).

Post-secondary access is supported through a combination of local, regional, and online offerings. Thompson Rivers University (TRU), headquartered in Kamloops, is a key provider of higher education for Barriere residents. TRU offers over 140 on-campus and 60 online programs, including trades, undergraduate degrees, graduate programs, adult basic education, and vocational training. TRU's Barriere Community Education Centre plays a localized role in making education accessible to rural residents by offering various courses and programs to help individuals prepare for the job market and further their educational pursuits.

Early Childhood Development

The District of Barriere is served by Yellowhead Community Services Society (YCS), a non-profit registered charity delivering integrated supports and services to individuals of all ages through different community locations. With offices and program centres in both Barriere and Clearwater, YCS has been instrumental in supporting families since its founding in 1989. Today, it stands as the largest registered charity in the North Thompson Valley, with a mandate to improve community well-being from McLure to Blue River.

YCS delivers a range of programs, including:

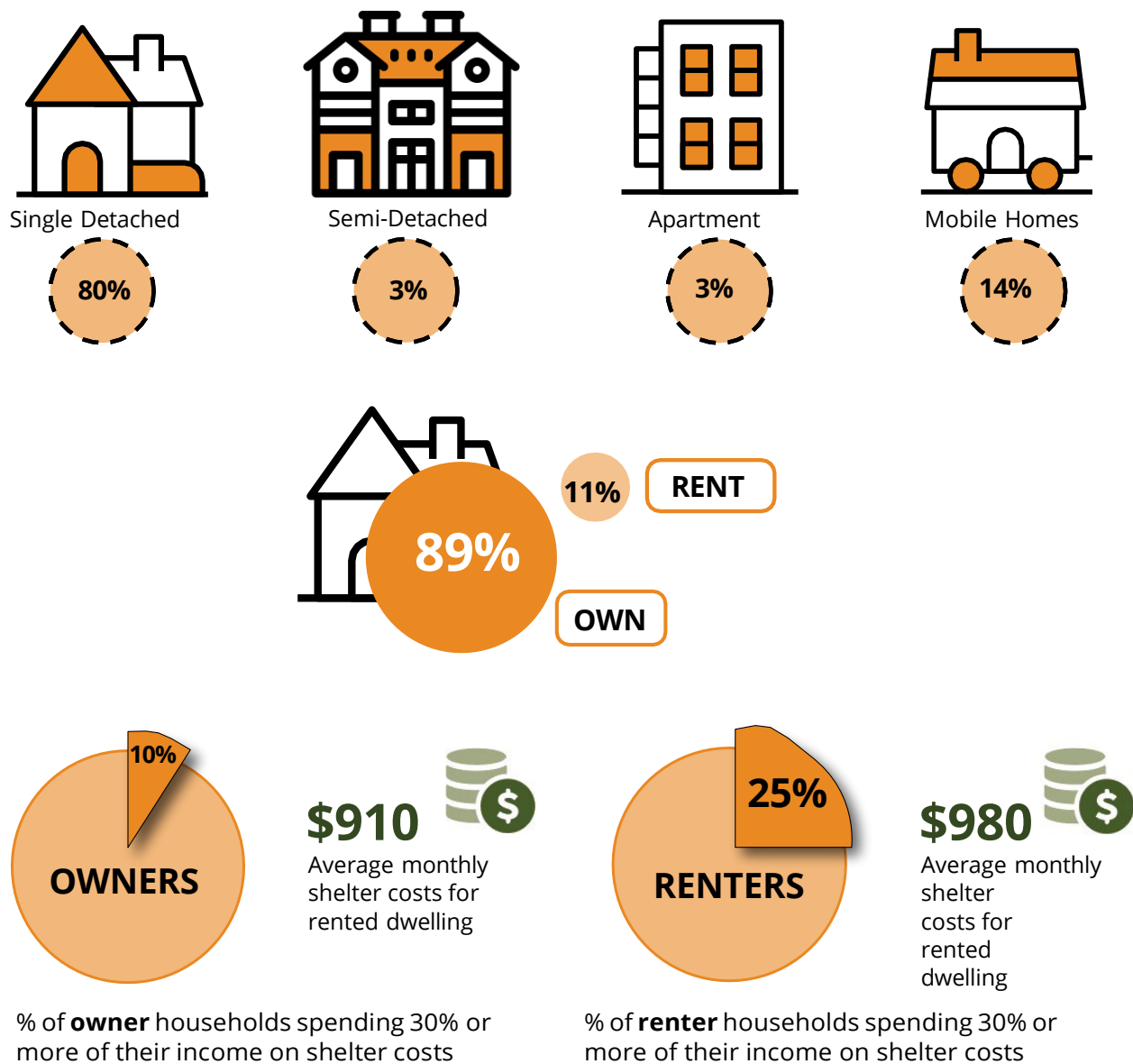
- Licensed childcare
- Support services for families and children
- Youth activities
- Food security programs
- Services for adults with developmental disabilities
- Services for women and children fleeing domestic violence

These programs are rooted in evidence-based practices and designed to meet the diverse needs of rural families.

3.4 Future Housing Needs

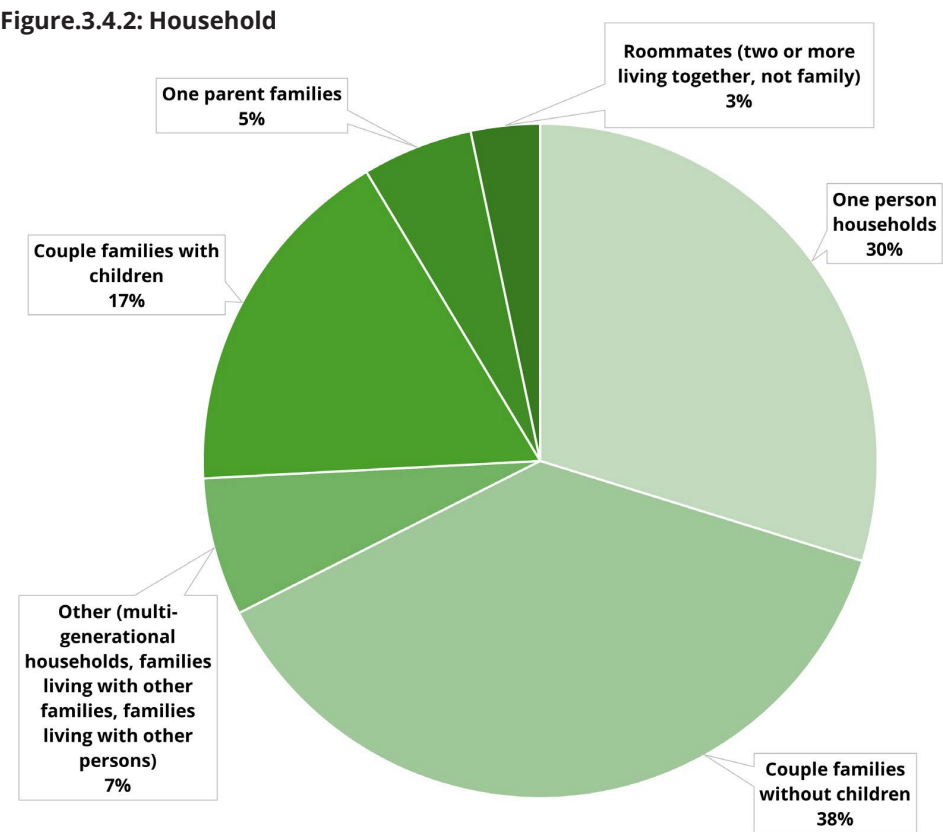
Housing is a fundamental human need and a key guiding principle of this Official Community Plan. A complete and inclusive community requires a broad range of housing options to meet the needs of people of all ages, incomes, and life circumstances. While housing can take many forms -- ranging from single-detached homes to townhouses, apartments, and supportive living -- Barriere’s housing stock has historically been limited in diversity. The predominance of larger, single-family homes has created a gap in the availability of smaller, more affordable, and more flexible housing options.

Figure.3.4.1: Housing Needs Infographics



5-year	20-year
175 new dwelling units	448 new dwelling units

The recent Housing Needs Assessment provides a detailed analysis of current and projected housing requirements within the District. In response, this OCP introduces policies that support a greater mix of housing types, tenures, and densities. These measures aim to ensure that Barriere can accommodate a wide range of households, foster long-term community stability, and adapt to changing demographics and economic conditions.



The community welcomes responsible increases in residential density, particularly in areas where infrastructure, amenities, and services can support growth. Infill housing, secondary suites, townhomes, and mixed-use developments are among the tools that can help broaden housing options while maintaining the small-town character and livability that residents value.

Housing diversity must reflect the full lifecycle of Barriere’s population. This includes starter homes and rentals for young adults, adaptable and accessible housing for seniors wishing to age in place, and family-oriented homes near schools, parks, and services. Innovative solutions such as co-housing, modular units, and supportive housing may also play a role in meeting emerging needs.

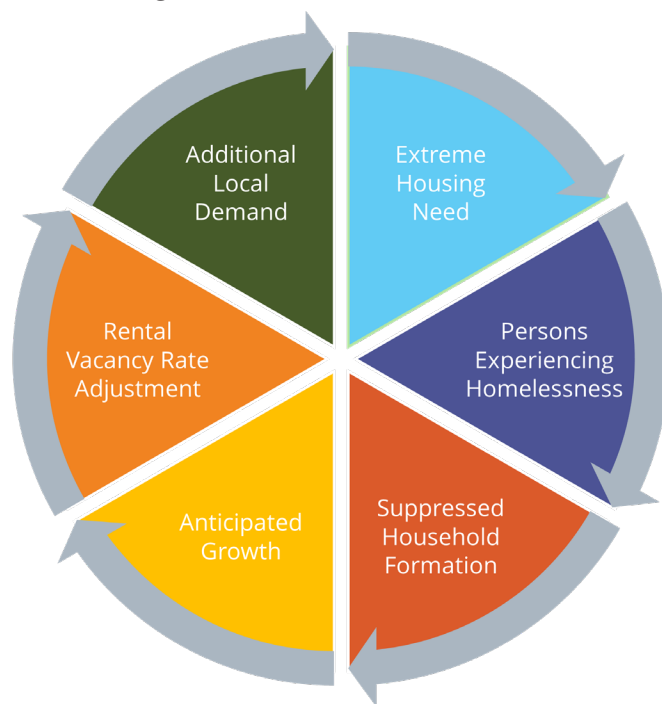
Affordability is a shared responsibility. The District will collaborate with provincial agencies, non-profit organizations, private developers, and the Simpcw First Nation to leverage funding opportunities, streamline approvals, and remove policy barriers to affordable housing development. The goal is a balanced housing system—where individuals and families at all income levels can find a place to call home in Barriere.

By planning for inclusiveness, choice, and affordability, Barriere will remain a community where people can put down roots, thrive through all stages of life, and contribute to a vibrant and sustainable future.

Housing Needs Assessment

The District of Barriere partnered with the TNRD and many of its member municipalities to complete a Barriere-specific **Housing Needs Assessment** in 2024 to meet the requirements of the Provincial Housing Needs Report Regulation (2024). All local governments must complete 'regular' housing needs reports in 2028 and every 5 years thereafter. The assessment draws on various data sources, including BC Stats, Statistics Canada and CMHC. The methodology considers six key components to determine housing needs: units to reduce extreme core housing need and homelessness, units to address suppressed household formation, units needed to meet projected population growth, units required to achieve a 3% rental vacancy rate, and units needed to meet local demand via a provincial 'demand factor'. This multi-faceted approach aims to account for both social variables and variables reflecting market demand.

Figure.3.4.3: Housing Needs Wheel



Based on this methodology, the report projects a total need for **175 new housing units over 5 years (2021-2026)** and **448 new units over 20 years (2021-2041)**. The largest component driving this assessed demand is anticipated population growth, projected to require approximately 260 units over 20 years. The provincial 'demand factor', intended to reflect additional local market demand, contributes approximately 112 units to the 20-year total. It's important to note that the quantitative outputs of this methodology indicate the calculated need based on the provincial formula and do not imply that this housing can be built under current construction costs, prices, or rents, as the methodology does not directly incorporate economic viability.

Table 3.4.1: Anticipated Units Required: 5-year and 20-year need. Urbanics Consultants, 2024.

Component	5 Year Need	20 Year Need
A. Extreme Core Housing Need	7	27
B. Persons Experiencing Homelessness	7	14
C. Suppressed Household Formation	8	34
D. Anticipated Growth	125	260
E. Rental Vacancy Rate Adjustment	0	1
F. Additional Local Demand	28	112
Total new units - 5 years	175	
Total new units - 20 years		448

Beyond the quantitative projections, the report highlights key areas where the existing housing supply does not adequately meet the community's needs and demand. Through community engagement, concerns were raised about the **limited availability** and **increasing cost** of both ownership and rental housing, particularly affordable and suitable rental options. There is an identified need to expand the supply of non-market and supportive housing, including options for low-income individuals, families, and seniors, given that Barriere currently has only one non-market unit. Furthermore, the aging population creates a demand for specific types of housing, such as smaller units for downsizing, accessible housing with features like barrier-free design, and potentially more supportive or assisted living options, which may not be adequately met by the current supply, which is predominantly single-detached homes and larger units.

Housing Availability & Affordability

In terms of housing availability, a significant finding with the Housing Needs Assessment is the lack of available and affordable rental units, identified as one of the most pressing concerns in the District. Community survey respondents noted facing difficulties accessing rental housing, and housing costs. The assessment suggests that a lack of available rental stock tends to push upward pressure on rents and can contribute to young people moving away. Furthermore, there is an identified need for an expanded supply of non-market and supportive housing options, increase in supply of rental housing, and address the specific requirements of the community's aging population. The report notes that Barriere currently has only one non-market housing unit under BC Housing Administration.

Regarding housing types, the existing supply is predominantly single-detached homes (80%). A large majority of housing units (93%) are units with two or more bedrooms, potentially suitable for families. However, 1-bedroom units make up only 7% of occupied dwellings, and no studio units were recorded in the 2021 census. This lack of smaller units can pose challenges for households who might need or prefer them due to affordability or maintenance needs, such as seniors and low-income individuals.



Regarding housing affordability, the report highlights increasing unaffordability and rising housing costs as major challenges in Barriere, as is common in many communities in the Regional District. Community and stakeholder engagement reinforced concerns that rising housing costs are out of reach for many in the community. The median total household income in Barriere (\$66,500 as of 2020) is notably lower than the provincial median (\$85,000). Specific groups like 1-person households and lone-parent families have median incomes well below provincial comparisons for those types. According to 2021 census data, 9% of households spend 30% or more of their before-tax income on housing, though the assessment notes this figure was likely affected by pandemic income supports like CERB in May 2021. Community survey responses showed a higher proportion, with 19% of Barriere respondents stating they paid more than 30%. Additionally, 14.3% of Barriere households were identified as being in Core Housing Need in 2021, meaning their housing falls below adequacy, affordability, or suitability standards and they would need to spend 30% or more of their income for appropriate alternative housing.

Extreme Core Housing Need (spending 50% or more of income on housing in addition to suitability/adequacy issues) affected 3% of households. The housing needs assessment provides concrete examples of rising costs, noting that the average house value increased by 24% between 2022 (\$404,000) and 2023 (\$502,000). Average renter shelter costs (rent and utilities) in Barriere also increased by 27% between 2011 and 2021, from \$771 to \$980 per month. The cost of construction was also identified as a pressing housing issue through community engagement during preparation of the assessment.

In summary, the report suggests that Barriere faces a critical need for more housing, particularly rental units and non-market/supportive options. The existing supply is heavily skewed towards larger, single-detached homes, lacking diversity in unit size which impacts affordability and suitability for certain demographics. Simultaneously, rising housing costs, reflected in increasing home values and rents, coupled with lower median incomes compared to regional and provincial averages, contribute to ongoing affordability challenges, even as some core housing need metrics showed improvement between 2011 and 2021 (potentially influenced by unique pandemic conditions).



3.4.1 Policies to Address Barriere's Housing Needs

To ensure that Barriere can accommodate a wide range of current and future housing needs, the District endeavours to pursue a coordinated set of policy directions across the housing continuum. These policies are intended to improve affordability, expand housing diversity, and enhance accessibility for all residents.

a. **Support the Development of Non-Market and Supportive Housing**

- i. Where appropriate, make municipally-owned land available for affordable and supportive housing projects.
- ii. Explore opportunities to reduce municipal property taxes or fees for qualifying developments.
- iii. Partner with senior levels of government and non-profit housing providers to facilitate the creation of supportive and subsidized housing.

b. **Expand and Diversify Rental Housing Options**

- i. Promote the development of a range of rental housing forms, including both market and non-market options.
- ii. Encourage purpose-built rental buildings, secondary suites, carriage homes, garden suites, and modular housing.
- iii. Support flexible zoning and incentives to stimulate new rental construction.
- iv. Investing in water and wastewater infrastructure to support densification.

c. **Respond to the Needs of an Aging Population**

- i. Encourage the development of low-maintenance housing types such as apartments, condominiums, and secondary suites.

- ii. Promote the integration of universal design and accessibility features in all new residential development.
 - iii. Prioritize senior-friendly housing within walkable proximity to downtown shops, services, and community amenities.
 - iv. Expansion of supportive housing options, specifically including assisted living for seniors.
- d. Streamline Development Approval Processes**
- i. Review and simplify planning and permitting processes to reduce delays and costs for residential construction.
 - ii. Implement fast-track approvals or pre-zoning for targeted housing forms.
 - iii. Provide clear, user-friendly guidance for applicants and developers.
- e. Enable a Broader Range of Housing Forms and Densities**
- i. Support adequately serviced smaller lot sizes and flexible subdivision regulations to enable compact housing forms.
 - ii. Expand wastewater infrastructure to support infill development in established neighbourhoods, especially near amenities.
 - iii. Plan for the development of vacant greenfield sites in a manner consistent with infrastructure capacity and environmental considerations.
 - iv. Promote mixed-use buildings that include residential units within the Downtown Core Development Permit Area.
 - v. Support the redevelopment or replacement of underutilized residential properties into higher-density forms such as multi-unit dwellings.

3.5 Economic Growth

Barriere's economic landscape is a blend of established industries, like agriculture, forestry and the service sector, alongside emerging sectors such as tourism and mining. As these industries continue to evolve, the community remains adaptable and committed to balancing growth with sustainability. Below is an overview of these key sectors:

Service Sector

Barriere's service sector is well-established and plays a vital role in supporting both residents and visitors. The community offers a broad range of essential services, including grocery store, financial institutions, post office, pharmacy, legal, and accounting services, and insurance providers. These core amenities are complemented by places of worship, a funeral home, restaurants, motels, and fuel stations, all of which contribute to the everyday convenience, vibrancy, and social fabric of the town.

Tourism

Situated at the gateway to over 60 nearby lakes—including the scenic North, South, and East Barriere Lakes located 23 to 40 kilometres east—Barriere has become an increasingly popular destination for outdoor recreation. The area's natural beauty attracts visitors seeking opportunities for fishing, hiking, boating, and other nature-based activities. A visitor centre is operated by the Barriere & Area Chamber of Commerce and serves as both a visitor centre and community business hub.

A growing number of tourism-focused businesses offer accommodation, guided tours, and equipment rentals, contributing to a robust summer tourism season. One notable attraction is the North Thompson Museum & Archives operated by the Barriere & District Heritage Society (BDHS). While tourism is not currently classified as a standalone industry in statistical reporting, recent trends—particularly in the post-COVID-19 recovery period—indicate increasing visitor activity and economic potential in this sector.

Forestry

Forestry has long been a foundational industry in Barriere, historically employing a significant portion of the local workforce. Gilbert Smith Forest Products continues to serve as a major employer, anchoring the local forestry economy. The sector experienced a significant disruption in 2003 when a wildfire destroyed the Tolko Industries Louis Creek Sawmill, impacting employment and local economic stability. Nonetheless, forestry remains vital to the region, with continued contributions from companies like Woodco Industries, Lower North Thompson Community Forest Society (LNTCFS), and Simpcw Resources Group. The associated trucking and transport sector also plays an essential role in moving raw timber and processed materials to regional and provincial markets.

Agriculture

Agriculture continues to be a key pillar of the local economy, with over 500 agricultural operators active in the Barriere area. Alfalfa remains the dominant crop, supporting both livestock and diversified agricultural operations across the region. Community efforts are increasingly focused on strengthening local food systems, encouraging the consumption of locally grown products, and advancing sustainable farming practices. These initiatives not only support economic development but also reinforce the community's connection to the land.

Mining

Barriere is located just south of the Yellowhead Copper (Harper Creek) project, one of the world's largest undeveloped copper deposits. As this project advances, it positions Barriere as a potential hub for mining-related activity in the North Thompson region. Increased mining operations are expected to bring new employment opportunities and associated industries, contributing to economic diversification and long-term growth. The involvement of Taseko Mines underscores the scale and strategic importance of this emerging sector.

3.6 Regional Context Statement

In accordance with Sections 446 of the *Local Government Act*, an *Official Community Plan* must include a Regional Context Statement (RCS) where a Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) applies to the same area as the OCP. The District of Barriere is within the jurisdictional boundary of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) and its *Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 2409, 2013* as adopted on May 9, 2013, as amended or replaced from time to time. The strategy presents a long-term strategic framework to guide sustainable growth, foster economic and social balance, and promote regional cohesion. Rather than prescribing specific land uses, the RGS articulates broad objectives and identifies growth management priorities that inform land use planning and interjurisdictional decision-making.

The Regional Context Statement within this OCP demonstrates the alignment of the District's land use policies, planning principles, and community development objectives with the overarching vision and strategic priorities of the TNRD Regional Growth Strategy. The District affirms the importance of a collaborative and integrated approach to growth management, undertaken in partnership with the TNRD and Indigenous communities, including the Simpcw First Nation. This Plan fosters a framework for strengthened cooperation, grounded in principles of recognition, reconciliation, mutual respect, and shared stewardship.

The TNRD Regional Growth Strategy outlines ten key goals to help guide growth in a way that respects the region's diverse communities and landscapes. Urban areas are expected to grow while maintaining their character. Rural communities will remain rural, with new developments that fit their setting. Development in resource and wilderness areas will be limited and carefully managed to protect their natural value.

Goals

1. Promote and encourage local and regional economic development
2. Protect and enhance the natural environment
3. Protect and maintain access to the resource base
4. Preserve the rural and wilderness character of the region
5. Protect farmland and encourage farming

6. Protect farmland and encourage farming
7. Ensure adequate and appropriate services are provided
8. Maintain mobility throughout the region
9. Ensure adequate range of housing opportunities are available
10. Promote regional collaboration on common issues
11. Cooperate with First Nations in planning and servicing matters

As required under Sections 446 and 447 of the *Local Government Act*, TNRD member municipalities collectively support the RGS by preparing regional context statements identifying the relationship between the OCP and RGS. The following table demonstrates how the OCP aligns with and achieves the objectives of the RGS.

Table 3.6.1 Regional Context Statement

RGS Policy Area	District of Barriere OCP Policy Alignment	Reference
GOAL #1	Barriere supports compact development through policies that promote mixed-use projects and increased densities within existing serviced areas, focusing growth near key amenities and infrastructure.	Policies 4.1.1, 4.1.3, 4.3.4, and 4.3.7
Human Settlement		
GOAL #2	Align energy and transportation planning with land use and settlement patterns to support conservation, enhance mobility, and improve overall efficiency.	Policies 5.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.2.3, 5.3.3, 6.1.3, and 6.2.1
Energy and Transportation		
GOAL #3	Barriere encourages economic diversification by promoting value-added local manufacturing (e.g., food and wood products), expanding telecommunications, supporting tech-based home businesses, and fostering research, lifelong learning, and pilot projects.	Policies 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.3, and 4.4.4
Economic Development		
GOAL #4	Promote environmental protection and enhancement through the collaborative application of stewardship principles	Policies 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.1.5, and 6.1.6
Environmental Protection		
GOAL #5	Preserve the Thompson-Nicola region's archaeological and heritage resources, maintain its open spaces, and safeguard its rural character.	Policies 5.4.1, 5.4.2, and 5.6.1
Open Space & Cultural Heritage		
GOAL #6	Barriere fosters collaboration by supporting partnerships with community groups, businesses, and all levels of government to ensure integrated and effective long-term planning.	Policies 5.3.4, 5.4.1, 5.6.1, and 6.2.1
Co-operation and Process		



SECTION 4: LAND USE POLICIES



4.1 Growth Management

The Official Community Plan (OCP) for Barriere establishes a framework for sustainable land use, guiding future growth with policies that reflect community values and long-term aspirations. Developed through an inclusive planning process, the OCP sets the following key objectives:

4.1.1 Support Compact, Mixed-Use Growth

- a. Promote higher-density, mixed-use development within established or designated development nodes.
- b. Pre-zone areas to enable complete, walkable neighbourhoods.
- c. Require Neighbourhood Plans for developments exceeding 4 hectares, detailing transportation, servicing, land use, density, parks, trail connectivity, and environmental considerations.
- d. Direct new development near existing amenities and services to enhance livability and infrastructure efficiency.

4.1.2 Revitalize the Downtown Core

- a. Enhance downtown as a vibrant hub through:
 - i. Retrofitting existing buildings where feasible.
 - ii. Incorporating local art and cultural expression.
 - iii. Creating public gathering spaces for social interaction and celebration.
 - iv. Implementing a shared parking strategy that considers both on- and off-street solutions.

4.1.3 Guide Commercial and Industrial Development

- a. Recognize and support existing and future commercial and industrial uses.
- b. Encourage mixed-use zoning and comprehensive development areas for land use flexibility.

4.1.4 Protect Agricultural Lands and Promote Local Food Systems

- a. Buffer urban development adjacent to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) using ALC's "Landscaped Buffer Specifications" and consider public greenways as transition zones.
- b. Support local food production, agri-business innovation, and youth engagement in agriculture.
- c. Highlight agriculture's role in a resilient local economy.

4.1.5 Encourage Sustainable and Resilient Housing

- a. Enable diverse housing options through flexible zoning and development incentives.
- b. Consider reducing Development Cost Charges (DCCs) for small-lot subdivisions that prioritize sustainability.
- c. Promote energy-efficient, net-zero buildings and support retrofitting for existing homes.
- d. When feasible, develop a sustainability checklist to guide new construction and renovations.

4.1.6 Expand Community Infrastructure Responsibly

- a. Secure parkland through the statutory 5% land dedication or cash-in-lieu for all applicable subdivisions.
- b. Support expansion of municipal wastewater infrastructure.
- c. Encourage innovative infrastructure designs (e.g., narrow roads, French drains, multi-use pathways).
- d. Support integration of renewable energy and water reuse systems in new developments.
- e. Regulate new private well drilling where municipal water service is available to protect groundwater aquifer.

4.2 Land Use Designations

RESIDENTIAL (RES)

Support a broad mix of housing types, densities, and tenures to meet the needs of all ages, household types, and income levels. Complementary uses—such as small-scale commercial, institutional, or recreational facilities—may be considered through neighbourhood planning or site-specific zoning amendments, provided they are compatible with the residential context

COMMERCIAL (COM)

Promote the development of vibrant commercial centres that provide essential services, retail options, and employment opportunities for residents and visitors. Commercial areas should enhance walkability, support local entrepreneurship, and contribute to the community's economic resilience and livability.

INDUSTRIAL (IND)

Ensure an adequate and appropriately located supply of industrial land to accommodate a range of uses, including manufacturing, warehousing, logistics, and innovation-based enterprises. Industrial areas support local employment and are vital to Barriere's economic development and supply chain infrastructure. Limit use allowances of new vehicle and wrecking through site specific zoning process.

PARK (P-1)

Where feasible, protect and designate land for public parks, open space, and environmental conservation. These areas support physical and mental health, biodiversity, and climate adaptation, and provide opportunities for recreation, community gathering, and ecosystem protection.

INSTITUTIONAL & RECREATION (P-2)

Consider lands for essential community services and facilities, including schools, places of worship community halls, gyms, arenas, and other public amenities that promote education, wellness, culture, and social connection.

RURAL RESOURCE (RR)

Where practical, preserve and support land for rural and resource-based activities, such as agriculture, forestry, aggregate extraction, and renewable energy production. These lands contribute to long-term food security, natural resource management, and the rural economy. Land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) are included in this designation.

- Residential subdivisions may be considered in Rural Resource areas where:
- The land is demonstrated to be unsuitable for resource-related activities.

- Development has limited conflict with existing or potential adjacent resource uses.
- Appropriate water supply and sewage disposal systems are available or are being made available.
- The proposal is confirmed to be environmentally safe by the appropriate provincial authority where required.

AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE (ALR)

Where practical, recognize and uphold the purpose of the Agricultural Land Reserve by protecting lands for agricultural use and compatible rural resource activities. These lands are essential to the region's food production, agricultural viability, and long-term land stewardship.

SAND/GRAVEL (SG)

Identify and conserve known sand and gravel deposits for future use. Extraction and processing should occur on lands designated Rural Resource, Agricultural, or Industrial, and must follow best practices for environmental protection, noise mitigation, and dust control.

While the District does not regulate extraction activities directly, it encourages coordination with the responsible provincial agencies to ensure that sand and gravel operations are compatible with surrounding land uses. Deposits are shown on the Land Use Map for reference and long-term planning.

4.3 General Land Use Policies

Residential Development

Barriere is a vibrant, welcoming, and affordable community where residents enjoy a unique blend of rural charm and urban convenience. A diverse and adaptable housing stock is fundamental to supporting a healthy, inclusive, and resilient community. The OCP plays a central role in guiding the development of housing that meets the evolving needs of residents across all age groups and life stages—both today and into the future.

4.3.1 Plan for an Aging Population through Seniors Housing

- a. Prioritize seniors housing development to meet the growing demand driven by demographic shifts.
- b. Partner with senior governments, non-profits, and private sector stakeholders to develop a purpose-built seniors housing complex in Barriere.

4.3.2 Foster Housing Diversity and Mixed-Use Neighbourhoods

- a. Promote a range of housing types and densities to accommodate current and future residents, including young families, individuals, and seniors.
 - i. Encourage compact, mixed-use development to foster complete communities.
 - ii. Support the implementation of a mixed-use zoning framework that allows for integrated commercial and residential uses.

4.3.3 Expand Affordable and Rental Housing Options

- a. Support the development of rental and multi-family housing through targeted density incentives and wastewater infrastructure expansion.
- b. Explore partnerships and density bonusing opportunities on municipal and Crown land to catalyze apartment and multi-family housing development.
- c. Encourage multi-family and affordable housing proposals to include a mix of unit sizes and layouts to meet diverse household needs, including those of families, individuals, persons with disabilities, and seniors.

4.3.4 Promote Sustainable Residential Development to Reduce GHG Emissions

- a. Support residential development that contributes to a connected community through the dedication and construction of trail corridors along the Barriere River.
- b. Where appropriate, require all subdivisions to provide necessary parkland, trail infrastructure, and community facilities to ensure walkable access to essential services and the town centre.
- c. Where feasible, advance green building practices that position Barriere's housing stock toward a net-zero ready standard.
- d. All new subdivisions shall endeavour to incorporate site-based energy strategies including:
 - i. Site orientation that maximizes passive solar gain and seasonal shading.
 - ii. Use of native vegetation and strategic planting to enhance energy efficiency.
 - iii. Promotion of neighbourhood-based renewable energy solutions (e.g., geothermal, micro-wind, waste heat recovery).
 - iv. Onsite stormwater collection systems for non-potable uses such as food production and landscaping.

- v. Support for a Barriere-specific green pilot housing project that showcases innovation in sustainable residential design.
- vi. Cluster housing forms to reduce energy loss and minimize disruption to natural systems, drainage, and wildlife corridors.

Commercial Development

Barriere's commercial vitality is centered around two interconnected yet distinct commercial areas (Downtown Core and Yellowhead commercial). Each area plays a unique role in the community, and together they contribute to Barriere's overall social, economic, environmental, and cultural sustainability. A coordinated approach to commercial development will help foster a diverse and resilient local economy.

4.3.5 Diversify and Expand Barriere's Commercial Economy

- a. Strengthen regional connections with Kamloops, Chu Chua, Sun Peaks, Clearwater, and surrounding communities by positioning Barriere as a destination for niche services and amenities.
- b. Advocate for expanded public transit services linking communities along the North Thompson corridor, with a direct connection to Kamloops.
- c. Encourage active participation from residents and businesses in shaping community development and supporting year-round employment.
- d. Leverage existing tourism strengths and expand tourism-based services, including:
 - i. Culinary and hospitality establishments
 - ii. Overnight accommodation
 - iii. Land and water-based recreational and tour operations
- e. Collaborate with local organizations in tourism, arts, culture, and recreation to cultivate a strong, recognizable Barriere identity that attracts and retains visitors.
- f. Support the development of a community-led tourism strategy that explores niche opportunities such as eco-tourism, four-season tourism, agri-tourism, and education-based tourism.
- g. Promote the expansion of available commercial rental space to accommodate emerging businesses.

- h. Identify and implement strategies to enable year-round tourism and enhance local economic stability.

4.3.6 Pursue Funding for Infrastructure that Supports Commercial Growth

- a. Actively pursue diverse funding streams to finance infrastructure projects that directly benefit local businesses and improve commercial viability, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Local improvement levies;
 - ii. Strategic municipal budget allocations;
 - iii. Federal Community Works Fund;
 - iv. Green Municipal Fund;
 - v. Transit and transportation infrastructure grants;
 - vi. Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund; and
 - vii. Infrastructure Canada programs.

4.3.7 Develop and Strengthen Two Interconnected Commercial Cores

- a. Promote simplified and expedited redevelopment processes through supportive land use policies, zoning, and permit systems.
- b. Continually encourage downtown beautification and encourage community pride through participation in programs such as *Barriere Blooms* program.
- c. Create incentives to stimulate small-scale, mixed-use commercial development within the downtown core, fostering a vibrant and walkable community centre.

Industrial Development

Barriere is home to two key industrial areas, each offering unique opportunities for economic growth and long-term community resilience. One is situated in the southernmost part of the municipality on the east side of the Yellowhead Highway, adjacent to the municipal boundary. The second lies to the north, west of the Yellowhead Corridor Development Permit Area. Strategically managing the development of these areas will support the creation of full-time, year-round employment and contribute to a stronger municipal tax base—enabling investment in public amenities and infrastructure.

4.3.8 Diversify and Strengthen the Industrial Sector

- a. Support new industrial ventures, with a strategic focus on environmentally sustainable (“green”) industries.

- b. Promote Barriere as a destination for innovative industrial development by forming partnerships with prospective investors, entrepreneurs, and regional stakeholders.
- c. Support the development of agri-tourism enterprises that integrate processing, packaging, and agricultural value-added activities.
- d. Explore and promote new forest-sector initiatives, including:
 - i. Programs centered on non-timber forest products (e.g., mushrooms, medicinal plants, wild berries);
 - ii. Local value-added wood processing;
 - iii. Forest education and stewardship training.
- e. Assess opportunities for co-generation and biomass-based energy systems that use local feedstocks to produce heat and power, improving energy resilience.
- f. Position Barriere as a potential hub for wildfire recovery research and innovation, including pilot projects, field trials, and partnerships with academic institutions or provincial agencies.

4.3.9 Maximize the Use of Local Resources for Value-Added Industrial Activity

- a. Consider exploring the feasibility of utilizing biomass from local forest operations for renewable energy generation.
- b. Investigate industrial sites suitable for resource recovery facilities or other partnerships that handle, repurpose, or process waste streams from Barriere and the wider region—supporting circular economy principles and waste diversion goals.

4.4 Economic Resiliency

A resilient and adaptive local economy is essential for building a sustainable, self-reliant community. Barriere's economic foundation has historically been rooted in forestry and agriculture. While these industries continue to play a vital role, the community is embracing a more diversified, inclusive, and innovation-driven approach to economic development. An approach that focuses on leveraging community strengths, local knowledge, and regional partnerships to build economic capacity and long-term prosperity for residents.

4.4.1 Strategic and Community-Centered Economic Development

Foster economic development strategies that reflect Barriere's values, community strengths, and long-term sustainability goals.

- a. Celebrate and support local resource-based industries, including agriculture, forestry, silviculture, and value-added processing.

- b. Position Barriere as a center for sustainable resource management and applied research in forestry, land stewardship, and agriculture.
- c. Ensure that the community's economic activities are designed to support a high quality of life for residents over the long term.
- d. Actively involve residents and Indigenous communities in economic planning processes.
- e. Continue to support the North Thompson Fall Fair and Rodeo as a cornerstone event for local culture and economic activity.
- f. Encourage value-added opportunities in traditional sectors such as wood processing and agri-food production.
- g. Promote business incubation, mentorship, and support networks for entrepreneurs and start-ups.
- h. Strengthen the local social economy by supporting community-based enterprises and non-profit economic initiatives.

4.4.2 Economic Diversification and Innovation

Build a diverse and adaptable local economy that encourages innovation, entrepreneurship, and knowledge-based industries.

- a. Support local manufacturing, especially in niche agricultural and forest products.
- b. Consider investing in high-speed internet and telecommunications infrastructure to attract remote workers and technology-based businesses.
- c. Encourage applied research, product development, and pilot projects to drive economic innovation.
- d. Collaborate with post-secondary institutions to promote lifelong learning and workforce training.
- e. Support demonstration projects that showcase local ingenuity and promote green technologies.

4.4.3 Strengthening the Local Food and Agricultural Economy

Develop a strong local food system that supports farmers, enhances food security, and contributes to the local economy.

- a. Support sustainable forestry and community forest initiatives as part of the regional resource economy.

- b. Strengthen value-added agricultural enterprises and promote local agri-business development.
- c. Foster a full-cycle local food economy—from production and processing to distribution, consumption, and composting.
- d. Promote the installation of commercial-grade kitchens in public facilities to support food entrepreneurs.
- e. Support the Barriere Farmers Market as a community anchor that showcases local producers and artisans.
- f. Support community food infrastructure such as greenhouses, food storage, drying rooms, and composting facilities, including at the Louis Creek Eco-Depot.
- g. Consider reviewing and adapting land use policies to enable agri-tourism and mixed-use food-based enterprises.\

4.4.4 Leadership in Sustainable Economic Development

Lead in rural innovation through strategic investment, research, and collaboration.

- a. Develop clear linkages between local economic policies, investments, and measurable outcomes.
- b. Support year-round employment opportunities that provide stable and livable incomes.
- c. Elevate agriculture as a long-term economic driver and cultural asset.
- d. As committed in the Memorandum of Understanding, partner with Simpcw First Nation to create opportunities in tourism, forestry, land stewardship, and entrepreneurship.



The 2003 Fire Season In British Columbia Will Not Be Forgotten

The 2003 fire season was one of the most catastrophic in British Columbia's recorded history. Due to an extended drought in the western half of the province, forest firefighters found conditions near impossible in Canada. Lightning strikes, human carelessness, and even an earthquake all contributed to igniting nearly 2,000 fires involving more than 15,000 firefighters and support personnel and burning more than 100,000 hectares at a cost of \$276 million.

The extreme volatility of the dry forests, compounded by the previously difficult terrain, created unprecedented fire behaviour and made fire suppression almost impossible. The ongoing fires put extreme pressure on human and equipment resources and the daily outbreak of new fires (248 fires on one day alone) added an even greater burden on suppression teams.

While fire crews often fought uncontrollable fires that traveled as much as seven km/hr, and kept several kilometres over highways, waterways and fire trucks, human safety remained a priority and not a single firefighter was lost on the fireline. In addition, there were no civilian deaths or injuries. Two air tankers were lost in the fire, and a helicopter crashed into a tree. Tragically, two air tanker crew members and a helicopter pilot lost their lives while fighting the fires in British Columbia. Ian Mackay, Eric Clark, and Bernhard Georg Freiherr von Manteuffel.

HOUSE

The McLean fire caused the devastating loss or damage of 11 homes and one business in the Lower North Thompson Valley. Due to the fire, 3,000 people were evacuated from the area. The fire was also considered for a second time from the west. Communities of McLean, Kelso, Barriere and Lillooet Creek. The fire resulted in a total loss of 26,000 hectares.

Trees smoldering as the fire consumes the forest and landscape of Lillooet Creek, August 1, 2003.

Firefighters dropping fire retardant.

The Beginning Of A Nightmare - Started By A Cigarette Butt!

The summer drought in a region led to a McLean fire which was the first of a series of fires that started on the same day. That summer, the McLean fire was the first of a series of fires that started on the same day. That summer, the McLean fire was the first of a series of fires that started on the same day.

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SECTION 5: COMMUNITY WELL-BEING POLICIES



5.0 Community Well-being Policies

Community well-being in Barriere is rooted in a strong sense of place, social cohesion, and a high quality of life. Residents benefit from the community's rural charm, proximity to Kamloops, and easy access to a wealth of outdoor recreational opportunities. Barriere offers healthcare, accessible education, diverse recreational amenities, and a level of affordability that makes it attractive to people at all stages of life. These attributes contribute to a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where residents feel deeply connected to one another.

This sense of connection extends beyond municipal boundaries to include a respectful and collaborative relationship with the Simpcw First Nation of Chu Chua. With a population of just over 700, the Peoples of Simpcw First Nation are a culturally vibrant community grounded in principles of respect, responsibility, and lifelong learning. Their commitment to holistic wellness and cultural continuity enhances the social and cultural fabric of the wider region. The partnership between Barriere and the Simpcw First Nation reflects a shared vision of reconciliation and mutual support as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2025.

Barriere's spirit of volunteerism and civic participation is a hallmark of community life. Residents consistently demonstrate a "can-do" attitude, supporting local initiatives and fostering a culture of cooperation and engagement. Clubs, churches, educational groups, and service organizations offer countless ways for individuals to contribute, strengthening social ties and community resilience.

Arts, culture, and local traditions are also integral to community well-being. From musical performances and theatre to artisan crafts and seasonal festivals, cultural expression is woven into everyday life. Events such as the North Thompson Fall Fair and Rodeo and the Barriere Farmers Market celebrate the community's agricultural heritage and creative spirit, bringing people together and reinforcing a shared sense of identity and pride.

5.1 Social System

5.1.1 Health and Quality of Life

To foster a healthy, inclusive, and vibrant community where residents of all ages enjoy a high quality of life.

- a. Encourage active transportation and multi-modal mobility options.
- b. Support local and sustainable food systems that improve access to fresh, nutritious food.
- c. Promote aging-in-place through accessible housing, services, and inclusive recreational and social opportunities for seniors.
- d. Ensure recreational amenities support physical, mental, and social wellbeing for all residents.
- e. Deliver high-quality, safe, and accessible recreation and leisure options throughout the community.

5.1.2 Access to Health Care and Social Services

To ensure residents have access to high-quality, inclusive, and appropriate health care and social services.

- a. Promote a built environment that supports active, healthy living through well-designed housing, infrastructure, and public spaces.
- b. Collaborate with health authorities to deliver accessible and inclusive health services to all demographics.
- c. Work with neighbouring municipalities, Simpcw First Nation, and various levels of government to address regional health and social service priorities.

5.1.3 Engagement, Education, and Learning

To support inclusive educational pathways and lifelong learning opportunities for all ages.

- a. Collaborate with educational institutions to create local learning hubs, satellite campuses, and workforce development programs.
- b. Advocate for a complete continuum of education, from early childhood through adult learning.
- c. Expand early learning opportunities and support networks for young families and caregivers.

5.1.4 Community Participation and Youth Engagement

To empower residents, especially youth, in the civic life of the community.

- a. Explore opportunities for youth engagement and leadership development through advisory panels and mentorship.
- b. Foster partnerships with School District #73, Interior Health, and others to support integrated community programming.
- c. Provide platforms for community input through town halls, digital forums, and participatory planning.
- d. Promote multigenerational collaboration and mentorship to strengthen community cohesion.

5.1.5 Volunteerism and Leadership Development

To recognize, support, and grow the culture of volunteerism in Barriere.

- a. Celebrate volunteers through annual appreciation events and awards.
- b. Offer training, incentives, and recognition programs to retain and attract volunteers.
- c. Facilitate networking and capacity-building for volunteer groups and individuals.
- d. Engage new residents in community life through volunteer opportunities.

To build community leadership capacity across all demographics.

- a. Encourage volunteer-based management of community assets where appropriate.
- b. Support a comprehensive inventory of community services and volunteer opportunities.
- c. Support formal leadership development programs for youth and adults.

5.1.6 Food Security and Economic Development

To strengthen local food security and celebrate the agricultural heritage of Barriere.

- a. Promote local food at public events and support local food entrepreneurs wherever possible.
- b. Celebrate agriculture through awards, business development, and participation in food-related competitions.
- c. Encourage organic and sustainable farming practices.

- d. Support initiatives such as community gardens and collective food preparation spaces.
- e. Incorporate food-safe infrastructure into community facilities.

To align local food system development with economic growth strategies.

- a. Support community food events and educational campaigns.
- b. Promote local food processing and agri-business opportunities.
- c. Support the Farmers Market and operation models.
- d. Encourage the transformation of underused spaces into community food production areas.
- e. Explore the creation of local compost and nutrient programs using organic waste.

5.1.7 Healthcare Services

The District of Barriere has access to a range of healthcare services designed to meet the needs of the community. The Barriere Health Centre, operated by Interior Health as part of the Kamloops Local Health Area, provides essential clinical services. The centre is supported by a team of up to 3 full-time family physicians. While the centre does not offer acute care beds, it provides a variety of services including:

- Breastfeeding clinics & support
- Child, youth and school immunization program
- Choice in support for independent living
- Community transportation to Kamloops (twice a week)
- Diabetes and nutrition education program
- Health services for community living
- Home health and home support
- Lab collection
- Mental health & substance abuse
- Postpartum care
- Pre- and postnatal support
- Primary care

- Radiology (X-ray)
- School nursing support services
- Telehealth

These services, while comprehensive, are supplemented by nearby hospitals for more specialized care. The Royal Inland Hospital, located 67 kilometers south in Kamloops, is a tertiary-level facility providing high-level specialty medical care, while Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital in Clearwater, 63 kilometers to the north, offers additional healthcare services.

5.2 Parks, Recreation, and Trails

Barriere's abundant natural landscape is central to the community's identity and quality of life. Surrounded by forests, rivers, and mountain views, the region offers year-round recreational opportunities that support the physical, mental, and social well-being of residents and visitors alike. From walking, biking, and hiking to skiing, fishing, and hunting, outdoor recreation is an integral part of life in Barriere.

The District maintains a well-developed network of parks, open spaces, trails, and recreational amenities that serve people of all ages and interests. Key community features include:

Fadear Park, which functions as the community's recreational hub and includes:

- Bandshell with washrooms
- Skatepark, splash pad, small basketball court, and playground
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Covered and open picnic areas
- A walking oval for leisure and fitness
- Community garden and walking paths

Neighbourhood parks, such as Oriole Park and Bradford Park, each with:

- Small playgrounds, benches, and green space

Other community amenities, including:

- Trails along the river's edge for walking and biking
- Ball fields and a multi-use sports court (tennis, pickleball, and seasonal ice skating)

- Fieldhouse with washrooms, event concession, picnic areas, and a dog park
- A volunteer-built and maintained bike park
- Cemetery

These amenities not only provide opportunities for active living but also contribute to environmental goals. Many of Barriere's parks and green spaces act as carbon sinks, supporting the District's climate mitigation objectives while enhancing ecosystem health.

Beyond municipal facilities, Barriere is surrounded by several provincial parks within short driving distances, offering a deeper connection to nature. These include:

- Adams Lake Park
- Barriere Forks Park
- Bonaparte Park
- Chu Chua Cottonwood Park
- Dunn Peak Park
- Eakin Creek Canyon Park
- Emar Lakes Park
- High Lakes Basin Park
- North Thompson Islands Park
- Porcupine Meadows Park
- Tsintsunko Lakes Park.

These protected areas showcase the ecological richness and scenic beauty of the North Thompson Valley, making Barriere a natural base for outdoor tourism and weekend exploration.

Whether it's for an afternoon walk in a local park, nearby recreation site or a weekend getaway to explore the provincial parks, Barriere provides a rich array of parks and recreational spaces for people of all ages to enjoy and connect with the natural world.

The following objectives and policies guide the District's approach to maintaining and expanding recreational opportunities in a manner that is inclusive, accessible, and sustainable:

5.2.1 Ensure the provision of inclusive, accessible, and diverse recreational services and facilities for all residents, while integrating recreation and open space with land use planning, tourism, and active transportation systems.

- a. Consider updating and maintaining the Parks and Open Space Master Plan to guide long-term planning, prioritization, and investment in parks, trails, and natural areas.
- b. Consider updating the Active Transportation Plan, with a focus on expanding and improving existing pedestrian, cycling, and multi-use networks.
- c. Ensure that all recreation facilities and programs are inclusive and accessible to people of all ages, abilities, cultural backgrounds, and income levels.
- d. Require large new developments to dedicate, construct, and connect greenways, trails, and multi-modal paths as part of rezoning and subdivision approvals.
- e. Ensure the provision of sufficient parkland and improve linkages between parks and open spaces to form a cohesive and connected recreational network.

5.2.2 Foster a sense of community ownership and stewardship over parks, trails, and open spaces through engagement, volunteerism, and local leadership.

- a. Encourage community-led gardening, landscaping, and stewardship initiatives, including neighbourhood gardens and urban agriculture projects.
- b. Support community groups in creating and maintaining a Community Recreation Amenities Guide to inform future capital investments and reflect evolving community priorities.
- c. Endeavour to implement a regular maintenance and safety program for parks and trail systems to ensure reasonable accessibility and usability throughout the year.
- d. Work with user groups, sports organizations, and residents to assess needs, promote recreation, and support partnerships.

5.2.3 Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities that support healthy lifestyles, enhance tourism, and reflect the interests of all community members.

- a. Continue expanding the active transportation network to connect neighbourhoods, recreation areas, schools, and commercial centres.
- b. Where practical, extend and formalize trail connections to enhance access and encourage use.

- c. Strengthen regional trail connectivity by supporting the extension of corridors to nearby communities and outdoor destinations, positioning Barriere as a recreational hub in the North Thompson Valley.

5.3 Community Infrastructure

An integrated, forward-looking infrastructure strategy is essential to Barriere's livability, sustainability, and economic prosperity. The District's location along Highway 5 provides strategic advantages such as both a transportation corridor and a growing tourism destination. Community infrastructure in Barriere includes systems for solid waste, water, wastewater, transportation, and digital connectivity, which are critical to supporting growth and maintaining a high quality of life.

Solid Waste

The District of Barriere provides weekly curbside garbage collection, while recycling is collected on an alternating week schedule (paper projects one week and containers the next week). Regulation size garbage containers and totes are used for collection. The District also owns and maintains corrugated cardboard collection bins through the community.

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) manages the Louis Creek Eco-Depot on Agate Bay Road. This facility accepts a wide range of materials including household garbage, recyclables, waste paint, used motor oil, yard waste, wood, and metals. The Eco-Depot is designed to divert materials from landfills, promote recycling, and support regional environmental goals.

5.3.1 Promote an environmentally responsible and efficient solid waste management system.

- a. Encourage best practices in waste reduction, recycling, and composting.
- b. Deliver ongoing public education to improve household and business waste management.
- c. Coordinate local waste initiatives with the TNRD recycling and diversion programs.
- d. Promote the 5 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, and Residuals Management in all community waste planning.

Water System

The District of Barriere currently draws its water supply from deep groundwater wells. Water characteristics vary from well to well, but all water supplied is safe. The water is disinfected to comply with Ministry of Health standards before entering the distribution system.

The quantity of water available from these aquifers is limited. Therefore, universal water metering has been introduced to encourage careful water consumption. As Barriere grows, it will eventually become necessary to find a supplementary source of water. Any new sources will require the construction of a treatment plant.

There are still a small number of homes serviced by water licences or private water wells on individual properties. The District is not responsible for private wells.

Wastewater System

Most properties currently have individual septic systems. The Interior Health Authority (IHA) is responsible for approving all systems designed to accommodate flow up to 22,700L/d. This comprises most on-site disposal fields within Barriere. The IHA also tracks septic system failures when they are reported on a case-by-case basis.

On-site systems with a capacity greater than 22,700 L/d require approval and monitoring under the Ministry of Environment's Municipal Wastewater Regulation (MWR). The District requires all new developments that at final build-out will produce sewage volumes requiring an MWR system, to provide the land for, construct and then turn over to the District a commissioned communal system. Headway Investments (4510 Power Rd) is presently the only non-municipal system in Barriere which is regulated under the MWR.

Individual on-site systems tend to be relatively expensive for the property owner over time, and the effluent discharge is low in quality. The disposal fields also limit the options for the use of yard space, including infill housing. Council has adopted a policy that over time will see the majority of properties tied into a municipally owned and operated system. Extension of the sewer network will occur as funding becomes available and will require an update to the current wastewater management plan.

5.3.2 Extend essential infrastructure and services to support sustainable growth.

- a. Connection to the District wastewater system for existing and new developments within the downtown core.
- b. Require all new development to connect to the District water and wastewater system, except where physically or economically unfeasible, as determined by the District.
- c. Require large subdivisions to connect to municipal wastewater or construct a community wastewater system to District standards and dedicate it, including the land, to the District for long term operation and maintenance as determined by the District.
- d. Promote responsible on-site water and septic system management for all existing systems.
- e. Encourage compliance with Provincial regulations for on-site wastewater systems, including on-going maintenance.
- f. Encourage water conservation for both residential and commercial sectors in accordance with the District Water Conservation Plan.

- g. Review water consumption patterns and implement universal water metering to promote conservation.
- h. Maintain auxiliary power systems for the water and wastewater utilities.
- i. Regularly review and update the Water Conservation Plan and Wastewater Master Plan to strengthen eligibility for grant funding and support future water and wastewater infrastructure projects.
- j. Strategically connect underserved areas to District wastewater infrastructure to allow for densification and other housing options.
- k. Promote responsible use and management of private on-site water and septic systems.
- l. Require all new dwellings and commercial buildings to connect to municipal services when available, as determined by the District.

Roads and Transportation

Barriere is located on the Yellowhead Highway (Highway 5), offering direct connections to Kamloops, northern British Columbia, and Alberta. Responsibility for Highway 5 lies with the Province and its contractors, while the District is responsible for maintaining all local roads.

Traffic congestion at key intersections along Highway 5 can occur during summer months. As growth continues, intersection improvements may be required to ensure safety and mobility. Available transportation options in or near Barriere include:

- Health Connections transit service

There are two inland ferries crossing the Thompson River at McLure (43 km) and (Little Fort (93 km), each with a capacity of 2 vehicles and 12 passengers.

5.3.3 Plan for a safe, efficient, and multi-modal transportation network that supports economic growth and community well-being.

- a. Ensure large new developments incorporate walking, cycling, and mobility-friendly features.
- b. Align land use planning with highway safety and mobility goals, particularly along Highway 5.
- c. Provide high-quality signage, lighting, and amenities for all transportation modes.

- d. Design land use adjacent to Highway 5 to be compatible with transportation safety and noise mitigation.
- e. Preserve and enhance local roads to support alternative and active transportation options.
- f. Promote active transportation through a connected, non-motorized trail network.
- g. Foster pedestrian-oriented design that links new developments with existing neighbourhoods and key destinations wherever practical.

5.3.4 Facilitate access to digital infrastructure that supports economic innovation and inclusion.

- a. Encourage the shared use of telecommunications infrastructure to reduce costs and environmental impact.
- b. Promote regional cooperation in expanding broadband and digital service access for all residents and businesses.

Asset Management

5.3.5 Prioritize asset management investments to ensure long-term service reliability.

- a. Maintain and strengthen reserve funding to support proactive infrastructure planning and renewal.
- b. Implement timely and strategic asset replacement projects aligned with lifecycle needs.
- c. Regularly review and, where necessary, update long-range water and wastewater management plans reflect emerging demands and future growth.

5.4 Arts, Culture, and Heritage

Arts, culture, and heritage are essential to the social fabric, civic identity, and creative economy of Barriere. They contribute to community well-being, foster a sense of belonging, and celebrate the shared and diverse histories of the region. The community's cultural landscape is enriched by local organizations, artisans, and heritage champions, whose work strengthens intergenerational connections and enhances Barriere's appeal as a vibrant rural hub in the North Thompson Valley.

The District recognizes that cultural expression and historical preservation are integral to placemaking, tourism, and economic development. Through collaboration, strategic investment, and thoughtful integration into planning and design processes, Barriere aims to cultivate a thriving and inclusive cultural identity that supports lifelong participation and creative expression.

5.4.1 Cultivate a strong, inclusive, and visible cultural identity for Barriere.

- a. Consider incorporating public art and culturally expressive design into civic buildings, streets, and public spaces.
- b. Promote Barriere's creative and cultural industries as key pillars in tourism, economic development, and placemaking strategies.
- c. Consider integrating arts and culture into municipal planning processes, including recreation programming and community design.
- d. Recognize and celebrate arts and culture as essential to community wellbeing and identity.
- e. Encourage participation across all age groups in cultural activities and creative expression.
- f. Where practical, partner with local and regional organizations—such as the Barriere & District Heritage Society and the North Thompson Arts Council—to enhance cultural programming and resource-sharing.
- g. Explore opportunities to protect and conserve heritage buildings, landscapes, and artifacts that contribute to the community's unique character and historical narrative.
- h. Explore opportunities to create and support dedicated spaces for the practice, exhibition, and performance of the arts, including visual, performing, literary, and multimedia arts; and
- i. Support the development of a connected creative network that links artists, artisans, cultural organizations, and residents for knowledge sharing, promotion, and collaboration.

5.4.2 Recognize, protect, and celebrate the cultural and historical heritage of Barriere and the North Thompson Valley.

- a. Where feasible, undertake and maintain an inventory of local historical assets, oral histories, and culturally significant events and places.
- b. Support and collaborate with local heritage organizations, such as the North Thompson Museum and Archives, in preserving and sharing local history.
- c. Where feasible, integrate opportunities for public participation, education, and cultural celebration into the design of public spaces, streetscapes, buildings, and community gathering areas.
- d. Promote heritage as a living component of Barriere's civic identity and an opportunity for intergenerational learning and connection.
- e. Work together with Simpcw First Nation, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (2025), to identify and protect areas of archaeological and cultural significance.
- f. Consider integrating heritage values into land use planning, especially along the Barriere and North Thompson Rivers.

5.5 Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Barriere's emergency services are well-coordinated through local, provincial, and regional partnerships to ensure prompt response to emergencies.

RCMP: The local RCMP detachment serves a population of approximately 6,000 and serves Barriere, Chu Chua, and surrounding areas with an assigned team of four full-time officers. The RCMP works closely with community-based organizations like Block Watch, which helps facilitate local alerts, and Crime Stoppers, which allows citizens to anonymously report crimes.

Fire Services: The District's fire department plays a crucial role in emergency response with a full-time fire chief and approximately 22 trained volunteer members, trained in structural and wildfire suppression, highway rescue and more. Firefighting resources include a 500-gallon truck with compressed air and foam system, a 1,000-gallon truck with foam system, a 1,500-gallon fire tender, and a 1-tonne rapid attack truck. Barriere's fire department also has a mutual aid agreement with the Simpcw Volunteer Fire Department, enabling coordinated responses to fires and other emergencies.



Ambulance Services: BC Ambulance Service provides emergency medical services in Barriere, as part of the province's emergency health services network. The ambulance service provides emergency pre-hospital treatment and transportation by ambulance to the public and visitors to BC.

Search and Rescue: Founded in 1982, Barriere Search and Rescue (SAR) is a volunteer organization experienced in ground, embankment, flat water, and auto-extrication rescues. Members are trained in SAR techniques, first aid, rope rescue, and tracking. The unit plays a critical role in regional rescue operations and collaborates with the fire department and other SAR groups as needed.

Barriere First Responders: The Barriere First Responders Society is a not-for-profit volunteer organization that provides emergency medical care in Barriere and surrounding area. They serve as a 'first link' to medical emergencies when ambulances are delayed. They are staffed by volunteers who undertake regular training sessions. Because they integrate with other emergency services, they coordinate closely with the fire department and search and rescue for broader incident management.

Emergency Management and Preparedness: The District of Barriere maintains a local Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan (EMP). While overall emergency planning responsibilities may be delegated to the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), the District retains authority to declare a state of local emergency and issue evacuation orders. This governance structure ensures that Barriere can respond swiftly and locally while benefiting from the broader coordination and resources of the TNRD.

At the provincial level, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) supports coordinated emergency response across the region. Locally, Barriere is served by a network of emergency partners, including the Barriere and Simpcw fire departments, BC Ambulance Service, the RCMP, First Responders, and ESS. Citizens have access to the TNRD's emergency alert system, which, along with the District's eNews and web posting, provides timely updates during critical events.



This integrated approach to emergency management—combining local authority, regional coordination, and provincial support—ensures that Barriere is prepared to respond effectively to a wide range of emergencies, including wildfires, floods, medical incidents, and other natural or human-caused disasters.

The following policies are meant to ensure that the District of Barriere remains a safe, resilient, and well-prepared community through proactive planning, coordinated service delivery, and public education.

- Ensure that fire protection, rescue, policing, and emergency response services grow in step with community needs and population change.
- Require new developments to contribute toward enhanced fire protection infrastructure and capacity (e.g., firefighting equipment, water pressure upgrades, fire underwriter surveys) through Amenity Cost Charges (ACC).
- Continue working with the RCMP to ensure effective and adaptable policing strategies to meet the needs of a changing population.
- Provide continued support to the District's fire department through training, recruitment, and modern equipment.
- Promote public safety awareness through community outreach and educational initiatives on emergency preparedness, fire prevention, and risk reduction.
- Collaborate with the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) and other partners to maintain and implement a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- Promote FireSmart principles and best practices for wildfire risk reduction in both urban and interface areas.
- Encourage the integration of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in the planning and approval of all large new development; and
- Empower residents, businesses, and institutions to build personal and collective emergency preparedness through accessible information and training resources.

5.6 Indigenous Reconciliation

5.6.1 Relationship with Simpcw First Nation

Foster a respectful, collaborative, and enduring relationship between the District of Barriere and Simpcw First Nation grounded in reconciliation, mutual understanding, and shared stewardship of the land.

- a. Promote and support meaningful partnerships among the Simpcw First Nation, local organizations, businesses, and all levels of government to advance inclusive community development and cultural recognition.

- b. Maintain clear, consistent, and respectful channels of communication between the District, Simpcw First Nation, Barriere residents, and neighbouring communities to encourage dialogue, transparency, and mutual respect.
- c. Foster meaningful partnerships with Simpcw First Nation through collaborative governance, cultural exchange, and joint initiatives that benefit both communities.
- d. Promote reconciliation by considering Indigenous knowledge, values, and history into local decision-making and planning processes.
- e. Enhance two-way communication channels between Simpcw First Nation, local government, residents, and neighbouring communities.

To support the preservation and celebration of Indigenous cultural resources within the plan area, and to foster respectful and meaningful relationships with the Simpcw First Nation.

- f. Collaborate with the Simpcw First Nation to develop a culturally sensitive communications strategy that supports the protection of archaeological resources and the sharing of Indigenous history through storytelling and education.
- g. Strengthen the District's relationship with the Peoples of Simpcw First Nation by fostering dialogue, mutual understanding, and, when feasible, inclusive planning approaches that honour cultural diversity and traditional knowledge as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2025.

To honour and support traditional food systems and land use practices of Simpcw First Nation.

- h. Facilitate opportunities for Indigenous food gathering, hunting, and fishing in accordance with traditional protocols.
- i. Promote intergenerational learning and awareness of traditional food systems.
- j. Partner with regional food networks, such as the North Thompson Valley Food Coalition, to advance shared goals.



SECTION 6:

CLIMATE

RESILIENCY

There is a growing global consensus that climate change is a direct result of human activities. Observable shifts in weather patterns, the increasing intensity of storms, wildfires, and other natural events, altered growing conditions, changes in water availability, rising incidences of pests and disease, and the degradation of wildlife habitats are all indicators of a changing climate. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate change as “a change in climate due to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.”

Two interrelated approaches have emerged as central strategies in climate action:

1. **Climate Mitigation** – This strategy focuses on reducing or avoiding the emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases. It includes actions that reduce emissions at the source, as well as mechanisms to capture and store existing CO₂, with the objective of restoring atmospheric concentrations to safer levels, such as 350 parts per million (ppm).
2. **Climate Adaptation** – This involves implementing practical changes on the ground that enable communities and ecosystems to adjust and become more resilient to the current and future impacts of climate change.

A primary driver of climate change is the continued accumulation of CO₂ in the atmosphere, largely from the combustion of fossil fuels for transportation, industrial processes, heating and cooling, energy production, and resource extraction. To address this, there is an urgent need for proactive planning strategies that transition society toward sustainability, reducing emissions and mitigating their long-term impact.

In the District of Barriere, the protection and stewardship of the natural environment are essential to ensuring the health of water supplies, ecosystem integrity, and overall community livability. The Official Community Plan (OCP) reflects an understanding that people are integral to the ecosystem, and that both the economy and society are inextricably linked to environmental health. The OCP supports planning practices that sustain and enhance ecological services, rather than diminish them.

Changing Climate Projections (2021- 2080)



Annual Mean Precipitation (mm)

535 mm

1976-2005

+28 mm
563 mm

2021-2050

+58 mm
593 mm

2051-2080



By 2050, the range in annual precipitation is expected to be 453mm - 690mm, compared to 466mm - 724mm by 2080



Annual Mean Temperature (°C)

3.8

1976-2005

+1.9
5.7

2021-2050

+3.9
7.7

2051-2080

Projected annual range in mean temperature: 4.5 - 9.3 C (2021-2080)



Summer Mean Temperature (°C)

13.9

1976-2005

+2.1
16.0

2021-2050

+4.3
18.2

2051-2080

Projected annual range in mean summer temperature: 14.3 - 20.5 C (2021-2080)



Winter Mean Temperature (°C)

-6.5

1976-2005

+2.1
-4.6

2021-2050

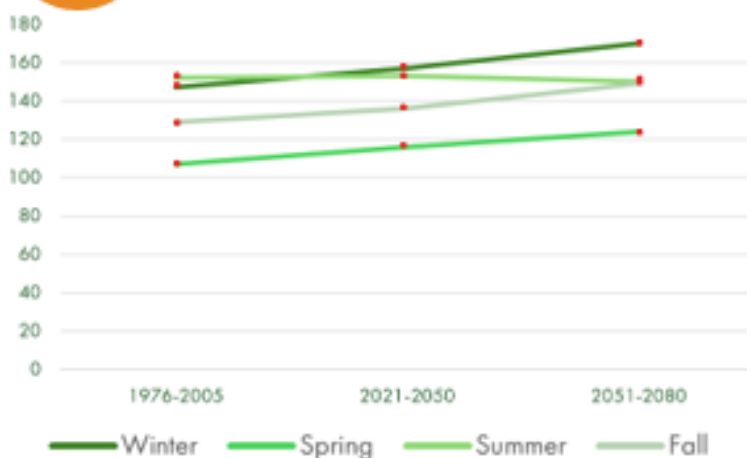
+3.8
-2.7

2051-2080

Projected annual range in mean winter temperature: -7.6 - 0.2 C (2021-2080)



Seasonal Precipitation (mm)



Annual Mean of Hot Days (+30 °C)

1976-2005

6

2021-2050

13

2051-2080

26



Annual Mean of Cold Days (-30 °C)

2

1

0



Frost Free Days

110

142

172

Source: Climate Atlas of Canada: Louis Creek Region

The OCP also acknowledges that while municipal boundaries define governance jurisdiction, ecological systems extend beyond these lines. With this understanding, the District embraces its responsibility to act as a sustainable steward, integrating environmental considerations across all areas of long-term planning.

The District of Barriere is a signatory to the B.C. Climate Action Charter—a collaborative initiative among the Provincial Government, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), and local governments. The Charter reinforces the importance of coordinated efforts to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Aligned with the Charter, the OCP incorporates policy guidance designed to support Barriere's climate objectives. This includes promoting compact, mixed-use development patterns that support a variety of densities and land uses. The plan encourages the development of active transportation infrastructure—such as pedestrian-oriented streets and non-motorized travel networks—to reduce reliance on automobiles.

Furthermore, the OCP emphasizes the importance of integrated waste management strategies, prioritizing waste reduction and promoting recycling. A Water Conservation Plan was endorsed in 2020 setting out objectives to protect the water supply to ensure residents have safe, clean water. It is generally reviewed and updated every 5 years.

6.1 Environment

The conservation of local ecosystems is essential to the health, prosperity, and long-term resilience of both current and future generations. A thriving natural environment underpins the social fabric, economic vitality, and overall sustainability of the community. Protecting the environment is a complex responsibility, shared across federal, provincial, regional, and local governments, each contributing through various strategies, regulations, and collaborative efforts.

Barriere's location at the confluence of the Barriere and North Thompson Rivers, along with its diverse natural features, plays a central role in shaping the community's rural character and enhancing the quality of life for residents. Clean water, fresh air, and a scenic landscape are deeply valued by the people who live here. To preserve these natural assets, the District of Barriere must take a proactive and thoughtful approach to policy-making—one that safeguards the community's environmental integrity, rural identity, and natural beauty for generations to come.

6.1.1 Water Resource Protection and Quality

- a. **Safeguard and enhance the integrity of Barriere's rivers, streams, and groundwater to support ecological services and watershed health.**
 - Establish a comprehensive Groundwater and Surface Water Protection Plan.

- Enforce Riparian Area Regulations for all applicable development encompassing riparian zones.
- Mandate connection to the District water and wastewater system for all new developments, unless proven infeasible, as determined by the District.
- Promote best practices for on-site stormwater treatment, such as oil-water separators.
- Require silt fencing and erosion controls in large construction and development projects.
- Promote the enhancement and protection of aquatic ecosystems and fish habitats.
- Promote permeable landscaping and on-site stormwater retention.
- Mandate oil collector systems for all off-street parking.
- Incorporate auxiliary power systems for water and wastewater treatment and distribution and collection reliability.

6.1.2 Water Conservation and Education

a. Lead by example in water conservation and promote community awareness.

- Maintain a District-wide Water Conservation Plan.
- Require water meters for all new development.
- Integrate conservation values with broader community planning.
- Launch educational initiatives promoting water conservation.
- Encourage grey-water systems and residential rainwater harvesting.
- Provide incentives for installing low-flow fixtures.
- Encourage rainwater reuse in all large new developments.
- Promote public campaigns for sustainable water use.
- When feasible, showcase conservation practices at District facilities (e.g., dual-flush toilets, xeriscaping).

6.1.3 Energy and Emissions Reduction

a. **Collaborate regionally and with senior governments to develop renewable energy.**

- Where feasible, support research in wind, run-of-river, and other renewables.
- Encourage independent power projects (IPPs).
- Conduct municipal building energy audits.
- Map community energy flows and potential.
- Where feasible, retrofit municipal buildings for energy efficiency.
- Where feasible, ensure all new municipal buildings meet green building standards.
- Where feasible, integrate energy and GHG considerations into all planning.
- Promote net-zero ready buildings and solar hot water systems.

b. **Align GHG reduction efforts across housing, transportation, and economic development where possible**

- Advocate for environmental building certifications in commercial/institutional developments.
- Encourage adoption of green technologies.
- Support use of EnergyStar™ appliances in homes.
- Lead in making municipal buildings energy efficient.

6.1.4 Integrated Sustainability

a. **Strive to prioritize long-term environmental benefits over short-term economic gains.**

- Collaborate with developers to reduce construction waste and energy usage.
- Support public awareness campaigns on sustainable practices.
- Ensure new residential developments integrate water and energy-saving technologies.

6.1.5 Environmental Health & Safety

a. Minimize hazard risks from floods, erosion, and landslides.

- Regulate development in hazardous areas via Development Permits.
- Require a QP to assess mitigation options for flood-proofing for developments in flood-prone areas.
- Limit development in sensitive terrain unless mitigation options identified by a QP are approved.
- Require geotechnical reviews for hillside developments.
- Consider implementing and maintaining a community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

b. Improve air quality and reduce pollution impacts.

- Maintain vehicle idling bylaws and public awareness.
- Consider developing policies for air quality improvement.
- Consider implementing wood stove exchange programs.
- Educate on responsible burning and promote alternatives.

c. Enhance wildfire resilience and integrate FireSmart principles.

- Support fuel load reduction and ecosystem restoration on public and private lands.
- Encourage fire-resistant building materials.
- Consider FireSmart compatibility in land use applications.
- Promote fire safety infrastructure and training.

6.1.6 Ecology, Stewardship & Natural Habitat

a. Protect and enhance local ecosystems and wildlife corridors.

- Where practical, regulate preserving open spaces and native vegetation.
- Design large developments with wildlife corridors and natural features.
- Require native landscaping in large new developments.
- Follow BearSmart and riparian protection protocols, as identified by a QP.
- Where practical, limit pesticide uses and promote ecological landscaping.

- Collaborate with stewardship groups to map and share environmental knowledge.

b. Safeguard biodiversity and manage species at risk.

- Where practical, inventory and protect habitats for vulnerable species.
- Address biodiversity concerns during development planning.

6.2 GHG Management

In alignment with evolving provincial legislation and the global imperative to address climate change, Barriere has incorporated greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction policies into its Official Community Plan. The policies were initially introduced into all TNRD OCPs prior to incorporation of the District. These policies included targets to reduce GHG emissions by 10% by 2020 and 33% by 2050, relative to 2007 levels. This OCP reflects and supports the regional climate goals by integrating equivalent objectives and policy actions.

As a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter, the District of Barriere commits to advancing climate leadership through the following objectives and implementation strategies:

6.2.1 Climate Action Objectives

a) Leadership & Planning

- Incorporate climate change considerations into all land use planning and development decision-making.
- Promote compact, efficient community design that supports infill development and smart growth principles.
- Strive to align long-range planning initiatives with GHG reduction goals and climate resilience.

b) Transportation & Mobility

- Where feasible develop and expand infrastructure for active transportation, including non-motorized trails and pedestrian connections.
- Encourage reduced car dependency through walkable community design and support for alternative transportation.
- Support carpooling and public transit options wherever feasible.

c) Energy Efficiency & Green Building

- Promote energy-efficient construction practices and encourage retrofitting of existing buildings.

- Explore incentives for builders and homeowners incorporating renewable energy systems such as solar or geothermal.
- Encourage the installation of low-flow water fixtures and water-efficient landscaping in all large new developments.

d) Low-Carbon Economy

- Support home-based businesses that are compatible with residential character and reduce commuting needs.
- Foster green entrepreneurship and the adoption of sustainable technologies at the local level.

e) Food Systems & Agriculture

- Where practical, protect agricultural lands and promote local food systems, including community gardens and farmers' markets.
- Encourage youth and community engagement in local food production and agri-based innovation.

f) Natural Assets & Ecosystems

- Promote tree planting and the preservation of healthy trees and natural vegetation during development.
- Explore the implementation of a community tree-planting incentive program.

g) Waste Reduction & Circular Economy

- Support waste diversion initiatives in alignment with Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, including a target of 30% reduction in waste disposal (from 2004 levels).
- Promote awareness and participation in recycling, composting, and landfill diversion programs through educational outreach.

h) Regional Collaboration

- Participate in the development of a regional GHG reduction strategy led by the TNRD, focusing on:
 - Enhancing public transit and carpooling initiatives.
 - Encourage energy efficiency in municipal and regional buildings.
 - Adopting a LEED Gold or equivalent standard for new public buildings where feasible.

- Where practical, purchasing fuel-efficient vehicles and utilizing videoconferencing to reduce travel.
- Expanding urban and rural forest cover within the District
- Encourage clean energy refueling and charging infrastructure.

i) Monitoring & Advocacy

- Request continued provincial support for tools and funding to monitor GHG emissions and measure progress.
- Raise public awareness of climate action through newsletters, local media, and community guides.



SECTION 7: DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS



7.1 What is a DPA?

Development Permit Areas (DPAs) are a planning tool enabled under the *Local Government Act* and implemented through an Official Community Plan. They allow local governments to guide the form, character, and impact of development within specifically designated areas where additional oversight is needed.

DPAs serve to achieve community objectives or address specific site conditions that merit detailed review. These objectives may include:

- Protecting the natural environment, ecosystems, and biological diversity;
- Reducing risk from hazardous conditions, such as flooding or steep slopes;
- Revitalizing commercial areas and enhancing visual appeal; and,
- Shaping the form and character of new development, including commercial, industrial, and multi-family projects.

In designated DPAs, a **Development Permit** is typically required before land is subdivided, buildings are constructed or altered, or land is cleared or modified. This process ensures proposed developments align with the objectives and guidelines established for the DPA. While Development Permits may impose conditions or refine design elements, they cannot change the underlying land use or density permitted by zoning.

In Environmental DPAs, the District may require an assessment report prepared by a Qualified Professional (QP). This report must evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed development on the natural environment and outline any necessary mitigation measures. In some cases, the QP must certify that the proposed development can proceed without causing adverse effects on the environment.

The District will determine the specific requirements for development approval on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the policies in this OCP, the conditions of the site, and the nature of the development. Staff will endeavor to provide clear, timely, and consistent guidance to applicants to support complete and efficient development review processes.

7.2 DPA Requirements & Exemptions

All development applications submitted to the District of Barriere will be assessed for consistency with this OCP, as well as any other relevant municipal plans, policies, and guidelines. Project proponents will be expected to consider the entire OCP and demonstrate how their proposals are consistent with its overall vision and intent.

Within all designated Development Permit Areas, a **Development Permit is required** before undertaking any of the following:

- a. **Subdivision:** Creating one or more new parcels, where any portion of the parent parcel lies within a DPA.
- b. **Construction:** Erecting, adding to, or altering a building, structure, or fence, where any portion of the proposed footprint is within a DPA.

A Development Permit **is not required** for the following minor and routine activities:

- a. Interior renovations not resulting in any change to the exterior of the building;
- b. Additions to buildings which increase the floor area by an amount less than 25%;
- c. Construction of accessory buildings or structures less than 18.5 m² (200 ft²);
- d. Multiple accessory structures with a combined total footprint less than 46.5 m² (500 ft²) on the same parcel
- e. Replacement, upgrading, or repair of roofing;
- f. Installation, repair or placement of utilities infrastructure within a highway right-of-way;
- g. General road construction or maintenance within a designated right-of-way;
- h. Removal of dead, hazardous or nuisance trees, pruning of undergrowth, or routine maintenance of natural vegetation, or existing fences or gates;
- i. Emergency circumstances to address any immediate danger on the site; or
- j. The construction, repair, or maintenance of municipal works by the District or its authorized agents or contractors, including any work performed on municipal lands.

Additional exemptions may apply as outlined under specific DPA guidelines.

The District may, in accordance with the *Local Government Act*, require additional information from an applicant in certain circumstances to ensure the development is suitable for the proposed location.

Where a property is subject to more than one DPA designation, only one Development Permit is required. However, the application must address the guidelines and requirements of all applicable DPAs, and any permit issued must reflect and comply with all overlapping guidelines.

7.3 DPA 1 | Downtown Core

Purpose

The purpose of the **Downtown Core Development Permit Area** (DPA 1) is to guide site design, building form, and streetscape character within the core of the District of Barriere. This area is intended to foster vibrant, mixed-use, commercial, civic, and residential development that reflects and enhances the District's identity. Development should be cohesive, human-scale, and welcoming to both residents and visitors.

Area

The Downtown Core DPA applies to all properties identified on **Map 5: Development Permit Areas 1-3** of this Official Community Plan.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the Downtown Core DPA are to:

- Encourage compact, mixed-use development that integrates commercial and residential uses;
- Promote attractive, cohesive, and functional design;
- Enhance the streetscape to support accessibility, walkability, and connections to parks, trails, and adjacent neighbourhoods; and
- Create a distinctive and inviting downtown core that fosters civic pride and local economic vitality.

Exemptions

A Development Permit is not required for:

- Single-family or two-family residential development;
- Repair of overhead canopies or other pedestrian weather protection devices; or
- Land designated as dedicated parkland.

Guidelines

Development Permits issued within the Downtown Core DPA should conform to the following guidelines, where applicable and practical:

Site Planning

- New development should respond to the design and massing of adjacent buildings and open spaces to ensure visual continuity and a coherent public realm.
- Mixed-use developments should include ground-floor commercial and upper-floor residential uses to support downtown activity and reduce reliance on automobiles.
- The layout of driveways, loading areas, and parking should support smooth on-site circulation without creating queuing or congestion on adjacent public roads.
- Primary access points are located and designed to minimize conflicts with existing traffic movements, public intersections, and pedestrian crossings.

Form and Character

To achieve a high-quality and pedestrian-oriented environment, development should:

- Feature buildings with front-facing facades, natural landscaping, and durable hardscaping that contribute to the streetscape.
- Limit building height to a maximum of three storeys and adhere to Zoning Bylaw regulations.
- Locate residential units above or behind commercial space. Second-storey residential uses are encouraged, with architectural elements such as porches, balconies, or rooftop patios integrated into the design.
- Ensure all visible building elevations, including side and rear façades, are thoughtfully designed.
- Encourage locally/regionally sourced and natural-looking materials, such as wood, brick, rock, or stone, to reinforce a distinct regional character.
- Select materials that are durable and appropriate for Barriere's seasonal climate—hot summers and cold, snowy winters.
- Integrate materials with high fire resistance in accordance with BC FireSmart guidelines, including fire-resistant roofing (e.g., metal, clay tile, asphalt shingles) and cladding (e.g., stucco, brick, metal, or concrete).
- Incorporate sustainable building practices where feasible, including:
 - Solar hot water systems and photovoltaic arrays.
 - Rainwater harvesting and cistern systems.

- Energy-efficient materials and technologies.
- Land designated as dedicated parkland.
- Emphasize quality craftsmanship and cohesive material palettes in keeping with the intended character of the area.

Landscaping and Screening

- Incorporate trees, shrubs, and other vegetation to shade parking areas and soften the visual impact of built environments.
- Where feasible, use permeable surfaces to manage stormwater and reduce heat absorption.
- In relation to neighbouring residential properties, provide adequate buffering and screening between parking lots and adjacent roads or pathways through landscaping or fencing.
- Avoid dense shrubbery or solid walls that block views between sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas.
- Maintain a clear sight triangle at driveway entrances, road intersections, and pedestrian crossings.

Pedestrian Mobility & Safety

- Design buildings to create variety and interest along the street front, avoiding long, blank façades and oversized, monotonous forms.
- Ensure all pedestrian routes and building entrances are aligned with legislation regarding accessibility and barrier-free use.
- Enhance connectivity between the downtown core, Yellowhead Highway Corridor, parks, river trails, and residential neighbourhoods through integrated pedestrian routes.
- Use a mix of materials and architectural detailing at the ground level to create a pedestrian-scale environment.
- Where applicable, include medians in wider roadways to support mid-block pedestrian crossings, enhanced safety, and streetscape beautification (e.g., signage, lighting, planting).
- Design building lighting to be downward-facing and reasonably non-intrusive to adjacent properties or as prescribed in the District's Sign Bylaw.
- Strengthen pedestrian and non-motorized user connections to parks, riverfront trails, and existing public rights-of-way.

Parking

- Minimize the number of access and egress points along public roads; shared driveways and consolidated entrances are encouraged.

- Where possible, off-street parking should be located behind or beside the primary building to prioritize pedestrian frontage.
- Consider the development of shared or municipal parking lots to accommodate overflow and short-term parking needs.

Signage

- Design signage to complement the architecture of the building, avoiding obstruction of key architectural features and pedestrian and vehicle sight lines.
- Signage should be adapted to align with the natural and visual character of the streetscape and storefronts.
- In mixed-use developments, the location of residential entrances shall be clearly identifiable and distinct from commercial entrances.
- Residential addresses shall be prominently displayed at the main residential entry in a manner that is highly visible from the street and well-lit.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction and Sustainability

- Encourage the integration of on-site renewable energy systems, such as solar panels.
- Encourage on-site rainwater harvesting and incorporate sustainable stormwater management solutions.

7.4 DPA 2 | Yellowhead Corridor

Purpose

The **Yellowhead Corridor Development Permit Area** (DPA 2) has been established to create a visually appealing and functional entrance to Barriere. This area plays a vital role in shaping first impressions for visitors, encouraging highway traffic to stop, explore, and connect with the Downtown Core. Development within this corridor should reflect Barriere's character, support commercial activity, and promote safe, accessible movement for all users.

Area

The Yellowhead Corridor DPA applies to all properties identified on **Map 5: Development Permit Areas 1–3** of this Official Community Plan.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the Yellowhead Corridor DPA are to:

- Establish attractive, cohesive design standards for a welcoming commercial service centre;
- Create strong visual and physical connections between the highway corridor, Downtown Core, parks, trails, and community pathways;

- Support a mix of uses, including service commercial and light industrial activities that serve both residents and visitors;
- Provide a safe, appealing, and easily navigable gateway to the community; and
- Enhance the visual quality of the corridor through coordinated landscaping and signage.

Exemptions

A Development Permit is not required for:

- Single-family or two-family residential development;
- Construction of multi-use pathways within Highway 5 right-of-way; or
- Repair of overhead canopies or other pedestrian weather protection devices.

Guidelines

Development Permits issued within the Yellowhead Corridor DPA should conform to the following guidelines, where applicable and practical:

Site Planning

- Position buildings closer to the highway right-of-way to frame the corridor, with parking located to the side or rear of the site.
- Coordinate the design of new buildings with adjacent structures to maintain visual consistency and support an orderly development pattern.
- The layout of driveways, loading areas, and parking should support smooth on-site circulation without creating queuing or congestion on adjacent public roads.
- Primary access points are located and designed to minimize conflicts with existing traffic movements, public intersections, and pedestrian crossings.

Form and Character

- Use visual and physical features such as roundabouts, medians, landscaped boulevards, and gateway signage to reinforce the identity of the Yellowhead Corridor.
- Encourage shared access and egress points to reduce traffic conflicts and improve safety.
- Design buildings and surrounding spaces to contribute to a vibrant, service-oriented corridor that supports both the travelling public and the local community.
- Consider winter conditions in site and building design, particularly at pedestrian and vehicle access points, to mitigate snow shedding and ice buildup.

Landscaping and Screening

- Incorporate high-quality landscaping throughout the corridor to soften hard edges, enhance aesthetics, and screen service areas or parking from view.

- Use native or drought-tolerant plant species that can withstand Barriere's climate and reduce maintenance needs.
- Use visibly appealing fencing materials.

Pedestrian Mobility & Safety

- Install full cut-off lighting to ensure multi-use pathways are well-lit without causing glare or light pollution. Bollard lighting may be used to improve safety and define pedestrian routes.
- Promote the continued development of a multi-use pathway along the Highway #5 right-of-way.
- Enhance connections between the highway corridor, downtown, parks, and surrounding neighbourhoods through clearly defined pedestrian and non-motorized links.

Parking

- Ensure parking areas are safe, universally accessible, and integrated into the overall site design without dominating the streetscape.
- All parking areas shall be hard surfaced with asphalt, concrete, or other durable paving materials and designed to provide adequate drainage.
- Encourage landscaping within parking areas to provide shade and improve visual quality.

Signage

- All signage must comply with the District's signage and wayfinding guidelines and/or bylaw and be designed in harmony with the associated building, avoiding obstruction of architectural features.
- Signage should be adapted to align with the natural and visual character of the streetscape and storefronts.
- Incorporate wayfinding signage for pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized users to support navigation and connectivity throughout the corridor.

7.5 DPA 3 | Industrial Lands

Purpose

The **Industrial Lands Development Permit Area** (DPA 3) is intended to guide the form and character of development within Barriere's two designated industrial areas. The purpose is to ensure that industrial activities are well-integrated with the broader community by minimizing negative impacts on adjacent land uses. Particular attention must be given to managing noise, air quality, and visual appearance, while supporting economic development and efficient land use.

Area

The Industrial Lands DPA applies to all properties identified on **Map 5: Development Permit Areas 1–3** of this Official Community Plan.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the Industrial Lands DPA are to:

- Support and encourage industrial development in strategically designated areas;
- Apply design standards that screen industrial activities from neighbouring non-industrial uses; and
- Ensure safe and efficient pedestrian movement within industrial sites and promote connectivity to other parts of Barriere.

Exemptions

A Development Permit is not required for:

- Trails or non-motorized pathway connections between the industrial area and the broader community;
- Construction of multi-use pathways within the Highway #5 right-of-way; or
- Temporary laydown yards.

Guidelines

Development Permits issued within the Industrial Lands DPA should conform to the following guidelines, where applicable and practical:

Site Planning

- The layout of driveways, loading areas, and parking should support smooth on-site circulation without creating queuing or congestion on adjacent public roads.
- Primary access points are located and designed to minimize conflicts with existing traffic movements, public intersections, and pedestrian crossings.

Form and Character

- New buildings should reflect Barriere’s desired development character by incorporating appropriate architectural detailing, massing, and articulation.
- Use durable building materials that are suitable for Barriere’s climate, characterized by hot dry summers and snowy winters.

- Preferred materials include locally sourced wood, rock, and stone, although alternative materials with similar appearance and quality may be considered during the permit process.

Landscaping and Screening

- Visually unattractive elements—such as outdoor storage areas, utility equipment, and accessory structures—shall be screened with a combination of fencing, landscaping, or both when visible to Highway 5 traffic or residential properties.
- Landscaping shall be used to buffer industrial uses from adjacent non-industrial properties, where applicable.

Pedestrian Mobility & Safety

- Provide clear and safe pedestrian routes from parking areas and sidewalks to main building entrances, ensuring pedestrian circulation and safety is prioritized over vehicular movement.
- In developments with extensive parking areas, define internal pathways to guide safe pedestrian movement between buildings and parking zones.

Parking

- Locate parking and loading areas behind or between buildings, with vehicle access oriented to internal lanes or circulation systems wherever feasible.
- Use vegetation, including tree cover, to provide shade and visual relief in parking areas.
- Where appropriate, consider permeable surface treatments to assist with on-site stormwater management.

Signage

- Signage should complement the building architecture and surrounding context and not obstruct vehicular sight lines.
- Corporate signs should be designed to blend with the natural appearance of façades, minimizing visual disruption.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction and Sustainability

- Encourage the integration of renewable energy systems on-site, including solar panels and other clean energy technologies.
- Incorporate stormwater management features garbage collection and water collection systems including catch basins as part of site design.
- Encourage businesses to implement waste management strategies appropriate to industrial uses, including practices that reduce, recycle, and responsibly dispose of industrial waste.

7.6 DPA 4 | Environmental

Purpose

The **Environmental Development Permit Area** (DPA 4) is established to protect the ecological integrity and function of environmentally sensitive areas, including riparian zones, flood hazards, steep slopes, and other critical natural features. The purpose of this DPA is to ensure that new development avoids negative impacts on water quality, wildlife habitat, slope stability, and long-term ecosystem health.

Area

The Environmental DPA applies to all properties identified on **Map 6: DPA 4 | Environmental** of this Official Community Plan.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the Environmental DPA are to:

- Minimize risks to human health, safety, and property;
- Protect riparian areas, wildlife corridors, steep slopes, and other environmentally sensitive features;
- Promote water conservation and responsible stormwater management; and
- Contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the resilience of natural systems.

Exemptions

A Development Permit is not required for:

- External alterations that are entirely within the existing building footprint;
- Removal of hazardous or invasive trees, as identified by a Qualified Professional (QP);
- Restoration or ecological enhancement works recommended by a Qualified Professional (QP);
- Removal of trees deemed to pose wildfire risks under FireSmart BC guidelines, with confirmation from a Qualified Professional (QP);
- Normal farm practices on land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), provided the area has been previously altered for agricultural use as defined by the *Farm Practices Protection Act*; or
- Reconstruction or repair of a permanent structure, in accordance with Section 532(1) of the *Local Government Act* provided the structure remains on its existing foundation.

Guidelines

Development Permits issued within the Environmental DPA should conform to the following guidelines, where applicable and practical:

Floodplain and Steep Slope Management

- The District shall prepare a Floodplain Management Plan to inform future regulatory frameworks.
- Where feasible, new development should be directed away from riparian areas and steep slopes.
- Development proposals on or near steep slopes must:
 - Reduce the risk of slope instability, erosion, or flooding;
 - Maintain ecological functions of the slope and surrounding area;
 - Include buffer zones and measures to restore or protect natural features; and
 - Be informed by site-specific geotechnical and environmental assessments.

Riparian and Shoreline Protection

- No development is permitted within 30 metres of the natural boundary of a stream, river, or watercourse.
- A reduced setback may be considered with supporting evidence from a Qualified Professional (QP) that shoreline impact is minimized and habitat restoration is incorporated where no significant risk transfer for potential flood waters exists.
- Development should maintain natural drainage patterns and minimize alteration to topography and natural features.

Stormwater and Drainage

- A site-specific stormwater management plan, prepared by a Qualified Professional (QP), is required for any development within the Environmental DPA.
- Post-development runoff must not exceed pre-development levels.
- Stormwater management must address sediment control and runoff quality during and after construction.

Slope Stability

- Lands with natural slopes exceeding 30% must remain in their natural condition.

- Where steep slope conditions render a property otherwise undevelopable, development may be permitted with the support of a Qualified Professional (QP) who provides:
 - An erosion and slope stability mitigation plan;
 - An assessment of potential hazards to adjacent lands or developments; and
 - Measures for ecological restoration where applicable.

Existing Development

- Buildings currently located within riparian setbacks, steep slopes, community watersheds, or floodplains shall be recognized as legally non-conforming.

Impervious Surface and Drainage

- Minimize total impervious surface coverage within the Environmental DPA to reduce surface runoff and support groundwater recharge.
- Alteration to natural drainage channels must be minimized.

Landscaping and Restoration

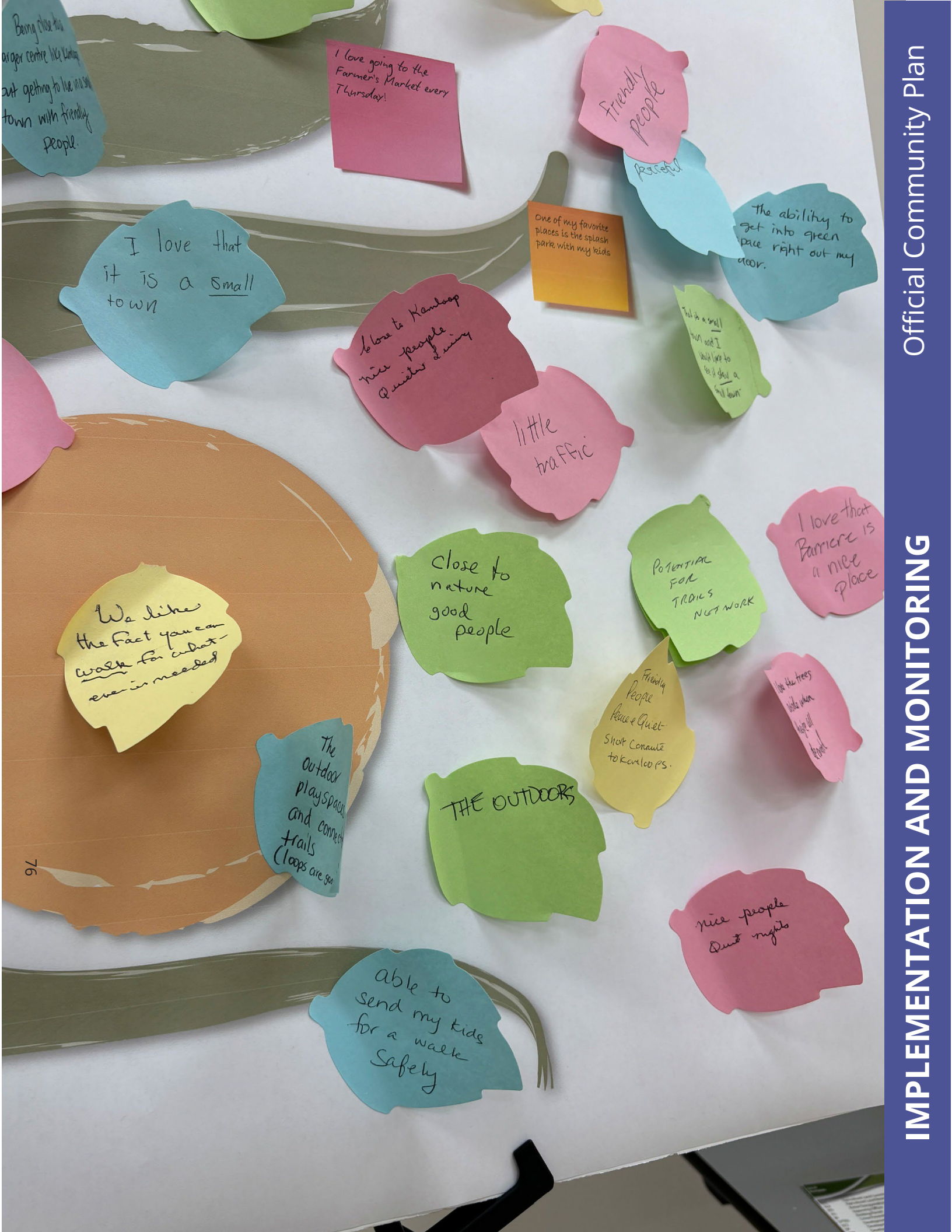
- A landscape plan must be submitted with the Development Permit application, identifying existing and proposed landscape features.
- Plantings within setback areas should support:
 - Erosion control;
 - Bank stabilization; and
 - Maintenance of hydrological function where property risk is a consideration.
- Use native or drought-tolerant vegetation where possible.

Site Contamination

- Where there is evidence or history of potential site contamination, the District may require submission of an Environmental Site Assessment or Environmental Impact Assessment prepared by a Qualified Professional (QP).

Additional Requirements

- The District may request additional site-specific technical studies from a Qualified Professional (QP) as part of the Development Permit application process, depending on the location, sensitivity, and nature of the proposed development.



SECTION 8: IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

To ensure the effective realization of the District of Barriere's vision, principles, and policies as articulated in this Official Community Plan (OCP), the District envisions to adopt a comprehensive framework for implementation, monitoring, and review. This framework would outline the responsibilities, tools, and processes that should guide the OCP's application over time.

Roles and Responsibilities

District Council

Council provides strategic direction and is responsible for ensuring relevant land use decisions and bylaws are consistent with the OCP. This includes consideration of the OCP during reviews of development applications, zoning amendments, and strategic initiatives. The OCP may be amended in response to changing needs and community priorities.

District Administration

Staff will be guided by the OCP in day-to-day land use decision-making and in formulating recommendations for the Council. Administration will evaluate development applications for alignment with OCP policies and collaborate across departments to incorporate these policies into operational activities.

8.1 Implementation Tools

The OCP aspires to guide the District when implementing several other key regulatory instruments:

- **Zoning Bylaw:** Translates land use designations and policy direction into enforceable regulations. It will be reviewed and updated to maintain alignment with the OCP.
- **Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw:** Establish standards for land subdivision and municipal service provision.

- **Development Permit Areas (DPAs):** Guide form, character, and environmental protection within designated areas.
- **Development Approval Information:** Allows the District to request studies or assessments necessary to evaluate proposals and ensure they meet OCP objectives.
- **Capital Budgeting and Financial Planning:** The Financial Plan will inform the District's annual capital budget and Five-Year forecast, ensuring infrastructure investments support asset management and long-term community goals.
- **Development Cost Charges (DCCs):** The DCC Bylaw will be periodically updated to ensure that new development contributes equitably to the cost of required infrastructure.
- **Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs):** The ACC Bylaw will be periodically updated to ensure that new development contributes equitably to the cost of required amenities.

Implementation Planning

The District may consider incorporating relevant OCP aspirations into Council's Strategic Plan on an annual basis to ensure alignment and prioritization of actions.

8.2 Plan Monitoring and Review

Ongoing monitoring is essential to ensure the Official Community Plan remains relevant, responsive, and effective over time. To support this, the District where feasible, envisions to establish measurable targets and indicators that relate to key areas such as housing, environmental protection, infrastructure capacity, and economic development. Development applications and municipal decisions envisions to be regularly reviewed to assess their alignment with OCP policies and objectives. In addition, the District will make use of tools like Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to spatially track development trends, helping staff and Council evaluate how well policies are performing and where adjustments may be needed.

8.2.1 OCP Review and Amendment

This OCP is intended to be a living document that can adapt to evolving community needs, growth patterns, changing legislation and emerging priorities. The OCP may be updated through:

- **Comprehensive Review:** Conducted at least once every five years, including public consultation, to evaluate relevance and compliance with provincial legislation (e.g., *Local Government Act*, Housing Needs Assessments).
- **Periodic Amendments:** Considered outside of the regular review cycle to address emerging issues, subject to public engagement and Council approval.

All amendments should, where feasible demonstrate alignment with the OCP's overall vision and policy direction.

8.2.2 Alignment with Other Plans and Policies

To support a coordinated and integrated approach to community development, the District aspires to align relevant municipal plans, bylaws, policies, strategies, and regulations with the guiding principles of this Official Community Plan. Financial planning processes, including capital budgeting and updates to Development Cost Charges (DCCs) will be informed by the OCP and Asset Management long range capital planning.

8.3 Temporary Use Permits

Temporary Use Permits are included as an interim (short term) alternative for proposed land uses that may not warrant a permanent changes to the zoning of land. Temporary uses are typically of a trial / interim use nature.

Temporary Use Permits may be issued for new land uses on specific properties which are not otherwise allowed in a zone in the Zoning Bylaw. Conditions may be specified by Council or Council's delegate respecting any required changes to the property to allow the temporary use, and any restoration to the property following expiration of the permit. Pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, a Temporary Use Permit can be issued for up to three years, with the possibility of one renewal for up to an additional three years

8.3.1 Designation of Temporary Use Permit Areas

Pursuant to Section 492 and 493 of the *Local Government Act*, all lands within the boundaries of the District of Barriere, as shown in Map 1, are designated as areas in which temporary uses may be permitted.

8.3.2 General Considerations for Issuance

When evaluating a TUP application, Council or Councils delegate may consider several factors:

- Not be noxious or undesirable due to smoke, noise, vibration, dirt, glare, odour, or electrical interference;
- Not be a health hazard;
- Not have a negative impact on adjacent lands;
- Not create a significant increase in the level or demand for municipal services; and
- Not permanently alter the site upon which it is located.

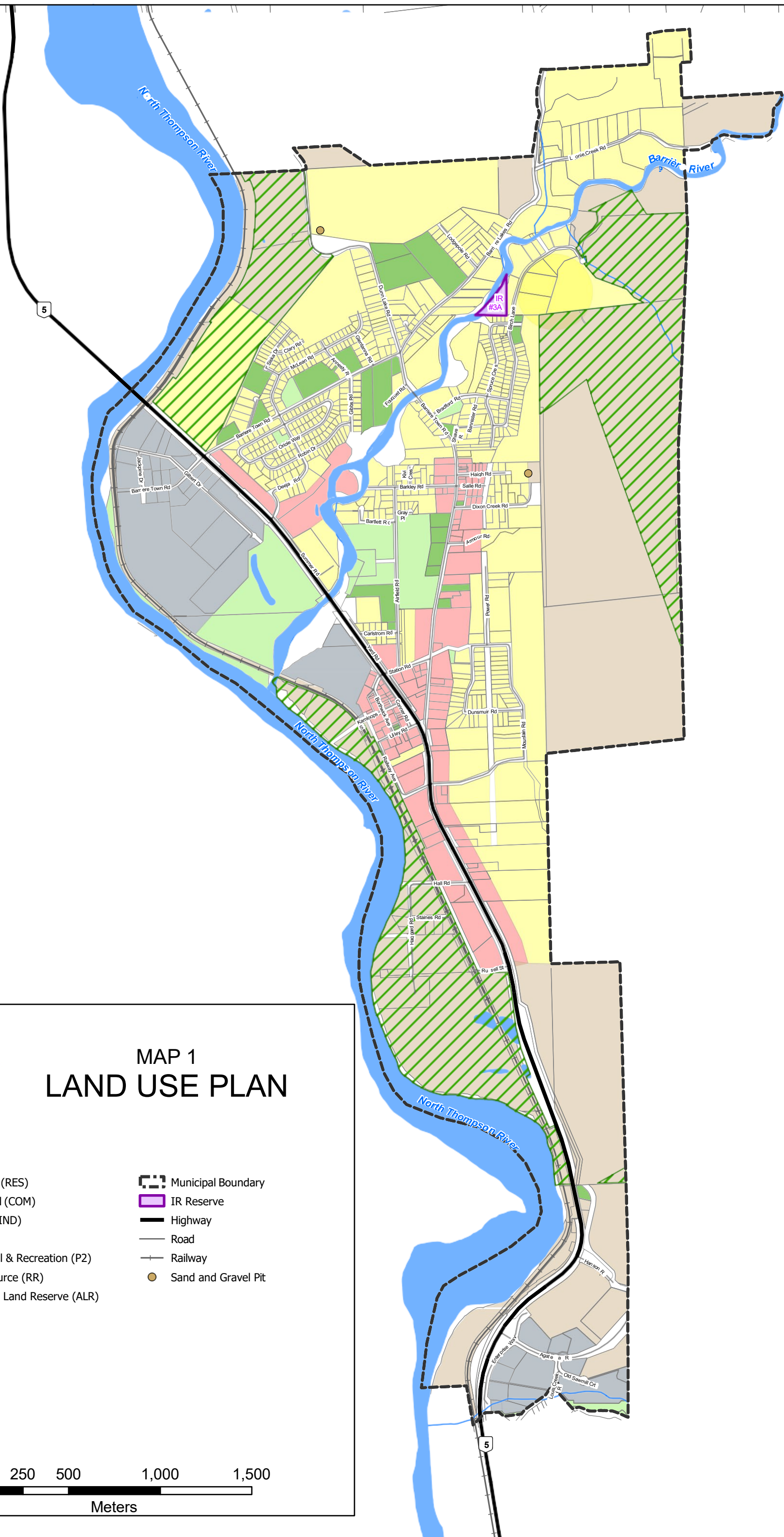
8.3.3 Terms and Conditions

Council or Council's delegate may attach conditions to any TUP issued to reduce impacts and ensure compliance. These conditions may include, but are not limited to:

- Hours of operation;
- Size and siting of buildings or structures;
- Landscaping and screening;
- Site restoration and clean up following the temporary use;
- Requiring security to guarantee performance of conditions or restoration;
- Registration of a Section 219 covenant and statutory right of way; and/or
- Restrictions as to the days and hours of use.

By establishing a framework for Temporary Use Permits, the District of Barriere aims to provide a mechanism for accommodating beneficial short-term uses while ensuring that they are appropriately managed and do not compromise the long-term vision and character of the community as outlined in this Official Community Plan.





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5

North Thompson River

Barrier River

5

North Thompson River

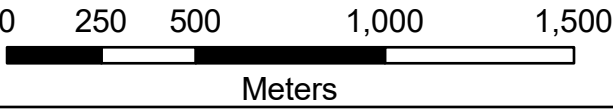
North Thompson River



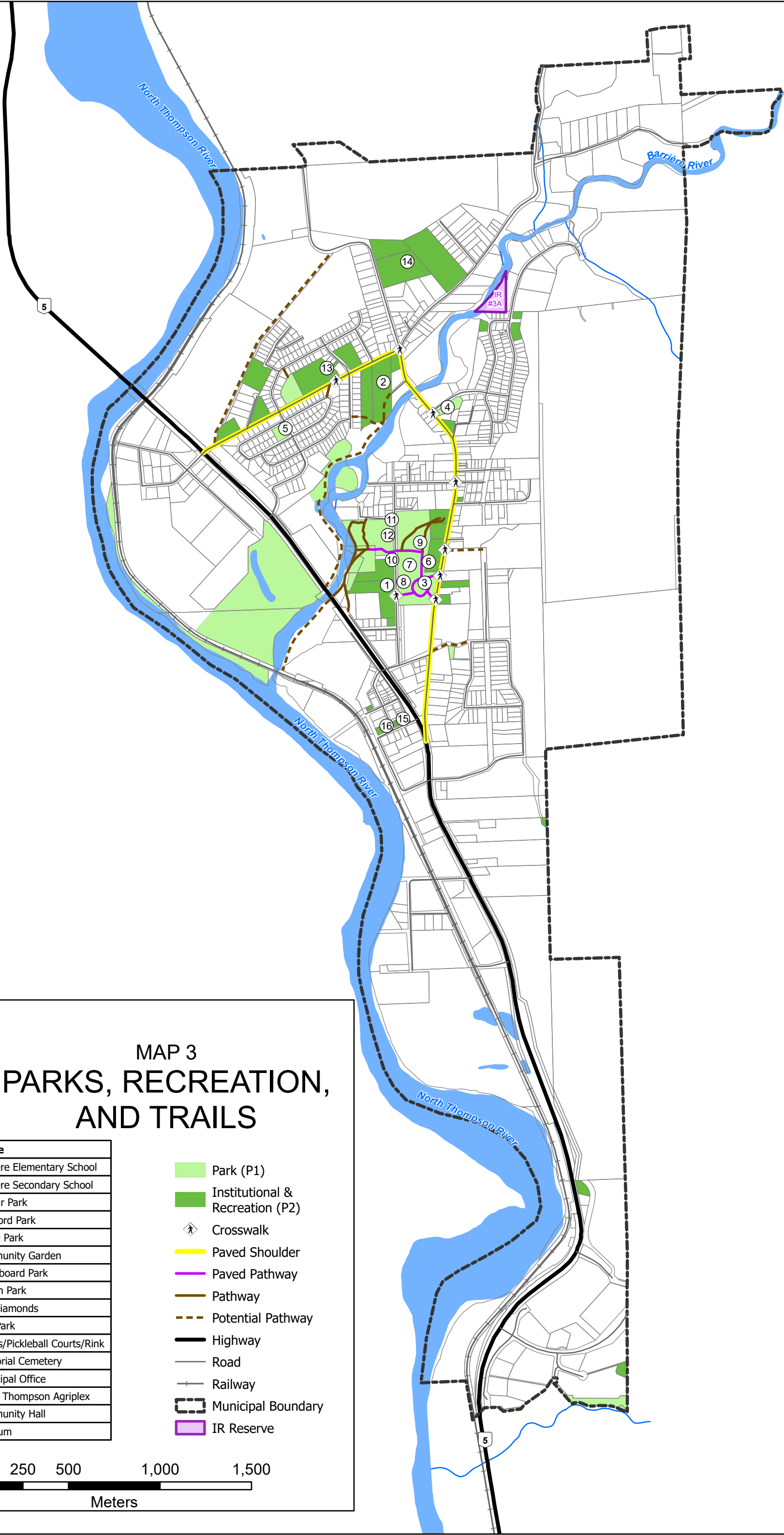
MAP 2 TRANSPORTATION

- Highway
- Collector
- Local
- Paved Shoulder
- Railway

- IR Reserve
- Municipal Boundary



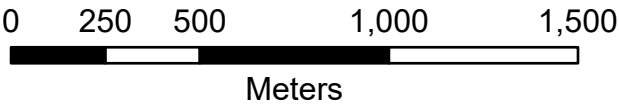
Meters

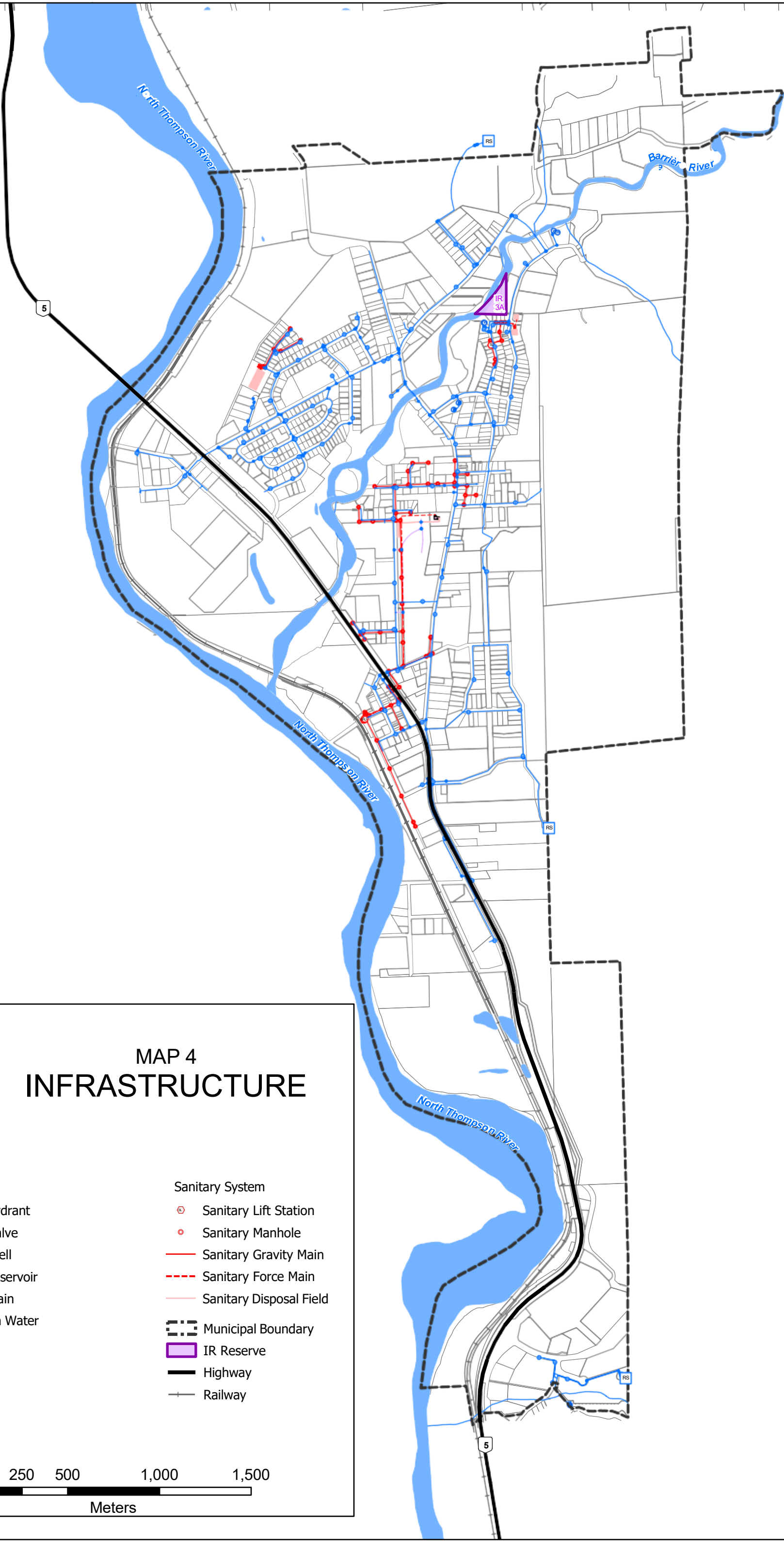


MAP 3 PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS

Number	Name
1	Barriere Elementary School
2	Barriere Secondary School
3	Fadear Park
4	Bradford Park
5	Oriole Park
6	Community Garden
7	Skateboard Park
8	Splash Park
9	Ball Diamonds
10	Dog Park
11	Tennis/Pickleball Courts/Rink
12	Memorial Cemetery
13	Municipal Office
14	North Thompson Agriplex
15	Community Hall
16	Museum

- Park (P1)
- Institutional & Recreation (P2)
- Crosswalk
- Paved Shoulder
- Paved Pathway
- Pathway
- Potential Pathway
- Highway
- Road
- Railway
- Municipal Boundary
- IR Reserve





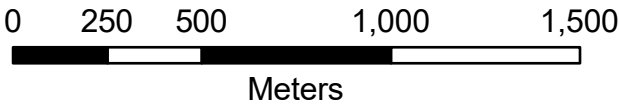
MAP 4
INFRASTRUCTURE

Water System

- Water Hydrant
- Water Valve
- Water Well
- Water Reservoir
- Water Main
- Irrigation Water

Sanitary System

- Sanitary Lift Station
- Sanitary Manhole
- Sanitary Gravity Main
- Sanitary Force Main
- Sanitary Disposal Field
- Municipal Boundary
- IR Reserve
- Highway
- Railway





5

North Thompson River

Barrière River

IR #3A

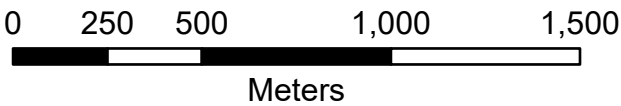
North Thompson River

North Thompson River



MAP 5
DEVELOPMENT
PERMIT AREAS
1 - 3

- | | |
|---|--|
|  DPA 1 - Downtown Core |  Municipal Boundary |
|  DPA 2 - Yellowhead Corridor |  IR Reserve |
|  DPA 3 - Industrial Lands | |
|  DPA Overlap | |



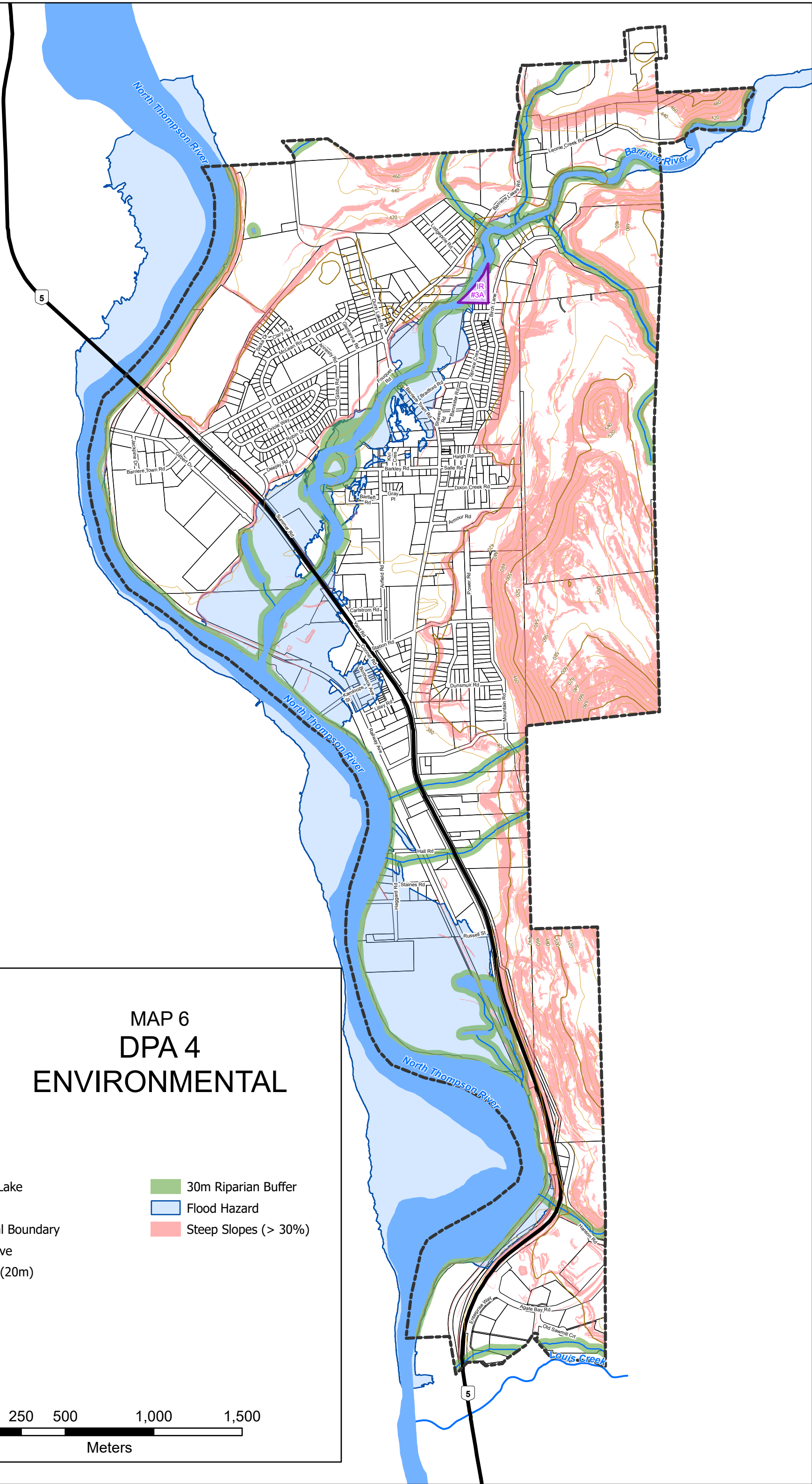
5

Hanson Rd

Erinac Way

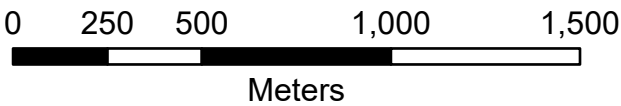
Agate Bay Rd

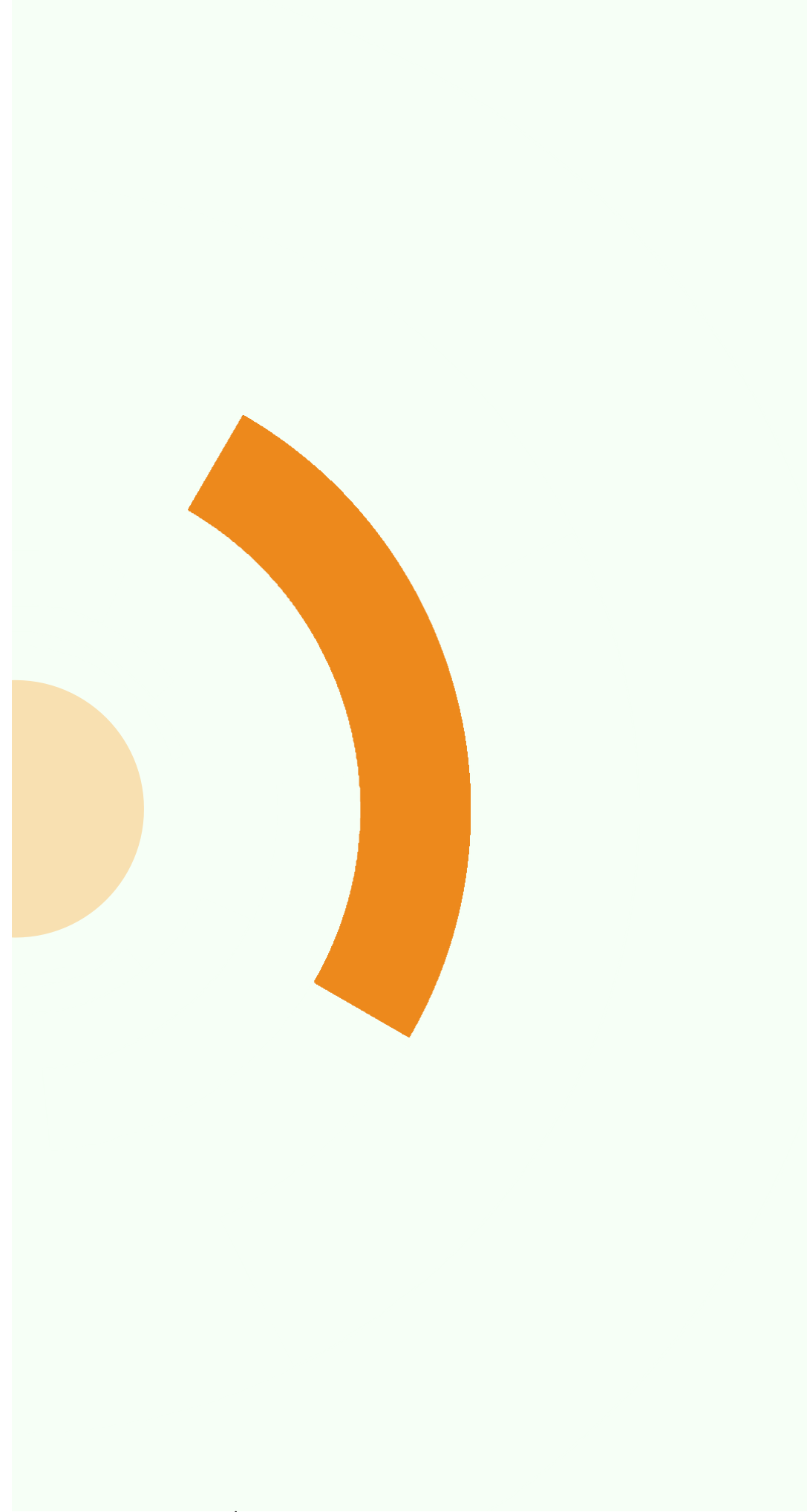
Old Sawmill Crt



MAP 6 DPA 4 ENVIRONMENTAL

- | | |
|--|--|
|  River + Lake |  30m Riparian Buffer |
|  Stream |  Flood Hazard |
|  Municipal Boundary |  Steep Slopes (> 30%) |
|  IR Reserve | |
|  Contour (20m) | |





APPENDICES

Definitions

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)	A separate self-contained dwelling unit on a parcel that is smaller and subordinate to the principal dwelling unit and may be located within the principal dwelling unit or in a separate independent building on the property.
Active Transportation	Human-powered forms of moving from one place to another. It can take many forms and is continually evolving as new technologies emerge, but typically includes walking, cycling, skateboarding, and other emerging modes of human powered transportation.
Affordable Housing	Housing which has a mortgage or rent payment that does not exceed 30% of gross income, that is provided for low to moderate income households having an income that is 80% or less than the median household income for the community. Affordable housing may include subsidized housing administered by BC Housing, the Capital Region Housing Corporation, or other non-profit housing societies in the region secured by a Housing Agreement.
Agricultural Land Commission (ALC)	The independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in British Columbia.
Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)	The provincial designation in which agriculture land is officially designated and protected under provincial legislation. Farming is encouraged and non-agricultural uses are restricted.

Amenity Cost Charges (ACC)	Amenity Cost Charges are a development finance tool that allow local governments to collect funds for amenities such as community centres, recreation centres, daycares, and libraries from new development that results in increased population of residents or workers.
Climate Action Plan	A framework document for measuring, tracking, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adopting climate adaptation measures. These documents are used as a framework to guide administrative bodies in addressing the impact of climate change in their communities.
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)	The Mission of CPTED is to reduce the fear and incidence of crime thereby working towards an improvement of the quality of life by promoting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) throughout Canada.
Development Cost Charges (DCC)	Development Cost Charges (DCCs) are monies that are collected from land developers by a municipality, to offset some of the infrastructure expenditures incurred, to service the needs of new development. Imposed by bylaw pursuant to the Local Government Act, the charges are intended to facilitate development by providing a method to finance capital projects related to roads, drainage, sewers, water and parkland.
Development Permit Areas (DPAs)	Locations that need special treatment for certain purposes including the protection of development from hazards, establishing objectives for form and character in specified circumstances, or revitalization of a commercial use area.
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs)	Areas identified through reports, studies, plans, or government designation as having special environmental attributes that are worthy of preservation, conservation, protection, or special area.
FireSmart	A set of design principles to protect communities from the wildfires.
Floodplain, Freeboard (Floodplain)	Lands within a lowland area, whether diked or floodproofed, which by reasons of land elevation are susceptible to flooding from an adjoining watercourse, lake, or other body of water, are reasonably required to discharge the flood flow of a 1:200-year flood. The freeboard floodplain is commonly referred to as the floodplain.

Hazard Area	An area subject to natural events known to result in death or endangerment of the works of man, such as stream flooding, ground water, flash flooding, erosion or fluvial deposits, landslides, earthquakes, weak foundation soils, and other hazards unique to a local or regional area.
Household	A person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling.
Household Income	The sum of the incomes of all people aged 15 years or older residing at a single address.
Infill	Development a vacant piece of land in areas fully serviced by community infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, etc.).
Intensification	Upgrading an existing developed property to a more intensive development or higher density than currently exists. Intensification can include adding additional units (such as ACUs, ADUs and secondary suites) or the conversion of existing buildings (ex: converting a single-family dwelling to a triplex).
Legally Non-Conforming	Occurs when the use of land or a building or structure is not permitted by the current zoning bylaw but was permitted by a previous bylaw.
Local Government Act	Is a Provincial Government Act that empowers, guides, limits and affects local governments. The Act covers important authorities for both municipalities and regional Districts, such as planning and land use powers and statutory requirements for administering elections.
Long Term Rental (LTR)	A lease term for a residential dwelling or dwelling unit to tenants for a continuous period of 30 days or more.
Manufactured Homes	Any structure, whether ordinarily equipped with wheels or not, that is designed, constructed or manufactured to provide residential accommodation and to be moved from one place to another by being towed or carried.
Ministry of Transportation & Transit (MOTT)	The Ministry of Transportation and Transit plans and improves transportation networks, builds new infrastructure, provides transportation services, and implements transportation policies, to allow for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.
Mixed Use Buildings	A building or groups of buildings under one ownership designed to encourage a diversity of compatible land uses, which include a mixture of two or more of the following uses: residential, office, retail, recreational, light industrial, and other miscellaneous uses.

Purpose-Build Rental Housing	Housing that is designed and built expressly as long-term rental accommodation. It may also include legal agreements that require the housing to stay as rental housing.
Qualified Professional (QP)	A professional who is registered and in good standing with the appropriate B.C. professional organization constituted under an Act. The QP must be acting under that association's code of ethics, and subject to the organization's disciplinary action.
Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP)	An applied scientist or technologist who is registered and in good standing with an appropriate B.C. professional organization constituted under an Act. The QEP must be acting under that association's code of ethics, and subject to the organization's disciplinary action.
Short-Term Rental (STR)	A dwelling unit or multiple dwelling units that are rented for a continuous period of less than 30 days.
Site Plan	A drawing or set of drawings that can include: Existing site development features (e.g. buildings, structures, parking areas, pathways), Existing natural areas, drainage patterns, waterbodies, wetlands, and other natural features Proposed new buildings, structures, roads, pathways, parking and loading areas and other improvements; Proposed impacts to natural areas, drainage patterns, waterbodies, wetlands.
Smart Growth	A range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more socially diverse by applying 10 basic principles to guide smart growth strategies.
Supportive Housing	Housing with on-site supports for adults, seniors and people with disabilities at risk of, or experiencing, being unhoused.
Temporary Use Permit (TUP)	Under sec. 492 of the Local Government Act, Temporary Use Permits (TUPs) may be considered by the District to allow specific land uses to occur, for a limited time, that would not otherwise be permitted.
Transitional Housing	Long-term housing (three months to three years typically) for individuals who require additional social, and health supports and may be at-risk of being unhoused.

Truth and Reconciliation	The process of establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and in Canada that includes acknowledging what happened in the residential school system. Truth and reconciliation include addressing 94 “calls to action” to further reconciliation between Canadians and Indigenous peoples stemming from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which documented the truth of Survivors, their families, communities and anyone personally affected by the residential school experience.
Universal Design	Design standards meant to create buildings and environments that are inherently accessible to people of all ages and physical abilities.
Wayfinding	A system that assists travelers in orienting, navigating, and moving about an environment using visual cues or other measures, including signage.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN





District of Barriere Projects

October 10, 2025

In Progress



Priority #1: Implement an Organizational Asset Management Program

Goal 1. – Assess Current Practices and State of Our Assets

a. Complete review of Current Practices and make recommendations on how to address any gaps by the end of 2025.

Council

Capital Program?

Estimated costs

Staff hours

Staff days

Future Budgets

Sponsor

Percent complete

25 %

b. Provide a review of our Assets and long-term annual investment needs for Council and Public Information by the end of 2025.

Council

Capital Program?

Estimated costs

Staff hours

Staff days

Future Budgets

Sponsor

Percent complete

0 %

Goal 2. Develop Asset Management Policies

a. Tangible Capital Assets Policy

Council

Capital Program?

Estimated costs

Staff hours

Staff days

Future Budgets

Sponsor

Percent complete

100 %

b. Asset Management Policy

Council

Capital Program?

Estimated costs

Staff hours

Staff days

Future Budgets

Sponsor

Percent complete

100 %

c. Asset Management Framework/Strategy

Council

Capital Program?

Estimated costs

Staff hours

Staff days

Future Budgets

Sponsor

Percent complete

100 %

d. Asset Management Investment Plan (AMIP)

Council

Capital Program?

Estimated costs

Staff hours

Staff days

Future Budgets

Sponsor

Percent complete

10 %

e. Asset Management Financial Investment Policy

Council

Capital Program?

Estimated costs

Staff hours

Staff days

Future Budgets

Sponsor

Percent complete

0 %

Goal 3. – Communication of Asset Management Program to Public

a. Present a budget for enhanced communication on Asset Management as part of the 2025 budget.

Council

Capital Program?

Estimated costs

Staff hours

Staff days

Future Budgets

Sponsor

Percent complete

100 %

b. Information is readily available to the public through various channels.

Council

Capital Program?

Estimated costs

Staff hours

Staff days

Future Budgets

Sponsor

Percent complete

0 %

c. At least one Open House on Asset Management has been held before the end of 2026.

Council

Capital Program?

Estimated costs

Staff hours

Staff days

Future Budgets

Sponsor

Percent complete

0 %

d. Reasonable efforts have been made to educate the public on the purpose of Asset Management.

Council

Capital Program?

Estimated costs

Staff hours

Staff days

Future Budgets

Sponsor

Percent complete

0 %

	Priority #2: Fiscally Responsible Operations								
	Goal 1. – Develop a District Facilities Roadmap								
	a.Present a short-term facilities strategy for Council consideration that aligns with the needs of the organization and are financially achievable in 2025/26.	Council		160	21.3		PW	33 %	
	b.Begin implementation of approved short-term components.	Council			0.0		PW	0 %	
	c.Include long term facilities needs in Asset Management plans.	Council		40	5.3		PW	40 %	
	Goal 2. – Develop a Strategy to mitigate cost increases and downloading pressures.								
	a.Present an updated Procedure Bylaw that focuses on efficiencies for Council consideration.	Council			0.0		CAO	100 %	
	b.Collect Statistics for visitations to Town Hall and present in 2026.	Council			0.0		CAO	100 %	
	c.Present a business case for a fulltime roads department for Council consideration.	Council		160	21.3		PW	75 %	
	d.Business cases to align current and future operational needs to increase efficiencies and capacity is presented for Council consideration.	Council		160	21.3		CAO	75 %	
	Goal 3. – Financial Confidence and Oversight are Rebuilt								
	a.The annual budgets are presented on a Program Based Budget (not line by line), highlighting variances in all programs.	Council			0.0		CAO/CFO	100 %	
	b.An effective mechanism for quarterly budget reporting is established and quarterly high-level financial updates are presented to Council.	Council			0.0		CAO	100 %	
	c.Financial Policies are presented for Council consideration.	Council		160	21.3		CAO	50 %	
	d.The 2026 audit is on time.	Council		400	53.3		CFO	10 %	
	e.Financial software options are considered once the Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD) has made a decision on their products and potential sharing of resources.	Council			0.0		CAO	0 %	

	Priority #3: Create Opportunities for Community Growth							
	Goal 1. – Complete Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Project and SCADA System							
✓	a.The new WWTP is operational by end of 2026.	Council	yes	\$ 5,000,000	400	53.3	\$ 3,400,000	PW  20 %
✓	b.Include a budget for the SCADA system in the 2025 annual budget for Council consideration.	Council	yes	\$ 110,000		0.0		PW  100 %
✓	c.If SCADA budget is approved, all Water and Wastewater systems are connected to a centralized system (SCADA) by summer 2026.	Council			0	0.0		PW  100 %
	Goal 2. – Support Developments to Increase our Tax Base							
✓	a.Development is enabled as much as possible for the 3 large parcels north of the Highway Bridge along the Highway 5 Corridor. Ideally both, water and wastewater, are available.	Council			240	32.0		CAO/PW  15 %
✓	a.If REDIP grant is not receive, provide Council with options to fund the project (or part of the project) without any grant support	Council			80	10.7		CAO/PW  60 %
✓	b.Council is presented with options for land swaps or right of way agreements with property owners if the project proceeds	Council			120	16.0		PW/CO  5 %
✓	b.Active Transportation and Utility Right of Way corridors are established where feasible.	Council			120	16.0		PW/CO  15 %
✓	c.Continuously review grant opportunities that would allow infrastructure expansion to underutilized areas, to allow for growth or to reduce operating costs.	Council				0.0		PW/CO  25 %
	Goal 3. – Complete critical Utility Bylaw and Utility Master Plan revisions							
✓	a.Present a Wastewater Bylaw for Council consideration in 2025.	Staff			240	32.0		PW/CO  25 %
✓	b.Present a Water Bylaw update for Council consideration in 2025.	Council			120	16.0		CAO/CO  50 %
✓	c.Wastewater Master plan update is started by end of 2026, funding dependent.	Council			400	53.3		CAO/PW  10 %
✓	d.Water Master Plan update is started by end of 2026, funding dependent.	Council			400	53.3		CAO/PW  10 %

	Priority #4: General Governance and Community Engagement							
	Goal 1. – Increase Partnership with Simpcw First Nation							
✓	a.Present a final version of the MOU and Protocol agreement for Council consideration.	Simpcw			0.0		CAO	100 %
✓	b.Present an application for the Crown Land Tenure to both Councils for consideration.	Council		120	16.0		CAO/CO	35 %
✓	c.If opportunities arise, present them to Council for consideration.	Council			0.0		CAO/CO	20 %
	Goal 2. – Bylaws and legislated reports are complete							
✓	a.The Housing Needs Assessment is complete.	Province			0.0		CO	100 %
✓	b.The OCP is updated and presented to Council for consideration by end of 2025.	Province		240	32.0		CAO/CO	60 %
🔄	c.The Zoning Bylaw is updated and presented to Council for consideration by end of 2026.	Province		400	53.3		CO	0 %
✓	d.Development Approvals Bylaw is updated and presented to Council for consideration by end of 2025.	Staff		240	32.0		CO	50 %
🔄	e.Development Cost Charges Bylaw is updated and presented to Council for consideration by end of 2025.	Staff		400	53.3		CO	0 %
✓	f.Parks Bylaw is updated and presented to Council for consideration by end of 2025.	Council		80	10.7		CAO/CO	33 %
✓	g.Fire Bylaw is updated and presented to Council for consideration by end of 2025.	Staff		80	10.7		CAO/FC	33 %
🔄	h.Accessibility requirements are met.	Province		200	26.7		CO	0 %
	Goal 3. – Enhanced Engagement with the Community and our Partners							
✓	a.An agreement with CN rail is complete regarding the Hall Road crossing and presented to Council for consideration in 2025.	CN Rail		0	0.0		CAO	100 %
✓	b.Communications regarding District projects are enhanced on the platforms that our citizens are wanting to be engaged on.	Council		120	16.0		CAO/CO	25 %
✓	c.Support our local community partners and enable them to provide a benefit to the community on behalf of the District	Council		120	16.0		CAO/CO	50 %
✓	d.Establish a mechanism to solicit input from the Youth in our community.	Council		120	16.0		CO	10 %

✓	Other Projects							
✓	Louis Creek Watermain Expansion	Developer	yes	\$ 250,000	0.0	no	CAO / PW	100 %
✓	Cemetery Memorial Wall	Citizen		100	13.3	yes	PW / CO	25 %
✓	Fire Hall Grant Application	Staff			0.0	No	Fire / PW / CAO	100 %
✓	Leonie Lake Dam Study	Council	yes	400	53.3	yes	PW	65 %
Capacity Required:				\$ 5,410,000	6320	843		
Capacity Available:					1268	169		
Capacity Deficit					5053	674		

LEGEND

- Complete 
- In Progress 
- Delayed / Update Needed 

October 21, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to follow up on our earlier correspondence regarding the #DesignedWithSurvivors campaign, a province-wide initiative that reframes gender-based violence (GBV) as a public safety crisis. This campaign remains rooted in the essential question:

What would public safety look like if it were designed with survivors in mind?

We have called on municipalities across British Columbia to take coordinated, local action to address GBV as a matter of public safety and gender equity. Since our initial outreach, BWSS has met with **19 municipalities**. Through council delegations and one-on-one discussions with mayors and staff, we have been able to explore practical steps that municipalities can take to strengthen prevention, response, and coordination on GBV. These conversations have been encouraging and demonstrate the growing recognition that safety starts at the local level.

Today, we are following up to ensure that your community has the opportunity to participate in this critical initiative, starting with a meeting or council delegation from BWSS. Our goal is to support your municipality in:

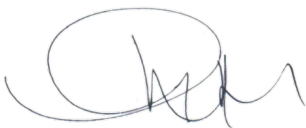
- **Identifying opportunities for municipal leadership**, including establishing task forces, implementing risk assessment protocols, and advancing public awareness initiatives.
- **Developing a gender-based violence prevention and response strategy** that aligns with community safety and equity goals.
- **Collaborating with community organizations and other levels of government** to ensure an integrated, survivor-centred approach.

As November 25 approaches, marking the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**, now is a meaningful time to join this provincial conversation and demonstrate your local government's commitment to ending gender-based violence.

We would be pleased to schedule a meeting or delegation at your convenience to discuss how BWSS can support you in this vital work.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to community safety.

Warm regards,
Angela Marie MacDougall



Executive Director
Battered Women's Support Services
(BWSS)

BUSINESS LINE 604.687.1868

www.bwss.org

PO BOX 21503 • 1424 COMMERCIAL DR. • VANCOUVER, BC V5L 5G2

Tasha Buchanan

Subject: A Call for Municipal Solidarity and Transparency on PFAS Contamination at YYJ and all BC Airports

From: Phil Perras <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 12:30 AM

To: ubcm@ubcm.ca

Cc: district@100milehouse.com; info@abbotsford.ca; officeclerk@alertbay.ca; village.hall@anmore.com; info@cityofarmstrong.bc.ca; admin@ashcroftbc.ca; Inquiry <inquiry@barriere.ca>; belcarra@belcarra.ca; bim@bimbc.ca; LegislativeServices <legislativeservices@burnaby.ca>; village@burnslake.ca; admin@cachecreek.ca; info@campbellriver.ca; village@canalflats.ca; castlegar@castlegar.ca; municipalhall@csaanich.ca; chase@chasebc.ca; d-chet@gochetwynd.com; info@chilliwack.com; admin@docbc.ca; admin@village.clinton.bc.ca; info@coldstream.ca; info@colwood.ca; town@comox.ca; feedback@coquitlam.ca; info@courtenay.ca; info@cranbrook.ca; info@creston.ca; info@cumberland.ca; office@daajinggiids.ca; admin@dawsoncreek.ca; City Clerk <cityclerk@delta.ca>; duncan@duncan.ca; info@elkford.ca; info@cityofenderby.com; corporate.services@esquimalt.ca; cityhall@fernien.ca; district@fortstjames.ca; info@fortstjohn.ca; cao@fraserlake.ca; info@village.fruitvale.bc.ca; info@gibsons.ca; info@goldriver.ca; enquiries@golden.ca; info@grandforks.ca; general@villageofgranisle.ca; cao@greenwoodcity.ca; info@harrisonhotsprings.ca; info@hazelton.ca; info@highlands.ca; info@hope.ca; doh@houston.ca; tonia@hudsonshope.ca; info@invermere.net; info@kamloops.ca; admin@kaslo.ca; ask@kelowna.ca; cleo@kentbc.ca; info@keremeos.ca; info@kimberley.ca; districtofkitimat@kitimat.ca; info@ladysmith.ca; admin@lakecountry.bc.ca; general@lakecowichan.ca; administration@langford.ca; info@langleycity.ca; info@tol.ca; district@lantzville.ca; info@lillooet.ca; reception@lionsbay.ca; info@loganlake.ca; info@lumbly.ca; finance@lytton.ca; info@districtofmackenzie.ca; enquiries@mapleridge.ca; cao@masset.ca; mcbride@mcbride.ca; info@merritt.ca; info@metchosin.ca; midwaybc@shaw.ca; General Inquiries <info@mission.ca>; admin@montrose.ca; cao@nakusp.com; victoria.bowering@nanaimo.ca; swinton@nelson.ca; office@newdenver.ca; info@newhazelton.ca; info@newwestcity.ca; info@northcowichan.ca; admin@northsaanich.ca; info@cnv.org; infoweb@dnv.org; justask@northernrockies.ca; administration@oakbay.ca; admin@oliver.ca; info@osoyoos.ca; info@parksville.ca; info@peachland.ca; admin@pemberton.ca; ask@penticton.ca; info@pittmeadows.ca; citypa@portalberni.ca; info@portalice.ca; cao@portclements.ca; info@portcoquitlam.ca; info@portedward.ca; general@porthardy.ca; reception@portmcneill.ca; info@portmoody.ca; mcylbulski@poucecoupe.ca; City of Powell River <info@powellriver.ca>; cityclerk@princegeorge.ca; cityhall@princerupert.ca; admin@princeton.ca; gqbtown@qualicumbeach.com; cityhall@quesnel.ca; cao@radiumhotsprings.ca; corporate@revelstoke.ca; cityclerk@richmond.ca; cityhall@rossland.ca; Council <council@saanich.ca>; cao@salmo.ca; cityhall@salmonarm.ca; village@saywardvalley.ca; info@sechelt.ca; SIGD@shishalh.com; corporate@sicamous.ca; admin@sidney.ca; info@silverton.ca; info@villageofslocan.ca; general@smithers.ca; info@sooke.ca; mail@spallumcheentwp.bc.ca; sparwood@sparwood.ca; admdept@squamish.ca; info@districtofstewart.com; corporateofficer@summerland.ca; reception@sunpeaksmunicipality.ca; clerks@surrey.ca; reception@villageoftahsis.com; feedback@districtoftaylor.com; info@telkwa.ca; cityhall@terrace.ca; office@tofino.ca; info@trail.ca; cao@dtr.ca; info@ucluelet.ca; adminservices@valemount.ca; City Clerk's Office <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>; corporate@district.vanderhoof.ca; mayor@vernon.ca; Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>; Info Address <info@viewroyal.ca>; info@warfield.ca; info@westkelownacity.ca; info@westvancouver.ca; corporate@corporate@whistler.ca; webmaster@whiterockcity.ca; corporateservices@williamslake.ca; cao@zeballos.com; clerk@wells.ca

Subject: A Call for Municipal Solidarity and Transparency on PFAS Contamination at YYJ and all BC Airports

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you of a concerning pattern that has emerged around **Victoria International Airport (YYJ)** — one that reflects not only an authoritarian tone from federal authorities, but also likely a deeper effort to suppress transparency and silence public concern.

Recently, the **District of North Saanich** designated airport lands as **multi-purpose** — including residential, commercial, and industrial uses — as part of its new **Official Community Plan (OCP)**. This democratic, good-faith decision was met with immediate federal hostility. **Transport Canada** responded with a letter demanding that the municipality reverse course and defer entirely to federal control.

Please note how the tone of that response was *not* cooperative. It was **authoritarian**.

Instead of acknowledging legitimate local priorities — housing, affordability, and environmental safety — the federal government defaulted to territorial defensiveness. Its message was simple: *do not question us*.

Yet the truth is that the lands around the airport have long been suspected of **PFAS contamination** from decades of **firefighting-foam use**. These so-called “forever chemicals” have been confirmed at many Canadian airports and are known to **bio-accumulate in groundwater, soil, plants and the human body**. According to the Canadian Environmental Law Association, the Victoria International Airport’s fire-training area is listed as a **suspected PFAS contamination site**, and petition records reference **PFAS-impacted soil stockpiles** at YYJ — facts the public appears to have never been given in full detail.

Thus, the likely motive behind Ottawa’s reaction is *self-preservation*.

Any honest environmental audit could expose a costly legacy of contamination — one that would demand accountability for decades of harm to our people, our drinking water, and our healthcare system.

If the federal government acted in good faith, it would **welcome local participation, share test data, and plan transparent remediation**. Instead, it has chosen secrecy and coercion.

That choice reflects not leadership, but *fear*.

The Role of the Mayor and the People’s Voice

In this context, the **North Saanich Mayor’s** offhand remark at a council meeting — one that drew national attention — must be understood not as a threat, but as an **expression of anguish**. I believe his tone mirrors that of the people he represents: people like **Szorra**, an elderly woman I met in a municipality neighbouring the airport.

Szorra lives in pain, unhoused after being priced out of supportive housing by a fee increase she could not afford. In despair, she told me she sometimes wants to “burn the system down” — not because she wishes harm, but because she can no longer bear what the system has done to her. She knows those thoughts are wrong, yet admits that they can offer a momentary solace in the biting cold.

This is what leadership must confront *honestly*.

The mayor is not detached from his people’s pain — **he feels it with them**. His blunt words are the echo of collective suffering that polite diplomacy has ignored for far too long. That empathy is not weakness; it is proof that democracy still breathes in North Saanich.

When federal authorities scold a mayor for voicing that pain, they are not defending civility — they are **attacking representation itself**.

A Call for Transparency and Municipal Solidarity

Every municipality in British Columbia should demand from **Transport Canada**:

1. **Immediate disclosure** of all environmental assessments, PFAS testing data, and historical firefighting-foam use records from BC airports.
2. **Independent, third-party testing** of groundwater and soil near BC airports — funded by the federal government but **overseen by municipal and provincial representatives**.
3. **A joint remediation plan** developed with municipalities and health care providers to ensure that our communities are not left with the cleanup burden.
4. **Public release of monitoring results** through an open data portal accessible to all residents.
5. **A formal commitment** that local voices will not be silenced, discredited, or punished for raising legitimate concerns.

This is not only about North Saanich — it is about **every community living in the shadow of federal land management**, and every resident whose health and housing are treated as collateral.

Conclusion: Pain Is the Proof of Conscience

When a mayor speaks harshly, it is because they refuse to go numb to the suffering around them.
When senior governments react harshly, it is because they cannot stand being reminded of their neglect.

Municipal leaders must never forget their duty: **to amplify the voices of their people**, especially when those voices tremble with anger or pain.

That is what North Saanich Mayor Peter Jones did — and it is what every other principled leader in this province *must* continue to do.

Respectfully,

Philip Perras

[REDACTED]

Pender Island, BC [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [@hotmail.com](#)

Happy Halloween FIREWORKS

BBQ | FIREWORKS | MUSIC

FRIDAY OCTOBER 31ST
@ KP BALL DIAMONDS

BBQ BY DONATION - 6:30PM
FIREWORKS - 7:30PM





RABBITS BC R&CB ASSOCIATION OF BC

BARRIERE SHOW FINANCES 2025

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Grants TNRD	\$1,500.00	Hotel - 7 judges	\$ 1,311.96
Grants District of Barri	\$500.00	Fees - 7 judges	\$ 4,176.80
Grants LNTCFS	\$2,000.00	Dinners - 7 judges	\$ 154.00
Entries	\$5,810.00	Lunch -7 Judges	\$ 98.00
Dinner	\$620.00	Prizes - Certificates	\$ 185.00
Kitchen & Baking	\$347.55	Prizes - Carriers	\$ 360.00
		Prizes - Cavies	\$ 125.00
		Prizes - Specialties	\$ 100.00
		Supplies	\$ 311.25
		Catering	\$ 1,061.00
		Show Sanctions	\$ 342.00
		Youth Event expenses	\$ 81.50
		Kitchen & Baking	\$ 445.32
		Printing	\$ 270.00
		Venue Rental	\$ 890.00
		Show Insurance	\$ 400.00
		Acknowledgements	\$ 180.00
		Office supplies	\$ 50.00
		Show Supplies	\$ 129.19
	\$10,777.55		\$ 10,671.02

Total # of entries 13 shows: 1662

29TH ANNUAL COHO DAY DUNN CREEK HATCHERY



Wednesday November 5, 2025

9:30am-1:30pm

10615 Dunn Lake Road

32.5km from Barriere

Please RSVP by
Oct 15 to Tina at

Fisheries.Manager@simpcw.com

- Lunch provided
- Kids activities
- Fence processing
- See our new upgrades
- Meet our hatchery staff

October 16, 2025

Mayor Rob Kerslake

District of Barriere
Box 219, 4936 Barriere Town Road
Barriere, BC
V0E 1E0

Sent via email: mayor@barriere.ca

Union of BC Municipalities Convention 2025

Dear Mayor Kerslake,

Thank you for the consideration and attention you brought to our meeting at the 2025 UBCM Convention. I appreciated the opportunity to connect and discuss health topics.

Your insights and local perspective are invaluable as we continue working to strengthen health services in Barriere and support the health and well-being of residents across the B.C. Interior.

We covered a number of important topics, and I am committed to following up on:

- residency status limitations for employment opportunities.

I value the relationship Interior Health shares with the District of Barriere. The commitment you have shown to your community is admirable. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration as we continue to advance health care, support residents and look for opportunities to jointly promote advantages of living and working in your community and our region.

Sincerely,



Diane Shendruk
VP, Clinical Operations

cc: Sylvia Weir, President & CEO

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Däkelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, syilx, and Tšilhqot'in Nations, where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Frank Caputo, MP
Kamloops-Thompson-Nicola

August 27, 2025

The Hon. Francois-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance and National Revenue,
90 Elgin Street,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Champagne,

Subject: Pre-Budget Consultations for District of Barriere

I write in regard to pre-budget consultations.

This is a time of great stress and financial pressures for both the smaller and larger communities in the Kamloops-Thompson-Nicola. I hear daily from people who feel left behind by your government.

With this in mind, I enclose a letter from the District of Barriere. As you can see, Barriere has a number of needs that have been overlooked by the federal government. Rural communities often feel overlooked by your government's inaction and Barriere is no exception.

To summarize, Barriere still struggles economically from the after-effects of the devastating 2003 McLure-Barriere wildfire. Its largest employer at the time (the Tolko sawmill) was destroyed, and to this day residents live in fear that their homes and rebuilt businesses will be lost again to wildfires.

As such, they are asking for support to replace the Barriere Fire Hall (\$4.5 million) and a new ladder truck (\$1.5 million), both of which will assist their volunteer fire department in protecting the community going forward. Barriere is located at the epicenter of B.C. wildfire outbreaks. This funding is critical.

Ottawa

313 Justice Building
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
613-995-6931

frankcaputomp.ca

Kamloops

6-275 Seymour St.
Kamloops BC V2C 2E7
250-851-4991

frank.caputo@parl.gc.ca

These issues have been overlooked for far too long. I believe that many Western Canadians, particularly those in Conservative-held ridings, feel neglected by your government. The 2025 Budget is the time to make this right. I implore you to commit to funding Barriere's requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Frank Caputo', with a stylized, cursive script.

Frank Caputo, M.P.
Kamloops-Thompson-Nicola
Shadow Minister for Public Safety

October 17, 2025

Mayor Rob Kerslake and Council
District of Barriere
PO Box 219
4936 Barriere Town Road
Barriere, BC V0E 1E0

Reference: LGPS-10708

Re: 2024 Local Government Development Approvals Program – *Development Approvals Process Review*

Dear Mayor Kerslake and Council,

Thank you for providing the final report, dated September 29, 2025, for the above noted project. We have reviewed your submission and all reporting requirements have been met.

The final report notes a total eligible expenditure of \$137,778.96. Based on this, a payment in the amount of \$67,946.46 will follow shortly by electronic fund transfer. This represents final payment of the grant and is based on 100% of the total reported expenditure (to a maximum of the approved grant of \$139,665.00) minus the initial payment of \$69,832.50 provided in July 2024.

I would like to congratulate the District of Barriere for undertaking this project and responding to the opportunity to improve development approvals processes in your community .

If you have any questions, or if we can provide any assistance, please contact 250-952-9177 or lgps@ubcm.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sasha Pryn", is written over the printed name.

Sasha Pryn
Program Officer

cc: Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer, District of Barriere

The Local Government Development Approvals program is funded by the Province of BC

Dear Mayor and Council,

In my last letter, I demonstrated how senior governments appear to have been utilizing stigma in order to push responsibility onto municipalities for the fallout of their own decisions — including the pursuit of international trade deals with regimes that flood our streets with fentanyl precursors. Today, I am writing to follow up and emphasize that such trade deals are not the only way senior governments have been profiting from weaponized stigma. There is now evidence that they are profiting directly from the *crime and disorder itself*.

Let me explain.

When Civil Forfeiture Replaces Protection

At a home in Kamloops, over 111 police and bylaw calls were logged between 2018 and 2024. Despite this extensive history — and repeated pleas from neighbours — criminal activity persisted. I personally filed a detailed complaint to the Kamloops RCMP in May 2024, warning that a vulnerable woman who owned the house was being exploited by criminal actors as she tried to care for her dying mother. I offered to provide photographic evidence of gang activity and stolen goods, including tools, luggage, electronics, and bicycle parts, but was denied any opportunity to do so.

Police told me the situation was "complicated." In a recorded conversation on May 24, 2024, Kamloops RCMP admitted that repeat thefts and criminal activity were being allowed to continue without arrests, providing no reason for why this was the case. RCMP quickly turned their focus onto me, asking "where I was" and whether I had any "mental health issues" (without making any specific accusations).

Just weeks later, an overdose death occurred at the home. Police seized over 100 grams of suspected crystal meth and a loaded, unlawfully stored firearm — confirming the level of threat I had warned about. So what was the RCMP's reaction to this death, you may ask?

In October 2024, police delivered a letter to the homeowner — threatening civil forfeiture proceedings. The letter referenced the same 111 police and bylaw files that had failed to trigger meaningful protective action over six years. The homeowner had already passed away by the time the letter arrived. My personal complaint about the situation is likely counted as one of those 111 files.

The message was unmistakable:

We won't intervene to protect you, but we will seize your home if you fail to protect yourself.

This is not public safety, this is institutional failure turned into a financial opportunity.

Profiting from Crime, Not Just Stigma

Civil forfeiture was originally intended to remove illicit profit from the hands of organized criminals. Today, it has become something else: a tool used against vulnerable homeowners after years of seemingly purposeful enforcement failure by the same institutions now profiting from property seizure.

Worse still, those who try to intervene — like myself — become targets of suspicion and retaliation.

When I filed my complaint, officers asked invasive questions about my location and mental health history — weaponizing stigma rather than addressing the facts. Unrelated charges were later laid against me in another jurisdiction (which did not result in any criminal conviction), suspiciously just one week after the overdose death — reinforcing the optics of coordinated retaliation and a potential attempt to smear me for my journalism. Disclosure pointed to involvement by the Kamloops RCMP prior to local authorities contacting me about charges.

In fact, I am still facing a charge for Harassing Communications related to my reports to police as a journalist, weeks after reporting police behaviour during those same communications to the OPCC as discriminatory. This appears to be retaliatory. Worse still is the fact that the public (including all of you) are not able to view the charge when looking up my name. You need the file number in order to see the charge (188689), which has been dragging on in court for now over a year. Even probation was never told about the charge, yet Crown is expecting a guilty plea and potential jailtime for this non-violent first offence.

Even the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission (CRCC) initially agreed to communicate with me as the homeowners advocate, then reversed course, issuing deadlines and pressure directly to the

homeowner instead. When I objected to this on grounds of it being coercive, the file became stalled in “assessment” limbo, where it remains now months later. No acknowledgement of unethical behaviour by the CRCC was ever supplied.

This isn't oversight. It's systemic self-protection.

Why This Matters to You

This could happen in any neighbourhood — not just Kamloops. It is not an isolated failure, but a growing pattern:

- Calls for service become evidence for forfeiture, not triggers for meaningful intervention.
- Callers are retaliated against simply for filing reports with police.
- Stigma replaces support, enabling state actors to punish victims while avoiding accountability.
- Civil forfeiture becomes not a justice tool — but a revenue stream built on community harm.

When residents fear that reaching out for help will result in blame or property loss, they will disengage. When stigma is used to justify inaction, entire communities pay the price, and the mental health crisis we British Columbians are facing together only strengthens.

What Municipalities Can Do

Victoria Mayor Marianne Alto's Community Action Plan correctly emphasizes upstream support — housing, health, transportation, and non-profit partnerships — while balancing it with enforcement tools. But without destigmatization being emphasised at every step, even the best-funded plan will fail.

As with my initial letter from January of this year regarding 911 dispatch reform and a lack of meaningful action being taken by the CRCC in terms of criminal code violations being ignored by the RCMP, municipal unity is key. You can:

- Demand disclosure: What oversight exists over civil forfeiture? Are meaningful enforcement attempts documented and confirmed before seizure proceedings begin?
- Push for legislative changes: Require documented intervention efforts before civil forfeiture can proceed — especially in cases involving vulnerable homeowners.
- Establish local civilian oversight: Municipalities should create independent panels to review RCMP, CRCC and Crown conduct — including forfeiture decisions made by the BC Ministry of Justice.
- Reject stigma-based narratives: Addiction is a health issue. So is poverty. So is exploitation. Municipal leaders should challenge any provincial rhetoric that blames victims while monetizing their suffering.

Conclusion: Justice Cannot Be Reversed Into Profit

What we are witnessing is the inversion of justice:

- Neglect reframed as restraint.
- Failure repackaged as due process.
- Disorder weaponized into opportunity.

- Victims recast as criminals.

Civil forfeiture, as currently practiced, risks becoming not a deterrent to crime — *but a business model built atop it*. Without unified action by every municipality in this province, crime and disorder will continue to affect us **all**.

I remain appreciative of all your hard work and advocacy for your constituents. Please feel free to reach out for further information or evidence. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Philip Perras
Investigative Journalist

██████████ Road
Pender Island, BC

██████████

██████████@hotmail.com

District of Barriere Official Community Plan Refresh

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN OPEN HOUSE

**Review the draft.
Learn more.
Give feedback.**

Wednesday November 5
Seniors Society Drop-In Centre
4431 Barriere Town Rd
Drop-in between 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Coffee, tea, and snacks provided!

The District of Barriere has been working on refreshing its Official Community Plan (OCP), and we're excited to share the draft document with the community. This is your opportunity to review the proposed vision, goals, and policies for Barriere's future and provide your feedback before the plan is finalized.



Want to learn more about the project?
Visit us at: barriere.ca/p/official-community-plan-refresh
Get in touch by email: ocp.refresh@barriere.ca
Scan the QR code to go to our website!





RABBITS BC R&CB ASSOCIATION OF BC

October 15, 2025

To: District of Barriere
PO Box 219
Barriere, BC V0E 1E0

Attention: Mayor, Council and Staff

Rabbits BC held a highly successful rabbit and cavy (guinea pig) event in September 2025. We attracted both experienced and new exhibitors plus their families. There were 26 breeds of rabbits and 5 breeds of cavies for a total of 1662 entries.

With the assistance of your generous grant, local businesses provided catering, food, accommodation and other necessities.

We have attached the financial report for your information.

We appreciated the larger venue we were able to use this year at the NTFFR Fairgrounds, where we had better lighting, airflow and space for the comfort of our animals and exhibitors.

This year we had a very successful 4H Show as well as an ARBA Sanctioned Youth Show which included a number of new competitors.

Thank you very much for helping make this a success.

Sincerely,

Kathy Mannweiler

Kathy Mannweiler, President, Rabbits BC



RABBITS BC R&CB ASSOCIATION OF BC

BARRIERE SHOW FINANCES 2025

INCOME

EXPENSE

Grants TNRD	\$1,500.00	Hotel - 7 judges	\$	1,311.96
Grants District of Barri	\$500.00	Fees - 7 judges	\$	4,176.80
Grants LNTCFS	\$2,000.00	Dinners - 7 judges	\$	154.00
Entries	\$5,810.00	Lunch -7 Judges	\$	98.00
Dinner	\$620.00	Prizes - Certificates	\$	185.00
Kitchen & Baking	\$347.55	Prizes - Carriers	\$	360.00
		Prizes - Cavies	\$	125.00
		Prizes - Specialties	\$	100.00
		Supplies	\$	311.25
		Catering	\$	1,061.00
		Show Sanctions	\$	342.00
		Youth Event expenses	\$	81.50
		Kitchen & Baking	\$	445.32
		Printing	\$	270.00
		Venue Rental	\$	890.00
		Show Insurance	\$	400.00
		Acknowledgements	\$	180.00
		Office supplies	\$	50.00
		Show Supplies	\$	129.19
	\$10,777.55		\$	10,671.02

Total # of entries 13 shows: 1662

