

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL
Memorandum

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| Date: June 8, 2026 | File: 530.20/Rpts |
| To: Council | From: Deputy Corporate Officer |
| Re: Non-Profit Stakeholder Session | |

Purpose

To provide Council with a summary of the feedback received during the Non-Profit Stakeholder Session and seek direction regarding potential next steps.

Background

As part of Strategic Planning, Goal 4 identified the need to raise the District's profile and to facilitate a workshop for community partners to share information and knowledge with each other while providing Council the opportunity to further understand their services and needs.

On Thursday, May 21, 2026 the District of Barriere Council and Barriere Chamber of Commerce hosted a Non-Profit Stakeholder Session which was attended by Council, Staff and the following community organizations:

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| Barriere and Area Chamber of Commerce | Barriere and Area Men's Shed |
| Barriere Curling Club | Barriere Firefighters Association |
| Barriere Food Bank | Barriere Heritage Society |
| Barriere Outdoor Club | Barriere Pickleball Club |
| Barriere Search and Rescue | Barriere Seniors Society |
| Barriere Trails Society | Emergency Support Services |
| Lower North Thompson Community Forests | Lower North Thompson Community Women's League |
| North Thompson Activity Centre | North Thompson Communities Foundation |
| North Thompson Fall Fair | North Thompson Game & Fish |
| Royal Canadian Legion #242 | Thompson Nicola Girl Guides |
| Yellowhead Community Services | Barriere Lions Club |

Other Organizations Invited:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Barriere AG Expo | Barriere Farmers Market |
| Barriere First Responders | Barriere Hospice Society |
| Elementary and Secondary PACs | Barriere RCMP |

Organizations participated in facilitated discussions and the engagement boards provided focused on the following themes:

- Identifying gaps and overlap
- Partnerships and resource sharing
- Community impact and future vision
- Reducing barriers
- Strengthening communication

The feedback was then consolidated in two summary documents which are attached.

Several consistent themes emerged throughout the discussions:

- Volunteer recruitment, retention, and succession planning
- Increasing visibility and awareness of local organizations
- Improved coordination of events, fundraising activities, and community resources
- Transportation barriers impacting residents access to services
- Support for youth, young families, and seniors
- Assistance navigating grants and funding opportunities
- Opportunities for increased collaboration among organizations

Next Steps

Staff will distribute the attached summary documents to all organizations that were invited to and/or attended the session to ensure participants receive a consolidated overview of the feedback collected and resources identified through the engagement process.

Council may consider whether any follow-up actions or initiatives are warranted based on the feedback received and, if so, identify any priorities for consideration that should be included during the next Strategic Planning process.

Attachments

- Barriere Community Engagement: Strategic Priorities Map
- Barriere Resource Matchmaker

Prepared by:
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Reviewed by:
D. Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer

Barriere Community Engagement: Strategic Priorities Map

A synthesis of feedback from local non-profit organizations to guide municipal strategy.

Critical Hurdles

- **Volunteer Burnout:** Aging boards, lack of succession planning, and dwindling commitment.
- **Operational Costs:** Financial strain from facility maintenance, insurance, and utilities.
- **Space Limitations:** Acute need for dedicated, affordable spaces and overcoming property opposition for trails.
- **Transportation Barriers:** Lack of accessible local transit, safe ride programs, and volunteer shuttles, which severely limits vulnerable residents' access to essential services like the food bank.
- **Duplication of Effort:** Accidental overlap in fundraising and scheduling.

Proposed "Resource Hub"

- **Centralized Calendar:** A master digital/printed schedule to coordinate events (including fundraisers) and share timelines.
- **Volunteer Matchmaker:** A system to connect residents' specific skills with organization needs.
- **Non-Profit Directory:** Standardized lists of contacts, mission statements, and available services.
- **Asset Registry:** A shared database of available facilities, parks, and rental equipment.

Under-Served Demographics

- **Youth & Teenagers:** Require mental health support, recreational amenities, and employment.
- **Parents & Guardians:** Lack time and need supervised childcare to participate.
- **Young Professionals (25-45):** A missing demographic with resources but low engagement.
- **Seniors:** Need accessible housing options and reliable transportation networks.

District Support & Advocacy

- **Strategic Advocacy:** Representing community needs at UBCM to prevent regionalization of key services.
- **Capacity Building:** Assistance with complex grant writing for large-scale projects.
- **Amplified Visibility:** Using District channels (website, mailers) for non-profit spotlights and "help wanted" ads.
- **Policy Optimization:** Easing red tape for trail development on District land.

The 5-Year Vision for Barriere

A thriving, interconnected non-profit sector characterized by **regular collaboration, coordinated community events, and younger residents stepping into leadership**. Supported by a central hub, organizations will thrive individually while sharing resources to move the community forward in a positive, successful manner.

Barriere Resource Matchmaker

A Collaborative Guide to Community Resources and Needs

| Organization | What We Have | What We Need |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| District of Barriere | <p>Facility Rentals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ball Fields ● Concession & Field House at Ball Diamonds ● Barriere Business Centre (Units 4A, 4B & 4C) ● Community Hall (Arranged through the Lions Club) ● Ridge Gym ● Bandshell (No Charge) <p>Other Rentals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Backhoe with operator ● Tool-Cat with operator ● Sound Equipment ● Projector/Screen at Bandshell ● Hot Dog Roller/BBQ <p>District Support Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grant-in-aid opportunities ● Scholarship opportunities ● Event promotion on municipal channels ● Volunteer recognition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>No current needs listed</i> |
| Barriere Seniors Society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kitchen ● Accessible space (ramp) ● Projector & screen ● Sound system ● Outdoor games & linens | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grant writing support ● Funding for insurance & utilities ● Volunteer promotion ● Event advertising space |
| Royal Canadian Legion #242 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Event space & kitchen ● Gaming licence (for non-profit fundraising) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding ● Event coordination ● Event advertising space ● Patrons for bar sales |
| Barriere Search | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quads (one w/ plow) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More members |

| Organization | What We Have | What We Need |
|--|--|--|
| & Rescue | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trailers & sleds Radios & drones Mapping system Event transport (requires SAR operator) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crew truck |
| North Thompson Communities Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website/FB presence Spring grants & emerging funds Non-profit expertise (grant writing, AI, budgets) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers & partner groups Increased visibility Board planning support Younger demographic engagement |
| Lower North Thompson Community Forest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-profit funding School education programs Future fund creation Firewood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More members Community education & awareness channels |
| Barriere Trails Society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping tools & dump trailer Trail development expertise Passionate members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility Better District communication District machinery support (trucks/bobcats) High school student grants |
| Barriere Food Bank | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food & hygiene items Developing community garden center Shared resources with local centers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert knowledge sharing Education on food security & economic meals |
| North Thompson Fish & Game | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport shooting range (skeet, long range, archery, pistol) Sheds & washrooms Lunch shelter & BBQ 350 members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No current needs listed</i> |
| Barriere Outdoor Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warming hut facility Skiing, snowshoeing, & hiking trails Certified ski instructors & lessons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers (especially youth) Trail building materials (seed, gravel) Trail maintenance help |
| North Thompson Fall Fair | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities Fundraising opportunities Grant application support for | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer succession planning |

| Organization | What We Have | What We Need |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| | non-profits | |
| Barriere Pickleball Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Experienced players/coaches ● Starter gear (paddles, balls, nets) ● Registration assistance ● Cleanup tools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Court maintenance assurance ● Designated club area |
| Barriere & Area Mens Shed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 730 members with trades skills (carpentry, metalwork, auto) ● Mentorship for new non-profits ● Specialty tools ● Skilled labour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Short-term funding for shed upgrades ● Collaboration opportunities |
| Thompson Nicola Girl Guides | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eager volunteers for tasks ● Event support (concessions, face painting) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community experts to share knowledge (e.g., gardening) ● Barter/community service opportunities |
| Barriere Heritage Society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local historical records ● Old newspapers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding for insurance & heat ● Mowing assistance near CN Rail property |