

District of Barriere

# REPORT TO COUNCIL

<b>Date:</b> December 5, 2022	<b>File:</b> 530.20/Rpts
<b>To:</b> Council	<b>From:</b> Jamie Mosdell, Rec Coordinator
<b>Re: BC Destination Development Fund</b>	

**Background:** On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the province announced the B.C. Destination Development Fund, providing \$30 million in one-time grants to support the development and rejuvenation of tourism infrastructure, assets, and experiences. The completed Expression of Interest (EOI) form and supporting documents are due by 1:00 pm on Wednesday, December 7th, 2022. A DOB Council endorsement is required for the grant application.

**Discussion:** The B.C. Destination Development Fund aims to invest in projects that:

- Foster distinct and globally competitive destinations
- Strengthen a year-round visitor economy
- Increase community vibrancy and resident support for tourism
- Support sustainability, accessibility, and inclusion

The "Activate" stream funds up to \$1,000,000 per project and is aimed at projects that will build or rejuvenate tourism infrastructure, visitor amenities, and tourist attractions. Projects must be shovel-ready.

There is a need for short-term camping sites in the lower North Thompson Region. Construction of a campground will meet the program goals of repairing and rejuvenating existing tourism infrastructure and amenities.

Recent work with Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association TOTA steering committee, indicates a need for destination campsites in our region through the Regional Tourism Strategy, called Embracing Our potential 2.0, as well as our North Thompson & Nicola Valley – Assess 3-year Destination Plan Strategy. This project provides engagement opportunities and facilitates collaboration of local, regional, and provincial industry professionals, First Nations, destination marketing organizations, and other community stakeholders. These discussions inform the actions necessary to guide the long-term growth of tourism in the North Thompson and Nicola Valleys. Priority 6 of the strategic plan speaks specifically to the need for RV sites and Camping.

Several DOB Community groups are interested to continuing enhancements of the park's areas in the downtown. This would go a long way to support ball tournaments, pickleball tournaments, skateboarding events, concerts, and general visitations to our town.

More recently, Council received a report on the Long-Term Planning for our Downtown parks area and this project would be a step toward that goal coming to fruition.

Budget development and site design is currently under way. The EOI submission requires an understanding of the costs, location, and viability of the project.

The campground would include the following services:

Amenities at each campsite:

- Picnic table on concrete base
- Fire pit
- 30amp power pedestal
- No water provisions
- No Sani collection
- Gravel pads
- Central washroom facility
- Central garbage, recycling area
- Central filling station for potable water
- Gravel road coming in off Airfield Rd
- Trail connections to nearby trails and ball diamonds

**Recommendation: THAT Council authorize the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the construction of a campground located in District Parkland, for up to 1M of grant funding.**

Prepared by: Jamie Mosdell, Recreation Coordinator

Reviewed by: Bob Payette, CAO