

**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 7, 2024 at 7pm for the transaction of business listed below.**

*Daniel Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer*

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## **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 7, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

### **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

a. That Council adopt the minutes of the September 23, 2024, Regular Council Meeting.

### **3. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS – none scheduled.**

### **4. BYLAWS and POLICIES**

a. Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 222, Amendment Bylaw No. 246 – adoption

### **5. STAFF REPORTS**

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

b. ETSI-BC Building Economic Development Capacity Program Grant – CAO  
***Recommendation: THAT Council authorize the Barriere Chamber of Commerce to apply for funding in the amount of \$50,000 on behalf of the District of Barriere to the ETSI-BC Building Economic Development Capacity Program to facilitate a community Wayfinding Strategy/Plan with the District of Barriere’s portion of \$25,000 to be allocated in the 2025 budget process should the grant application be successful.***

c. Halloween Fireworks Event – T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer  
***Recommendation: THAT Council approve the expenditure of \$1,100 for the annual Halloween Fireworks display to be conducted by the Barriere Volunteer Fire Department on October 31, 2024 at the KP ball diamonds and that the funds come from the Admin Public Relations budget.***

- d. UBCM Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training Grant  
**Recommendation: THAT staff be directed to apply for funding in the amount of \$40,000 under the UBCM Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training Grant.**

6. **PROCLAMATIONS** – *none scheduled*

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. For Information
- b. For Action
  - i. SD73 Disposition of Property Notice & Survey

8. **COUNCIL REPORTS**

- a. Councillor McInnis – Community Speed Limits

9. **ACTING MAYOR'S REPORT**

10. **PUBLIC INQUIRIES**

11. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

12. **RECONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION** (*if required*)

*Pursuant to Sections 90 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.*

13. **RECONVENE OPEN MEETING** (*if required*)

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

15. **NEXT MEETING**

- a. Regular Council Meeting, Monday, October 21, 2024 @ 7pm

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

**DISTRICT OF BARRIERE**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 7:00pm 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:                   Acting Mayor Rob Kerslake  
                                  Councillor Judy Armstrong -*via Zoom*  
                                  Councillor Scott Kershaw – *via Zoom*  
                                  Councillor Colin McInnis

Regrets:                   Mayor Ward Stamer (*on approved leave*)  
                                  Councillor Donna Kibble  
                                  Councillor Louise Lodge

Staff:                      Daniel Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer  
                                  Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer  
                                  David Alderdice, Chief Financial Officer  
                                  Chris Matthews, Public Works Manager  
                                  Alexis Hovenkamp, Deputy Fire Chief

*Acting Mayor Kerslake called the meeting to order at 7pm*

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor McInnis  
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong  
That Council approve the September 23, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

CARRIED

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

a. Moved by Councillor McInnis  
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong  
That Council adopt the minutes of the September 9, 2024, Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

**3. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS – none scheduled.**

**4. BYLAWS and POLICIES**

a. DRAFT Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 222, Amendment Bylaw No. 246 – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
readings.  
*\*w/staff report*

**Moved by Councillor McInnis**  
**Seconded by Councillor Armstrong**  
**That Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 222, Amendment Bylaw No. 246 be given 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings.**

CARRIED

## 5. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Department Updates – CAO  
*\*submitted for information*

Council was provided an overview of the written report. It was added that the audit is getting closer to completion.

In addition, it was reported that MIABC has recommended that the District either physically deconstruct the unauthorized trail created on District property behind the Siska wastewater treatment facility, or install signage clearly notifying pedestrians that the property is not a public park or trail, and nor is it maintained and may pose hazards. Council agreed that the most cost-effective option was sign installation.

## 6. PROCLAMATIONS – *none scheduled*

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. For Information
- b. For Action - *none submitted.*

## 8. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councillor McInnis provided a verbal report on the following:
  - Attended the 2024 UBCM Convention in Vancouver. Found great value in the numerous sessions, Ministry Meetings and other forums relating to topics that matter to citizens of Barriere and BC as a whole.
  - Was also pleased to learn about “Honour Ranch”, which is a safe haven for first responders and military personnel to receive critical mental health support.
  - E-Comm 9-11 Dispatch stats regarding mental health calls were provided at UBCM and a new 911 mental health program is currently being explored by the Province.

## 9. ACTING MAYOR’S REPORT

The Acting Mayor provided an overview of a written report:

- Council attended UBCM (Union of British Columbia Municipalities) convention from September 16 to September 20. We held several one-on-one meetings with Ministers and Support Agencies to discuss key topics that matter to the Barriere community.

Highway safety has been a priority for Council, and we met with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure the Honourable Rob Flemming to follow up on past requests on CVSE inspections and mandatory dashcams for semi-trucks, the ongoing construction of the CVSE pullout, an update on the potential 4-laneing project south of Barriere, and the continued sluffing of the highway North of Barriere. Along with Simpcw First Nations representative Ron Lampreau we also urged the Minister to expand a current traffic safety review to include the section of highway north of the Highway bridge to at least Barriere Town Road and consider a 60km/h speed zone in that area as it continuous to develop.

The meeting with the Honourable Anne Kang, Minister for Municipal Affairs, included discussions on grant funding opportunities to expand the District's underground infrastructure to the North end to enable additional proposed development and to potentially eliminate any current boil water advisories that may exist. We also discussed a potential project in partnership with Simpcw First Nation to develop a crown land parcel within the District of Barriere for various community services and much needed mixed-use and seniors housing facilities.

The Staff meeting with IHA (Interior Health Authority) further included discussions on the boil water advisories and support from IHA for the related grant application. Other key discussions included in-home care support services staffing needs, diagnostic technician staffing at the Barriere Medical Clinic to operate the incoming X-Ray equipment in 2025, and the continuation of existing ambulance service levels in the community which has proven to be a win-win for the entire valley with the current sharing model thus far.

Council also met with BC Hydro to discuss the various planned and unplanned power outages that affect our community, and we advocated for a redundant power source for the valley. Potential impacts to the power grid were also discussed if and when certain housing and commercial developments advance and how a potential mine would be connected.

Regarding the Taseko mine, Council met with the Honourable George Heyman, Minister for Environment & Climate Change Strategy, to discuss an update on the potential project and process timelines.

Attended a plenary session regarding medical transportation support services, "Hope Air".

Overall Council had a productive week at UBCM and we're looking forward to the responses to our requests from the various Ministries and Agencies.

- Attended Simpcw Days this past weekend in Chu Chua.

10. **PUBLIC INQUIRIES** – *none presented*

11. **NOTICE OF MOTION** – *none presented*

12. **NEXT MEETING**

a. Regular Council Meeting, Monday, October 7, 2024 @ 7pm

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Councillor McInnis that the meeting adjourn at 7:43p.m.**

**CARRIED**

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Acting Mayor Rob Kerslake

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Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer



District of Barriere

# REPORT TO COUNCIL

<b>Date:</b> September 23, 2024	
<b>To:</b> Council	<b>From:</b> Department Heads
<b>Re: Departmental Updates</b>	

## **CORPORATE OFFICER:**

- Will be meeting with the local RCMP later this week to discuss the newly adopted policies related to Bylaw Enforcement as well as to discuss speed/traffic enforcement issues recently brought forward.
- Reviewing the upcoming renewal SOG Agreement with Recycle BC which will be brought forward to Council in a future meeting.
- The District Official Community Plan (OCP) refresh process is underway. Formal notice has been delivered to Simpcw First Nation. Both staff and Council working group sessions with the consultant (TRUE Consulting) to kick off the process are scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>, with the Council workshop scheduled for 5pm – 6:30pm. The 1<sup>st</sup> **Public Open House** is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> – 6pm – 8pm at the Lions Hall**. This event will be well advertised in advance.

## **Recreation**

- Organizing this year's Winterfest event is underway.
- Halloween Fireworks are scheduled for Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm in KP Park.

## **PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER:**

### **Roads**

- More shouldering and overlay repairs were completed on Dunn Lake Road.
- In-house crack sealing to be done on Dunn Lake Road.

### **Parks**

- All park irrigation has been turned off and lines to be blown out by staff this week.

### **Utilities**

- Water consumption for September averaged 1300 m<sup>3</sup>/day. Summer maximums reached 2700 m<sup>3</sup>/day
- We have three upcoming residential and two commercial water connections on the horizon.
- Preliminary design for the proposed bulk water station at the Eco Depot has been done.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

- No adverse weather is expected. No active wildfires in the region.

## **FIRE CHIEF:**

### **Fire Department Specific Updates:**

- Category 3 open burning prohibition rescinded in the Kamloops Fire Centre

- Fire Safety Information hand-delivered to Armour Mountain Home Park, Barrier Mobile Home Park, Sunset Heights Mobile Home Park (Including FireSmart Survey Information)
- Calls: 1 / Mutual Aid Stand-By
- Meetings: Officer of the Fire Commissioner and CAO Daniel Drexler. Reporting for incidents identified as an area for improvement by the OFC
- Fire Prevention Week: October 6<sup>th</sup> – October 12<sup>th</sup>

**FireSmart:**

- Community Wildfire and Resiliency Planning Session / Fire Prevention Week Kick Off (October 5<sup>th</sup>)
- FireSmart Committee Meeting attended (quarterly meeting)
- Friendly reminder: Community Wildfire and Resiliency Plan closes October 15<sup>th</sup>

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:**

**Finance:**

- The Finance department continued work on the 2023 audit in conjunction with the auditors. Staff is hopeful that the final questions have now been answered.
- Work continues to transfer bank account and investment accounts to the new CFO, while also transferring corporate department knowledge.

**Administration:**

- Met with 3 members of the Trail Society to discuss potential future options to work in alignment with District goals and a subsequent presentation to Council. This presentation is expected early in the new year.
- Met with the Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce to discuss a potential grant application to ETSI-BC for a Wayfinding Strategy/Plan (value of \$50,000) – another report with more details is attached to this agenda
- Met with the Band Administrator for Simpcw First Nation to discuss various current partnerships and future options including:
  - The ETSI-BC grant application
  - The Archeological Overview Assessment (AOA) contract
  - The Teníye Market property and the related grant application for infrastructure
  - The MOU and Protocol Agreement
  - The Crown Land project and potential consultant options
- Met with the Acting Fire Chief and Jack Blair from the Office of the Fire Commissioner to discuss District assets, related end of life expectancies, and Fire Underwriter Survey (FUS) requirements for replacements.
- Met with Departments to discuss a long-range capital plan and impacts on other departments.

*\*submitted for information*



District of Barriere  
**REPORT TO COUNCIL**  
**Request for Decision**

<b>Date:</b> October 7, 2024	
<b>To:</b> Council	<b>From:</b> D. Drexler, CAO
<b>Re: ETSI-BC Building Economic Development Capacity Program Grant Application – Wayfinding Strategy/Plan</b>	

**Background:** The ETSI-BC Building Economic Development Capacity Program provides non-repayable grants on a scheduled 'intake basis' supporting strategic investments to build economic capacity of small communities and support economic development projects that will have long-lasting and measurable benefits for the Southern Interior.

**Discussion:** This grant program prioritizes small, rural and First Nations communities to build economic development capacity and serve as a catalyst for new economic development initiatives. The program objectives are to:

- *Enhance the capacity of Southern Interior communities to fulfill their economic development aspirations and knowledge.*
- *Support local and regional economic development projects within the Southern Interior.*
- *Facilitate strategic partnerships and encourage collaboration between communities and economic development agencies.*

Partnering with our local Chamber of Commerce to develop a wayfinding strategy/plan to support community revitalization, aligns with the criteria for this funding stream set out above.

The project is 50/50 funded (\$25K ETSI, \$2,500 in-kind, \$22,500 other sources). The cost for a strategy is up to \$50K. A resolution of Council is required providing up to \$25K in support of the project. The Chamber has indicated that they will try to get more funding from other community organizations so the District's portion could be reduced. Should the grant be successful, the Chamber will manage the project and hire a consultant to facilitate the work. Developing this strategy/plan now provides a shelf ready project when an appropriate grant program becomes available to bring the project to fruition with the purchase of the wayfinding signage.

The application deadline is October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Recommendation: THAT Council authorize the Barriere Chamber of Commerce to apply for funding in the amount of \$50,000 on behalf of the District of Barriere to the ETSI-BC Building Economic Development Capacity Program to facilitate a community Wayfinding Strategy/Plan with the District of Barriere's portion of up to \$25,000 to be allocated in the 2025 budget process should the grant application be successful.**

Prepared by: T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer  
Reviewed by: D. Drexler, CAO

District of Barriere  
**REPORT TO COUNCIL**  
**Request for Decision**

<b>Date:</b> October 7, 2024	<b>File:</b> 530.20/Rpts
<b>To:</b> Council	<b>From:</b> Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer
<b>Re: Halloween Fireworks Event</b>	

**Background:** The Fire Department volunteers have agreed to put on the annual Halloween fireworks display again this year at the KP ball diamonds, weather permitting.

**Discussion:** Historically, Council approves the expenditure of approximately \$1,100 for fireworks. There are sufficient funds in the Admin Public Relations budget line item for this popular community event, should Council resolve to do so. If approved, the event will be clearly advertised in the local newspaper indicating the estimated start time of the fireworks display (approx. 7:30pm).

**Recommendation:** That Council approve the expenditure of \$1,100 for the annual Halloween Fireworks display to be conducted by the Barriere Volunteer Fire Department on October 31, 2024 at the KP ball diamonds and that the funds come from the Admin Public Relations budget.

Prepared by: T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer  
Reviewed by: D. Drexler, CAO

District of Barriere  
**REPORT TO COUNCIL**  
**Request for Decision**

<b>Date:</b> October 7, 2024	
<b>To:</b> Council	<b>From:</b> A. Hovenkamp, Acting Fire Chief
<b>Re: UBCM Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training</b>	

**Background:** The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding streams intended to support First Nations and local governments to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

**Discussion:** The intent of this funding stream is to build the resiliency of volunteer and composite fire departments in preparing for and responding to emergencies through the purchase of new or replacement equipment and to facilitate the delivery of training. Ongoing operational costs and the purchase of major fire apparatus are not eligible. The District of Barriere is eligible for this funding opportunity.

These funds could potentially cover the following for Barriere Fire Rescue;

- Training meeting the requirements for BC's 'Structure Firefighting Minimum Training Standards' (formally known as the 'Playbook').
  - This includes but is not limited to:
    - NFPA 1001 Written, Practical and Live Fire Testing
    - NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I & II Training
    - Fire and Life Safety Educator
    - any other training identified by the fire department
- Equipment:
  - 2 Sets of Full Turnout Gear (Jacket, Pants, Turnout Boots)
  - 2 SCBA Cylinders
  - Portable hand lights
  - Hydrant wrench
  - First Aid Kit
  - Portable Collapsible water tank
  - any other equipment identified by the fire department

This 100% funding grant application is for \$40,000 in total. A Council resolution is required for the application.

**Recommendation: THAT staff be directed to apply for funding in the amount of \$40,000 under the *UBCM* Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training Grant.**

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



September 24, 2024

OCT 01 2024  
RECEIVED

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

Attention: Mayor Ward Stamer

**RE: NOTICE OF DISPOSITION (SALE) OF REAL PROPERTY**

Dear Mayor Ward Stamer,

The Board of Education of School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson) has identified three properties that are not required for educational purposes and has therefore elected to sell these properties.

The purpose of this letter is to inquire into your group's interest in purchasing one or more of the properties listed below:

- 216 Highway 24, Little Fort, BC;
- 2393 Parkcrest Ave., Kamloops, BC; and,
- 435 Arrowstone Dr., Kamloops, BC.

For your interest, as part of the process of Disposition of Real Property, public consultation must be undertaken for the Board of Education to obtain community feedback on the proposed sale of lands and building. Feedback will be collected, compiled, and shared with the Board of Education on October 21, 2024. The survey will be available on the [www.sd73.bc.ca](http://www.sd73.bc.ca) website on September 30, 2024 and will consist of five questions. We invite you to participate in sharing your thoughts on the questions contained in the survey.

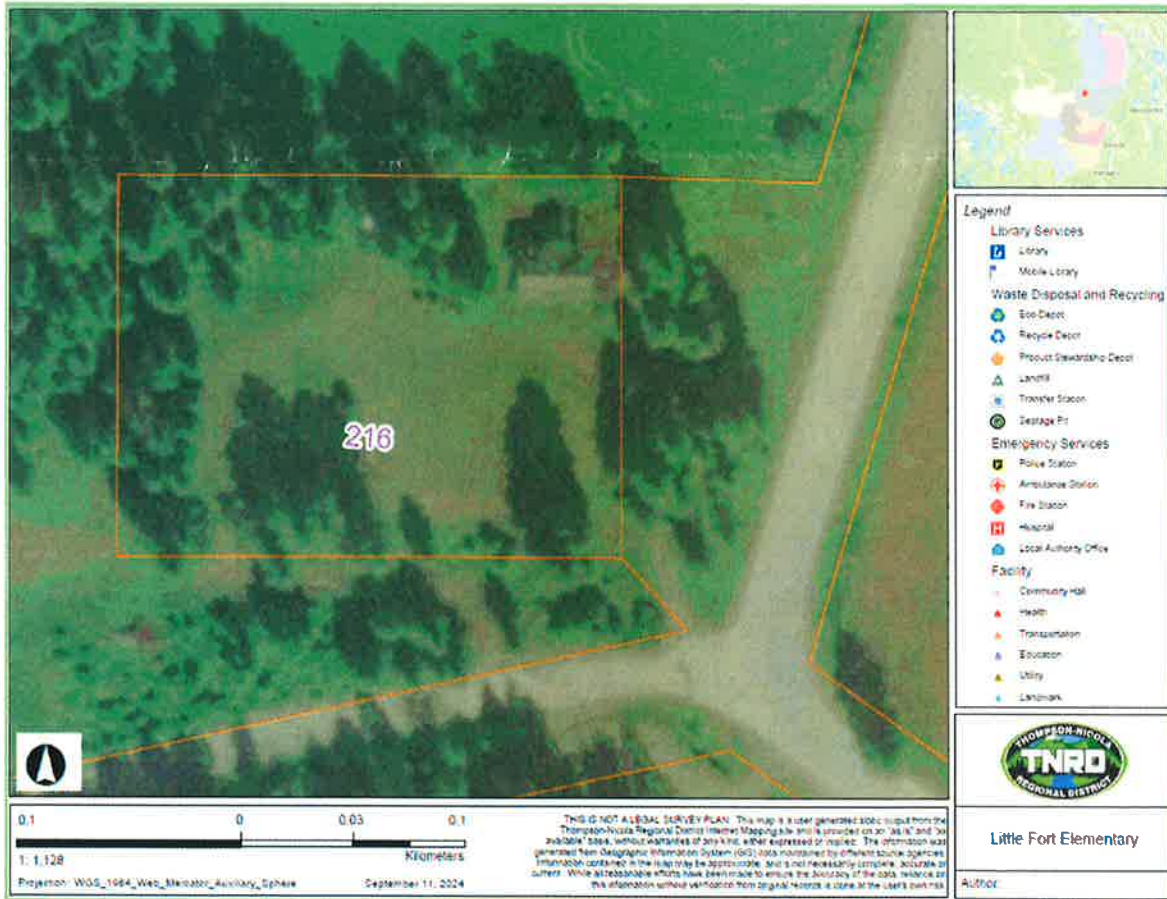
If you have any further questions, please contact Trina Cassidy, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO by email at, [tcassidy@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:tcassidy@sd73.bc.ca), or by telephone at, 250-374-0679.

Sincerely,

Trina Cassidy, CPA, CMA  
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO  
School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)

# School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson) Properties for Disposal

## 216 Highway 24, Little Fort, BC



The property located at 216 Highway 24 in Little Fort was the former location of the Little Fort Elementary School. It consists of a 1.207 acre parcel and former school building. The school was closed by Board motion in March 1998 due to limited student enrolment in the community. The Board was transferred this property in 1975 by a private citizen.

## 2393 Parkcrest Avenue, Kamloops, BC



### Parcel Description and Location

**Legal Description:** PL 40742 LT A DL 252

**Lot Size(approx.) - Sq. m:** 7351.7

**District Lot:** LOT A

**Neighbourhood:** BROCKLEHURST

**Heritage Property:** N/A

**Nearby Facilities:** [LAUNCH MAP](#)

**Sq. feet:** 79133.68

**Garbage Collection Zone:** [ZONE 2](#)

**Nearest Bus Stop**  
(direct distance): 3 m

**Nearest Hydrant**  
(direct distance): 4 m

**Population Estimate:** 0.0

**Approx Elev:** 347 m

**Acre:** 1.82 **Ha:** 0.74

**School Catchment Info:**

[SD73 School Locator](#)

**Tax Exempt Property:** No

**EnerGuide Label:** N/A

The property at 2393 Parkcrest Avenue, Kamloops BC consists of a 1.82 acre parcel. This property is within the Brocklehurst community and is surrounded by a developed residential neighbourhood. The Board purchased this property from a private citizen in 1975. This property is considered too small for a school site and is not required for educational purposes.

## 435 Arrowstone Drive, Kamloops



### Parcel Description and Location

**Legal Description:** PL KAP23633 KAMLOOPS

**Lot Size(approx.) - Sq. m:** 5221.94

**District Lot:** 6

**Neighbourhood:** LOWER SAHALI

**Heritage Property:** N/A

**Nearby Facilities:** [LAUNCH MAP](#)

**Sq. feet:** 56209.0

**Garbage Collection Zone:** [ZONE 3](#)

**Nearest Bus Stop**  
(direct distance): 109 m

**Nearest Hydrant**  
(direct distance): 0 m

**Population Estimate:** 0 0

**Approx Elev:** 541 m

**Acre:** 1.29 **Ha:** 0.52

**School Catchment Info:**

[SD73 School Locator](#)

**Tax Exempt Property:** No

**EnerGuide Label:** N/A

The property at 435 Arrowstone Drive, Kamloops BC consists of a 1.29 acre parcel. This property is adjacent to Sa-Hali Secondary School and is surrounded by several multi-family units. The Board acquired this property in 1991 and is considered too small for a school site and is not required for educational purposes.



**Tasha Buchanan**

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**Subject:** Invitation: Community Safety and Wellbeing Conference

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**From:** Marianne Alto (Mayor) <[MAalto@victoria.ca](mailto:MAalto@victoria.ca)>

**Sent:** September 27, 2024 11:26 AM

**To:** Marianne Alto (Mayor) <[MAalto@victoria.ca](mailto:MAalto@victoria.ca)>

**Subject:** Invitation: Community Safety and Wellbeing Conference



**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: Intentional Transformation 2024 Conference | October 27-30, 2024 in Victoria, B.C.**

Dear colleague,

I hope this finds you well.

I'd like to invite you to attend the upcoming **Intentional Transformation: Reimagining Inclusive Community Safety and Wellbeing Conference from October 27-30, 2024 at the Victoria Conference Centre here on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada.**

Join scholars, government leaders, experts, people with lived experience, knowledge keepers and more to share experiences with community safety and wellbeing work across North America.

I am honoured to host a conference that will connect you with leaders in safety, while encouraging you to challenge, explore and discover the current trends, issues and research in the fields of community safety and wellbeing.

Topics will include: urban safety; safety challenges in small and rural communities; solving social challenges through increased collaboration; policing and bylaw enforcement; new understandings of addiction, health and wrap-around care; strategies for supporting youth services; combatting polarization and extremism; strategies for addressing homelessness; small business crime reduction and disorder reduction strategies; and building community belonging, among others.

You may wish to consider kicking off the conference by registering for a study tour or experience offered on Sunday, October 27. Pre-conference optional events may include a day-long tour of Lekwungen culture guided by



Songhees Nation knowledge keepers, a banquet at the Songhees Wellness Centre, an OUR DWTN urban walking tour, and/or tours of local service providers and the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority's deep-water terminal.

You may also wish to extend your stay to participate in a complementary event offered by the Strong Cities Network and Foundation For a Path Forward, about practical city-led efforts to prevent hate and extremism and build resilience, starting midday on October 30 through October 31.

While Intentional Transformation 2024 will focus on wellbeing and safety, I encourage you to think about wellbeing and safety in your community intentionally, and help uncover tools, strategies and approaches that can help governments, advocates, service providers, first responders, residents and more, transform what wellbeing means in their community.

To learn more and to register, please visit [victoriainitiative2024.ca](https://victoriainitiative2024.ca).

I look forward to welcoming you to Victoria, and to the individual and collective learning your participation will enrich.

Warmest Regards,

Marianne Alto  
Victoria Mayor  
City of Victoria

## Tasha Buchanan

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**Subject:** E-mail from Cory Heavener, Provincial Director of Child Welfare

**From:** MCF Info MCF:EX <[MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 25, 2024 12:24 PM

**To:** Inquiry <[inquiry@barriere.ca](mailto:inquiry@barriere.ca)>

**Subject:** E-mail from Cory Heavener, Provincial Director of Child Welfare

**VIA E-MAIL**

Ref: 291266

Mayor Ward Stamer  
District of Barriere  
E-mail: [inquiry@barriere.ca](mailto:inquiry@barriere.ca)

Dear Mayor Stamer and Council:

As the Provincial Director of Child Welfare, it is my honour to proclaim October as Foster Family Month in British Columbia. I am delighted to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and sincere appreciation for the important role foster caregivers undertake throughout the province. Since 1990, the Government of British Columbia has declared foster family month as a time to celebrate these caregivers, who have committed to protecting and caring for some of our most vulnerable children and youth.

Fostering is a journey etched in love, hope and memories that last a lifetime. Each year, my respect and admiration for the work of foster families deepens, and I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the daily support, comfort, and guidance that they and their families offer to these children in the most difficult times in their lives.

There is no substitute for a caring, trusting relationship in the life of a child. While every child's reason for entering foster care is unique, it is the compassion, patience and understanding provided by foster parents that helps ensure they are able to thrive. The warmth and generosity that they provide, and the resulting benefits for the child's future, are the greatest gifts one can offer.

Please join me in celebrating foster families in your community for the selfless work they do for the children, youth, and families of British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Cory Heavener  
Provincial Director

*Sent on behalf of the Provincial Director by:*

**This communication and any accompanying document is confidential and is intended solely for the addressed recipient(s). If you received this e-mail message in error, please delete the e-mail and any attachments and contact the Client Relations Branch, Ministry of Children and Family Development at: [MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca).**



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

Q36251673

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE

BOB PAYETTE  
4936 BARRIERE TOWN RD  
BARRIERE BC V0E 1E0

**INFORMATION LETTER**  
**Business Payrolls Survey**

September 2024

Dear Sir or Madam:

Statistics Canada is conducting the Business Payrolls Survey, and your business or organization has been selected for participation on a monthly basis.

This survey measures the month-to-month trends of payroll employment, paid hours and earnings. Your participation is critical to ensure an accurate reflection of your industry, region and business size.

Starting next month, you will receive a Secure Access Code by email or mail, along with instructions for completing your online questionnaire.

Your participation in this survey is required under the authority of the *Statistics Act*, which ensures that the information you provide will be kept confidential. We do not release any information that could identify your business, unless consent has been given, or as permitted by the act.

**For more information**

If you have any questions, please contact us toll-free at 1-833-977-8287 (1-833-97STATS) (TTY: 1-800-363-7629). You can also visit <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/BPS>.

Thank you,

Sylvie Cyr  
Director, Collection Planning and Research Division

September 25, 2024

Heather Wood  
Deputy Minister of Finance  
Secretary to Treasury Board  
PO Box 9417 Stn. Prov. Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Dear Deputy Minister Wood,

**RE: Burden of Delinquent Taxes**

On behalf of the City of Merritt Council I am writing to highlight the impact of the *Community Charter* allowance for taxpayers to become delinquent on their property taxes over a period of three years.

Property tax arrears significantly impact the operating capability of small municipalities, which are then forced to significantly increase taxes or limit essential services.

During our meeting with the Minister and staff at UBCM, it was expressed that the ministry was unaware that property owners use the strategy of paying off one year of arrears to remove the property from the tax sale and that they do this year after year to avoid paying the total outstanding amount. To help broaden the ministries understanding of this issue and the impact it has on communities, we have polled other communities and heard from over 20 municipalities across the province including, Burnaby, Prince Rupert, Township of Langley, Hope, Metchosin, Comox, Mission, Golden and Rossland. These communities all report a similar systemic issue of repeat offenders who carry balances owing on their property taxes to the detriment of the greater community. Small municipalities like the City of Merritt cannot continue to subsidize non-payment of property taxes. At year end 2023, the City of Merritt was owed \$893,711 in outstanding taxes and penalties, this equates to 8% on our tax levy. The cost to a community is compounded when you factor in the 100's of hours of staff time required to contact property owners, conduct follow up calls and serve notice of the tax sale by small Finance departments that are often operating with minimal staff and limited resources. This impact will increase significantly with the upcoming implementation of enhanced requirements for notice of tax sales that will require municipalities to bare the cost of bailiff services without the ability to recover full costs.

We request that the Provincial government review and revise the *Community Charter* to relieve this unfair burden. Following are three potential tactics:

1. Reduce the number of years a property can be in arrears on their property tax or allow municipalities to run a deficit.

2. Assign a dedicated contact for municipalities to assist in dealing with properties that have escheated to the Crown and help remove them from property tax rolls expeditiously. Currently they linger on the rolls, accumulating tax levies that will ultimately have to be written off by the Ministry.
3. Implement a province-wide, cost-effective solution for municipalities to recover taxes owed by mobile homes. While we place liens through the registry, the property still needs to be sold or moved legally. Uncertain timing and the costs of legal action make future net recovery uncertain and challenging

Kind regards,



Michael Goetz  
Mayor





# SILGA Asset Management / Infrastructure Deficits Seminar

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**When:** October 31st, 2024 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

**Where:** Coast Kamloops Conference Centre, 1250 Rogers Way, Kamloops

**AND**

**When:** November 1st, 2024 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

**Where:** The Cove, 4205 Gellatly Road, West Kelowna

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**Cost:** \$75 (Coffee and Lunch included)

**What:** This seminar may cover the following:

1. What is Asset Management? How are infrastructure deficits determined?
2. What is the role of elected officials in Asset Management?
3. How does a local government manage risk? What is covered?
4. How does a local government pay for maintenance/upgrades?
5. How does a local government convince taxpayers these expenditures are necessary?
6. How does climate change impact infrastructure? i.e. dikes/parks
7. How does provincial downloading impact asset management?
8. How are the OCP and the Asset Management Plan connected?

**Please RSVP to SILGA at [info@silga.ca](mailto:info@silga.ca) to confirm your seat. Space is limited – book early! Deadline to register is October 23rd.**

**For more information contact Alison  
at 250-851-6653.**

