

Organization: **Diverse Family Roots**

Registration # 711389619

Project Title: **Supporting Families With Diverse Needs**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area A, RDCK Area B, RDCK Area C, RDCK Area D, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area G, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, RDCK Area K , City of Nelson, Town of Creston, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Salmo,

All throughout the RDCK and the communities Surrounding . Each region has its own unique identities and needs. These will take place virtually and in person in each community . Keeping in mind that each region has its own uniqueness ,struggles and accessibilty issues.

**Project Description:**

Empowering Dads - Dads Matter. Connecting dads that have sons/ daughters with disabilities/ Diverse Abilities. Relieving the strain and pressures of not being alone.Connect dads to resources and to subject matter experts. Families on a Tuesday. Families that have sons and daughters with disabilities, Diverse Abilities. We will connect, support, Mentor, inspire , connect families to resources and to subject matter experts and other families with lived experience. Families Housing that Fits- Inclusive, supportive, intentional housing conversations. Sharing and discussion on housing options that could be available in each region and the role that families can play in that. For the love of Grandkids- grandparents raising their grand kids. Mental Health for Everyone, Sibllings and Relationships, Trauma informed practice throuh the lens of the familyt.Supported Employment and how to get, keep and enjoy your employment experience. The project will cover all of the West Kootenays , RDCK. Development and delivery of in person workshops in every community complimented by online/ virtual.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Contract Fees	\$16,800.00	\$16,800.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$9,700.00	\$9,700.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$29,500.00</b>	<b>\$29,500.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Radio Promotion through SUMMITT Radio, My Kootenay Now, Black Press. In Kind		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
<i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$29,500.00</i>	
Area A:	\$500.00
Area B:	\$2,500.00
Area C:	\$500.00
Area D/Kaslo:	\$1,000.00
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$750.00
Area E:	\$1,000.00
Area F:	\$500.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$500.00
Area H:	\$500.00
Area I:	\$500.00
Area J:	\$4,500.00
Area K-Arrow Park:	\$500.00
Area K-Burton:	\$500.00
Area K-Fauquier:	\$500.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$4,000.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$1,000.00
Slocan:	\$500.00
Castlegar:	\$4,000.00
Creston:	\$750.00
Nelson:	\$4,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Silverton:	\$500.00

**Project: Supporting Families With Diverse Needs**

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** *RDKB, Golden, Revelstoke, RDEK*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Up until 2024, this kind of support has not existed in the region. Dads will benefit. Families will benefit. The family member will benefit because of the connections that dads / parents will be able to make. Empowering each other. Supporting each other. Inspiring each other. Families will benefit for learning about inclusive, intentional, supportive housing options for their family members. Promotes INCLUSION. Families will learn about how to have the "SEX" conversation. Connect and support Grandparents raising their grandkids in a whole different environment from which they came. Address the Mental Health pandemic. Encourage Healthy relationships- with siblings. Learn all there is to know about supported, customized employment. Meaningful work for a meaningful paycheck. Trauma informed practice through the lens of the family- another pandemic of its own.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Diverse Family Roots Society is the only grassroots, parent/family-driven support network for families with children or family members with diverse abilities/disabilities that is based in the Kootenays. Create a world where everyone is connected to support, families, resources, and to the community in which they live. Providing information sharing, mentoring, opportunities for connection and sharing, promoting awareness and inclusion.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Up until 2024, this kind of support has not existed in the region. Dads will benefit. Families will benefit. The family member will benefit because of the connections that dads / parents will be able to make. Empowering each other. Supporting each other. Inspiring each other. Families will benefit for learning about inclusive, intentional, supportive housing options for their family members. Promotes INCLUSION. Families will learn about how to have the "SEX" conversation. Connect and support Grandparents raising their grandkids in a whole different environment from which they came. Address the Mental Health pandemic. Encourage Healthy relationships- with siblings. Learn all there is to know about supported, customized employment. Meaningful work for a meaningful paycheck. Trauma informed practice through the lens of the family- another pandemic of its own.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Issues of isolation, addressing the fact that Dads/ Families are not alone in their journey. Connection- connecting like families, meaning to connect families that have similar challenges. Whether it's ASD, ADHD, FASD, OCD, Epilepsy, Downs Syndrome and more we will connect, support those. Not in school because of the challenges of their son/ daughter but also lack of qualified supports. Lack of affordable, supportive housing options. It's an epidemic on its own. So many aging parents still have their aging sons/ daughter living with them with no safe solutions/ options to choose from. Grandparents raising their grandkids- No effective support platform in place in our region- Until NOW. Mental Health conversations and the stigma attached. Siblings and Relationships- Circle of Friends. Supported Employment. Everyone has the right to meaningful employment and a meaningful paycheck.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

We are grassroots. We promote inclusion. Lived experience is what we bring. We have 40 volunteer Family stewards spread out all through the region that are providing boots on the ground support. They are all parents of sons/ daughters with diverse needs not only navigating their own families needs but wanting to share / support/ inspire others. As the father of a 37yr old woman who has multiple challenges, this has been my world for all of her life. Our collective lived experiences are unmatched. Because we care, because we are Better Together

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Family Navigator as well as The volunteer Family Stewards that are located in many communities throughout the region. All project work is also monitored by the volunteer Board of directors of Diverse Family Roots.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

8. **Project will be 100% completed by volunteers:** No
9. **Is the project viable without ReDi funding support:** Yes
10. **Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



Do you have a son or daughter with  
diverse abilities?  
So do I.

# Dads Matter

Dads Sharing, Dads Supporting, Dads Inspiring,

## Dads



Hosted By Ben Postmus

[diversefamilyroots@gmail.com](mailto:diversefamilyroots@gmail.com)

[diversefamilyroots.ca](http://diversefamilyroots.ca)



Join us every Sunday evening  
on Zoom.

6:30 PST/ 7:30 MST

Scan QR Code or enter web address below

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/tZUtf-Cqz8qGdDOhE0leVcKZ4KDnkrO2rUg>



# FAMILY HOUSING THAT FITS

**Inclusive and Supportive Housing in Your Community**



**Thursday Evenings on Zoom.  
6:30 PST/ 7:30 MST**



**Register by Scanning the Code or  
Emailing:**

**[diversefamilyroots@gmail.com](mailto:diversefamilyroots@gmail.com)**

**Visit us at: [diversefamilyroots.ca](https://www.diversefamilyroots.ca)**

**With Ben Postmus**

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAscuGrqTkjEtAOWxs2OR\\_tNfz1-rjcqQhm](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAscuGrqTkjEtAOWxs2OR_tNfz1-rjcqQhm)**



Diverse Family Roots Society (est. 2023) is the only non-profit, grassroots, parent / family-driven support network for families with children or family members with diverse abilities / disabilities that is based in the Kootenays.



# For the Love of Grandkids

WITH DONA GYLANDER

Grandparents raising grandchildren with disabilities face financial strain, emotional challenges, and increased stress but are also a vital support system for their families, offering love, safety, and advocacy for the child. Join in a safe place to discuss, share, & support.

OCT 15, NOV 12, JAN 14  
6PM PACIFIC/ 7PM MOUNTAIN

[Register](#)  
[Here](#)



The Board and Members of the Diverse Family Roots Society is grateful to work, play, and raise our families in the territories of the Sinixt, Syilx, Ktunaxa, and Secwépemc peoples. We acknowledge and value the contributions of all Indigenous, Metis, and Inuit who call this place home, and who have stewarded it since time immemorial.

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# SIBLINGS WITH LORI HOLLOWAY

**SIBLINGS - JOIN US AS WE GATHER ON ZOOM TO SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER OUR LIVED EXPERIENCES, MEMORIES AND CHALLENGES WITH THOSE LIKE OURSELVES. PROVIDING SUPPORT WITH THOSE WHO BEST RELATE AND CONNECT TO ONE ANOTHER**



**OCT 8  
OCT 29  
NOV 26**

**6PM PACIFIC  
7PM MOUNTAIN**



## REGISTER HERE!

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# **SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT**

**WITH:**

**CLBC PROVINCIAL EMPLOYMENT TEAM**



Every person has the right to employment and CLBC strives to support individuals in their goals to gain meaningful employment by supporting agencies and communities. The Employment Team brings innovation and strategic initiatives forward to expand employment opportunities. These sessions will share information and invite discussion and dialogue.

## **SEPT 24: REIMAGING COMMUNITY INCLUSION (RCI) FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH ANNETTE BORROWS**

Annette wants your feedback on the RCI intended Workplan and its suggested strategies to move employment forward in the province.

## **OCT 22: CLBC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES WITH JAY TOWNSEND**

Jay will present an overview of employment services for people with disabilities

## **NOV 19: L.I.F.E. SERVICE WITH CHRISTINA BAIRD**

Christina will present stories of successful L.I.F.E. adventures. **L**earning, **I**nclusion, **F**riendship and **E**mployment.

**STARTS  
6PM PACIFIC  
7PM MOUNTAIN**

**REGISTER  
HERE**



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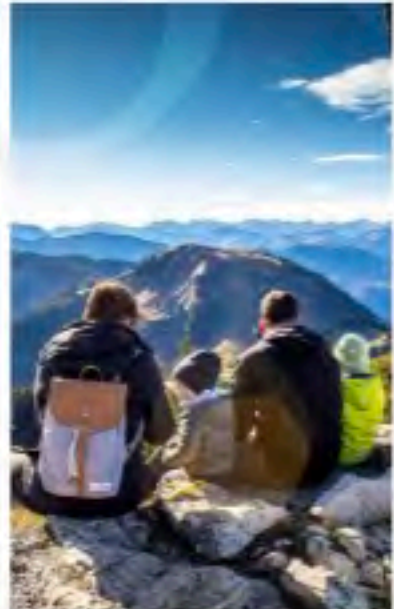
# Families on Tuesday

**Families Supporting Families**

**Hosted by Ben Postmus** **Tuesday 6:30PM PST/ 7:30PM MST on Zoom**



Scan the QR code or type in the web address to join.



**Support  
Listening  
Sharing  
Connecting**

[diversefamilyroots@gmail.com](mailto:diversefamilyroots@gmail.com)

Visit us at: [diversefamilyroots.ca](http://diversefamilyroots.ca)

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-uspzwtGdaV0MxT9mQlf-\\_g\\_refNSpR](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-uspzwtGdaV0MxT9mQlf-_g_refNSpR)

Organization: **Okanagan Nation Alliance**

Registration #

Project Title: **Fish in Schools (FinS)**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area D, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, RDCK Area K, City of Nelson, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Slocan

The Columbia branch of FinS extends from Big White and Greenwood in the west, north to Nakusp, east to the north shore of Nelson, and south to Fruitvale, Trail, and Rossland. We currently support tanks across School Districts 8, 10, 20, 51, and 93. Classroom-raised fry will be released either into the Columbia River in Castlegar or Slocan Lake at the Village of Slocan.

**Project Description:**

Operating in the Okanagan since 2003, FinS is a comprehensive fish education program for elementary to secondary students, with a focus on sc'win (sockeye salmon), their lifecycle and the importance of their ecosystems. By creating greater educational and community awareness of fish species with students of different ages, the intent is for students to become future leaders, land protectors, water managers, scientists and the multitude of environmental and social sciences professions that are available for them. In the Columbia, this program further cultivates awareness of salmon's historical runs from the ocean, up the One River. FinS has been operated by the ONA in the Columbia region since 2017. In the fall, participant schools are provided all necessary equipment for raising sc'win in the classroom from eggs to juveniles including tanks, water chillers, and feed. Students monitor and care for the young salmon during the winter months as they progress from eggs to alevin and finally to fry. As part of the program, we also offer educational visits to schools from fisheries biologists and Syilx knowledge keepers. In the spring, participants bring their juvenile fish (fry) to a community event where members of the Syilx Nation hold a salmon ceremony and the fish are released into the Columbia River.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$60,000.00	\$5,000.00
Capital Purchases	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$70,000.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Volunteer time - usually 5 - 10 individuals to help on release day (one full 8 hour day)		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$10,000.00</b>	
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$1,000.00
Castlegar:	\$5,000.00
Nelson:	\$3,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: Yes - RDKB

**1. Importance to the Community:**

The FinS program educates young students about the importance of salmon - both from an environmental and a cultural perspective. Students learn how essential anadromous salmon are to the ecosystem as a keystone species

and their crucial significance to the Syilx people as not only sustenance but as family that they are obligated to protect. This knowledge will encourage participant students to become stewards of the environment and perhaps inspire them to pursue careers in conservation or biological sciences. The benefits extend beyond individual participants as they share their knowledge with friends, family, and rest of their community. Most of all, the salmon themselves and the ecosystems to which they belong will benefit.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Syilx People of the Okanagan Nation are a trans-boundary tribe separated at the 49th parallel by the border between Canada and the United States. Our Nation is comprised of seven member communities in the Southern Interior of British Columbia: Okanagan Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band, Upper Nicola Band, Upper and Lower Similkameen Indian Bands, and Westbank First Nation; and in Northern Washington State, the Colville Confederated Tribes. Our members share the same land, nsyilxcn language, culture, and customs. We are a distinct and sovereign Nation. In upholding the values of our member communities, the Okanagan Nation Alliance's Fisheries department's focus is the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of indigenous fisheries (anadromous and resident) and aquatic resources within Syilx Okanagan Nation Territory. In this eastern part of Syilx territory (Central Kootenay), we are currently engaged in aquatic species conservation and monitoring in the Columbia River and its tributaries from the USA border to Revelstoke Dam.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

The FinS program educates young students about the importance of salmon - both from an environmental and a cultural perspective. Students learn how essential anadromous salmon are to the ecosystem as a keystone species and their crucial significance to the Syilx people as not only sustenance but as family that they are obligated to protect. This knowledge will encourage participant students to become stewards of the environment and perhaps inspire them to pursue careers in conservation or biological sciences. The benefits extend beyond individual participants as they share their knowledge with friends, family, and rest of their community. Most of all, the salmon themselves and the ecosystems to which they belong will benefit.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

A series of dams constructed along the mainstem of the Columbia River during the 20th century has cut off a once abundant salmon run that at one point extended into the headwaters of the mighty waterway beyond Revelstoke. The social, cultural, and ecological value provided by anadromous salmon has been lost to the upper reaches of the Columbia for decades. FinS is a community-focused program that is part of ONA's (along with the secwepmc, the ktunaxa, and the governments of BC and Canada) broader commitment to reintroduce salmon to the Canadian portion of the Columbia River (<https://columbiariversalmon.ca/>). FinS is an opportunity for students and their broader community to become more aware and involved in environmental issues in their backyard from an Indigenous as well as a scientific perspective.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The k cplk stim (roughly translates to "cause to come back") hatchery in Penticton has the capacity to rear 8 million salmon eggs and has been successfully revitalizing the near depleted salmon run in the Okanagan River since 2014. The ONA has been facilitating the Fish in Schools program for over two decades and FinS continues to grow every year. The Syilx see the health of the salmon population as their responsibility as ntytyix (Chief Salmon) is not only a form of sustenance, but also their relative, and an essential part of the continued resilience of the tmix (the natural world). The framework to deliver the program is well established and we wish to continue to grow the program as our capacity exceeds our participation at this point.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

ONA staff - including the Kcpkstim Hatchery which provides the eggs to FinS participants. Technicians, biologists, and Syilx Okanagan Nation members from the Okanagan and Castlegar offices. Participant students and teachers are provided all necessary equipment and support and are then given the responsibility of caring for their salmon and transporting them to the release.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

\*This document is meant to support the ReDi grant application to the City of Nelson for the Fish in Schools (FinS) program.

FinS is a community initiative that introduces elementary and secondary students to and engages them with principles of biology, sustainability, and environmental stewardship. The application of these concepts is well aligned with the values described in the City of Nelson's "Path to 2040 Sustainability Strategy". Though not mentioned in the plan, I believe that the involvement and consultation of Indigenous groups that have inhabited the region for thousands of years should also be considered as an important and necessary aspects of any sustainability or climate change strategy.

Participant students learn about the crucial importance of anadromous salmon to the ecosystem as a keystone species. Students are taught also about the nature of the relationship between the Syilx people and salmon – one of reciprocity where each takes care of the other. The young participants will share this knowledge with the community which encourages everyone involved to become more aware and sensitive of current environmental issues. In this way, FinS is in line with the Four Pillars referred to in the Sustainability Strategy – primarily Environment, Culture, and Social.

FinS is part of a larger initiative to reintroduce ocean-going salmon to the upper reaches of the Columbia River to which they have been absent since the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century due to the construction of a series of dams. This goal was committed to in 2019 by the Syilx Okanagan Nation, the Ktunaxa Nation, the Secwepemc Nation, and the governments of Canada and British Columbia ([columbiariversalmon.ca](http://columbiariversalmon.ca)).

Though Kootenay Lake and its tributaries are not considered suitable habitat for salmon reintroduction (anadromous salmon have likely not lived that far upstream since at least the last Ice Age), participants from Nelson schools are invited each year to the fry release ceremony held in Castlegar in May. Hume Elementary and Wildflower School are among participants this year and we hope to include more Nelson schools in the future. Despite the fact that reintroduced salmon and their significant associated benefits to the ecosystem may not reach as far as Kootenay Lake and the City of Nelson proper, the positive environmental, cultural, social, and even economic effects will be felt by Nelson and its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carson Kettlewell  
Fisheries Technician, FinS Coordinator  
Okanagan Nation Alliance – Eastern Territory  
875 Columbia Avenue  
Castlegar, BC  
250-687-4687  
[ckettlewell@syilx.org](mailto:ckettlewell@syilx.org)

Organization: **Slocan Lake Arts Council**  
Registration # S\_16794

Project Title: **Music in the Park (MITP)**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, City of Nelson, Village of Silverton

Music in the Park will take place at the performance stage in Centennial Park in New Denver.

**Project Description:**

Music in the Park (MITP) offers 4 live bands playing in Centennial Park two Saturdays in July and two Saturdays in August 2026. Quality live music at affordable prices has been very well received by both locals and visitors in the New Denver - Silverton area for several years now. Live music brings community members together, introduces new musicians to the area and promotes mingling of locals and visitors to the area. The music begins at 7pm on Saturdays and lasts until 9:00pm. In 2025 a volunteer run concession offered food and drinks for purchase and this year will see the transition to food trucks on offer.

The venue of Centennial Park is accessible to wheelchairs, bicycles, scooters and walkers, all of which have been utilized by folks to enjoy the performance. The performance stage has been extremely well received by performers and audience who have enjoyed excellent acoustical experiences. Performers consistently remark what a friendly vibe there is in this area and campers have told us that they book their camping weekends according to the music being offered. All ages participate and enjoy Music in the Park.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi	RDCK Funding Requested by Area <i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$12,200.00</i>	
Administration Expenses	\$2,446.00	\$800.00	Area H:	\$4,066.00
Contract Fees	\$13,300.00	\$10,746.00	New Denver:	\$4,067.00
Capital Purchases	\$400.00	\$400.00	Silverton:	\$4,067.00
Other Expenses	\$754.00	\$254.00		
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,900.00</b>	<b>\$12,200.00</b>		
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>				
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$4,700.00</b>			
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>				
The Village of New Denver is providing use of the performance stage in Centennial Park at no cost to the Slocan Lake Arts Council.				
Volunteers will assist prior to the event with postering local bulletin boards and at the event with set up, take down, and other necessary tasks.				

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** We seek funding from other sources for MITP, but MITP is the only ReDi Grant funding that SLAC is applying for.

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Feedback about Music in the Park has been very positive from local people and also from visitors to the local campgrounds in New Denver and Silverton. People of all ages and abilities, income levels and interests attend and benefit. Food truck vendors will benefit from sales at the events. Musicians, the majority of whom are local, benefit

from exposure to new audiences. In preparing for this grant, requests for letters of support were answered promptly and positively. Although musicians want to return, the Music in the Park Coordinator strives to keep new performers each year and avoids repeat of bands from year to year. This ensures that many local musicians receive exposure and that audiences continue to experience new music.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Slocan Lake Arts Council is dedicated to making arts and cultural opportunities widely accessible across the North Slocan Lake region. We strive to build a resilient and sustainable cultural ecosystem, supported by diverse funding sources and guided by principles of inclusion, equity, diversity, and collaboration. Our mandate includes supporting both emerging and established artists, providing support through funding, infrastructure, and promotion. We sponsor events and act as a proxy for non-profit arts groups that don't have charitable status.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Feedback about Music in the Park has been very positive from local people and also from visitors to the local campgrounds in New Denver and Silverton. People of all ages and abilities, income levels and interests attend and benefit. Food truck vendors will benefit from sales at the events. Musicians, the majority of whom are local, benefit from exposure to new audiences. In preparing for this grant, requests for letters of support were answered promptly and positively. Although musicians want to return, the Music in the Park Coordinator strives to keep new performers each year and avoids repeat of bands from year to year. This ensures that many local musicians receive exposure and that audiences continue to experience new music.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

A volunteer concession offered in 2025 was found to be successful but a large drain on volunteers. To prevent volunteer burn-out, this year, food trucks will provide food for purchase. Provision of food over the event is important as it makes the event a destination.

One issue with offering two performances in one night was that donations only marginally increased beyond those of a single performance night. Average audience donations for a single performance was \$790 while for a double performance it was \$867. For this reason, MITP will offer one band per night for four performance nights. It was noted that donations increased when the MITP co-ordinator, versus volunteers, walked throughout the audience with the donation box. In 2026 the MITP co-ordinator will walk through the crowds to collect donations at each event.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Since 2020, the Slocan Lake Arts Council (SLAC) has a proven track record of offering Music in the Park. Performers often want to repeat their experience and audience numbers have been growing. In an attempt to prevent volunteer burnout, food trucks will be utilized this year instead of a volunteer run concession. SLAC has general liability and Worksafe insurance, written policies and a dedicated, stable board that always pitches in at events.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Music in the Park Co-ordinator  
Slocan Lake Arts Council Administrator  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Volunteers - 6  
Sound Engineer  
Performers - 4 different bands  
Lighting Technician

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

8. **Project will be 100% completed by volunteers:** No
9. **Is the project viable without ReDi funding support:** Yes
10. **Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**Holly Hyatt, Jon Burden and The Kootenay River Renegades performed last summer - 2025 - for the Slocan Lake Arts Council at one of their Music in the Park concerts in New Denver, BC and we found it a sheer delight to perform in such a beautiful location, with stunning mountains in the foreground and a shimmering body of water behind us.**

**The newly built gazebo was a marvel of engineering for live music and the sound was spectacular.**

**The event was very well attended with locals and tourists alike and the attentive crowd thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as did the musicians.**

**The event organizers - Slocan lake Arts Council (SLAC) - were a pleasure to work with and appeared to be very well organized with setting up the show and promoting the series, as the number of attendees will attest.**

**I would definitely recommend performing at the SLAC Music in The Park series to any musical band or group of entertainers and I and the band give a shout out to the organization for supporting LIVE music.**

**Sincerely:**

**Jon Burden  
Holly Hyatt**

January 6, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Slocan Lake Arts Council**

I am pleased to offer my support for the Slocan Lake Arts Council and its live music program. These events provide free, accessible entertainment for the whole community. They feature a wide range of musical genres that appeal to diverse audiences.

The concerts are enjoyed by both local residents and visitors to the area, creating a welcoming atmosphere and enhancing the cultural and social life of the village. The Slocan Lake Arts Council's commitment to bringing people together through music is a valuable contribution to our community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elsie Curtis', with a stylized, flowing script.

Elsie Curtis  
New Denver, BC

To whom this may concern,

My name is David Stubbs and I am the singer and songwriter for the band Stubbs and The. The band and I have toured all over the country and we had the pleasure to perform at the New Denver Summer Music Series in August 2025. It was a very well organized event with much professionalism. Everything from the hospitality, the artist communication, and accommodation to the sound, lighting, and stage. All of it was top notch including the kindness and respectfulness of everyone involved. It was the most beautiful location/stage we have ever played! As a touring group of artists we very much appreciated the level of time dedicated to making this event as easy as possible for the Artist. The audience was attentive, the organizers were on it, and the sound and lighting guys were incredible. We would 100% recommend the Slocan Lake Art Council Music Series to artists and funders. We would gladly return anytime to perform again at this magnificent series.

Thank you,

David Stubbs

## Music in the Park


 Summarize



 Irene Whitfield <irene1whitfield@gmail.com>

Today at 4:24 PM

To:  Linda Kalbun @ SLAC

 This message is flagged for follow up.

[Mark Complete](#)

Slocan Lake Arts Council,

I hope you continue to offer the Music in the Park concert series this coming summer. I love to see amazing range of talented artists from this region. There is something for everyone and I appreciate not having to drive long distances to take in a concert. Going to these concerts is also an opportunity to catch up with people I haven't seen for a while. It's truly an activity that focuses on the heart and soul of the area and you (SLAC) does a fabulous job of bringing the community together in such a positive way. Thank you for continuing to provide this wonderful event.

Sincerely,

Irene Whitfield  
New Denver

## To Whom It May Concern

!

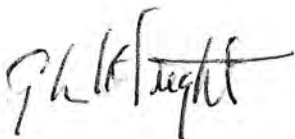
We understand that the Slocan Lake Arts Council is seeking your help to fund its wonderful **Music in the Park** summer program. We hope that you are able to do so.

**Music in the Park** has rapidly become a favourite weekend event for both residents and tourists in this part of the Columbia River Basin, drawing hundreds of people to its annual concert series. The venue – a cooperative undertaking of local governments and the Columbia Basin Trust – offers an excellent sound stage and spectacular views of both Slocan Lake and the Valhalla Mountains. Audiences include everyone from children to seniors. Volunteers bring residents from our long-term care Pavilion to enjoy the music and spend time in the fresh air.

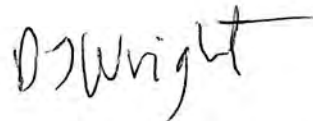
**Music in the Park** is fun! The Arts Council does a commendable job of attracting a variety of the region's best musicians and performers to entertain us all with music ranging from classical to contemporary, from folk to fusion. More volunteers run a food bar. There are lots of smiles, some spontaneous dancing, and plenty of visiting between sets.

Some good people have made **Music in the Park** a premier program. We hope it receives your support. It certainly has ours.

Signed



Gary Wright



Donna Jean Wright

Organization: **The Hidden Garden Gallery**  
Registration #

Project Title: **The Hidden Garden Gallery 2026 Season**

**Project will be located in:** Village of New Denver

We lease a historical former mechanic shop close to the lake at 112 Slocan Avenue in beautiful New Denver, BC.

**Project Description:**

The Hidden Garden Gallery has a full 2026 season planned this year. We will host 9 shows featuring local artists this year. We will be hosting 1 community show featuring art that was made during a carving workshop. Each show will last 6 days and expose the community to diverse artistic work. During those 6 days, one evening will be dedicated to holding a reception with an open invite to the area. Local musicians and entertainers are asked to perform during the reception to make it a real community event. This helps draw in visitors and gives the artist exposure to sell more art and gain more followers. As well as the artist, the musician also gains exposure and is able to be advertised on the artist's poster and social media posts leading up to the event. Having a musician present benefits the gallery, the artist, the musician, and the community.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$1,800.00	\$1,350.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,800.00</b>	<b>\$1,350.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Volunteer hours to advertise, organize, set up the reception, communicate with artists and musician.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$1,350.00</b>	
<b>New Denver:</b>	\$1,350.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: *No*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

The project will provide New Denver and area with 10 weeks of art and socialization this year. The HGG has built a reputation in our village of offering diverse and splendid art all summer that tourists and locals alike look forward to. All artists are considered when applying to HGG and our selection committee keeps our vision in mind when deciding which artists will show. We want to help artists grow their businesses, following, and influence in the area. We want to have musicians work along side the artists to create an evening each week that the village enjoys. The artists this year are especially local this year. Petra is going to display her installation related to the wildfires that impacted our community. There are several other very popular and acclaimed artists that will attract a crowd and other visitors to the community.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

to help artists grow

Our mission is to create and maintain a space where artists and the community can come together and foster creativity and inspiration locally.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

The project will provide New Denver and area with 10 weeks of art and socialization this year. The HGG has built a reputation in our village of offering diverse and splendid art all summer that tourists and locals alike look forward to. All artists are considered when applying to HGG and our selection committee keeps our vision in mind when deciding which artists will show. We want to help artists grow their businesses, following, and influence in the area. We want to have musicians work along side the artists to create an evening each week that the village enjoys. The artists this year are especially local this year. Petra is going to display her installation related to the wildfires that impacted our community. There are several other very popular and acclaimed artists that will attract a crowd and other visitors to the community.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

We have overcome COVID and wildfires by volunteer hours and dedicated board members bending and changing with needs. If any issues arise we have discussion amongst the board and solutions are developed as how to proceed. With COVID we implemented more cleaning and disinfection, the wildfires caused us to cancel shows but we ended with a special show honouring the resilience of the community. Each challenge is handled by brainstorming and listening to idea.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

We have 25 seasons that have been successfully implemented in the community now. Unwavering dedication. We have already covered all volunteer needs for the 26th season. We have secured the space needed to host the shows.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Our board of dedicated volunteers donates their time and skills in order to make HGG successful every year. Presently we have 8 dedicated board members as well as other community volunteers. We plan the season, advertise events, clean and maintain the space, organize and guide the artists.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Organization: **Fireweed Hub Society**  
Registration # S0069839

Project Title: **Fireweed Hub Weekly Elders Events**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton

The project will take place at Fireweed Hub on the main street of New Denver. This multi-use community venue has a seating capacity of 30 indoors, and in nice weather, we can also utilize our outdoor space for additional seating. Refreshments are served from our certified commercial kitchen on the premises

**Project Description:**

Fireweed Hub will facilitate a weekly gathering for elders in the North Slokan Valley area to mitigate social isolation, provide educational and recreational opportunities, and enhance community and personal well-being. In order to effectively deliver this program, we will employ a coordinator; offer refreshments at a welcoming and accessible local gathering space; seek skilled facilitators for educational presentations and discussions based on expressed interests by local elders; encourage and facilitate the sharing of stories and skills from within the ranks of the seniors; and provide a monthly birthday celebration with a cake baked by a local pastry chef.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
Contract Fees	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$7,300.00	\$4,500.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,800.00</b>	<b>\$11,500.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$3,300.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
The Fireweed Hub Society Board of Directors supports the program and contributes volunteer hours toward promotion, event support and fundraising.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$11,500.00</b>	
Area H:	\$3,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Silverton:	\$3,500.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:**

**1. Importance to the Community:**

The experience of social isolation is the reality for many of our senior residents. Small rural communities can struggle to provide activities, and seniors are an often overlooked demographic. Seniors are frequently challenged to access activities in neighbouring larger communities as they either don't have their own transportation, or are hesitant to drive longer distances. The central location of the elders' events in the Village of New Denver makes it maximally accessible to the swath of residents in the Slokan Lake area from Slokan to Hills, with others occasionally attending from further afield. In addition, our experience offering weekly gatherings has shown us that by providing an inclusive space, seniors in the broader community are able to come together in new ways, often connecting

**Project: Fireweed Hub Weekly Elders Events**

across socio-economic and demographic boundaries. This serves as an antidote to online social contact which is often shallow and polarizing.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Fireweed Hub is a community space that houses a commercial kitchen, cafe, meeting, and co-working space. It serves the needs

of residents and visitors in New Denver, Silverton and the surrounding Slocan Lake region. As the first food hub in the North

Slocan Valley, Fireweed Hub strengthens infrastructure for both the public good and private enterprise with assets that can be used by many,

creating broader benefits. Our primary goals are:

- to promote economic development and the flourishing of entrepreneurial food service and value-added food production;

- to develop, facilitate and maintain community programming which will create direct and indirect employment opportunities within our small, rural community.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

The experience of social isolation is the reality for many of our senior residents. Small rural communities can struggle to provide activities, and seniors are an often overlooked demographic. Seniors are frequently challenged to access activities in neighbouring larger communities as they either don't have their own transportation, or are hesitant to drive longer distances. The central location of the elders' events in the Village of New Denver makes it maximally accessible to the swath of residents in the Slocan Lake area from Slocan to Hills, with others occasionally attending from further afield. In addition, our experience offering weekly gatherings has shown us that by providing an inclusive space, seniors in the broader community are able to come together in new ways, often connecting across socio-economic and demographic boundaries. This serves as an antidote to online social contact which is often shallow and polarizing.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Seniors in our community need connection, especially during the months when travel can be challenging. We carry out an annual survey to gather input from the elder community about the types of activities they are interested in, and they have identified numerous learning-related topics as well as the importance of regular social connection. As an example, a presentation from an IT professional on the topic of online security provoked a lively and well-received discussion about financial fraud and other scams to which elders are often vulnerable. The elders have expressed how valuable the regular social connection has been for them, and the number of participants has steadily increased. Many of the seniors have said that they cannot imagine the program not continuing.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

We have a flexible and welcoming venue that serves all the needs of the program, the board has demonstrated capacity, and we have a talented and qualified coordinator. We have been offering regular Elders' Events since summer 2024. There have been 984 guest visits over the most recent 8-month period and every table and chair is occupied most weeks. Feedback from attendees has been universally enthusiastic.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The FHS board will supervise a project co-ordinator and will provide volunteer assistance at the events. The co-ordinator has relevant training in social services and community support work, is experienced with this type of programming and has already established an excellent rapport with the seniors. From time to time skilled facilitators will be brought in to lead discussions or activities on topics of interest, with volunteers from the FHS board assisting visiting experts and members of the elders community with multimedia presentations.

- 7. Minors will be working on this project:** No
- 8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers:** No
- 9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support:** Yes
- 10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Date	Guests	Special event
2025 05 06	29	
2025 05 13	29	North Slokan Trails Society over-55 MTB program
2025 05 20	28	May Birthday cake; Intro to TAPS program supports
2027 05 27	26	Financial fraud protection presentation by KSCU
2025 06 03	30	
2025 06 10	32	
2025 06 17	31	June Birthday cake
2025 06 24	24	
2025 07 08	30	
2025 07 15	30	
2025 07 22	27	July Birthday cake
2025 07 29	19	
2025 08 05	23	
2025 08 12	22	
2025 08 19	25	
2025 08 26	28	August Birthday cake
2025 09 09	26	
2025 09 16	22	
2025 09 23	29	September Birthday cake
2025 09 30	32	Internet security with CBAL IT expert Cole Sibbald
2025 10 07	24	
2025 10 14	21	
2025 10 21	28	October Birthday cake
2025 10 28	29	Pancake day
2025 11 04	30	November Birthday cake
2025 11 11	22	
2025 11 18	29	Slokan Valley Legacy Fund presenting on planned giving
2025 11 25	33	Porridge day
2025 12 02	23	December Birthday cake
2025 12 09	28	Enhancing balance, safety and mobility with Dr. Onstad
2025 12 16	32	Armchair travel presentation; Koots Routes 55+ XC Ski presentation
2025 12 30	25	
2026 01 06	27	
2026 01 13	32	Armchair travel presentation
2026 01 20	27	January Birthday cake
2026 01 27	31	Storytelling presentation
AVERAGE	27.3	
TOTAL (8 months)	983	

“To me it is the highlight of the week. Somewhere to go and connect.” (New Denver)

“Without it we would certainly become more isolated and remote.” (Area H)

“I personally know of several new or overly shy seniors who have found community through this agency.” (New Denver)

“The weekly Elder gathering at the Hub has helped us keep in touch with friends that we would not otherwise see.” (Area H)

“As I’m 85 going on 86, I don’t want loneliness as I live alone, so socializing with other lively seniors is a wonderful significant part of my life.” (Silverton)

“The Hub for Seniors on Tuesday is a godsend for many of us. We are treated like family by the girls who take very good care of us. It is a great venue for us to mingle with other seniors who have wonderful stories & memories to share.” (New Denver)

“For someone who hardly ever gets out and lives out of the Villages it is so enjoyable.” (Area H)

“I so love these Seniors coffees. Sharing and meeting friends, new acquaintances. There are some wonderful ‘presentations.’ Love how it is all so well organized.” (Silverton)

**DONATE YOUR THOUGHTS!**

Our testimonial can lend support to our application for 2026 Resident Directed (RD) grants. RD grants have been the largest portion of our financial support this year, paying for coffee, food ingredients, and the wages of our awesome coordinator Andrea. Got a sentence or two of appreciation? Share it here:

It is the highlight of the week. Some and connect. To me it keeps the together and informed, not also in later life.

**DONATE YOUR THOUGHTS!**

Our testimonial can lend support to our application for 2026 Resident Directed (RD) funding from OI grants have been the largest portion of our financial support this year, paying for coffee, ingredients, and the wages of our awesome coordinator Andrea. Got a sentence or two of appreciation? Share it here:

As a senior woman living on Red Mt. Rd. I really value this "get together" every Tues. a.m. It keeps me in touch with my community. Teri Freeman.

Your initials (or an alias, or your real name if you wish):  
Community of residence:  New Denver  Silverton  Area H  Other:  
On the flipside (reverse), if you have constructive criticism or suggestions for improvement, please tell us!

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Our testimonial can lend support to our application for 2026 Resident Directed (RD) grants. RD grants have been the largest portion of our financial support this year, paying for coffee, food ingredients, and the wages of our awesome coordinator Andrea. Got a sentence or two of appreciation? Share it here:

This is a wonderful outing for us seniors to get together. We have a coffee & donuts to keep up with what is going on. No complaints at all at the Hub.

Your initials (or an alias, or your real name if you wish):  
Community of residence:  New Denver  Silverton  Area H  Other:  
On the flipside (reverse), if you have constructive criticism or suggestions for improvement, please tell us!

**YOUR**

Our testimonial can lend support to our application for 2026 Resident Directed (RD) funding from OI grants have been the largest portion of our financial support this year, paying for coffee, ingredients, and the wages of our awesome coordinator Andrea. Got a sentence or two of appreciation? Share it here:

Love it!  
Love Reinhardt

Your initials (or an alias, or your real name if you wish):  
Community of residence:  New Denver  Silverton  Area H  Other:  
On the flipside (reverse), if you have constructive criticism or suggestions for improvement, please tell us!

There is a death in New Denver, the Tuesday at the Firewood Hub is the only opportunity for seniors to stay in touch with a...

Your initials (or an alias, or your real name if you wish): Neil Dunn  
Community of residence:  New Denver  Silverton  Area H  Other:  
On the flipside (reverse), if you have constructive criticism or suggestions for improvement, please tell us!

I love this Hub seniors morning, gets out of the house and visit with other seniors and enjoy this community. I really like the great speakers and would recommend these so delamps.

Your initials (or an alias, or your real name if you wish): Diana  
Community of residence:  New Denver  Silverton  Area H  Other:  
On the flipside (reverse), if you have constructive criticism or suggestions for improvement, please tell us!

have interesting interactive sessions. I hardly ever gets out and lives out of Village H!

Your initials (or an alias, or your real name if you wish): JG  
Community of residence:  New Denver  Silverton  Area H  Other:  
On the flipside (reverse), if you have constructive criticism or suggestions for improvement, please tell us!

TUE HUB FOR SENIORS ON TUESDAY IS A GODSEND FOR MANY OF US. WE ARE TREATED LIKE FAMILY BY THE GIRLS WHO TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF US. IT IS A GREAT VENUE FOR US TO HANG OUT WITH OTHER SENIORS WHO HAVE WONDERFUL STORIES & MEMORIES TO SHARE

Your initials (or an alias, or your real name if you wish): Wm Glen Palmer  
Community of residence:  New Denver  Silverton  Area H  Other:  
On the flipside (reverse), if you have constructive criticism or suggestions for improvement, please tell us!

no one else senior coffee. Sharing new experiences. There are some who love how it is all well organized.

Your initials (or an alias, or your real name if you wish): MP  
Community of residence:  New Denver  Silverton  Area H  Other:  
On the flipside (reverse), if you have constructive criticism or suggestions for improvement, please tell us!

I'm 88 going on 86, I don't want loneliness and I live alone, so socializing with other lively seniors is a wonderful part of my life. Our Hub is hosted by amazing caring hospitable women.

Your initials (or an alias, or your real name if you wish):  
Community of residence:  New Denver  Silverton  Area H  Other:  
On the flipside (reverse), if you have constructive criticism or suggestions for improvement, please tell us!

Organization: **New Denver and Area Youth Centre Society**  
Registration # S-0059479

Project Title: **Youth Building Skills Together**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton  
New Denver in various venues including the Outlet Youth Centre and Lucerne School.

**Project Description:**

This project is to support youth programming that will allow them to build skills together. The New Denver and Area Youth network will hire facilitators to deliver 3 separate courses "" Level One First Aid, Food Safe and Drivers' Training. In addition, we will offer a series of art workshops that includes jewelry making, stained glass and lino-cut techniques. This project will assist in supporting our ongoing commitment to offering enrichment opportunities to youth in the areas of arts, recreation and training courses.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$600.00	\$300.00
Contract Fees	\$5,600.00	\$4,000.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$1,250.00	\$1,100.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,450.00</b>	<b>\$5,400.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$2,050.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Volunteers contribute hours through assisting with facilitating activities, fundraising, youth activities transportation, chaperoning, cooking etc. The volunteer Board of Directors meets monthly. Youth contribute volunteer hours toward fundraising and community activities as well.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$5,400.00</b>	
Area H:	\$700.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$2,700.00</b>
Silverton:	\$2,000.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:**

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project supports youth to expand their skill sets and pursue their interests. The benefits to youth include confidence building, reduction in financial barriers to participation, and acquiring meaningful skills that can contribute to future employment opportunities. Activities that take place in a group context and in person allow for deeper connections and cooperation among the participants. The Youth Network seeks to support both the youth who are engaged as well as those experiencing challenges in school and community life. The youth who access these opportunities experience a sense of having been heard and that their needs are important. All activities provided for youth include a healthy meal or snacks.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

To alleviate rural isolation and work to prevent at risk behavior and substance abuse. To provide a wide variety of opportunities for youth in the areas of skill building, leadership, work experience, personal enrichment and the

pursuit of individual interests. To ensure that all youth have access to programming and opportunities while working to reduce barriers, financial and otherwise.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project supports youth to expand their skill sets and pursue their interests. The benefits to youth include confidence building, reduction in financial barriers to participation, and acquiring meaningful skills that can contribute to future employment opportunities. Activities that take place in a group context and in person allow for deeper connections and cooperation among the participants. The Youth Network seeks to support both the youth who are engaged as well as those experiencing challenges in school and community life. The youth who access these opportunities experience a sense of having been heard and that their needs are important. All activities provided for youth include a healthy meal or snacks.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The New Denver and Area Youth Network offers programming and opportunities based on feedback from youth as well as emerging priorities. Each fall the Youth Network seeks input from the youth ages 12-18 as to what their interests are by circulating a survey at the high school and the Outlet Youth Centre. The workshops and courses that will be offered through this project are based on the priorities expressed by the youth who responded to the survey (over 90%) as well as the consistently high rates of past participation by youth from previous cohorts. These training opportunities are not currently being offered through any other avenues in our community. The art workshops are being offered by active artists in our region, which has the potential to inspire youth who may want to pursue creative work as a living.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The New Denver and Area Youth Centre Society which is responsible for the operating of the Youth Network and the Outlet Youth Centre is in its 15th year of providing meaningful programming for the youth in our community. We have established strong relationships with community organizations, Lucerne School, parents of youth, and facilitators of training courses and arts workshops. We have a dedicated Board and staff who have ensured that past programming and activities have been successful and accessible and who assist in facilitating new programming opportunities that arise in response to the expressed interests of the youth.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

New Denver Youth Network coordinator, supervisor/staff, Board members, and community members/facilitators.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

**New Denver and Area Youth Network**

**Youth Survey**

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ 38 responses

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**1. What activities would you be interested in participating in? (check all that apply)**

- Skating 14
- Bowling 15
- Skiing/snowboarding 29
- Hot springs 23
- Hiking 13
- Golf 10
- Cooking classes 15
- Art workshops 18
- Media club 6
- Board games 12
- Movie and dinner nights 25
- Other – jewellery-making; motocross (2); video games (2); biking; swimming; photography

**2. Would you be interested in any of the following courses? (Check all that apply)**

- First aid 20
- Driving Course/lessons 17
- Food Safe certification 17
- CBT Leadership Course 1
- Job Readiness Course 1
- Other – lifeguard course; babysitting (2); anime art course

**3. Do you go to the Outlet Youth Centre? Yes- 23 No- 9**

**4. If not, would you like to participate in activities held at the Outlet or elsewhere not during drop-in? Yes- 21 No- 5**

**5. Would you like to see special times for different age groups at the Outlet during drop-in hours? Yes- 19 No- 10**

**Thanks for taking the time to let us know about your interests and ideas!**



Organization: **Slocan Solutions Society**

Registration # S0058249

**Parent Advisory Committee - Lucerne Elementary Secondary School - Sponsored Organization**

Project Title: **Purchase Library Books and Reading Chair for Lucerne Elementary Secondary School**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silvertown

The project will take place at the school library in New Denver

**Project Description:**

The project will purchase books and a reading chair for Lucerne Elementary Secondary School. The project will help inspire a love of reading for students by purchasing books and a comfortable reading chair for the school library.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi	RDCK Funding Requested by Area <i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$2,200.00</i>	
Administration Expenses	\$200.00	\$200.00	Area H:	\$1,200.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Denver:	\$500.00
Capital Purchases	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	Silvertown:	\$500.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,200.00</b>	<b>\$2,200.00</b>		
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>				
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$0.00</b>			
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>				

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: No

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project is important to our small village as there are not a lot of services in the North Valley and having a vibrant library full of exciting books is a great way to inspire ongoing learning and creativity in our youth. The new books will also be a way to give back to the kids in our community.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Slocan Solutions Society is an umbrella organization that supports unregistered groups that have a good idea but are not organized into a society structure. The focus is to promote a shared vision that enhances the cultural, social, economic and environmental development of Slocan communities. This is done through

- organizing and bringing together stakeholder groups for collaboration, coordination and cooperating on goals
- finding and organizing resources for groups including services, funding, and personnel
- supporting groups by organizing workshops, seminars, and training programs

**Project: Purchase Library Books and Reading Chair for Lucerne Elementary Secondary School**

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project is important to our small village as there are not a lot of services in the North Valley and having a vibrant library full of exciting books is a great way to inspire ongoing learning and creativity in our youth. The new books will also be a way to give back to the kids in our community.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The issue that will be addressed is an aging collection of books in the school library that needs to be updated (especially the non-fiction). The government supports the school with base funds for the library to purchase books but in order to update the library collection additional funds (beyond what is government responsibility) are needed. There is a huge opportunity to help fuel a love of reading with young children in the New Denver area. Although the village does have a small Reading Centre there are very few children's books available. The school library is where the majority of children get their books from. Because there is a limited collection of children's books at the Reading Centre it is even more important the collection of books at the school library is more robust and is filled with quality books.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Our organization is best suited to deliver the project as we are a local non-profit who loves to support local initiatives that help improve the life of community members.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The school librarian will purchase the books and chair and the Slocan Solutions Society will help administer the funds and write the final report.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Organization: **Kootenay Wellness Foundation**

Registration # XS0078058

Project Title: **Sustainable infrastructure for on-going community events.**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area A, RDCK Area B, RDCK Area C, RDCK Area D, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area G, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, RDCK Area K, City of Nelson, Town of Creston, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Salmo,

Our festival continues at the Vallican Whole Community Center (Area H), but we have participants from all RDCK communities and municipalities. The smaller events from our Community Wellness Program have taken place in Nelson, Castlegar and Slokan Valley area. We aim to expand our programming to more rural areas to build a larger network and cultural presence throughout the RDCK. By 2027, we hope to be able to move our festival to one of the larger villages or municipalities which will allow us to offer lower ticket prices to a greater number of people, increasing attendance & revenue.

**Project Description:**

We have been hosting our annual wellness festival in Area H for the last 5 years, with participants joining from all areas of the Kootenay region and attracting many out of town visitors, supporting local tourism. The festival builds a bridge between our surrounding communities in the West Kootenays and serves as a platform to showcase local artistic talent, live music and vendors, while making holistic wellness offerings (such as yoga classes and educational workshops) more accessible to the public. We have also recognized a need for on-going community events throughout the year to reduce social isolation in rural areas, especially throughout the winter months. As a result, we have developed our Community Wellness Program which has allowed us to bring more artistic & wellness events to more areas in the Kootenays. These events are all-ages, substance-free and available for attendance without financial barriers.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$1,144.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$18,000.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$4,850.00	\$2,800.00
Other Expenses	\$14,900.00	\$3,200.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$38,894.00</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$32,894.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
<p>We have a variety of small local businesses and organizations whom we are working with as sponsors, however, we are still in the process of defining the details of our in-kind contributions for 2026. In past years, the average non-cash contributions had an approximate total value of \$10,000.</p>		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$6,000.00</b>	
Area A:	\$100.00
Area B:	\$100.00
Area C:	\$100.00
Area D/Kaslo:	\$100.00
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$100.00
Area E:	\$700.00
Area F:	\$700.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$100.00
Area H:	\$700.00
Area I:	\$700.00
Area J:	\$700.00
Area K-Arrow Park:	\$100.00
Area K-Burton:	\$100.00
Area K-Fauquier:	\$100.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$100.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$100.00
Slocan:	\$500.00
Castlegar:	\$100.00
Creston:	\$100.00
Nelson:	\$100.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Silverton:	\$100.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:**

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Over the last 5 years, our festival has made a significant positive impact on local businesses, artists & musicians, private health practitioners & facilitators, and the broader community as a whole. This project benefits the entire region and is essential for bringing accessible social and educational events to rural communities, promoting a healthier lifestyle to those living within the Kootenays and to all who attend. We are focusing on our discount community tickets and volunteer exchange program in addition to developing our foundation's membership program. These initiatives will allow our community to continue accessing barrier-free wellness services and promote small businesses in the area while providing sustainable funding for our year-round events. Additionally, we are committed to Indigenous health and reconciliation through collaboration with the Autonomous Sinixt people, fostering awareness of the traditional territory we live on with educational opportunities.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Kootenay Wellness Foundation is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the well-being of all lives in the Kootenay region, with an impact that ripples across the province. Our main project is the annual Kootenay Wellness Festival and we foster a Community Wellness Program which allows us to host a variety of free or by-donation events throughout the year. These events are mainly family-friendly gatherings that are alcohol and substance free, supporting mental health in our community by fostering connection, inclusion, and belonging. These spaces reduce social isolation, provide accessible preventative wellness supports, and strengthen social networks—key factors associated with improved mental and overall health outcomes. By prioritizing substance-free environments, the Foundation ensures events are welcoming and safe for all community members, including those navigating mental health challenges or recovery. Our ongoing intention is to improve the accessibility of our projects and continue to offer programming that serves the broader community needs, creating inclusive environments that

**Project: Sustainable infrastructure for on-going community events.**

provide holistic wellness practices to all. We work with financial barriers of individuals & families to provide free resources & low-income services for physical, mental & emotional well-being. Our goal is to empower people to improve their own lives through self-care and ancestral healing practices as well as to create a circular economy with the local businesses, practitioners & facilitators in our area. We hold the vision in which the Kootenay region is a place where everyone has access to the health and wellness services they need to thrive, regardless of their circumstances.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Over the last 5 years, our festival has made a significant positive impact on local businesses, artists & musicians, private health practitioners & facilitators, and the broader community as a whole. This project benefits the entire region and is essential for bringing accessible social and educational events to rural communities, promoting a healthier lifestyle to those living within the Kootenays and to all who attend. We are focusing on our discount community tickets and volunteer exchange program in addition to developing our foundation's membership program. These initiatives will allow our community to continue accessing barrier-free wellness services and promote small businesses in the area while providing sustainable funding for our year-round events. Additionally, we are committed to Indigenous health and reconciliation through collaboration with the Autonomous Sinixt people, fostering awareness of the traditional territory we live on with educational opportunities.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

We recognize the increased population of at-risk individuals in the Kootenays who face financial and personal challenges. To support our communities, we strive to make holistic wellness more accessible at our events while building a more inclusive environment for all. We've created a discounted ticket program which reduces financial barriers to our festival and includes special youth and elder passes, as well as a volunteer exchange program. By hosting year-round events at accessible prices and creating safe, trauma-informed spaces, we've seen an increase in participation at these local gatherings and workshops. For our 2026 festival, we would like to extend the outreach of our discount ticket program to public health and service workers as well as our disabled population. We are also becoming a "family friendly" festival which allows parents to bring underaged children for free to participate in our designated kids zone with educational activities and child-minding services.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Our core team is now the strongest it's been, made up of hardworking individuals dedicated to improving the vision of our foundation. We are confident that we will be able to continue our efforts towards creating a more successful project for the community by bringing valuable skills and efficiently managing our tasks in a timely manner throughout the year. Through past festivals and events, we've received positive feedback and strong collaboration from the community, reinforcing the impact of our work. We have experienced steady growth, expanding our reach and engagement each year and expect to expand our initiatives further. With the continued support of the ReDi Grant and other funding streams, we've been able to financially bridge the gaps to deliver a successful event. Moving forward, we remain committed to fostering wellness, cultural connection, and community engagement, ensuring the ongoing sustainability of our festival and year-round initiatives.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Our dedicated team has volunteered time and energy to launch this project as well as involving local residents as volunteers. This year, we aim to engage at least 50 community members for our exchange program. We also work closely with our advisory board for expert guidance and have a sponsorship program for local businesses to support the event. Our core team includes Amy Heasman (CEO), Dustin East (Operations Manager), Jessica Arlette (Social Media & Marketing Coordinator), Jase Aether (Website & Graphic Design), Alison Evin (Fundraising & Volunteer Coordinator), Freya Pare (Art & Design Director), Alex LeFleur (Sound Technician).

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

Project: Sustainable infrastructure for on-going community events.

8. **Project will be 100% completed by volunteers:** Yes
9. **Is the project viable without ReDi funding support:** Yes
10. **Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

# *Autonomous Sinixt*

Smum iem  
Box 69 New Denver, B.C.  
V0G 1S0



## **Letter of Support 2025**

January 24, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the Kootenay Wellness Festival and the Kootenay Wellness Foundation. As a proud supporter of initiatives that enhance the vibrancy and well-being of our community, I recognize the significant role this event plays in fostering connection, wellness, and economic vitality in the Slocan Valley and beyond. The Kootenay Wellness Festival is a shining example of locally-driven programming that resonates with both residents and visitors. It brings together diverse individuals to celebrate health, mindfulness, and community engagement.

The Kootenay Wellness Festival has always welcomed the Autonomous Sinixt to participate in their events, worked in right relationship with us, and have been respectful to the Sinixt *təmχ<sup>w</sup>úla?χ<sup>w</sup>* (homeland) upon which they operate. For this I am grateful and am happy to offer them my support.

I wholeheartedly encourage others to support the Kootenay Wellness Festival and Foundation in their mission to uplift our community through wellness-focused initiatives. Together, we can contribute to the development of a thriving and connected region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Marilyn James'.

Marilyn James  
Matriarch  
Autonomous Sinixt

website: [sinixt.org](http://sinixt.org)  
contact: [info@sinixt.org](mailto:info@sinixt.org)



## THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

P.O. BOX 50, SLOCAN, B.C. V0G 2C0

TELEPHONE (250) 355-2277

FAX (250) 355-2666

mayor@villageofslocan.ca

*From the Office of the Mayor*

February 27, 2025

To Whom it May Concern

### **Re: Kootenay Wellness Festival and the Kootenay Wellness Foundation**

We offer this letter of support for the Kootenay Wellness Festival and the Kootenay Wellness Foundation. The Village is a proud supporter of initiatives that enhance the vibrancy and well-being of our community and recognizes the significant role this event plays in fostering connection, wellness, and economic vitality in the Slocan Valley and beyond.

The Kootenay Wellness Festival is a shining example of locally-driven programming that resonates with both residents and visitors. It brings together diverse individuals to celebrate health, mindfulness, and community engagement.

The Village of Slocan appreciates the festival's goals of "supporting initiatives that promote holistic wellness and strengthen our community's social fabric". Supporting events like the Kootenay Wellness Festival is an investment in the continued growth, health, and prosperity of our region.

The Village commends the Kootenay Wellness Foundation's dedication to fostering inclusivity, engaging local First Nations meaningfully, and championing wellness across diverse sectors. Their work aligns with key recommendations outlined in the Slocan Valley Economic Development Strategic Plan, such as supporting non-profit organizations in the wellness industry and sponsoring community wellness events.

The Village thanks and supports the Kootenay Wellness Festival and Foundation in their mission to uplift our community through wellness-focused initiatives and contribution to the development of a thriving and connected region.

Sincerely,

Jessica Lunn  
Mayor

**SLOCAN**  
**VALLEY**  
**Letter of Support**

January 16, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to offer my support for the Kootenay Wellness Festival and the Kootenay Wellness Foundation (KWF). I believe it fills an important community function here in the Slokan Valley.

Over the past few years I have witnessed KWF's initiative and development of the festival and foundation and have supported their good work. I find the organization to be very collaborative, well-organized and community-minded. I have no doubt that these endeavours will prove fruitful and beneficial to the Slokan Valley and region in its wellness and diversity.

As a regional stakeholder, Community Futures Central Kootenay, through our service contract with local government in the Slokan Valley, are committed to supporting appropriate economic development and diversification. Supporting events like the Kootenay Wellness Festival is an investment in the continued growth, health, and prosperity of our region.

Furthermore, I commend the Kootenay Wellness Foundation's dedication to fostering inclusivity, engaging local First Nations meaningfully, and championing wellness across diverse sectors. Their work aligns with key recommendations outlined in the Slokan Valley Economic Development Strategic Plan, such as supporting non-profit organizations in the wellness industry and sponsoring community wellness events.

I wholeheartedly encourage others to support the Kootenay Wellness Festival and Foundation in their mission to uplift our community through wellness-focused initiatives. Together, we can contribute to the development of a thriving and connected region.

Sincerely,

*Ron LeBlanc*

Ron LeBlanc

Slocan Valley Economic Development Coordinator  
Community Futures Central Kootenay

[rleblanc@futures.bc.ca](mailto:rleblanc@futures.bc.ca) 250-551-2216

Organization: **Slocan Solutions Society**  
Registration # S0058249

Project Title: **Valhalla Community Choir**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan  
The year-long rehearsals take place in New Denver at Knox hall while the December concerts take place at the Silverton Memorial Hall

**Project Description:**

Since 1990 The Valhalla Community Choir has been active in the community and is open to everyone who loves to sing. There are 30 members who come from Hills, Rosebery, the Villages of New Denver, Silverton and Slocan, and the surrounding rural areas. Two concerts are held in December each year and each are well attended with over 100 people in the audience for each concert.

A smaller group of choir members starts practicing at the start of the year in January and meet once a week until late May / early June. The full choir starts practicing in September (after Labor Day) and meet Monday evenings from 7-9 pm each week until mid December. During this time-frame additional weekly one-hour sectional practices for each choir section also takes place.

Choir members pay a fee of \$40/singer, but no one is turned away if they cannot afford the fee. The only source of income, other than grants, is a voluntary donation from the public at the entrance to the concerts. The choirs' expenses are practice space rental, music scores, performance hall rental, insurance, accompanist honorarium and incidentals (such as sound and lighting for the concerts).

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi	RDCK Funding Requested by Area <i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$4,800.00</i>	
Administration Expenses	\$400.00	\$400.00	Area H:	\$1,300.00
Contract Fees	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	Slocan:	\$600.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>New Denver:</b>	\$1,800.00
Other Expenses	\$2,650.00	\$2,650.00	Silverton:	\$1,100.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,800.00</b>	<b>\$4,800.00</b>		
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>				
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$0.00</b>			
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>				
Overall organization, choosing music, supplying ipads, sectional rehearsal space, travel to practices and concerts, brochure design, preparing advertising, computer time, supporting musicians and singers.				

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: *No*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project is important because of the social and cultural enrichment it brings to the community. Necessary relationships and connections with others are fostered year-round by choir members, and members are able to practice and enhance their singing skills. Many members of the community look forward to the two annual

Christmas concerts and experience joy while listening to members of the choir (who are friends and neighbours in the community) entertain them.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Slocan Solutions Society is an umbrella organization that supports unregistered groups that have a good idea but are not organized into a society structure. The focus is to promote a shared vision that enhances the cultural, social, economic and environmental development of Slocan communities. This is done through

- organizing and bringing together stakeholder groups for collaboration, coordination and cooperating on goals
- finding and organizing resources for groups including services, funding, and personnel
- supporting groups by organizing workshops, seminars, and training programs

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project is important because of the social and cultural enrichment it brings to the community. Necessary relationships and connections with others are fostered year-round by choir members, and members are able to practice and enhance their singing skills. Many members of the community look forward to the two annual Christmas concerts and experience joy while listening to members of the choir (who are friends and neighbours in the community) entertain them.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The choir is open to everyone and gives people an opportunity to meet and spend time with other community members while expressing themselves through their voice, for the enjoyment of the community. The Choir contributes to the social and cultural richness of the communities in the north Slocan valley - receiving tremendous and long-standing community support from choir participants and audience members who return year after year.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Slocan Solutions Society is dedicated to helping groups like the Valhalla Community Choir in obtaining funding. The Choir has been singing together for almost 4 decades and has been successful every year. Also, this choir group is the only choir in the north Slocan valley.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Slocan Solutions Society administers the funds. The choir is directed by Francie Oldham. The choir consists of 30 community members / singers. The choir also requires a conductor and minor support staff such as, instrumental musicians, lighting and sound people who all contribute their time as volunteers.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

### **A sample of Choir 2025 Testimonials**

Hi Francie,

Wanted to say that I really appreciated being able to take part in the choir this year!

Thanks for the opportunity and for the joy it brought to me during this challenging time in life.

Wishing you all the best this holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

Best,

Casey Law

Such a fun season but also so rich with emotions. I cried almost every practice from the beauty of our voices coming together.

Thank you to Francie for all her time put in. Thank you to Rebecca for your wonderful accompaniment. And thank you to Jasmine and Seb - everyone was so impressed with how we looked under the lights!

Looking forward to next year! Please share choral tracks as soon as you can Francie! Can't wait to learn new songs together!

Warm regards to all!

Trish Evergreen

Good morning, Francie.

I don't think I have ever been as comfortable with my choir music as this year. I have enjoyed spending a lot of time with it.

Thank you, Francie. Choir is so good for everyone in so many ways.

Evelyn Goodell

Organization: **Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative**  
Registration # 829920321 RC0001

Project Title: **SIFCo Resiliency Centre Emergency Upgrades**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H

6841 Appledale Park Road, -The Historic Appledale Hall, now known as the SIFCo Resiliency Centre

**Project Description:**

This will provide necessary facilities to support an emergency such as a wildfire evacuation. Including laundry facilities, First Aid Equipment, AED defibrator machine & computer and printer for communication.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$500.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$500.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$7,800.00	\$6,200.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,800.00</b>	<b>\$6,200.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$2,600.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Volunteer Board Time Donated Staff Time Installation (Labor) Time		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$6,200.00</b>	
Area H:	\$5,100.00
Slocan:	\$400.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	\$300.00
Silverton:	\$400.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: No

**1. Importance to the Community:**

All the users of of the Resiliency Centre will benefit from this project, the equipment purchased with this grant will be used year round for laundry in the hall, first aid emergencies and create a safer experience for hall users. This equipment becomes vital during a community emergency or evacuation. The hall became the first evacuation point of contact for many residents during the 2024 Slocan wildfires. The Hall has also hosted over 8 resiliency events in 2025 in the realm of emergencies, health, technology, food and culture.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

SIFCo is a non-for-profit community forest cooperative located in the West Kootenays."

"Our goal is to be a leader in Climate Change adaptation, sustainable forestry practices, community resiliency, wildfire mitigation, ecosystem-based management, and economic diversification.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

All the users of of the Resiliency Centre will benefit from this project, the equipment purchased with this grant will be used year round for laundry in the hall, first aid emergencies and create a safer experience for hall users. This

equipment becomes vital during a community emergency or evacuation. The hall became the first evacuation point of contact for many residents during the 2024 Slocan wildfires. The Hall has also hosted over 8 resiliency events in 2025 in the realm of emergencies, health, technology, food and culture.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

During the 2024 Slocan Wildfire Evacuations, we identified no place for laundry, insufficient first aid equipment, and did not have all the technology to be an ESS (Emergency Support Services)

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

SIFCo has received numerous grants throughout the years that fund community resiliency. We are equipped with the right staff and resources to bring this project to completion and fulfill the reporting requirements on schedule.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

This project will be managed by SIFCo staff. We have recently managed major hall upgrades such as air filtration systems, bathroom renovations with shower, and new roof.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



Organization: **Harvest Share & Bear Aware**  
Registration # S0081981

Project Title: **Harvest Share & Bear Aware**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan  
This project takes place in the villages of New Denver, Silverton and Slocan, and Area H rural areas close to these communities.

**Project Description:**

Harvest Share & Bear Aware aims to address two important needs of increasing both food security and human-wildlife coexistence in our greater Slocan Lake community. Harvest Share connects people who have excess fruit from their backyard fruit trees with those who have the time and energy to harvest it. The project facilitates the sharing of our local bounty while promoting local food self-sufficiency and reducing human-wildlife conflict. The harvest of fruit (cherries, pears, plums, apples) is shared between willing homeowners, volunteers, local food banks, and community initiatives such as fall harvest festivals and canning bees. When fruit is almost ready for picking, homeowners call the Harvest Share Coordinator who manages a list of volunteers. The Coordinator contacts volunteers who pick the produce and clean up windfall/damaged fruit. Fruit harvests are generally divided equally between the pickers and the tree owner. Often fruit is donated to school and community initiatives to support those in need. Windfall and damaged fruit are removed from the property and the Coordinator arranges for pick up or delivery to local livestock owners. The Coordinator is also responsible for loaning orchard ladders and supports residents with temporary electric fencing as part of Harvest Share's commitment to managing wildlife attractants and promoting co-existence.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$500.00	\$200.00
Contract Fees	\$6,500.00	\$6,000.00
Capital Purchases	\$750.00	\$300.00
Other Expenses	\$2,100.00	\$1,500.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,850.00</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b> All participation in this program is volunteer based		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$8,000.00</b>	
Area H:	\$900.00
Slocan:	\$1,600.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$3,300.00</b>
Silverton:	\$2,200.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:

**1. Importance to the Community:**

For 18+ years, Harvest Share & Bear Aware has had tremendous local and regional support. Issues of excess fruit and wildlife conflict occur year after year. Addressing them requires coordination and cooperation between homeowners, volunteers, local government and community groups. More seniors rely on Harvest Share each year. Annual events include Lucerne school's Harvest Festival & educational workshops that bring together community

**Project: Harvest Share & Bear Aware**

members of all ages (preschoolers to seniors!). Residents benefit from the program whether they are volunteering at a pick, sharing fruit from their backyard trees, or engaging in solutions-oriented sessions. Local wildlife benefits because conflict is reduced and safety is increased. Practicing coexistence is an important process for all members of our community, and particularly important for New Denver & its Bear Smart commitment and recognition as a Bear Smart Community. The work of Harvest Share is a critical aspect of ensuring that fruit tree attractants are managed.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Harvest Share & Bear Aware connects people who have excess fruit from their backyard fruit trees with those who have the time and energy to harvest it. The fruit is shared between homeowners and volunteers, the local food bank, and other community initiatives. Windfall and damaged fruit is shared with local livestock owners. Harvest Share & Bear Aware has the dual purpose to increase food security and human-wildlife coexistence in our greater Slocan Lake community. The villages of New Denver, Silverton and Slocan, and surrounding areas have an abundance and diversity of fruit trees. Prior to the launch of Harvest Share much of this fruit was going to waste and contributing to human-wildlife conflict affecting the safety of both humans and wildlife, especially black bears.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

For 18+ years, Harvest Share & Bear Aware has had tremendous local and regional support. Issues of excess fruit and wildlife conflict occur year after year. Addressing them requires coordination and cooperation between homeowners, volunteers, local government and community groups. More seniors rely on Harvest Share each year. Annual events include Lucerne school's Harvest Festival & educational workshops that bring together community members of all ages (preschoolers to seniors!). Residents benefit from the program whether they are volunteering at a pick, sharing fruit from their backyard trees, or engaging in solutions-oriented sessions. Local wildlife benefits because conflict is reduced and safety is increased. Practicing coexistence is an important process for all members of our community, and particularly important for New Denver & its Bear Smart commitment and recognition as a Bear Smart Community. The work of Harvest Share is a critical aspect of ensuring that fruit tree attractants are managed.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Our communities have an abundance of fruit trees. Prior to the launch of Harvest Share in the New Denver and Silverton area in 2008, much of this fruit was going to waste and attracting bears into the villages and rural properties. Our program provides a community-based solution that increases food self-reliance, reduces food waste, reduces human-wildlife conflicts, and increases community education and awareness. Harvest Share volunteers annually harvest on average 5000 lbs of fruit each season - increasing the amount of processed fruit going into residents' pantries for the winter. We host educational workshops on fruit tree maintenance and fruit preservation and coordinate picks that contribute to strengthening community capacity for increased food security and wildlife safety. Harvest Share also works with WildSafe BC to host electric fencing workshops, and we partner with the Village of New Denver and other groups to provide a coordinated approach to coexisting with wildlife.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Harvest Share is a well-established program that has been servicing the local community since 2008. It is a program many people rely on during the harvest season. The Directors and Coordinator work together to ensure project goals are met, reporting is complete, and that the local community benefits as much as possible from our services. Over the years, Harvest Share & Bear Aware has become a model in the West Kootenays and has mentored three other communities (Fauquier, Nakusp, and Harrop/Proctor) in getting similar projects off the ground. Since 2008, Harvest Share & Bear Aware has hosted over 30 educational workshops and harvested almost 50,000 lbs of local fruit. Over 300 volunteers including Lucerne Elementary Secondary students and teachers have assisted with picks on over 50 different properties in Silverton and New Denver. We have the experience and systems in place to deliver a reliable, effective service.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The Harvest Share & Bear Aware Coordinator, with guidance from a Board of Directors. The Coordinator manages a list of volunteer pickers and fruit tree owners, coordinates all picks throughout the season (with equitable allocation to volunteers), manages the clearing of windfall & damaged fruit and sharing with farmers, maintains and loans orchard ladders and electric fencing equipment, supports residents with temporary electric fencing set up, organizes educational workshops & presentations, and tracks and reports pounds of fruit harvested. The Coordinator also raises the profile of the program through public outreach and coordinates with other wildlife coexistence groups.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Organization: **Slocan Solutions Society**

Registration # S0058249

**FibreFeelia 2026 / Laurel Tree Fabric and Fibre** - Sponsored Organization

Project Title: **FibreFeelia 2026**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan  
The conference workshops, demonstrations, networking event, and the vendor market is held in the Village of New Denver.

**Project Description:**

FibreFeelia is an annual 3-day conference that encompasses master classes, workshops, demonstrations, displays and a Market Place. Presenters share innovative techniques, workshop classes teach participants new skills, and attendees are able to find the newest and most interesting supplies for their projects. The conference attracts vendors and instructors locally, regionally and provincially. And, this event attracts visitors to the region and supports many other local businesses.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$700.00	\$700.00
Contract Fees	\$2,045.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Other Expenses	\$4,850.00	\$700.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,395.00</b>	<b>\$3,200.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$3,500.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b> volunteer organization (planning, set up, onsite coordination, and clean up, and event review and analysis). Some prizes will be donated.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$3,200.00</b>	
Area H:	\$800.00
Slocan:	\$800.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>
Silverton:	\$800.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:**

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This conference brings visitors to New Denver from other areas and provides a venue for a community of enthusiastic crafters, educators and producers to celebrate and support the fibre arts while learning from each other and showcasing their talents.  
This is an annual event for the community which started in 2017. Local businesses, residents and visitors benefit from, and look forward to this event, each year.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Slocan Solutions Society is an umbrella organization that supports unregistered groups that have a good idea but are not organized into a society structure. The focus is to promote a shared vision that enhances the cultural, social, economic and environmental development of Slocan communities. This is done through:

- organizing and bringing together stakeholder groups for collaboration, coordination and cooperating on goals
- finding and organizing resources for groups including services, funding, and personnel
- supporting groups by organizing workshops, seminars, and training programs.

FibreFeelia is an annual conference that brings together a community of enthusiastic crafters, fibre educators and producers including spinners, knitters, weavers, designers, textile artists, felters, dyers, quilters, and others who support fibre arts.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This conference brings visitors to New Denver from other areas and provides a venue for a community of enthusiastic crafters, educators and producers to celebrate and support the fibre arts while learning from each other and showcasing their talents.

This is an annual event for the community which started in 2017. Local businesses, residents and visitors benefit from, and look forward to this event, each year.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The Slocan valley has an extensive arts community that the conference highlights and expands upon. Classes and the vendor market allow individuals to become more known, to sell their products, and to network with people within their area and from across Canada and the United States.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Laurel Tree Fabric and Fibre, a long-time local business and host of the conference, has extensive fibre arts knowledge and has developed relationships with instructors and vendors from around Western Canada. Through its retail interaction with people the business is able to identify classes and workshops that are of interest to customers. Currently, in this area, no other conference exists that meets these needs.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Laurel Tree Fabric and Fibre along with a number of volunteers will coordinate all aspects of the conference from pre-planning and event day logistics, marketing and promotions, ticket sales, vendor and educator participation and more.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Organization: **Healthy Community Society of the North Slokan Valley**

Registration # S-0050999

Project Title: **Food Program- Share, Teach, Grow 2026-27**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton

Where will this project take place? (100 words)

The project will take place in and around the communities of New Denver, Silverton and Area H. Lucerne School, in New Denver, is our main partner and much of our program takes place there. Our events make use of the halls in both Silverton and New Denver. Field trips to nearby farms and natural areas in Area H are also part of the program. Our society manages and maintains the Lucerne Garden and Greenhouse outdoor learning spaces in a partnership with the school.

**Project Description:**

We will offer events, services, and educational programming that build community relationships, nourish people, and share local knowledge regarding food growing and processing skills. Our main community events-Harvest Festival, Harvest Dinner, Seedy Saturday, and Earth Day-have become highly anticipated annual highlights that connect our residents to their food, the land, and each other. These gatherings, which range from intimate workshops to large-scale celebrations for up to 300 people, foster a vibrant culture by encouraging residents of all ages to share meals and traditional rural skills and practices.

At Lucerne School, we provide an educational program using the garden and greenhouse as outdoor classrooms. For the 2026/27 season, we will specifically focus on native plant and companion plant studies, beneficial insects, worm composting, and the cultivation of sensory plants to deepen nature connection and food literacy. Supported by contractors and loyal volunteers, these spaces are maintained to their fullest potential to supply fresh, nutritious food directly to the local school lunch program and to vulnerable families. By teaching the full cycle of nature-from planning and planting to processing and seed saving-we empower our community with the essential skills required for long-term rural self-reliance.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$2,690.00	\$1,330.00
Contract Fees	\$12,890.00	\$6,850.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$4,890.00	\$765.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$20,470.00</b>	<b>\$8,945.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$11,525.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
<p>The success of this initiative is underpinned by significant community and organizational support. Volunteer labour is a cornerstone of our operations, with dedicated individuals providing ~8 hours of weekly maintenance for the garden and greenhouse and assisting with classes. Our large-scale events are powered by a pool of over 35 volunteers who contribute several hours of service per event. Furthermore, all digital outreach, including the maintenance of our website and Facebook page, is managed entirely by volunteers.</p> <p>Lucerne School remains a vital partner, providing full access to their building, commercial foods room, and the garden/greenhouse facilities at no cost to the project. We also benefit from ongoing donations of food, seeds, and seedlings from local supporters.</p> <p>Administrative and logistical overhead is kept low through in-kind contributions, including home office expenses for our bookkeeping and coordination team, as well as all transportation costs. The HCS Board of Directors provides professional oversight on a purely volunteer basis. While difficult to quantify precisely, the board and committee members contribute well over 200 hours annually to budgeting, strategic meetings, and program promotion to ensure the project's continued impact.</p>		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$8,945.00</b>	
Area H:	\$895.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$4,025.00</b>
Silverton:	\$4,025.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: No

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Community gardens and events engage, inspire, and empower us to contribute to our collective well-being. Food sustainability and knowledge-sharing are essential skills in our region, where poverty and high living costs make rural self-reliance a priority. By providing hands-on education in gardening and nature, we increase food security for everyone from daycare children to elders. Our program brings nurturing and reverence into Lucerne School and warmth to the larger community. With over 25% vulnerable students at Lucerne, garden-based learning is vital; it empowers them to discover the benefits of healthy living through fresh produce they eat "off the vine".

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Healthy Community Society of the North Slokan Valley seeks to cultivate the elements of a healthy community- food security, self-reliance, healthy people, healthy environment, and a thriving local economy-through education, relationship building, and community service.

In addition to our community events and garden and greenhouse initiatives, the Society actively runs the Community Composting program and the Lucerne School breakfast and lunch programs. We are partners in the Friday Market Coupon program and collaborate closely with the Fireweed Hub to strengthen local food systems. To support these diverse community services, we successfully manage an annual operating budget of over \$54,000, demonstrating our organizational capacity and commitment to the North Slokan Valley.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Community gardens and events engage, inspire, and empower us to contribute to our collective well-being. Food sustainability and knowledge-sharing are essential skills in our region, where poverty and high living costs make rural self-reliance a priority. By providing hands-on education in gardening and nature, we increase food security for everyone from daycare children to elders. Our program brings nurturing and reverence into Lucerne School and warmth to the larger community. With over 25% vulnerable students at Lucerne, garden-based learning is vital; it empowers them to discover the benefits of healthy living through fresh produce they eat "off the vine".

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Gardening provides a therapeutic outlet that reduces stress, teaches patience, and promotes mental well-being. By encouraging physical activity and nature observation, we offer a necessary alternative to sedentary, screen-based activities. We foster intergenerational relationships by connecting volunteers and guests of all ages, building community connections and combatting loneliness. Our events-regularly attracting 75-300 people-unite the village through the common need for celebration. This project addresses poor diets by teaching children to grow and taste healthy foods, empowering them to take seeds home to continue the cycle.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

As the HCS approaches its 20th anniversary, we bring two decades of experience in cultivating local food security. Our capacity is driven by a dynamic team of keen and skilled new directors and executive members joined by a core group of directors and coordinators dedicated since the beginning. We maintain detailed financial records for every project and follow through with clear and accurate reporting.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The project is led by experienced facilitators Julia Greenlaw (Lead Educator), Mandy Smith, and Lena Day (Events), supported by key volunteer David Butt and many others. Our contractors are skilled in horticulture, education, and event management, maintaining strong ties with SD10, Indigenous partners, and local governments. As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, our capacity is bolstered by a board of skilled new directors working alongside founding members. The program thrives through the diverse talents of local cooks, gardeners and musicians, and a dedicated network of over 35 longstanding volunteers.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Testimonial:

I am writing to share our observations and reflections on the progress of the Share, Teach, Grow program, an initiative of the Healthy Community Society that has been evolving and flourishing over the years. This program was founded on the principles of knowledge-sharing, hands-on learning, and community collaboration to foster sustainable and resilient living.

From its inception, Share, Teach, Grow has been a space for community members to come together, exchange skills, and cultivate a deeper connection to the land and each other. Through the years, we have witnessed remarkable transformations—not only in our community/school gardens and educational workshops but also in the individuals and students who have engaged with the program.

One of the most inspiring aspects of this initiative has been the intergenerational learning that has naturally taken place. Seasoned gardeners and food growers have passed down their wisdom to younger generations, ensuring that traditional practices and sustainable methods are preserved and expanded upon. In turn, younger participants have brought fresh perspectives and innovative approaches, while learning how to grow and harvest seeds and food.

The impact of the program can be seen in tangible ways—community gardens have flourished, local food production has improved, and students have gained confidence in their ability to grow, and harvest food. Students then transport this food to the kitchen as it is used as ingredients for the school lunch program. Additionally, we have seen an increase in civic engagement as people from all ages come together to support one another, fostering a stronger sense of belonging and shared responsibility for our environment and well-being.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding and refining the Share, Teach, Grow program. We are eager to introduce new workshops, strengthen partnerships, and provide even more opportunities for learning and collaboration. Our goal is to continue nurturing a culture of sustainability and resilience that will benefit our community for generations to come.

Justin Bisson, Vice-Principal, Lucerne School

Organization: **Kootenay Mycological Society**

Registration # Incorporation Number S0082441, Business Number 76882 4567 BC0001

Project Title: **Kootenay Mushroom Festival**

**Project will be located in:** Village of Kaslo

The Festival is held in Kaslo, BC, using foray locations outside the village and renting various venues including the Legion, Langham Hall, churches and others. The market is contained in the Legion and has grown so that it spills out onto the blocked-off street (we pay for a street permit). ID tables with experts identifying finds are set up in the Langham. Food vendors are set up inside the market and out, and local restaurants offer mushroom specials. Art displays and live art demonstrations have been done inside the Legion and out in the street.

**Project Description:**

The Society organizes an October weekend festival in Kaslo, including educational and creative sessions featuring topics like toxicity, ID, dying fabrics with mushrooms, growing, processing, and cooking mushrooms, and medicinal mushrooms. Kootenay experts lead forays into the woods and learning sessions at local venues. We plan an evening mushroom-themed dinner social.

Our ticket purchasers fund our presenter costs, and we also host a free, bustling mushroom-themed market, complementing the last seasonal Kaslo farmer's market. This past year we expanded our free offerings to include shorter informative talks, live music, a DJ, a beatbox artist, puppet show and a children's choir. The Festival provided education and entertainment for hundreds of Kootenay locals and plenty of visitors. It also provided an extra source of income for paid experts, musicians, artists and artisans, food vendors and restaurants, and local accommodation providers.

Our core volunteer group has been wonderful, but when we saw a need for relief, ReDi grants helped us fund two temporary paid positions to keep us going. We are hoping for help with the cost of two key organizing aides.

Providing free entertainment for non-paying guests to the market adds up quickly and we are seeking funding to help defray this cost.

Entering year five, we want to keep in touch with potential attendees, and want to develop a website professionally.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$14,100.00	\$5,600.00
Capital Purchases	\$300.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$4,800.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$19,200.00</b>	<b>\$5,600.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$13,600.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b> Volunteer labour by the committee members and by day volunteers including first aid (receive free admission)		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$5,600.00</b>	
Area A:	\$200.00
Area D/Kaslo:	\$1,700.00
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$200.00
Area E:	\$300.00
Area F:	\$200.00
Area H:	\$200.00
Slocan:	\$200.00
Castlegar:	\$400.00
Nelson:	\$1,800.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
Silverton:	\$200.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** *Because we recognize that attendees come from all over the Kootenays (and beyond), we feel it is fair to share the cost of providing the event for residents. Kaslo/D hosts the event, and receives the largest portion of the economic benefit, but attendees come largely from Nelson, Castlegar, Area H, Area E, Area A and F, and New Denver/Silverton. Towns on the way to the festival and nearby also benefit from travellers using services en route.*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

We're proud to have created this unique event, which visitors have told us is well-run, entertaining and ranks as their favourite mushroom festival. Kaslo and area benefit from the influx of weekend visitors, who our surveys tell us rent hotel rooms and campsites. We rent several venues throughout town for the Festival and have local restaurants, caterers and brewers provide the food and drink for our dinners. Local restaurants see much increased traffic for festival days.

Local growers, artists and crafters benefit from the market opportunity, and visitors and locals enjoy the mushroom theme. Last year our festival was graced with some fabulous art displays and musical entertainment. Our attendees love the sense of community the Festival brings for people who come together to learn about a topic they find intriguing. Festival-goers come away armed with knowledge that will make their forest and fungi explorations safer and more responsible.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Kootenay Mycological Society was incorporated a year ago, with the goal of providing outdoor recreational and scientific learning opportunities to Kootenay residents and visitors. The group of volunteers who have run the Kootenay Mushroom Festival annually in Kaslo for four years created this umbrella organization to "make it official", and to expand our activities to include contributing to scientific research and data collection. Our mandate is the creation of access to learning about the fascinating world of fungi in a fun and social format. We educate the public about the safe, respectful, and enjoyable identification and collection of edible mushrooms. We contribute to the scientific body of knowledge about fungi by collecting and submitting identified samples for DNA analysis, helping map BC's fungal world.

We deliver a ticketed weekend festival and free market in Kaslo annually in October, which last year was attended by 170 ticket holders and hundreds of free market attendees.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

We're proud to have created this unique event, which visitors have told us is well-run, entertaining and ranks as their favourite mushroom festival. Kaslo and area benefit from the influx of weekend visitors, who our surveys tell us rent hotel rooms and campsites. We rent several venues throughout town for the Festival and have local restaurants, caterers and brewers provide the food and drink for our dinners. Local restaurants see much increased traffic for festival days.

Local growers, artists and crafters benefit from the market opportunity, and visitors and locals enjoy the mushroom theme. Last year our festival was graced with some fabulous art displays and musical entertainment. Our attendees love the sense of community the Festival brings for people who come together to learn about a topic they find intriguing. Festival-goers come away armed with knowledge that will make their forest and fungi explorations safer and more responsible.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

We need an online presence to properly promote the Festival. We also want to spread the word about the free aspects of the day. Eventually, we want to offer scientific information on our website. We are seeking funding to hire a local professional web designer to make us more visible online.

Kootenay residents have enjoyed the free offerings (from live art demos to costume contests) and it creates great atmosphere. We are seeking help with the cost of providing this opportunity for local fun, as ticket holders shouldn't really be subsidizing the free events and our costs are rising. We need to keep ticket prices affordable.

We've been fortunate to have ReDi help with the cost of hiring a Market Coordinator and a Day Coordinator in the past, and this has saved the sanity of the organizing committee! We are seeking this funding to acknowledge by stipend their long hours.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Yes: We have successfully run four mushroom festivals on budget with a core group of volunteers. Some of our volunteers have strong connections in the "mushroom community" to draw on for booking speakers, and for assessing the value of resources and topics. Our volunteers are Kootenay-based, with a few in Kaslo who have intimate knowledge of the community and the surrounding area (valuable for planning foray sites and venues). We have volunteers with arts community contacts who help us access talent for the displays and market. We have learned a lot and we've kept detailed records. No year is perfect and every new year we plan to be better. Each year we add to our planning road map, and we get a little bit better at running this show.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The Kootenay Mycological Society has a small group of Directors who form the Festival organizing committee. A market coordinator starts planning the next year early in the spring and arranges rentals, vendors, contracts, and advertising through the summer. The Committee strategizes ways to improve on the previous years and potential new offerings, plans a dinner, and hires experts and artists. The Day Coordinator makes logistics arrangements (permits, rentals, contact with local vendors and restaurants, and works with the committee on advertising and registration processes, the legwork for a local separately ticketed dinner, and day-of management).

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

**1 THE LEGION**

Outside

Inside

Button Stage

**IN THE WOODS**

Hall

Sanctuary

**3 ST. MARKS**

Inside

Outside

**4 THE LANGHAM**

8AM

Registration  
8am - 9am

9AM

10AM

**Guided Forays**  
9am - 12.30pm  
*(exact location will be provided by your Foray leader)*

**Mishmash\***  
10am

**Dubconscious\***  
11.30am

**Rob Goblin\***  
1pm

**Chantrilles\***  
1.15pm

**Puppet Show\***  
1.45pm

**Intro to Mycetium\***  
2.30pm

**Microdosing\***  
3pm

**Woods vs. Forest\***  
3.30pm

**Mushroom Intake**  
12.30 - 1.30pm

**Mushroom Market\***  
10am - 4pm

**Advanced Mushroom ID\***  
1.30 - 4.30pm

**Lunch Break**  
12.30pm - 1.30pm

**Cooking with Mushrooms**  
2.30 - 3.30pm

**Poisonous Mushrooms**  
3pm - 3.30pm

**Making a Mushroom Bucket**  
1.30 - 3pm

**Medicinal Mushrooms for Mental Health**  
1.30 - 3pm

**Fungi that Rocked Human History**  
3.30 - 5pm

**Puppet Making\***  
3.30 - 4.30pm

**The Art of the Mushroom**  
3.30 - 5pm

**Psychedelic Mushrooms as Medicine**  
3.30 - 5pm

8AM

9AM

10AM

11AM

12PM

1PM

2PM

3PM

4PM

5PM

\* Events marked with an asterisk are free and open to everyone!  
These include the Mushroom Market, all programming at the Button Stage, and the Puppet Making workshop.

FOOD & BEVERAGE FESTIVAL MARKET





8  
A sign is posted on a wooden utility pole to the right of the group. The sign is white with red and black text, but the details are illegible due to the image's resolution.



PUPPETS  
on the  
MOVE

# MUSHROOM MARKET

At The Kootenay Mushroom Festival

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 2025, 10am - 4pm

403 5<sup>th</sup> St. Kaslo, BC

**35+ARTISANS, FREE WORKSHOPS, AMAZING  
FOOD, FREE LIVE MUSIC!**

**DJ Dubconscious - Robgoblin Beatbox- Puppets on  
the Move - MiishMash - The Chanterelles Kids Choir  
+More!**



*Chingrich*

Organization: **W.E. Graham Community Service Society**  
Registration # 886669142RR001

Project Title: **TAPS Sustainability & Enhancement Project**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan  
The project will take place in Villages of New Denver & Silverton (Knox Hall), Slocan (Legion), and RDCK Area H (Winlaw and Passmore Community Halls)

**Project Description:**

Slocan Valley TAPS (Therapeutic Activation Program for Seniors) Sustainability & Enhancement Project supports seniors aged 65+ (and in some cases as young as 50) by providing a consistent, welcoming day program in the rural Slocan Valley, where senior-specific services are limited. Many participants age in place with minimal supports, unreliable transportation, and increasing isolation. Food insecurity, early cognitive decline, health conditions, and caregiver strain are commonly observed within the program.

The project sustains and enhances TAPS while addressing the realities of rural aging. Programming is offered weekly in New Denver, Slocan, Winlaw, and Passmore, giving seniors access to structured engagement in their own communities. Participants take part in therapeutic and recreational activities, gentle fitness, cognitive stimulation, arts-based programs, meaningful social interaction, and community outings. Healthy, home-cooked meals are provided, with portions often taken home to address food insecurity. Transportation via a reliable program van ensures safe, consistent attendance.

The project will continue delivering programming in these rural communities, including the flexible-access model piloted in Winlaw. This model reduces barriers for seniors with complex schedules who cannot regularly attend the other three weekly programs. Funding will support trained staff, program supplies, facility fees, meals, and facilitator development. Ongoing observation and participant feedback ensure programming remains responsive to emerging needs across the Slocan Valley.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$3,543.00	\$2,249.00
Contract Fees	\$2,900.00	\$1,450.00
Capital Purchases	\$64,900.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$20,720.00	\$13,540.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$92,063.00</b>	<b>\$17,239.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$74,824.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Volunteer Hours		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$17,239.00</b>	
Area H:	\$6,558.63
Slocan:	\$5,340.74
<b>New Denver:</b>	\$2,669.82
Silverton:	\$2,669.81

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: No

**1. Importance to the Community:**

The Slokan Valley TAPS Sustainability and Enhancement Project is important for seniors in New Denver, Slokan, Winlaw, and Passmore, where structured programs are limited and social isolation is common. Many seniors live alone, face transportation barriers, and have few chances for meaningful engagement, physical activity, or mental stimulation. Without programs like TAPS, these challenges can worsen health, well-being, and independence.

Seniors aged 65 and older, and sometimes as young as 50, benefit from weekly programs including recreational and therapeutic activities, gentle exercise, creative projects, community outings, social connection, and nutritious meals, with extra portions often taken home to support food security. Local businesses provide sessions and resources, enriching the program and strengthening community ties. A program van ensures safe travel to sessions and outings, overcoming rural mobility barriers.

The wider community benefits as TAPS builds volunteer participation, intergenerational connection, and stronger social cohesion, maintaining accessible programs for rural seniors.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

WE Graham Community Service Society provides programs and services to residents of the rural Slokan Valley. Where possible, WEGCSS also refers people to the services of other local organizations.

In creative and ongoing partnerships with regional services and organizations, we provide inclusive and accessible opportunities in support of a healthy, vibrant and sustainable community. We strive to remain responsive to the current needs of Slokan Valley residents and to enhance the quality of life for all.

WE Graham Community Service Society provides a wide range of programs and services that support residents of the rural Slokan Valley across all ages. Our work includes food security and emergency food programs, licensed childcare and early years supports, youth programs and social spaces, seniors' wellness, housekeeping and social activities, digital literacy and learning opportunities, and mental health and art therapy services. We also lead community development projects and seasonal initiatives that strengthen local connections and enhance quality of life, often in partnership with other regional organizations.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

The Slokan Valley TAPS Sustainability and Enhancement Project is important for seniors in New Denver, Slokan, Winlaw, and Passmore, where structured programs are limited and social isolation is common. Many seniors live alone, face transportation barriers, and have few chances for meaningful engagement, physical activity, or mental stimulation. Without programs like TAPS, these challenges can worsen health, well-being, and independence.

Seniors aged 65 and older, and sometimes as young as 50, benefit from weekly programs including recreational and therapeutic activities, gentle exercise, creative projects, community outings, social connection, and nutritious meals, with extra portions often taken home to support food security. Local businesses provide sessions and resources, enriching the program and strengthening community ties. A program van ensures safe travel to sessions and outings, overcoming rural mobility barriers.

The wider community benefits as TAPS builds volunteer participation, intergenerational connection, and stronger social cohesion, maintaining accessible programs for rural seniors.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The Slokan Valley TAPS Sustainability & Enhancement Project addresses challenges facing rural seniors, including social isolation, limited access to day programs, declining physical or cognitive health, and food insecurity. Many participants live alone/in remote areas, with few opportunities for social engagement, activity, or nutritious meals. Transportation barriers and the scarcity of alternative programs increase these risks, particularly for seniors with

complex needs who cannot commit to regular attendance. These issues were identified through participant feedback, staff observations, and community consultations. The flexible-access model in Winlaw, combined with high demand for outings, arts-based programs, exercise, and home-cooked meals, highlights both gaps and opportunities. The program addresses the digital divide, offering iPad-based activities for cognitive stimulation, creative engagement, and virtual social connection. By enhancing TAPS, the project strengthens social connections, promotes physical and mental wellness, supports food security, and ensures seniors in the Slocan Valley can access consistent, inclusive, and adaptable programming.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The Slocan Valley TAPS program is well-positioned to deliver the Sustainability and Enhancement Project because W.E. Graham Community Service Society has experience providing high-quality programming for seniors across the valley. Led by Coordinator Danielle Blondahl, TAPS has successfully engaged participants aged 55 to 95 in activities that support social connection, physical activity, cognitive stimulation, and well-being. In six months, the program has reached 60 seniors in the Slocan Valley. The organization has a strong track record managing programs funded by United Way BC, meeting reporting requirements, maintaining high participant satisfaction, and demonstrating measurable short-term impacts. Staff and trained volunteers have the skills and commitment to deliver inclusive, engaging programming, and partnerships with local health services, community groups, and volunteers ensure capacity and resources. Previous funding has strengthened sustainability and program growth, increasing attendance, building community connections, and enhancing participant well-being. These successes show TAPS can manage, implement, and expand programming for seniors.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The Slocan Valley TAPS Sustainability & Enhancement Project will be implemented by TAPS Coordinator Danielle Blondahl, who oversees program planning, facilitation, and evaluation. Support will also come from two staff members and trained volunteers who assist with activities, community outings, and participant engagement. Central to implementation is active input from program participants: feedback is collected at every session to ensure programming reflects seniors' needs, preferences, and interests. This collaborative approach ensures a responsive, community-oriented program that adapts to emerging needs.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



**Slocan Valley Legion Branch 276**  
**Box 90, Slocan, BC**  
Phone: 250-355-2672  
Email: 276svl@gmail.com  
[facebook.com/slocanvalleylegion](https://facebook.com/slocanvalleylegion)

**February 5, 2026**

**Re: W.E. Graham Community Service Society**  
**Box 10, Slocan, BC V0G 2C0**  
**Att: Danielle Blondelle**

**Re: Application for a ReDi Grant**

**This is to advise that:**

**We have had a long-standing partnership with the WEGCSS & their programs. We have supported them financially for many years. We will continue to support their worthwhile programs which includes the TAPS PROGRAM! This program is widely supported.**

**The WEGCSS has a dedication to community based programming that benefits all ages. They have a good reputation in this regard.**

**We believe strongly that the WEGCSS has been, and will continue to be, a much needed society in our area (Slocan, Slocan Valley, Silverton, New Denver). We support them in their effort of applying for a Redi Grant.**

**On behalf of the members of the**  
**Slocan Valley Legion Branch 276**

**Carol Barclay**  
**Secretay**

**c.c. Delaine Hird, President**

Organization: **Kootenay Lake Historical Society**

Registration # S0005444

Project Title: **Conservation and Visitor-Safety : Restoration of Three Key Heritage Assets at the SS Moyie Site in Kaslo**

**Project will be located in:** Village of Kaslo

The project will take place at 324 Front Street Kaslo, at the National Historic Site, the SS Moyie.

**Project Description:**

Project: Conservation and visitor-safety restoration of three key heritage assets at the SS Moyie site in Kaslo - Fore Deck (wear deck), Kuskanook Ladies' Observation Saloon apron, and 1944 CPR caboose exterior.

What will the project do? Replace the rotted Fore Deck (wear deck) to stop water ingress, remove tripping hazards, and restore historic appearance; rebuild the deteriorated apron around the Kuskanook observation saloon to reopen and safely display this unique structure; and restore the caboose with a new roof overlay, exterior paint, and replacement wooden window sills to prevent further decay and improve interpretation for visitors. Together these interventions protect collections, reduce ongoing maintenance costs, and enhance safe, accessible visitor experiences.

How will this be achieved? Work will follow heritage and conservation best practice: condition assessment; removal of failed materials; installation of like-for-like, durable timber wear-decking with appropriate fastenings and waterproofing; custom-fabricated apron components and structural repairs to the ladies saloon; reroofing with heritage-appropriate overlay materials; replace sills using rot-resistant timber and traditional profiles; exterior surface preparation and paint with breathable coatings. Qualified heritage contractors will perform structural and roofing work; trained volunteers under supervision will assist with non-structural tasks. Project includes safety upgrades, documentation, and interpretive signage.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$20,700.00	\$16,000.00
Capital Purchases	\$8,100.00	\$6,500.00
Other Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$32,800.00</b>	<b>\$22,500.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$10,300.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b> Volunteer hours, engineering, and architectural expertise, materials, and historical expertise.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
<i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$22,500.00</i>	
Area A:	\$200.00
Area B:	\$200.00
Area C:	\$200.00
Area D/Kaslo:	\$18,300.00
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$200.00
Area E:	\$200.00
Area F:	\$200.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$200.00
Area H:	\$200.00
Area I:	\$200.00
Area J:	\$200.00
Area K-Arrow Park:	\$200.00
Area K-Burton:	\$200.00
Area K-Fauquier:	\$200.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$200.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$200.00
Slocan:	\$200.00
Castlegar:	\$200.00
Creston:	\$200.00
Nelson:	\$200.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
Silverton:	\$200.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: No

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Kaslo and Area D's identity and tourism rely on the SS Moyie National Historic Site as a unique, living reminder of regional transportation, craftsmanship, and social history. Restoring the fore deck, Kuskanook observation saloon apron, and CPR cabooses preserves irreplaceable heritage fabric, improves visitor safety, and reinstates access to interpretation displays now hidden. Residents benefit through strengthened community pride, volunteer engagement, and skill-development opportunities. Local schools and researchers gain enhanced educational programming and hands-on learning about North Kootenay Lake maritime and rail history. Restored assets will attract and retain tourists, supporting local businesses and seasonal employment. Finally, timely conservation efforts reduces long-term maintenance costs and liability for the non-profit stewards, ensuring sustainable stewardship and continued public enjoyment for current and future generations.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Kootenay Lake Historical Society is the custodian of the S.S. Moyie, the oldest intact passenger sternwheeler in the world, a National Historic Site and main economic driver of Kaslo and Area D. The Society also operates the Kootenay Lake Archives, which is responsible for a collection of materials and original photographs pertaining to the history of the Kaslo area and the Kootenay Lake sternwheelers. Our mandate also includes the promotion of local history in the area. We are also hosts of the Visitor Information Centre.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Kaslo and Area D's identity and tourism rely on the SS Moyie National Historic Site as a unique, living reminder of regional transportation, craftsmanship, and social history. Restoring the fore deck, Kuskanook observation saloon apron, and CPR cabooses preserves irreplaceable heritage fabric, improves visitor safety, and reinstates access to

interpretation displays now hidden. Residents benefit through strengthened community pride, volunteer engagement, and skill-development opportunities. Local schools and researchers gain enhanced educational programming and hands-on learning about North Kootenay Lake maritime and rail history. Restored assets will attract and retain tourists, supporting local businesses and seasonal employment. Finally, timely conservation efforts reduces long-term maintenance costs and liability for the non-profit stewards, ensuring sustainable stewardship and continued public enjoyment for current and future generations.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

This project addresses urgent deterioration, visitor-safety, and access issues: a rotted Fore Deck allowing water ingress and creating tripping hazards; a decayed apron around the Kuskanook Ladies' Observation Saloon that is cordoned off and inaccessible; and weathered roofing, paint failure, and rotten window sills on the 1944 CPR wooden caboose. If unaddressed, these problems will accelerate structural decay, threaten onboard artifacts, increase future repair costs, and heighten liability risks while degrading visitor experience and interpretation.

Issues were identified through routine site inspections, volunteer and staff reports, and on-site condition surveys noting rot, failed temporary repairs, active leaks, and safety cordons. Historical records show little prior intervention (notably the caboose since 1990), and heritage-conservation advisors and contractors confirmed prioritized needs during preliminary assessments. These findings inform targeted, cost-effective conservation interventions to stabilize fabric, restore access, and extend asset life.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The Kootenay Lake Historical Society is well positioned to deliver these restorations. We recently acted as General Contractor for the SS Moyie's \$860,000 Weather Envelope Restoration, managing multiple funders and seasonal contractors over four years. In a small community like Kaslo, we've learned hiring local contractors with conservation experience is limited, so we blend targeted contract hires with skilled volunteer leadership to control costs and ensure quality. For these projects we will contract the same lead Red Seal carpenter who worked on the Moyie (and brings comparable restoration experience from Quebec), supervised by our volunteer Project Manager, a retired professional engineer with heritage-restoration experience. The Project Manager will source bulk materials and oversee procurement while the lead carpenter manages consumables and onsite craft work. An experienced administrative volunteer will handle clerical duties, timesheets, scheduling, permitting, and grant reporting. This team and our proven systems provide the capacity and stewardship required.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

This project will be implemented by the Kootenay Lake Historical Society's Project Manager, Kit Ashenhurst, qualified red-seal carpenters with heritage restoration expertise, vetted volunteers, summer students, and the KLHS board of directors.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: Yes**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



## J.B. Fletcher Restoration Society

3602 Sutton St  
P.O. BOX 1314  
AINSWORTH, BC V0G 1A0

August 8, 2025

Kootenay Lake Historical Society  
324 Front Street  
PO Box 537  
KASLO, BC V0G 1M0

Attention: Sarah Sinclair, President and  
To Whom it May Concern

RE: Heritage BC Heritage Legacy Fund Application  
Letter of Support for Heritage Preservation Project

It is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the J.B. Fletcher Restoration Society, I provide this letter in support of your application to the Heritage BC's Heritage Legacy Fund for the restoration project of the historic Caboose and the Kuskanook Ladies Saloon.

The Kootenay Lake Historical Society has demonstrated an amazing history of preserving and restoring the heritage structures and artifacts with which it has been entrusted. I have no doubt that this project will be completed with the same attention to detail, and I for one am already looking forward to seeing the finished project.

The J.B. Fletcher Restoration Society is very pleased to be working alongside the Kootenay Lake Historical Society. I am pleased that we are seeking out ways that we can work together to further support each other and to promote our mutual goal of preserving our vibrant history for generations to come.

Wishing you a successful project!

Sincerely,

*Pat Desmeules*

Pat Desmeules  
President  
J.B. Fletcher Restoration Society  
250.353.3145

# KASLO AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



August 8, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Support for Kootenay Lake Historical Society's application

On behalf of the Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to express our strong support for the Kootenay Lake Historical Society's application to the Heritage BC Heritage Legacy Fund.

The Historical Society's work in preserving and interpreting our community's heritage is an important part of what makes Kaslo such a distinctive and welcoming place. Restoration projects like the Kuskanook Ladies Saloon and the historic Caboose not only protect valuable pieces of our history, but also create engaging experiences that attract visitors, support local businesses, and foster pride among residents.

Heritage is one of the cornerstones of Kaslo's identity and a key contributor to our tourism economy. The Chamber recognizes the dedication and skill the Historical Society brings to each of its projects, and we are confident in their ability to deliver meaningful results that benefit the entire community.

We fully support this application and encourage your favourable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alana Jenkins", written in a cursive style.

Alana Jenkins  
Administration Manager  
Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce



**Aimee Watson**

RDCK Director of Electoral Area D

August 14, 2025

The Kootenay Lake Historical Society  
324 Front Street  
Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0  
ssmoyie@klhs.bc.ca

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the Area D Director for North Kootenay Lake, Regional District Central Kootenay, I am pleased to support the Kootenay Lake Historical Society's application for funding through the Heritage BC Heritage Legacy Fund. This grant will assist in the restoration and preservation of the Kuskanook Ladies Saloon and the historic Caboose in Kaslo, two important components of our local cultural heritage.

I recognize the significance of this project in conserving Kaslo and Area D's rich history. In promoting community engagement, tourism, and heritage education, we learn from our past that which built this region, both by community but also by culture. I believe that supporting this initiative aligns with our commitment to preserving and celebrating our shared cultural assets.

I strongly endorse the Kootenay Lake Historical Society's efforts and am confident that, with the successful completion of this project, these historic structures will continue to serve as vital parts of our region's identity and heritage landscape.

Thank you for your consideration of this support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aimee Watson".

Aimee Watson  
Area D Director



L E A S E

Contracted between the Corporation of the Village of Kaslo, on the one part, hereinafter called the lessor, and The Kootenay Lake Historical Society on the second part, hereinafter known as the lessee.

In consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), per annum the lessor agrees to lease the property known as Lots 9-17 inclusive Block 3 Map 393 and the structure known as S. S. Moyie for a period of Ninety nine years, governed by the following conditions:

- (1) The Lessee agrees to preserve and maintain the property for the sole purposes laid down in the Constitution of the Society and in accordance with its by-laws, and to keep it in reasonable condition.
- (2) The Lessee agrees to open the Structure to the Public at all reasonable hours, but reserves the right to close it for short designated times for major repair.
- (3) The Lessee agrees to make any admission charges on such a level as not to be prohibitive.
- (4) Responsibility for policies regarding maintenance and management shall be the sole responsibility of the Lessee's except that in the case of the Village Commission deeming it advisable to grant funds or kind to these ends, the Village Commission shall have the right to indicate to which phase of the already existing policy said cash or kind shall be directed.
- (5) The Lessor agrees to provide the property with free use of Utilities and to exempt it from Taxation so long as the said Structure and Grounds are used for the purposes as indicated in (1) above.
- (6) That a meter be installed for control purposes and that heating appliances be restricted to the caretaker's quarters and that any private concessions be metered separately and charged according to prevailing rates to be agreed to by the lessee.

In Witness whereof the said parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals this 14th day of April A.D. 1959.

WITNESSES

Walter Butler

Ray E. Green Chairman of Commission

Occupation. Clerk

A. Dennis Clark  
for Corp. of the Village of Kaslo

[Signature]

Neil Bacchus Pres.

Occupation Accountant

Joan Lunder 1st Vice Pres.

as to the signature of  
N. Bacchus & Joan Lunder

for Kootenay Lake Historical Society

Organization: **Slocan Solutions Society**

Registration # S0058249

**New Denver Bear Smart Working Group** - Sponsored Organization

Project Title: **Electric Fencing/Fruit Tree Replacement Cost-Share**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton

This project intends to provide funds in RDCK Area H, and in the municipalities of New Denver and Silverton, pending successful fund acquisition from each region.

**Project Description:**

This project will hire a local coordinator to manage and provide funds for cost-shares on electric fencing or fruit tree replacement, depending on the needs of the client. The Valhalla Wilderness Society offers cost-share on 50% of the energizer for electric fencing, and this fund will provide an additional \$250 towards additional electric fencing materials. Fruit trees are the most reported attractant locally bringing bears into our communities and acreages (see WildSafeBC annual reports), and a properly installed and maintained electric fence is the most effective way to protect this investment. However, not all home-owners reside locally year-round, or have a fruit/nut tree that bears edible fruit, and may benefit more from removing their fruit or nut tree and replacing it with a non-fruit/nut bearing alternative. This program provides cost-shares to help meet the needs of each client, with agreed upon funds provided upon receipts for items or services.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$2,400.00	\$500.00
Contract Fees	\$3,600.00	\$1,250.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$4,650.00	\$1,750.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,650.00</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$7,000.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Guidance and assistance provided by the Bear Smart Working Group and Slocan Solutions Society.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$3,500.00</b>	
Area H:	\$1,400.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	\$1,050.00
Silverton:	\$1,050.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:**

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Everyone in the area will benefit from this project because with fewer bears accessing fruit trees, there are fewer food conditioned and habituated bears locally. This will help protect children, elderly individuals, vulnerable adults and all humans within communities or within Area H. For example, the more individuals with properly installed electric fences around fruit trees, the less food there is and less reason for a bear to visit a household or their neighbours. Both 2016 and 2022 were years with more than double the average for reports of bear activity within municipalities, mostly accessing fruit trees, in part due to large natural crop failures of huckleberries. Preventing

**Project: Electric Fencing/Fruit Tree Replacement Cost-Share**

access to attractants within communities helps encourage bears to return back to their natural forest habitat to seek natural food rewards, reducing risk to humans and pets.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Slocan Solutions Society is an umbrella organization that supports unregistered groups that have a good idea but are not organized into a society structure. The focus is to promote a shared vision that enhances the cultural, social, economic and environmental development of Slocan communities. This is done through:

- organizing and bringing together stakeholder groups for collaboration, coordination and cooperating on goals
- finding and organizing resources for groups including services, funding, and personnel
- supporting groups by organizing workshops, seminars, and training programs

New Denver Bear Smart Working Group, strives to reduce human-wildlife conflict within BC. This project supports the work of Wildsafe BC (mission: "to promote and assist in the conservation of the fish and wildlife resources of the Province of British Columbia), the Valhalla Wilderness Society, (A wilderness conservation organization, specializing in the creation of parks and protected areas for wildlife and ecosystems.) and Harvest Share (reduce fruit tree attractants by volunteer fruit picking). It also includes The Village of New Denver and the Healthy Community Society.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Everyone in the area will benefit from this project because with fewer bears accessing fruit trees, there are fewer food conditioned and habituated bears locally. This will help protect children, elderly individuals, vulnerable adults and all humans within communities or within Area H. For example, the more individuals with properly installed electric fences around fruit trees, the less food there is and less reason for a bear to visit a household or their neighbours. Both 2016 and 2022 were years with more than double the average for reports of bear activity within municipalities, mostly accessing fruit trees, in part due to large natural crop failures of huckleberries. Preventing access to attractants within communities helps encourage bears to return back to their natural forest habitat to seek natural food rewards, reducing risk to humans and pets.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Issue addressed: the high rate of visitation by bears within our communities, which often become food conditioned (i.e., learn to associate humans and their infrastructure with food rewards) when they access fruit and nut trees, and/or habituated (i.e., are no longer afraid of people) when they are in close proximity to humans with no negative consequences. The trend over the past ~8 years is for increasing visitation and conflict with bears, with most residents reporting seeing bears accessing fruit and nut trees (WildSafeBC Annual reports). Preventing access to fruit and nut trees has been identified as the top priority to reduce bear issues locally (WildSafeBC; Human-Bear Management Plan 2012). Additionally, many individuals have expressed that they do not have the funds to purchase electric fencing materials, or remove a fruit tree, on their own, and we aim to reduce the cost barrier.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Cora Skaien via WildSafeBC has been collaborating with Slocan Solutions Society on this cost-share program successfully for a number of years now, with ongoing collaborations with the Valhalla Wilderness Society (mission is to champion of conservation since 1975; A BC-Based wilderness conservation organization, specializing in the creation of parks and protected areas for wildlife and ecosystems, and has been providing 50% cost-share on energizers before the inception of this combined cost-share program) and Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions (who began a regional cost share program in high Grizzly density regions). Slocan Solutions supports numerous initiatives throughout the Slocan Valley to benefit people and the environment. WildSafeBC itself is the provincial leader in helping to reduce human-wildlife conflict.

**Project: Electric Fencing/Fruit Tree Replacement Cost-Share**

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Cora Skaien, WildSafeBC partner, will manage the funds with assistance from Slocan Solutions. Additional funds are provided by the Valhalla Wilderness Society Area H Bear Smart Program and Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions. This project comes with additional support from the New Denver Bear Smart Working Group, WildSafeBC, Harvest Share & Bear Aware (the local fruit gleaning organization), the Village of New Denver, and The Healthy Community Society.

**7. Minors will be working on this project:** No

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers:** No

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support:** Yes

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

# Electric Fencing and Fruit Tree Replacement Summary Cost Share Program: Summary for 2024-2025



Prepared by Cora Skaien, Program Coordinator

# Contents

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- Background .....2
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## Overview

The electric fencing and fruit tree replacement cost share program was implemented in the RDCK Area H and associated communities in efforts to continue reducing human-wildlife conflict, particularly with bears. Funding was secured for the 2024-25 cycle with a June 30, 2025 deadline; however, due to wildfires and evacuations within the area in the summer of 2024, the funding deadline for all grants received for 2024-25 was extended to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 or later. From March to June 2024, there was 1 individual who participated in the fruit-tree replacement portion of the project, and 5 people who participated in the electric fencing portion of the project; these individuals in 2024 utilized remaining funds from the 2023-24 funding from the RDC ReDi grant. From March 2024 to October 2025, we had 0 individuals utilize the fruit-tree replacement portion of the program, and 11 individuals participate in the electric fencing portion of the project. In total, from March 2024 to October 2025, we had **17 individuals** participate in the cost share program for a total of **\$5,391.37** being provided to participants. Initially, individuals received up to \$250 reimbursement, with the option to receive an additional \$150 (for a total of \$400) in September of 2025 if they sent photos of their completed electric fence. In 2025, individuals **received up to \$400 reimbursement** for their investment. The coordinator also was supported by WildSafeBC to provide electric fencing workshops (locally: 3 in 2024 and 2 in 2025) and provide electric fencing advice. The coordinator travelled to perform **9 electric fencing consults** on people's properties to discuss the options and feasibility of establishing electric fencing on their properties for their needs, many of whom also participated in the cost-share program.

## Background

Provincially, the two most common attractants bringing bears into our communities are garbage followed by fruit trees. Garbage can be more easily resolved via relocation, whereas fruit trees require other solutions. Fruit gleaning organizations, such as Harvest Share and Bear Aware, can go a long ways to help reduce the amount of fruit on fruit trees that attract bears into our communities, but many fruits (such as apples) require a fall frost before they can be picked. Thus, electric fencing becomes the best solution to help with food security and longevity of the fruit trees (e.g., grapes, pears, plums, apples, and more) as it allows fruit to ripen on the trees until it is ready for harvest, while preventing bears access. Preventing access to fruit and nut trees has been identified as the top priority to reduce bear issues locally (WildSafeBC; New Denver Human-Bear Management Plan 2012); however, many individuals have expressed that they do not have the funds to purchase electric fencing materials, or remove a fruit tree, on their own. Thus, the cost-share program was developed.

This cost-share program is a collaborative effort between many organizations, including the Valhalla Wilderness Society Area H Bear Smart Program (shortened to VWS henceforth in this report), WildSafeBC, Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions, Harvest Share and Bear Aware, and Slocan Solutions. 2025 marks the third year (2023, 2024 and 2025) in which this cost-share collaboration continues. The idea is to reduce the cost barrier in efforts to reduce conflict with bears due to fruit trees. In 2025, the cost to fence a small chicken coop, garden or a cluster of fruit trees was typically \$750-\$1000, with larger set ups costing more.

## Funding

Funding for the program came from multiple sources, including the Valhalla Wilderness Society, WildSafeBC, and numerous grants acquired through Slocan Solutions, Harvest Share and Bear Aware and Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions.

### Valhalla Wilderness Society Area H Bear Smart Program

The Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) has a long-standing cost-share commitment within RDCK Area H in which they cover 50% of the cost of the energizer for the electric fence. When this new expanded cost-share program was established, VWS partnered with Slocan Solutions to manage the funds and reimbursement with one central individual (cost share coordinator mentioned here via Slocan Solutions), while continuing their commitment to providing the cost of 50% of the energizer. In 2023-24, VWS covered \$1763.76 for energizers, and in 2024-25, VWS covered **\$1484.67** for energizers.

### WildSafeBC

Although WildSafeBC did not contribute funds to the reimbursements to individuals within the cost-share program, they did support the coordinator with wages to provide electric fencing workshops and offer electric fencing advice to individuals locally. In total, 5 electric fencing workshops were delivered locally from 2024-25 with WildSafeBC's support, plus one additional province-wide presentation delivered on Zoom. In 2024-25, 9 electric fencing consults were performed on people's properties, many of whom subsequently participated in the cost share program. Because the coordinator also assisted with other WildSafeBC work while under contract with them, an exact number on financial contribution is hard to acquire; however, an approximation of contributions to this work are roughly **\$1600**. In between WildSafeBC contracts, coordinator time was covered by funds acquired through Slocan Solutions.

### Funds Managed by Slocan Solutions

In the 2024-25 funding cycle, funds were acquired through 3 main sources for a total of \$5592 available funds (Table 1). Funds from Y2Y acquired with Harvest Share and Bear Aware contributed to more than just the cost share program, additionally helping cover expenses for general contributions to Bear Aware efforts, including a local working group in New Denver.

**Table 1.** Funding sources and amounts for the cost-share program from May 2024 to October 2025.

Funding Source	Collaborator	Amount
RDC ReDI Grant	Slocan Solutions	\$3092
Area H Local Conservation Fund	Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions	\$1500
Y2Y	Harvest Share and Bear Aware	\$1000
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5592</b>

Summaries in this document are from March 2024 to October 2025, with the ReDI grant funding split occurring in June annually. Therefore, some participants summarized in this report were reimbursed

between March and May of 2024, utilizing ReDi grant funds from the 2023-24 funding cycle. Total funds in 2023 were \$2250.00 from the RDCK ReDi Grant and \$1500 from the Area H Community Development Grant, not fully described here.

## Allocation of Funds March 2024 to October 2025

Summaries in this document are from March 2024 to October 2025, with the ReDi grant funding split occurring in June annually. There was a total of 17 participants during this timeframe, with total expenditures of \$9,034,67. In early 2024, remaining funds from the 2023 cycle were initially used, which included \$1107.99 from funds managed by Slocan Solutions from the 2023-24 ReDi grant and covering 6 of the 17 participants summarized in this report. These expenditures are accounted for in the table below (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Allocation of funds to the cost-share program from March 2024 to October 2025.

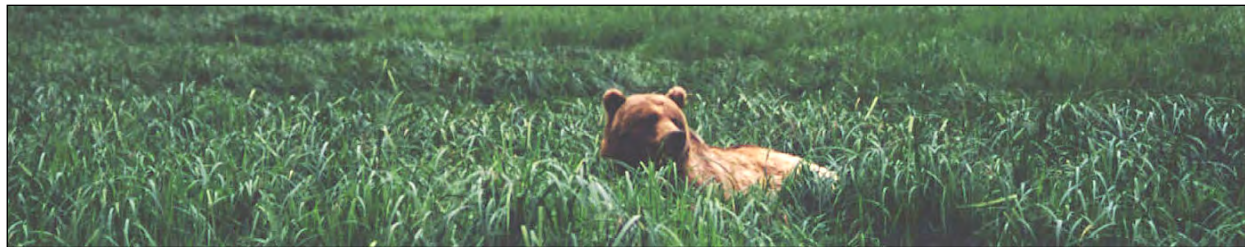
Element of Program	Contribution from VWS	Contribution from WildSafeBC	Contribution from Funds managed by Slocan Solutions	Total
Fruit Tree Replacement	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$300
Electric Fencing Materials	\$1484.67	\$0	\$3548.71	\$5033.38
Program Coordinator (Time and Mileage)	\$0	\$1600	\$1666.00	\$3266.00
Admin	\$0*	\$0*	\$435.29	\$435.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1484.67</b>	<b>\$1600</b>	<b>\$5,950.00</b>	<b>\$9,034.67</b>

\*Note: the above does not count for any internal admin fees accrued by other organizations, including VWS, WildSafeBC, Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions and Harvest Share and Bear Aware.

As of October 1, 2025, remaining funds are from the Y2Y portion for ongoing support for local Bear Aware initiatives.

## Summary

From March 2024 to October 2025, there were 17 participants in the cost-share program, with demand being highest for the electric fencing portion of the program. In total from March 2024 to October 2025, the program cost **\$9,034.67**, with **\$5,033.38** of that being reimbursements to participants, **\$3,266.00** used as funding for the coordinator who managed the program while also providing workshops and home-visits (consultations), and \$435.29 going towards administration of project funds. We hope to continue this cost share program in the coming years, with intentions of applying for funding from the annual ReDi grant and Area H Local Conservation Fund.



**Valhalla Wilderness Society**

Box 329, New Denver, B.C.

V0G 1S0

February 11, 2026

To Whom It May Concern

The Valhalla Wilderness Society fully supports the Redi-Grant funding application to assist with costs for the Electric Fencing/Fruit Tree Replacement Cost-Share Project submitted by Cora Skaien on behalf of the Bear Smart Working Group to help reduce bear-people conflicts and bear mortalities in the villages and Rural Area H. We are part of the group.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne P. McCrory". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Wayne P. McCrory, RPbio. Bear biologist  
Director.

Organization: **Slocan Lake Early Learning Society**

Registration # 12-108-00058

Project Title: **Branching Out: The 50th Anniversary Strategic Launch**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton

The Strategic Planning and Board Capacity building part of this project will occur in the local community halls and/or at the New Denver Lodge. Our ongoing monthly board meetings happen at Lucerne School "Spirit Room" free of charge. Most of the coordination and planning will take place in home offices and public cafes. We are in communications with the Village of New Denver and neighbours for the Forest School shelter to be based on a public easement bordering the forest at the edge of the Village and within a short walk from our other school base.

**Project Description:**

This project initiates Phase 1 of the SLELS 2026-28 Management and Development Strategy. It is a one-time expansion project as we transition our society into a nature-based education model while professionalizing its governance for our 50th Anniversary.

It has two tracks:

**Society Resilience:** Hosting a Financial Sustainability Working Session to move from an annual budget to a 3-year financial plan. and a Board Capacity Intensive to ensure stable leadership into the future.

**Forest School Development:** Engaging a Project Coordinator to lead the research, program design, and community outreach for our new nature-based program.

Funds also support honourariums for technical services like digital promotion and grant writing to secure the remaining capital for our yurt, infrastructure and program development.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$2,300.00	\$800.00
Contract Fees	\$5,100.00	\$2,800.00
Capital Purchases	\$21,750.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$6,200.00	\$2,250.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$35,350.00</b>	<b>\$5,850.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$29,500.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
In Kind Board time and Staff time for Working sessions estimated at 126 hours in total time. Past Board Member Advice: Estimated 50+ hours of mentorship and strategic planning by previous long-standing board members. Project Oversight: Volunteer board time spent managing the Project Coordinator and Working Session Professionals Volunteer Labour: Estimated 80+ hours for yurt site preparation, flooring installation, and interior outfitting (shelving/benches).		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
<i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$5,850.00</i>	
Area H:	\$850.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	\$2,500.00
Silverton:	\$2,500.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: No

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project ensures high-quality, inclusive early learning remains a permanent fixture in the Slocan Valley. The Project Coordinator and Working Sessions provide the knowhow and confidence needed to launch the Forest School, benefiting local children with unique outdoor education.

Beyond our nursery school program, the Forest School will be open to homeschool families with children aged 3 to 9 who value outdoor play and peer socialization outside the traditional school environment. To ensure the program is accessible to everyone, we have established work-trade opportunities, so that families can contribute through development and fundraising regardless of their income level.

By professionalizing our outreach and scholarship fund, we ensure our growth remains socially equitable and inclusive for all local families.

## 2. Organization Mandate:

OUR VISION is to continue and expand upon a half-century of providing young children with dynamic, safe, nurturing educational indoor and outdoor programs designed to foster interpersonal cooperation, resilience, and love of nature, as well as to instill excitement and joy in the wonders of lifelong learning.

We promote family connections and cooperative interactions among our children, staff, board, and greater community.

Certified and highly motivated mentors guide our children in their development and first steps into the larger world. By encouraging well-being, creativity, literacy, problem-solving and social skills with warmth and presence our children will be prepared to continue their education both at home and within formal school systems.

### WE VALUE:

- \* children as individuals "" strong, capable and full of potential;
- \* multi-generational and family connections;
- \* cooperative interactions among our children, ourselves and our community;
- \* our reciprocal relationship with nature and the outdoors;
- \* the important role of play and inquiry in early learning;
- \* respect for one another and our environment;
- \* the ability to provide our staff with fair compensation and good working conditions.

OUR MISSION is to provide programs and learning opportunities led by highly motivated and qualified educators to promote the positive social, emotional, cognitive and physical development of young children. As a registered non-profit charitable organization, we strive to make these programs inclusive and affordable to as many families as possible

## 3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:

This project ensures high-quality, inclusive early learning remains a permanent fixture in the Slocan Valley. The Project Coordinator and Working Sessions provide the knowhow and confidence needed to launch the Forest School, benefiting local children with unique outdoor education.

Beyond our nursery school program, the Forest School will be open to homeschool families with children aged 3 to 9 who value outdoor play and peer socialization outside the traditional school environment. To ensure the program is accessible to everyone, we have established work-trade opportunities, so that families can contribute through development and fundraising regardless of their income level.

By professionalizing our outreach and scholarship fund, we ensure our growth remains socially equitable and inclusive for all local families.

## 4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:

This project addresses the capacity gap required to move our Society from its current successful operations into a major new expansion. While we are constantly improving through professional development, launching a Forest School requires dedicated administrative time that exceeds our day-to-day volunteer capacity. By engaging a Project Coordinator, we can finally launch this nature-immersed program for local children and homeschoolers.

To ensure this growth is sustainable, we are also addressing the need for improved governance tools. Like many long-standing non-profits, we want to move away from a reliance on a few key individuals. By creating a formal Board Guide and hosting a Financial Sustainability Working Session, we are empowering our volunteer directors with

**Project: Branching Out: The 50th Anniversary Strategic Launch**

the specific business expertise needed to manage this larger organization. This project builds the professional capacity needed to support our growing programs for the next 50 years!

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

SLELS represents the evolution of the New Denver Nursery School, which has served our community since 1978. While the Society was formally incorporated in 1996 to provide community governance, we carry nearly 50 years of working knowledge. We have a proven track record of financial accountability and a well loved program led by certified educators with many years of experience. Our capacity is demonstrated by our recently adopted 2026-28 Management and Development Strategy. As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2028, we will be well positioned to bridge our long-standing community roots with this new strategic direction.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The project is a team effort. A Financial Professional will lead our board through sustainability planning, and our Forest School Committee and Project Coordinator will handle the Forest School launch.

The SLELS Board provides the heart of the project. Our volunteer directors, including past directors, will offer vital experience and advice. Finally, our parents and volunteers will roll up their sleeves to set up the yurt. We are also offering work-trade opportunities, allowing families to help with development and fundraising in exchange for tuition credits, ensuring our project is built by and for the whole community.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

**Slocan Lake Early Learning Society  
Management and Development Strategy  
2026–28**

To further its commitment to foster and promote early childhood education, the Board of Directors of the Slocan Lake Early Learning Society has adopted the following 3-year Management and Development Strategy for the guidance of its directors and staff.

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**1. Board Capacity Building (Spring, 2026)**

- Obtain and provide board members with copies of the Society’s constitution, bylaws, budget, facilities agreements, and current employment contracts or understandings.
  - Schedule, arrange and hold a one-day professionally-facilitated event (with childcare available) to familiarize members with their role(s), responsibilities and available resources. Sessions would include familiarization with basic Roberts Rules of Order, the annual budget and budget management, role of staff and administration, state of facilities and facility agreements, etc.
  - Direct the preparation of a Board Guide for future directors. Basically, a recap of the information from the retreat. It would be handed out to new members and be a general reference for everyone.
  - Emphasize recruitment of directors with special skills/interests. The Board is fully aware of the advantages accruing to small non-profit societies who can provide volunteer bookkeeping, administrative and technical assistance to the organization.
  - Increase the Conference/Course budget to encourage regional networking efforts and contacts, sharing experiences, skills and information with both public and private education providers.
- 

**2. Financial Planning**

- Contact a specialist in financial planning and budgeting and have a one-day

session for all board members (childcare included) on budgeting and financial planning for a sustainable financially viable childcare society to obtain a clear definition of what financial sustainability looks like.

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### **3. Explore Interest, Access to Land and Curriculum for the Forest School Program**

- Gauge prospective interest in enrolment in the Forest School program through surveys.
  - Continue discussions and conclude agreement with the Village of New Denver for the use of a portion of undeveloped land at the east end of town that borders the Carpenter Creek trails. (Summer/Autumn, 2026).
  - Install yurt on said land (Spring, 2027).
  - Staff to review and finalize curriculum for a one-day-a-week outdoor program experience at the new site (Spring/Summer, 2027). Done in conjunction with Board involvement and approval of staffing and cost implications to the 2027–28 annual budget.
  - Inaugurate Forest School Program (Autumn, 2027).
- 

### **4. Continue to Promote the Society's Contributions to Community Life**

- Continue the Toddle-a-Thon in the month of May.
  - Organize pre-school sports and crafts for Friday Market, and possibly other annual events. Encourage the help of parent volunteers whenever possible.
  - Include class visits to the Pavilion and seniors' events (like "Lunch at the Hub") in the curriculum.
  - Take every opportunity offered by local media to showcase the Society's achievements, plans and activities. Include pictures if possible.
  - Promote and celebrate the New Denver Nursery School 50th Anniversary in 2028.
-

## **5. Revamp the Scholarship Fund**

- Continue to use some of the Vancouver Foundation grant to provide modest but meaningful subsidies to lower-income families for the 2025/2026 year.
  - All money raised above our annual fundraising goal will be matched (to a cap level at the discretion of the board annually). The fundraising policy will be shared with families and to the greater community.
- 

## **6. Emphasize Commitment to Pursue All Funding Opportunities**

The New Denver Nursery School has successfully run for almost 50 years because (in addition to meeting a community need, having an excellent program, great educators and supportive Boards) EVERYONE in the organization constantly seeks supportive funding – be it new, renewed, one-time, special project, governmental, private or commercially sponsored. This approach should be continued and enhanced.

- (2026–28) Consider authorizing a portion of the administrative budget to be used to provide honorariums to individuals who have provided volunteer fund-raising expertise and/or services such as website development, grant writing, etc.
- 

## **7. Staff Succession Planning (2028)**

Interviews with staff (December 2025–January 2026) indicate their commitment to the organization for the next several years, as some are reaching retirement or early retirement age.

Organization: **Nakusp Ski Club Association**  
Registration # S68813

Project Title: **Summit Lake Ski and Snowboard Area Rental Equipment Replacement**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, RDCK Area K  
Summit Lake Ski Area between Nakusp and New Denver

**Project Description:**

The ski rental equipment fleet at Summit Lake is at the end of its life and must be replaced prior to the 2026/2027 season. By replacing this equipment the ski club will be able to continue providing it to our primary users which is the School District 8 and 10 program which sees each student involved get 3 trips to the ski hill per season with ticket, rentals and lessons at little or no cost to the students. The equipment must be replaced to continue to offer the program and weekend rentals. Head skis has provided pricing below wholesale to help us achieve this. Once the new equipment arrives, volunteers will be used to mount the bindings and get ready for the 2026/2027 season. If this grant is successful, the club would like to offer the equipment for rent at the heavily discounted rate of 5\$ per item for the first year to support winter recreation and reduce any barriers locals may have to enjoying the sport

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$29,109.86
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$29,109.86</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$29,109.86</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Volunteers will be involved in mounting the bindings to the skis, calibrating the equipment to ensure it is safe for use		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$29,109.86</b>	
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$250.00
Area K-Arrow Park:	\$500.00
Area K-Burton:	\$500.00
Area K-Fauquier:	\$500.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$25,609.86
Area K-Edgewood:	\$500.00
Slocan:	\$250.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Silverton:	\$500.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** Area K and H are the primary users of the Ski Area

**1. Importance to the Community:**

The largest group benefiting from the project will be the students in SD10 and 8 who participate in the learn to ski program facilitated by the Club and the Schools. If this grant is successful, the club would like to offer the equipment for weekend rental at the heavily discounted rate of 5\$ per item for the first year to support winter recreation and help reduce any barriers locals may have to enjoying the sport

**Project: Summit Lake Ski and Snowboard Area Rental Equipment Replacement**

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The purpose of the society is promote and facilitate alpine and nordic skiing in the Arrow Lakes- North Slovan Valley region.

This is primarily achieved by developing, managing and maintaining Summit Lake Ski and Snowboard Area since the early 1960's. The Clubs mission is to provide the best ski and snowboard user experience possible within financial and terrain constraints for skiers of all levels having a focus on access for seniors, beginners, families and school ski programs. SD10 and SD8 collectively have had over 900 skier visits which involves a day ticket, equipment rentals and lessons from a professional instructor in the 2025/2026 season!

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

The largest group benefiting from the project will be the students in SD10 and 8 who participate in the learn to ski program facilitated by the Club and the Schools. If this grant is successful, the club would like to offer the equipment for weekend rental at the heavily discounted rate of 5\$ per item for the first year to support winter recreation and help reduce any barriers locals may have to enjoying the sport

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The current equipment has been identified as at the end of its life. After this season the manufacture and the clubs insurance company will no longer support its use. The new equipment which has been quoted has an expected lifespan of over 10 seasons.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The Nakusp Ski Club has successfully operated the Summit Lake Ski Area for over 60 years using paid staff, contractors and volunteers. Reliable and safe rental equipment is paramount to the Club delivering a safe and dependable skiing experience to users of Summit Lake Ski Area. Paid staff, and volunteers will be utilized to setup and rent out the new equipment.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The board of directors will be implementing the project.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: Yes**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.





QUOTE

CUSTOMER

Name:	Summit Lake Ski Hill	Date:	Feb. 10th 2026
Address:	BOX 436		
City:	Nakusp	Sales Rep:	James Heim
Prov:	BC	Postal:	V0G 1R0
Phone:	250-265-3312		
Contact:	David Madden		

QTY	DESCRIPTION	Size	*Net Price	Total
10	Ambition R Track w/ SP 10 Bindings	140	\$267.75	\$2,677.50
10	Ambition R Track w/ SP 10 Bindings	170	\$265.75	\$2,657.50
8	SuperShape Team Easy w/ JRS 4.5 Binding	87	\$161.50	\$1,292.00
8	SuperShape Team Easy w/ JRS 4.5 Binding	97	\$161.50	\$1,292.00
8	SuperShape Team Easy w/ JRS 4.5 Binding	107	\$161.50	\$1,292.00
8	SuperShape Team Easy w/ JRS 4.5 Binding	117	\$161.50	\$1,292.00
8	SuperShape Team Easy w/ JRS 7.5 Binding	127	\$172.12	\$1,376.96
8	SuperShape Team Easy w/ JRS 7.5 Binding	137	\$172.12	\$1,376.96
8	SuperShape Team Easy w/ JRS 7.5 Binding	147	\$172.12	\$1,376.96
40	SP 10 Adult Rental Bindings		\$106.25	\$4,250.00
40	JRS 7.5 Junior Rental Bindings		\$74.37	\$2,974.80
40	JRS 4.5 Junior Rental Bindings		\$63.75	\$2,550.00
10	Charter EVO Rental Helmets Black	XL/XXL	\$51.00	\$510.00
15	Charter EVO Rental Helmets Black	M/L	\$51.00	\$765.00
20	Charter EVO Rental Helmets Black	XS/S	\$51.00	\$1,020.00
20	Charter EVO Rental Helmets White	XXS/XS	\$51.00	\$1,020.00
*Pricing: To assist in Summit Lake acquiring products, all pricing is at 15% below Wholesale.				

	SUBTOTAL	\$27,723.68
	SHIPPING	\$ -
	GST	\$1,386.18
	TOTAL	\$29,109.86

Organization: **Nelson and District Hospice Society**

Registration #

Project Title: **West Kootenay Boundary Caregiver Support**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area A, RDCK Area D, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area G, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, RDCK Area K, City of Nelson, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Salmo, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan, V

Our program will take place within the RDCK, and RDKB region. Nelson holds the main office, but there are additional hubs in New Denver, East Shore, Kaslo, Salmo, Nakusp, Trail, Grand Forks, and possibly Castlegar. Each hub is under the direction of the Nelson based program manager, and the support of each collaborator/contract. The local program coordinator, supplied by each contract, will be responsible for supporting and serving caregivers in the RDCK and RDKB regions/electoral areas.

**Project Description:**

West Kootenay Boundary Caregiver Support (WKBCS) is a free support program for unpaid family and friend caregivers who are caring for someone aged 55+ living at home with age-related frailty and/or a specific diagnosis. The program is designed to reduce caregiver isolation, enhance well-being, and strengthen caregivers' capacity to sustain their roles.

WKBCS provides individualized 1:1 support, peer support groups, self-care and wellness activities, healthcare system navigation, and practical information delivered in multiple formats. Caregivers are also connected to referrals tailored to their specific needs, diagnoses, or circumstances, and are supported in building sustainable circles of care.

Services are offered throughout the West Kootenay Boundary region, with in-person monthly support groups currently operating in seven communities: Trail, Grand Forks, Salmo, New Denver, Nelson, Kaslo, and Crawford Bay. Services are delivered by contracted local program coordinators and trained volunteers who provide both group facilitation and individual caregiver support.

The program is delivered through partnerships with several local hospice societies, as well as independent contractors. WKBCS continues to seek partnerships or independent contracts to expand services to Castlegar and Electoral Areas I and J. To further improve accessibility, the program will introduce an online peer support group to reach caregivers who are unable to attend in-person services.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$9,791.00	\$3,231.00
Contract Fees	\$54,000.00	\$28,100.00
Capital Purchases	\$3,900.00	\$2,400.00
Other Expenses	\$13,750.00	\$4,538.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$81,441.00</b>	<b>\$38,269.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$43,172.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Our Executive Director provides many hours of their time supporting the program. We also have Board members and many volunteers donate their time to support caregivers through our program. Our collaborative board members also provide their time in promoting the program, supporting the local program coordinator, and training volunteers. We have committed volunteers donate their time to facilitate, or co-facilitate the peer groups. The Kootenay Co-op donates snacks for our monthly peer group in Nelson.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$38,269.00	
Area A:	\$2,400.00
Area D/Kaslo:	\$3,916.00
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$934.00
Area E:	\$934.00
Area F:	\$934.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$980.00
Area H:	\$934.00
Area I:	\$934.00
Area J:	\$934.00
Area K-Arrow Park:	\$934.00
Area K-Burton:	\$934.00
Area K-Fauquier:	\$934.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$3,715.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$934.00
Slocan:	\$934.00
Castlegar:	\$4,709.00
Nelson:	\$5,340.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$6,001.00</b>
Silverton:	\$934.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: No

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project is important to the community because it addresses a critical and growing need for dedicated support and resources for unpaid family and friend caregivers. Caregivers often experience significant physical, emotional, and financial strain while supporting loved ones, which can lead to stress, burnout, and social isolation. Providing accessible caregiver supports helps reduce these pressures, promotes self-care, and strengthens overall well-being.

Primary beneficiaries include caregivers, who gain a sense of connection, reduced isolation, and practical tools to sustain their caregiving roles. Care recipients also benefit, as improved caregiver well-being leads to higher quality, more consistent care and increased ability to remain living at home for as long as possible. The broader community benefits through enhanced resilience and a culture of compassion and support for caregivers. Additionally, the healthcare system benefits by reducing unnecessary service use when caregivers are better supported and informed.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Nelson & District Hospice Society is a grassroots organization whose volunteers accompany those in our community who are interested in finding ways to live fully during a serious illness, or bereavement. Our volunteers receive extensive training on building trusting, respectful and nurturing relationships with our clients, enabling them to respond to individuals' specific emotional, spiritual and practical needs. NDHS services are dependable, accessible and available wherever our clients need them - in the community, home, hospital or residential care. In working with all of our clients, especially those who are newly diagnosed or just beginning to confront serious illness, and their caregivers, our volunteers apply their caring and compassion to support clients and families navigating ways to ease symptoms, find relief, and maintain a high quality of life, even as an illness advances and roles shift. NDHS volunteers now have opportunities to work directly in the caregiver support role through our West Kootenay Boundary Caregiver Support program. NDHS volunteers also provide support and resources for the wider community on Advance Care Planning and healthcare navigation by working in close collaboration with others involved in health and social care.

Program: West Kootenay Boundary Caregiver Support Program (WKBCSP)

- Supporting unpaid family/friend Caregivers (19+) caring for someone 55+.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project is important to the community because it addresses a critical and growing need for dedicated support and resources for unpaid family and friend caregivers. Caregivers often experience significant physical, emotional, and financial strain while supporting loved ones, which can lead to stress, burnout, and social isolation. Providing accessible caregiver supports helps reduce these pressures, promotes self-care, and strengthens overall well-being.

Primary beneficiaries include caregivers, who gain a sense of connection, reduced isolation, and practical tools to sustain their caregiving roles. Care recipients also benefit, as improved caregiver well-being leads to higher quality, more consistent care and increased ability to remain living at home for as long as possible. The broader community benefits through enhanced resilience and a culture of compassion and support for caregivers. Additionally, the healthcare system benefits by reducing unnecessary service use when caregivers are better supported and informed.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

This opportunity addresses critical gaps in support for unpaid family and friend caregivers while enhancing coordination and delivery of services within their communities. By working closely with contracted partners, the program improves coordination of resources, volunteer support, and outreach, resulting in more efficient and responsive caregiver services.

Supports include facilitated peer support groups, one-to-one caregiver support, healthcare system navigation, referrals to relevant services, and self-care and wellness activities. These services reduce caregiver isolation, strengthen caregiver well-being, and increase caregivers' ability to sustain their caregiving roles.

The need for this support was identified through ongoing engagement with current and past caregivers, inquiry phone calls from individuals seeking assistance, and referrals from healthcare providers and community organizations. Caregivers consistently identified challenges related to isolation, system navigation, access to information, and limited local supports, directly informing program design and priorities.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Our organization is well suited to deliver this project due to its established governance, experienced leadership, and strong community partnerships. We have a functioning and engaged Board of Directors, a full-time Executive Director, a full-time Program Manager, administrative support, and a dedicated pool of active volunteers. In addition, we maintain contracts with local organizations and independent program coordinators who deliver services within their respective communities, ensuring strong local presence and responsiveness.

The organization has the infrastructure, systems, and experience necessary to manage and deliver this project effectively. Funding has been secured through United Way BC to support program delivery, and the project is backed by a committed and knowledgeable team. Together, these elements demonstrate our capacity to successfully implement the program and achieve meaningful outcomes for unpaid family and friend caregivers across the region.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The project will be implemented by a team consisting of the Nelson Hospice Executive Director, Nelson based program manager overseeing operations, board members of each organization in collaboration/contract with us, local program coordinators who will be responsible for community engagement and support services, volunteers providing direct assistance and support to caregivers, and partnering organizations/collaborators. Each member of our team will play a crucial role in executing different aspects of the project, ensuring effective delivery of services and support to unpaid family and friend caregivers within the target communities.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

"Thank you again for Saturdays get together and the Christmas treats. I find them informative and helpful and reassuring."

**K - Grand Forks**

"This program has helped me so much! I have made some great friends, and like true caregiver's, we take care of each other! We help each other with our grief and frustration and we are so much better for it! Thanks so much to the funders!"

**S - Grand Forks**

"Met for two hours and was so grateful for the lunch. It felt so good to do something normal."

**J - Trail**

"I belonged to the Trail group. Although I couldn't attend every meeting I always felt like they were there with me supporting me 100%.

The leader Suzann is incredible. Her empathy, compassion and support come from the heart and soul and I felt comfortable and safe sharing my situation with her and the group. My 2 years as a caregiver for my 91 year old mom is now over but the care giving continues with family...for life! Thanks so much for providing this service...it truly helps the caregivers through difficult times."

**P - Trail Caregiver**

"Shout out to Suzann of the Trail support group! She is so compassionate and available and willing to help and is a great leader. We had almost no idea how to even start to navigate the healthcare system for our parents, and with virtually no outside help and some very concerning issues while we are spread so thin, we hit burnout. Just knowing we have her and her group to pose questions to has taken off a mental load we were feeling of powerlessness, guilt, and frustration. We feel now there's a way through and forward. "

**Anonymous Caregiver - Trail**

"This program has helped me so much! I have made some great friends, and like true caregiver's, we take care of each other! We help each other with our grief and frustration and we are so much better for it! Thanks so much to the United way!"

**SA - Nelson Caregiver**

"Thank you for the support you provided as I navigate things with my dad and providing referrals and information when my mom passed. They've all made a difference for me. I really appreciate your organization and all it does. Thanks for making the hard stuff a little easier."

**JC - Nelson**

"For the past two years I have been a member of the Caregiver support group in New Denver, made possible by West Kootenay Boundary Caregiver Support and the New Denver Hospice Society.

My husband has had Parkinson's for the last 12 years.

The Support Group has given me a community of people who are walking the same path. This group, which meets bi-weekly, has provided an opportunity for me to share my deeper feelings and challenges of this role.

The facilitators have done an excellent job of 'holding the space' for a non-judgmental and safe environment. They have listened to our challenges and invited guest speakers on relevant topics, such as a lawyer, home care nurses, home service support and hospice information.

I feel so much more prepared for the next steps on this journey because of the opportunity to be connected to members who have walked before me to the end of their loved ones lives...death, funeral, legal paperwork, grief and making new lives after their losses.

I appreciate the delicious luncheons, laughter and feeling of 'we are in this together'

I've learned how other caregivers are taking care of themselves and it has given me ideas and strength to be a better caregiver to myself."

#### **J - New Denver**

I am profoundly grateful for the support provided by West Kootenay Boundary Caregiver Support during a challenging time in our family's journey. When my mom was determined to care for my dad, who was living with dementia, it became increasingly clear that the emotional and physical demands were overwhelming to her.

The compassionate team at West Kootenay Boundary Caregiver Support offered not only valuable resources but also a listening ear and understanding heart. Their expertise helped my mom navigate her feelings of guilt and uncertainty, providing reassurance that her well-being was equally important. They connected us with support groups and educational materials that made a world of difference in managing our situation.

Thanks to their unwavering support, my mom was able to make informed decisions that honored my dad's dignity while also ensuring she received the care she needed. I wholeheartedly recommend West Kootenay Boundary Caregiver Support to anyone facing similar challenges. Their kindness, empathy, and commitment to caregiver well-being are truly exceptional. Thank you for making such a difficult journey a little easier.

#### **LF - Nelson**

I'm grabbing a moment as a full-time caregiver for my husband to let you know what a wonderful opportunity the social meals in town have been for me to connect with the other caregivers in the group. I have enjoyed every moment!

The uplifting company, laughter and spending time together once a month while enjoying delicious food are such a great way to feel cared for.

A heartfelt Thank You 🙏 to you, Rachelle, for creating such inspiring and enjoyable programming. Warmly, with appreciation

#### **MS - Nelson**

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- Processor: AMD Ryzen™ AI 5 PRO 340 Processor (2.00 GHz up to 4.80 GHz)
- Operating System: Windows 11 Home 64
- Operating System Language: Windows 11 Home 64 English (US)/English (UK)
- Microsoft Productivity Software : None
- Memory: 16 GB DDR5-5600MT/s (SODIMM)
- Solid State Drive: 256 GB SSD M.2 2280 PCIe Gen4 TLC Opal
- Display: 16" WUXGA (1920 x 1200), IPS, Anti-Glare, Non-Touch, 45%NTSC, 400 nits, 60Hz
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- Camera: 5MP RGB with Microphone and Privacy Shutter
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## Sessions of Service By Client Type

Client Type	TOTAL	Apr/25	May/25	Jun/25	Jul/25	Aug/25	Sep/25	Oct/25	Nov/25	Dec/25	Jan/26	Feb/26
[REDACTED]	459	79	55	30	26	25	24	62	69	47	39	3
[REDACTED]	78	17	8	7	14	10	6	2	5	5	4	0
[REDACTED]	322	45	45	16	28	31	21	23	31	63	18	1
One-Time Support	149	6	4	0	9	19	7	41	36	14	10	3
Caregiver	1480	96	142	130	129	100	139	130	158	197	166	93
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2488</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>100</b>

Organization: **SQx Danza**

Registration # 813604683RR0001

Project Title: **Hurricane**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area A, RDCK Area B, RDCK Area C, RDCK Area D, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area G, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, City of Nelson, Town of Creston, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Salmo, Village of Si

SCHOOLS IN THE AREAS ABOVE

Blewett Elementary

JV Humphries School

Mount Sentinel Secondary

Brent Kennedy Elementary

Yaqaan Nukiy School

Kootenay River Secondary School

Wildflower-Creston

Wildflower

South Nelson Elementary

Redfish Elementary

Rosemont Elementary

Salmo Secondary

Hume Elementary

Trafalger Middle School

Canyon-Lister Elementary

Erickson Elementary

Arrow Lakes Elementary Secondary School (ARES)

Crawford Bay Elementary Secondary School

Nakusp Elementary

Lucerne Elementary Secondary School

Twin Rivers Elementary

Kinnaird Elementary

WE Graham Community School

**Project Description:**

**WHAT IS THE PROJECT?**

A youth-led contemporary dance outreach and performance program exploring:

- Climate change
- Environmental responsibility in rural communities
- The connection between ecology and social inclusion

Hurricane will be delivered in West Kootenay schools.

**WHAT WE'LL DO?**

- Present a 15-minute professional dance excerpt of Hurricane performance
- Facilitate climate-focused workshops and guided dialogue
- Support youth in exploring local water challenges, extreme weather, and developing environmental action
- Engage rural and equity-seeking youth in meaningful arts participation
- Build youth leadership in creation, discussion, and evaluation
- Model environmentally responsible touring practices (clustered bookings, shared transportation, sustainable costume materials)

Through guided discussion and movement exercises, dancers help participants move from thoughts and feelings to words, and from words into embodied expression-strengthening confidence, clarity, and connection.

The program is delivered in-person in schools, enhanced by interactive digital tools that deepen engagement. Since the pandemic, schools have identified the need for both physical presence and relevant digital integration. We combine live performance and workshops with guided digital creation (e.g., TikTok-style videos). Digital tools are used intentionally to support reflection, expression, and community connection-while respecting school policies and student privacy.

**HOW WILL THIS BE ACHIEVED?**

**3-DAY PROGRAM**

- Day 1: 15-minute Hurricane excerpt + workshop launch
- Day 2: Movement workshops continue
- Day 3: Youth-led reflection + creative response (live sharing with students and artists/or curated TikTok-style video presentations)

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$22,705.00	\$5,000.00
Contract Fees	\$63,896.00	\$15,000.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$29,560.00	\$4,850.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$116,161.00</b>	<b>\$24,850.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$91,311.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
<p>Mount Sentinel Secondary School is providing in-kind rehearsal space to support the development of Hurricane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Rehearsal space valued at \$35/hour</li> <li>-35 hours per week – 4 weeks (equivalent to 8 weeks part-time over the summer)</li> <li>-Total in-kind contribution: \$4,900</li> </ul> <p>SQx will have exclusive access to the school gymnasium during designated rehearsal periods. This contribution provides a professional, dedicated space to develop, refine, and prepare the work for community and touring presentations.</p> <p>As a rural organization without a permanent rehearsal facility, this in-kind partnership significantly reduces project overhead and strengthens local collaboration. It ensures the work is developed within the community it serves while maintaining professional artistic standards.</p>		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
<i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$24,850.00</i>	
Area A:	\$800.00
Area B:	\$1,850.00
Area C:	\$1,000.00
Area D/Kaslo:	\$1,000.00
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$800.00
Area E:	\$800.00
Area F:	\$2,000.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$1,000.00
Area H:	\$2,000.00
Area I:	\$2,000.00
Area J:	\$2,000.00
Area K-Arrow Park:	\$00.00
Area K-Burton:	\$00.00
Area K-Fauquier:	\$00.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$00.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$00.00
Slocan:	\$800.00
Castlegar:	\$1,500.00
Creston:	\$3,000.00
Nelson:	\$3,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>
Silverton:	\$650.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: APPLICATION SCOPE**

*No, SQx is not applying to any other ReDi Grant areas for this project.*

**REGIONAL FOCUS**

*We are applying only within the West Kootenay region (RDCK), where SQx is based and where we maintain the strongest school and community partnerships. Concentrating delivery locally allows for deeper engagement with educators, stronger community relationships, and meaningful follow-up.*

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

*Limiting the project to our home region aligns with our environmental commitments. Touring within the West Kootenays allows for clustered bookings, reduced travel distances, shared transportation, and lower overall carbon impact. Expanding into more distant Columbia Basin areas would reduce tour efficiency and increase environmental costs.*

*By focusing on the West Kootenays, we can deliver Hurricane with stronger logistical efficiency, community accountability, and environmentally responsible practices.*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

RESPONDING TO LOCAL REALITIES

- West Kootenay youth are directly impacted by wildfire smoke, flooding, and water insecurity
- Many youth experience climate anxiety without structured spaces to process it
- Rural schools have limited access to professional performing arts

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CONNECTION

- Creates safe spaces for youth dialogue on climate and inclusion
- Builds confidence through artistic expression and collaboration
- Encourages civic awareness and local environmental responsibility

The program is delivered during school hours to entire student bodies (all students participate), ensuring youth facing financial, geographic, or social barriers are not excluded from participation.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

YOUTH (AGES 5-18 YEARS)

- Rural and equity-seeking students
- Youth with limited access to arts programming
- Students seeking leadership opportunities

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

- Educators gain curriculum-connected climate engagement tools
- Communities benefit from youth-led creative responses and dialogue

Hurricane strengthens youth voice, connection, and belonging-while linking environmental awareness to local action in the West Kootenays.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Based on the unceded, traditional territories of the Sinixt, Sylix, & Ktunaxa peoples in the Slocan Valley, our performances & outreach programs are created by equity deserving artists & engage vulnerable\* populations.

We use contemporary dance to promote kinship, collaboration, and teamwork.

MANDATE

- We deepen public engagement in the performing arts through high-quality performances and inclusive outreach programs.
- We provide flexible touring series for arts venues and public schools.
- We use dance to make the world a better place.

\*DEFINING VULNERABLE: We engage with people who have been systemically underserved in Canada's history as well as those who currently experience hegemonic inequities (physical, economic, or social). In using the term "vulnerable," we are not blaming or disempowering vulnerable populations. Instead, we recognize the systemic barriers that prevent people from fully participating in society. We also note that a person's proximity to hegemonic characteristics (e.g. white, urban, cis, heterosexual, wealthy, able-bodied, and thin) affects their degree vulnerability.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

RESPONDING TO LOCAL REALITIES

- West Kootenay youth are directly impacted by wildfire smoke, flooding, and water insecurity
- Many youth experience climate anxiety without structured spaces to process it
- Rural schools have limited access to professional performing arts

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SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

- Educators gain curriculum-connected climate engagement tools
- Communities benefit from youth-led creative responses and dialogue

Hurricane strengthens youth voice, connection, and belonging-while linking environmental awareness to local action in the West Kootenays.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

CLIMATE IMPACT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

- Youth experience climate anxiety but lack structured spaces to process it
- Rural communities face water insecurity, wildfire smoke, and extreme weather
- There are limited arts-based opportunities to explore environmental responsibility

SOCIAL INCLUSION GAPS

- Equity-deserving and rural youth have reduced access to professional arts programming
- Youth voices are often excluded from climate dialogue and civic action

POST-PANDEMIC ENGAGEMENT

- Schools report lower student engagement and connection
- There is a need for in-person programming supported by relevant digital tools

HOW ISSUES WERE IDENTIFIED

- Post-program surveys and educator feedback from previous SQx workshop residencies
- Past programming outcomes showing strong engagement when youth co-lead programming
- Ongoing consultation with West Kootenay educators and community partners
- Direct dialogue with students about climate anxiety and water-related concerns

Hurricane responds by creating structured, youth-led spaces where environmental awareness, artistic expression, and civic responsibility intersect.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

**PROVEN TRACK RECORD**

- 14 years delivering dance outreach in the West Kootenays and beyond
- Long-standing partnerships with rural schools and communities
- Demonstrated measurable impact (e.g., 100% educator-reported growth in equity understanding in our Active Inclusion Program (AIP))
- Repeat bookings and sustained school relationships

**YOUTH-CENTERED APPROACH**

- Programs are youth-led, discussion-based, and arts-integrated
- Climate, inclusion, and civic responsibility embedded in the creative process
- Artist-facilitators trained to move youth from dialogue to movement expression
- Hybrid delivery refined post-pandemic to increase access

**OPERATIONAL CAPACITY**

- Professional artist-facilitators experienced in both performance and education contexts
- 12 years of audited financial statements demonstrating responsible multi-funder management, accountability, and transparency
- Strong governance, reporting systems, and evaluation frameworks
- Proven ability to manage touring logistics across rural communities

SQx combines artistic excellence, financial stability, and community trust-ensuring Hurricane is delivered professionally, safely, and with measurable impact.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

**PROFESSIONAL YOUTH ARTIST-FACILITATORS**

- Perform the Hurricane performance excerpt
- Lead movement workshops and guided dialogue sessions
- Mentor youth participants
- Support evaluation and impact reflection

**YOUTH PARTICIPANTS**

- Contribute to discussion and creative development
- Co-lead elements of reflection and final sharing
- Provide feedback shaping program growth

SQx LEADERSHIP (including youth): Project coordination, partnerships, reporting, and sustainable touring logistics

**INCLUSIVE HIRING APPROACH"**: We prioritize hiring artists from equity-deserving communities. Representation in leadership and facilitation strengthens relevance, deepens inclusion, and ensures diverse lived experience informs our programs.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



# TIDAL WAVE

Tidal Wave is a new dance performance program that aims to raise awareness about ecological issues to help youth reflect more deeply on our relationship with the earth.

## Participant Demographics

86%

Remote/Rural

80%

Multi-Barriered

76%

Low-Income

39%

Indigenous

From September 2023 to June 2024, we presented Tidal Wave to

# 8,406 YOUTH



Tidal Wave's cool new digital-physical format and theme creates meaningful arts education experiences using:

- 1 Cool digital tools and a professional performance to engage with art and culture and ecology
- 2 Thought-provoking discussions and movement exercises to reflect on environmental sustainability & advocacy
- 3 Opportunities to explore the uneven distribution of the climate change burden and how it correlates to social inclusion

## OUR IMPACT

*"I think the way you're interacting with our students is great! You are making beautiful connections with them, even the ones who are shy to participate. I've been noticing all the time how you've been talking to them and encouraging them."*  
Black River Anishinabe Elder, Ojibway Language & Knowledge Keeper, Black River Anishinabe School, Black River First Nation, MB

*"You two are some of the best presenters I've seen! Some people come in to the school and don't know how to deal with the kids, but you know exactly how to manage the classroom and engage with them. That was amazing. Thank you!"*  
Educator, KVR Middle School, Penticton, BC

*"I never thought I'd like dance but I liked this and how we got to include our own ideas!"*  
Grade 6 Student, Summerland Middle School, Summerland, BC

*"It was another successful dance session over zoom. The students in Grade 6 really enjoyed it. Magaly was amazing! She was so good with the kids, and was so patient with us during our times of technical difficulties. Thank you for another positive experience for the kids at Sk'elep."*  
Educator, Sk'elep School of Excellence, Kamloops, BC

*"Thank you for your patience with the students. I love how you encouraged everyone to work together. That was a really great class!"*  
Educator, William Konkin Elementary, Burns Lake, BC



# ACTIVE INCLUSION PROGRAM (AIP)

AIP is an interactive performance program that uses dance to disrupt discrimination, intolerance, racism, and hate.

## Participant Demographics

76%

Multi-Barriered

70%

Low-Income

50%

Minoritized Ethnicities

35%

Remote/Rural

21%

Indigenous

15%

Official Language Minority

14%

Newcomers

From September 2020 to June 2023, we presented AIP to

# 31,015 YOUTH



## MISSION & IMPACT

AIP empowers youth to recognize Canada's diversity as a source of strength, and encourages youth to show citizenship, selfless gestures, and kindness to increase belonging within their communities for the full and meaningful participation of all. AIP also brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to share and learn about reconciliation and decolonization in Canada.

**100%** of educators (Grade 3 and above) feel AIP increased their students' understanding of equity, discrimination, and racism.

**99%** of educators feel AIP increased their students' knowledge and ability to work collaboratively and as a team.

**97%** of educators feel AIP inspired their students to become more physically active and express a positive attitude towards being physically active.

**96%** of educators feel AIP inspired their students to become positive role models and leaders within their community, family, and school.



"Loved how involved, engaging, and responsive the instructors were. Their abilities to make connections with the students are incredible!"  
Arts Education Director, WP Bate, Saskatoon, SK

"Thank you so much for everything that you've done for our classroom and community. You had 100% participation the entire time and my students were so excited to dance with you every morning. This program is incredible. I'm a huge fan of your mission. Kukwstsétsemc!"  
Educator, Sk'elep School of Excellence, Kamloops, BC

"A program that reaches the body, heart, and head, and has an impact."  
Educator, École South Pointe School, Winnipeg, MB

"AIP was amazing! I enjoyed myself so much! [...] I made so many memories and connections about the history about Canada. [...] The only thing that I wish is that the AIP dance was longer."  
Student, Osoyoos Elementary, Osoyoos, BC



Organization: **New Denver Hospice Society**

Registration # 887722406BC0001

Project Title: **Volunteers Make a Community Stronger**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H

The projects will take place in either New Denver or Silverton. Our aim is to include members from Slokan and Nakusp who wish to join us.

**Project Description:**

To educate and build up a community of active volunteers to support the Hospice programs New Denver Hospice Society will engage facilitators to deliver the necessary 30 hour Hospice Training as required by BC Hospice and Palliative Care Association. To further our outreach and our community understanding of Hospice, we will host two "Death Cafe" events. These events bring people together to discuss and understand end of life, and how to best help yourself, family and community be prepared by introducing them to other societies and organizational support systems.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$3,550.00	\$3,550.00
Capital Purchases	\$3,450.00	\$3,450.00
Other Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
The New Denver Hospice Board will help to organize and prepare for the Death Cafe events. Substantial volunteer time goes into planning and making the sessions for the training run smoothly. Hospice volunteers will attend each event and provide information about access to services in our community and the range of offerings Hospice provides.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$8,000.00</b>	
Area H:	\$3,000.00
Slocan:	\$1,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
Silverton:	\$1,000.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: **No**

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Dying can be a lonely event surrounded by fear. Hospice aims to bring volunteers to support those that are lonely and those that may or may not have family. As the end-of-life becomes clear, Hospice volunteers are there to be with the palliative patient. Our wish is to have enough volunteers that we can adequately support the hours and days of bedside care. The volunteer benefits, the family and the person at the end-of-life benefits.

Holding "Death Cafe" events, as we have experienced in the past, allows people of our community feeling like they can talk about end-of-life, they could ask questions and meet organizations and local societies that are here to

**Project: Volunteers Make a Community Stronger**

support them. Getting together and connecting with others we learn more about grief and building relationships for support.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

New Denver Hospice Society supports quality of living while in the process of dying and supports a healthy transition through grief for the bereaved. Our purpose is to select, train and provide ongoing education and support to volunteers. We are established as the only society in the community providing education regarding death and dying and Hospice Care. NDHS also supports those caring for friends or loved ones in the community through outreach and peer-support groups. We recognize the value of and participate in the local, provincial and national hospice/palliative care communities. Memberships are held in the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) and the British Columbia Hospice Palliative Care Association (BCHPCA).

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Dying can be a lonely event surrounded by fear. Hospice aims to bring volunteers to support those that are lonely and those that may or may not have family. As the end-of-life becomes clear, Hospice volunteers are there to be with the palliative patient. Our wish is to have enough volunteers that we can adequately support the hours and days of bedside care. The volunteer benefits, the family and the person at the end-of-life benefits.

Holding "Death Cafe" events, as we have experienced in the past, allows people of our community feeling like they can talk about end-of-life, they could ask questions and meet organizations and local societies that are here to support them. Getting together and connecting with others we learn more about grief and building relationships for support.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The issue is having a sustainable number of volunteers. This year, we have had numerous community deaths. Many required volunteers to sit vigil and be with the person at the end of life. We want to increase the number of volunteers, educate the community, and help people share end-of-life concerns.

Another issue in our community is a lack of planning for palliative and end-of-life care. Many families and individuals find themselves unaware of what to do or who to call when a loved one passes away. "Who will make medical decisions for me if I am unable?", they might ask. "What forms do I need to fill out if mom wants to pass at home?"

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

New Denver Hospice Society is established as the only society in the community providing education regarding death and dying and Hospice Care. We have qualified facilitators to teach the volunteer training. We have a Board with sufficient experience to be able to deliver these programs. The "Death Cafes" will be accompanied by other groups to enrich the opportunities and the information. We will welcome Green Burial Society as well as Last Wishes, Therese DesCamp, a facilitator of the United Church, Thompson Funeral Home, Community Health Care, Better at Home, NavCare.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

New Denver Hospice Society will implement the projects, find appropriate facilitators, advertise and find the suitable venue.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

February 10, 2026

Dear Grant Review Committee,

I am writing in strong support of continued funding for the Certified Volunteer Training Program offered by the New Denver Hospice Society. Participating in this training has been a deeply meaningful and transformative experience, both in preparing me to serve as a hospice volunteer and in fostering significant personal growth.

The program provided practical knowledge, compassionate guidance, and thoughtful discussion around end-of-life care. Through this training, I gained the skills and confidence needed to support individuals and families during one of life's most vulnerable and sacred stages. I now feel better equipped to offer comfort, presence, and understanding to those navigating grief, loss, and transition.

Beyond preparing me as a volunteer, this training also encouraged profound personal reflection. It helped me to confront and better understand my own feelings about mortality, dying, and grief. As a result, I feel more at peace with the reality of my own eventual death and more prepared to support my loved ones through difficult times. This personal growth has been an unexpected and invaluable gift.

In a small community such as ours, with a significant senior population, hospice support is not simply beneficial — it is essential. The availability of well-trained volunteers strengthens the fabric of our community and ensures that individuals facing end-of-life experiences are not alone. Continued funding for this training will directly impact the quality of care and compassion available to our neighbors, friends, and families.

I would also like to acknowledge the exceptional quality of the facilitation. The facilitator was knowledgeable, compassionate, and deeply respectful of the sensitive nature of the material. The learning environment felt safe, supportive, and inclusive. I would wholeheartedly recommend this training to anyone who feels called to support others in times of need.

Thank you for considering continued funding for this vital program. Its impact reaches far beyond the classroom and into the heart of our community.

Sincerely,

Marley Victorin

250-300-1686

marleyvictorin@gmail.com



Organization: **Silverton Community Club**  
Registration #

Project Title: **2026 Slocan Valley Veterans Project**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan  
Project will take place in Slocan, New Denver and eventually Silverton.

**Project Description:**

Installation of veterans crosswalks in Slocan and New Denver with Silverton shared ownership in crosswalk template; restoration of New Denver cenotaph and plaque; manufacture and installation of Slocan to Summit Lake fallen in action veterans plaque at New Denver cenotaph. Project will enhance year around recognition, respect and appreciation for Slocan Valley fallen veterans. Project will be achieved by contracting out all services to experienced companies.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$6,832.40	\$2,400.00
Capital Purchases	\$5,649.93	\$2,500.00
Other Expenses	\$200.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,682.33</b>	<b>\$4,900.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$7,782.33</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Village of New Denver has set up a Canada Helps site where people can contribute and receive tax receipts. Silverton Community Club will collect additional funds and Village of New Denver will pay all contractors.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$4,900.00</b>	
Area H:	\$1,250.00
Slocan:	\$1,250.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	\$1,250.00
Silverton:	\$1,150.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:**

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project is important to the overall Slocan Valley community as a shared reminder of our Valley veterans' ultimate sacrifice. The New Denver cenotaph serves as an area wide focal point for collective remembrance and education. The villages of Slocan, Silverton and New Denver and surrounding areas (RDCK Area H) will benefit from this project.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

To promote Silverton and overall Slocan Valley participation and co-operation in community projects and events.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project is important to the overall Slocan Valley community as a shared reminder of our Valley veterans' ultimate sacrifice. The New Denver cenotaph serves as an area wide focal point for collective remembrance and

education. The villages of Slocan, Silverton and New Denver and surrounding areas (RDCK Area H) will benefit from this project.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Long talked about veterans crosswalks will become a reality. The deteriorated state of the New Denver cenotaph and plaque will be addressed. The new plaque will commemorate Slocan to Summit Lake fallen veterans year 'round instead of just every Remembrance Day. Project items were identified by community residents' input and comments.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The Silverton Community Club has a long history of volunteer project commitment and ability to deliver. Assistance and commitment of the three valley villages plus RDCK Area H further enhances the Silverton Community Club's ability to sponsor and complete the project.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The Silverton Community Club will sponsor the project with assistance from the Villages of Slocan, Silverton and New Denver. As well Slocan Valley businesses and residents will be funding the project.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



Village of New Denver

P.O. Box 40, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0 • office@newdenver.ca

PHONE (250) 358-2316 • FAX (250) 358-7251

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February 17, 2026

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Village of New Denver, I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Veterans Crosswalk and Cenotaph Restoration Project

This initiative reflects a commitment to honouring the service and sacrifice of veterans in our community while ensuring the cenotaph remains a respectful and well-maintained place of remembrance. The addition of a veterans-themed crosswalk will further signal the significance of the site and visibly reinforce the community's commitment to honouring those who served.

Council supports efforts that preserve local heritage and strengthen spaces dedicated to remembrance.

Sincerely,

Cari Lynn Gawletz

Chief Administrative Officer

Village of New Denver



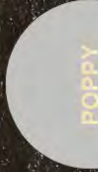
VILLAGE of NEW DENVER

# CENOTAPH

February 10, 2026



# PROPOSED NEW VETERANS PLAQUE



## HONOUR ROLL

*In remembrance of those Slokan Valley residents  
fallen in action so that we may enjoy freedom.*

### WORLD WAR I (1914 - 1918)

#### NEW DENVER

Pte. Arthur KINNEAR

#### SANDON

Pte. William FERGUSON  
Pte. Donald McASKILL  
Pte. George THOMPSON  
Pte. William TATTRIE  
Pte. Edward TOWGOOD

#### SILVERTON

Pte. Hal BOWERS  
Pte. Albert(?) BROUGHTON  
Pte. Richard GRIFFITHS(?)  
Pte. Harry JENKINS(?)

Lieutenant Francis LANGHORNE(?)

Pte. John McINNIS  
Pte. William(?) MOUL  
Pte. Milton(?) WATERS  
Corporal James WHITE

#### SLOCAN CITY

James R. ARMSTRONG  
Thomas HOLT  
Donald J. MORRISON  
Jack McPHAIL

#### SUMMIT LAKE

Pte. Christopher MARSDEN

### WORLD WAR II (1939 - 1945)

W.O.1 Ivor BURKITT  
Pte. Norman MEERS

Ft. Sergeant Gordon NORDBYE  
Ft. Lieut William WALTON

POPPY

————— **LEST WE FORGET** —————



**The Corporation of the Village of Silverton**

421 Lake Avenue

Silverton, BC V0G 1S0

Phone: 250-358-2472

Website: <http://www.silverton.ca>

Email: [info@silverton.ca](mailto:info@silverton.ca)

To Whom it May Concern:

The Village of Silverton is pleased to offer its full support for the Village of New Denver's application for funding to restore and preserve the cenotaph located in Greer Park.

The cenotaph in New Denver stands as a shared place of remembrance for those who served and sacrificed in times of conflict, and it continues to serve as a focal point for annual commemorative events that bring together residents from Silverton, New Denver, and the surrounding region.

Restoration of this important monument is essential to preserving its role as a meaningful gathering place for future generations. Silverton Council recognizes the importance of this project not only for New Denver but for the broader regional community that relies on this site for collective remembrance and education.

We commend the Village of New Denver for its leadership in pursuing this restoration initiative and strongly encourage your consideration of their funding request. The Village of Silverton is proud to stand in support of this project and looks forward to the positive impact it will have on our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Allaway".

Catherine Allaway  
Chief Administrative Officer

# CITY OF TRAIL VETERANS CROSSWALK



Organization: **Protecting Animal Life Society (P.A.L.S.)**  
Registration # S-46628

Project Title: **P.A.L.S. Animal Rescue Program**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area K , Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton  
We serve the areas from Edgewood, Fauquier, Burton, Arrow Park, Nakusp, rural Nakusp, New Denver, and Silverton.

**Project Description:**

We rescue abandoned, lost, abused, and unwanted pets and livestock. We provide them with the necessary veterinary care and subsequent foster care until they are adopted. We also provide a very necessary Spay and Neuter program for low income pet owners, and this is well utilized. In addition, we have a Special Circumstances loan program to cover animal emergencies, and we maintain a Lost and Found pet registry. Our Community Outreach program provides information and support (both emotional and financial) for animal issues that do not fall within our other programs. Our ultimate goal is to continue to reduce the numbers of unwanted and feral domestic animals in our communities by promoting education and awareness of responsible animal care.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$55,000.00	\$29,000.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>	<b>\$29,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$31,000.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
<p>All work is done by volunteers. The Nakusp Veterinary Clinic supports and participates in our work by providing generously discounted services and professional guidance. Our local pet supply store (Pawsitivity Pet Supply) maintains a "consignment corner" where gently used donated pet supplies are sold, with all proceeds going to P.A.L.S. Our local certified dog trainer assists with dog behaviour and other dog issues. The Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) supports our cause by a yearly donation of a logging truckload of firewood which we then auction online. Selkirk Realty generously sponsors our "Pet of the Week" adoptable pet ads in the Valle Voice newspaper. Several businesses and individuals donate their recyclable cans, bottles, and plastics. Supporters have also donated items that we sell at yard sales or online.</p>		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$29,000.00</b>	
Area K-Arrow Park:	\$1,000.00
Area K-Burton:	\$2,000.00
Area K-Fauquier:	\$2,000.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$16,000.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$5,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
Silverton:	\$1,500.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** *No. We do not serve any other areas other than those already specified.*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

We believe our programs are important as we strive to end the cruel cycle of pet overpopulation and its resultant suffering. As the only non-profit domestic animal rescue organization in our area, we feel a responsibility to work to keep the pet population in check, thus reducing the problems of disease and nuisance issues stemming from roaming feral animals. The communities we serve and the animals we help will all benefit from our work.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Our mandate is to rescue, aid, and care for abused, neglected, abandoned or homeless domestic animals in the communities we serve. We provide them with veterinary care, foster care, food, and other necessary supplies until they are adopted into forever homes. We maintain a Spay and Neuter program for low income pet owners who would otherwise be unable to spay or neuter their animals. We also provide a Special Circumstances Loan program for pet emergencies, and we have a Lost and Found registry, and a Community Outreach service program.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

We believe our programs are important as we strive to end the cruel cycle of pet overpopulation and its resultant suffering. As the only non-profit domestic animal rescue organization in our area, we feel a responsibility to work to keep the pet population in check, thus reducing the problems of disease and nuisance issues stemming from roaming feral animals. The communities we serve and the animals we help will all benefit from our work.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

We address the issue of pet overpopulation by providing our Spay and Neuter Program to individuals and families who could not otherwise afford to spay and neuter their pets. By taking abandoned and feral animals off the streets where they would continue to breed and cause a nuisance, we keep our communities safer and more pleasant for everyone, including the animals. It is our opportunity to work towards ending the cruel cycle of pet overpopulation and its resultant suffering. The need for our work grows as we receive more calls each year from residents struggling financially with the expenses associated with providing responsible animal care. We have also been assisting more people with basic needs such as pet food, medications, and veterinary care and advice.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

We are best suited for this work as we are the only non-profit domestic animal rescue organization in our area. We have been operating continuously since 2003 and we have strong community support. We are run by hard-working, dedicated, responsible volunteers who believe strongly in our purpose, We receive professional guidance from the Nakusp Veterinary Clinic, and also from our local Certified Dog Trainer.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The P.A.L.S. Board of Directors oversees the work with volunteers. We also have the full support and guidance of the Nakusp Veterinary Clinic, and benefit from the assistance and expertise of our local Certified Dog Trainer.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Organization: **Creston Feral Friends Society**

Registration # S0080484

Project Title: **CFFS 2026 TNR**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area A, RDCK Area B, RDCK Area C, RDCK Area D, Town of Creston, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Salmo, Village of Kaslo

The project starts in the Creston Valley and we often deliver fixed adults throughout the Columbia watershed. We respond to calls from Creston Animal Control within town limits and coordinate with regional rescues. We collaborate closely with PAWS, who relies on CFFS's specialized expertise in handling and trapping feral cats—a task requiring specific skills, patience, and equipment. We also manage colonies in rural areas where unmanaged growth impacts local farms and wildlife. These partnerships ensure that cats across the valley receive timely intervention, whether through TNR, foster care, or rehoming efforts, maximizing the reach of our limited resources

**Project Description:**

This project delivers peak-season veterinary spay and neuter intervention for unmanaged feral cat colonies across the Interior Kootenay region, beginning with targeted Trap-and-Return operations in the Creston Valley. During the May–October breeding season, feral populations increase rapidly, creating long-term community, environmental, and animal welfare concerns.

Through this project, Creston Feral Friends Society (CFFS) will humanely trap free-roaming cats and transport them to local veterinary clinics for spay and neuter surgery. Adult cats will be returned to their original locations once recovered and where possible, preventing further reproduction within established colonies. Kittens suitable for socialization will be transferred to partner rescues for adoption.

ReDI funding will be used exclusively for veterinary surgical fees. These professional medical services represent the only specialized and non-volunteer component of this work. CFFS covers operational costs - including trapping equipment, fuel, transport, and coordination - through recycling revenue and community donations. However, grassroots fundraising cannot sustain the cost of surgical intervention at the scale required during peak breeding months.

By funding veterinary surgeries, this project directly reduces future litters, limits unmanaged colony expansion, and supports long-term population control across the Interior Kootenay region.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$9,350.00	\$9,350.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,350.00</b>	<b>\$9,350.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
CFFS is 100% volunteer-run. Peak season field operations are conducted by board members Cindy and Carolyn over approximately 20 weeks, including humane trapping, monitoring and checking traps, veterinary transport, and coordination. This work is estimated at 240 total hours during the project period. Valued conservatively at \$22 per hour for skilled animal handling and coordination, this represents an in-kind contribution of approximately \$5,280. These volunteer services directly support the delivery of the veterinary intervention funded through this project.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$9,350.00</b>	
Area A:	\$1,350.00
Area B:	\$500.00
Area C:	\$500.00
Area D/Kaslo:	\$1,000.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$500.00
Slocan:	\$500.00
Castlegar:	\$800.00
Creston:	\$3,000.00
Nelson:	\$500.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Silverton:	\$200.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: *No*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Without systematic TNR, feral colonies grow rapidly, leading to disease, suffering, and community nuisance. This project is essential for preventing overpopulation and improving animal welfare. The entire community benefits: residents see a reduction in nuisance behaviors like spraying, fighting, and noise. A managed, sterile colony also provides natural rodent control, benefiting local property owners. Furthermore, we engage with diverse community members, including new Canadians who may have cultural misunderstandings about cats. Through education and compassionate outreach, we foster a greater appreciation for animals and encourage responsible pet ownership. By stabilizing the population, we also protect local wildlife from the impact of unmanaged feline growth. Ultimately, every resident benefits from a more humane, healthy, and harmonious community environment.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

This project humanely manages feral and abandoned cat populations across the Creston Valley through a specialized Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program. Building on our 2025 success, we trap feral cats, provide veterinary spay/neuter surgeries and vaccinations, and return them to their original locations to stabilize populations. For kittens under 12 weeks, we focus on socialization and foster care to facilitate permanent adoptions through partners like PAWS. If property restrictions prevent a cat's return, we secure safe barn home placements. By transitioning from emergency intervention to systematic management, we reduce the stray population, prevent the suffering of unwanted litters, and foster a healthier community for both residents and animals. Our 100% volunteer-run model ensures that grant funds are directed entirely toward veterinary costs.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Without systematic TNR, feral colonies grow rapidly, leading to disease, suffering, and community nuisance. This project is essential for preventing overpopulation and improving animal welfare. The entire community benefits: residents see a reduction in nuisance behaviors like spraying, fighting, and noise. A managed, sterile colony also

provides natural rodent control, benefiting local property owners. Furthermore, we engage with diverse community members, including new Canadians who may have cultural misunderstandings about cats. Through education and compassionate outreach, we foster a greater appreciation for animals and encourage responsible pet ownership. By stabilizing the population, we also protect local wildlife from the impact of unmanaged feline growth. Ultimately, every resident benefits from a more humane, healthy, and harmonious community environment.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The primary issue is the persistent growth of feral colonies, which outpaces our current resources. In 2024/2025, we identified a critical need through calls from Creston Animal Control and residents reporting unmanaged colonies. An opportunity exists to leverage our proven success at the Cook Street colony-where we sterilized 98% of the population-as a model for newly identified areas. We engage residents during field operations, sharing the benefits of TNR, such as natural rodent control and the prevention of new colonies. These interactions build community "buy-in," encouraging residents to choose sterilization over abandonment. We also address the opportunity to educate the public on responsible pet ownership, reducing the influx of abandoned cats. These needs were identified through direct engagement with local property owners, volunteers, and municipal staff who witness the impact of unmanaged populations daily.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

CFFS is uniquely suited for this work due to our specialized TNR expertise, responsiveness, and established community trust. Since becoming a Registered Society in 2024, we have demonstrated the capacity to handle large-scale projects, such as the 70-cat Cook Street colony. Our team has extensive hands-on experience; Cindy and Carolyn bring years of trapping, fostering, and medical management skills. We are the only local group focused exclusively on the "difficult" work of feral cat management, filling a gap that traditional rescues cannot. Despite a limited budget, we prioritize critical medical cases and use innovative, cost-effective care. Our successful 2025 ReDI grant performance proves we have the administrative and operational capacity to manage funds responsibly and deliver high-impact results for the interior of British Columbia.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

CFFS field operations are led by Cindy and Carolyn, who bring extensive hands-on experience in humane trapping, colony assessment, and feral cat management. Both have been directly involved in implementing the organization's Trap-and-Return program since its formation and were instrumental in achieving a 98% sterilization rate at the Cook Street colony. They coordinate trapping schedules, transport cats to veterinary clinics, and manage post-surgical return procedures. Their practical knowledge, established relationships with local veterinarians, and understanding of colony behavior ensure that surgical interventions are carried out efficiently, safely, and with minimal stress to the animals and surrounding community.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Organization: **North Slocan Trails Society**  
Registration # S-56448

Project Title: **Ranch Ridge Trail Network: Phase 1**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H

The project site is Ranch Ridge, located above the community of Rosebery.

**Project Description:**

Thanks to last year's support from ReDi grants, the RDCK and the CBT, we have completed our masterplan for the Ranch Ridge trail network and flagged and cleared three trail corridors ready for building this year. For this project, we plan to start in May with the 'Butter Telegraph Connector'. This will be a two-direction trail designed to enhance existing trails by connecting two different sides of Ranch Ridge part way up elevation. The funds will pay for a crew to hand build the new trail (2.3kms) in conjunction with the CBT Trail Crew grant and will also include some machine time.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi	RDCK Funding Requested by Area <i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$12,000.00</i>	
Administration Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	Area H:	\$5,500.00
Contract Fees	\$40,000.00	\$10,000.00	<b>New Denver:</b>	\$3,700.00
Capital Purchases	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	Silverton:	\$2,800.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$43,000.00</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>		
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>				
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$31,000.00</b>			
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b> NSTS project management is in-kind and the project will be supported by volunteers.				

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: No

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Economic growth and investment in the community, driven by trail development, is expected to support children's programming, improve school attendance, increase investment in the area and help sustain local hospital services as population growth fills vacant positions. There is an immediate need to increase tourism, as wildfire damage and recreation site closures in 2024 continue to impact tourism-related business revenue. Kootenay Rockies (2023) emphasized the importance of easily accessed trail systems along highway corridors (Ranch Ridge). Visitors stay an average of 2.9 nights in the Kootenay Rockies (Destination-BC, 2025). Accommodation, recreation, and food services account for nearly 80% of visitor spending (Destination-BC, 2025). In 2025 a survey was sent to neighbouring mountain bike clubs. Of the 166 unique participants, 94% responded 'yes' to travelling through our local communities to reach other developed trail destinations 2-3 hours away. MBTA (2018) found that mountain-biking doubled revenue and employment over a 10-year period.

**Project: Ranch Ridge Trail Network: Phase 1****2. Organization Mandate:**

To promote the recreational use of trails in the North Slokan through advocacy, education, trail maintenance and trail reclamation. Our priorities will also include historical, interpretive and youth programmes.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Economic growth and investment in the community, driven by trail development, is expected to support children's programming, improve school attendance, increase investment in the area and help sustain local hospital services as population growth fills vacant positions. There is an immediate need to increase tourism, as wildfire damage and recreation site closures in 2024 continue to impact tourism-related business revenue. Kootenay Rockies (2023) emphasized the importance of easily accessed trail systems along highway corridors (Ranch Ridge). Visitors stay an average of 2.9 nights in the Kootenay Rockies (Destination-BC, 2025). Accommodation, recreation, and food services account for nearly 80% of visitor spending (Destination-BC, 2025). In 2025 a survey was sent to neighbouring mountain bike clubs. Of the 166 unique participants, 94% responded 'yes' to travelling through our local communities to reach other developed trail destinations 2-3 hours away. MBTA (2018) found that mountain-biking doubled revenue and employment over a 10-year period.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

This will make trails on both sides of Ranch Ridge more user friendly and improve the flow of access. The connector trail is suitable for varying fitness and skill levels, including children, families, adults, and seniors. Users will have more variety to choose lower and upper trails on either side of Ranch Ridge. The new connector will immediately benefit all mountain bike riders, trail runners and hikers, including participants in the local youth outdoor education program and the Koots Routes 55+ mountain biking group, which serves riders aged 55 and over. By improving access between trails, the connector allows for expanded trail clinics and programs that can be tailored to specific groups, genders, ethnicity, ages, and abilities; reducing barriers and strengthening community support. This will increase non-motorized access as users will not have to use the road to make the connection. We are using feedback from our community to proceed.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The NSTS has a 16 year history of successful trail management and construction. As working partners with Rec Sites & Trails BC, we are responsible for over 40kms of trails.

We are well supported locally and our membership steadily grows each year. We maintain and operate recreational facilities all year round that range from track-set cross-country ski trails with a popular warming shelter to an excellent Village pump track to a variety of multi-use trails. We also run the Koots Routes 55+ programmes that provide year-round social recreation for over 55's in the area.

We have a very strong board that includes experienced trail builders and mountain bikers and are very fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer base that support our operations.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

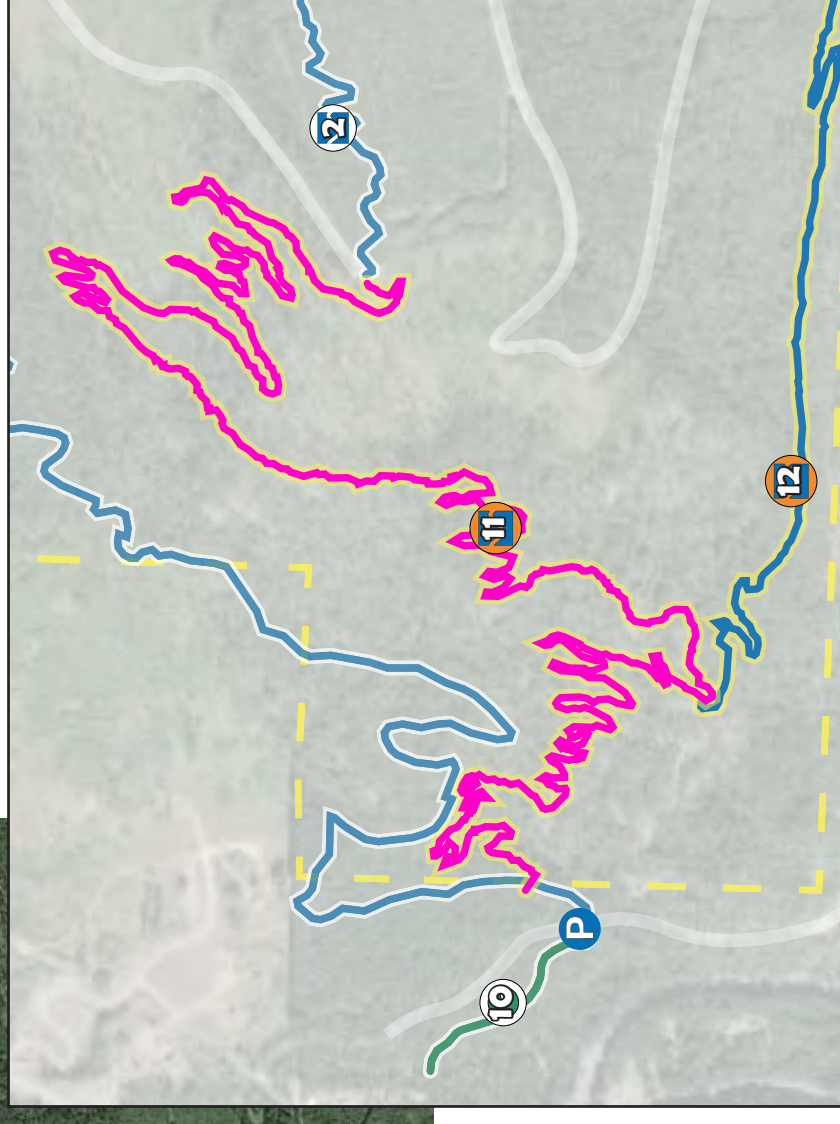
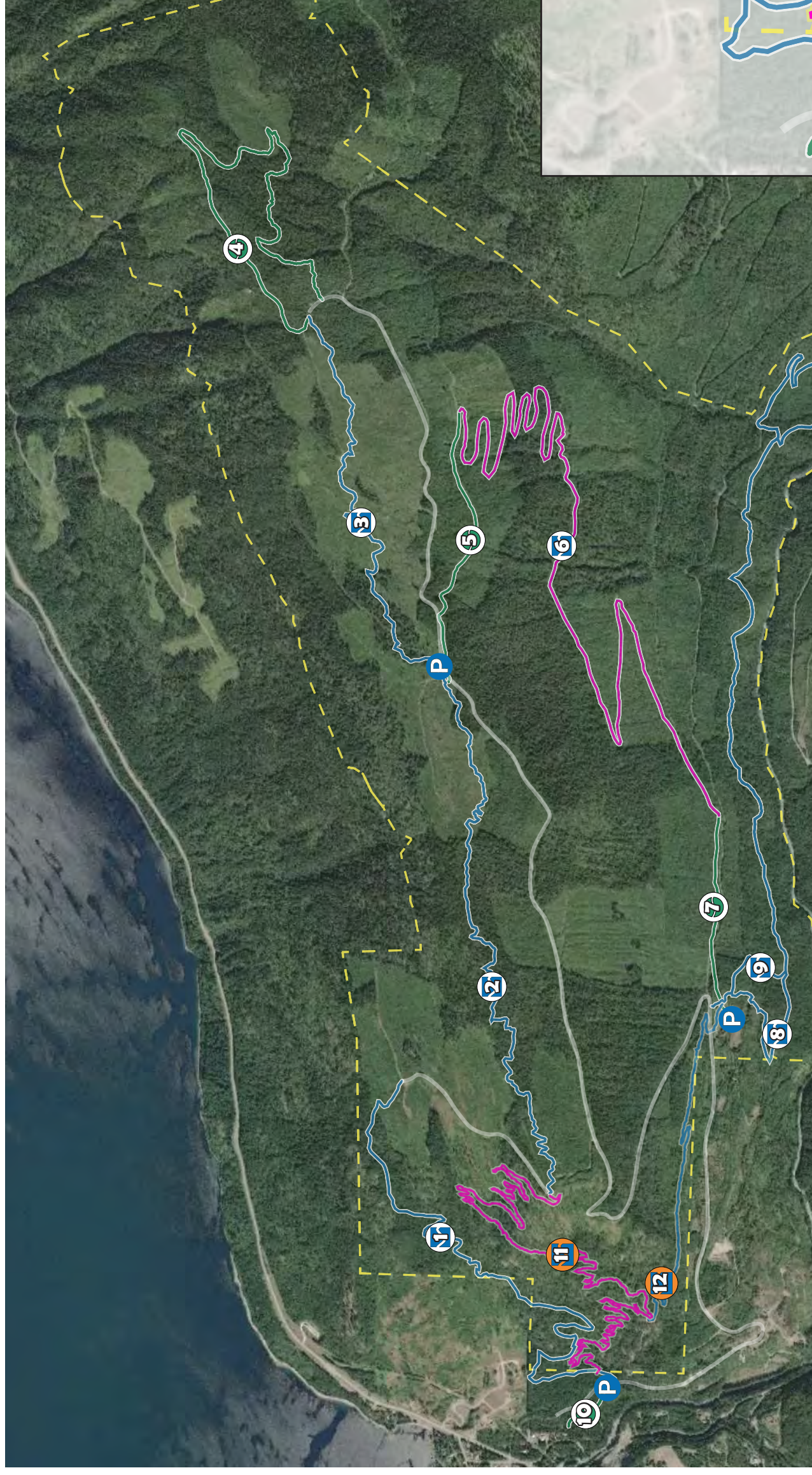
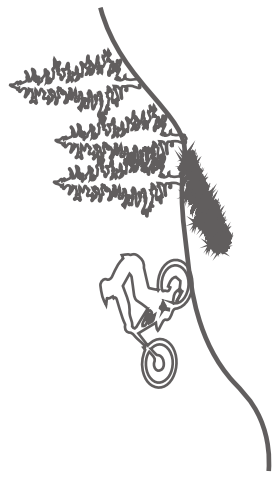
NSTS directors Bryn Perry and Gerald Wagner will be overseeing the project. Bryn has extensive trail-building experience and Gerald is an experienced project manager. We are keen for two of last year's trail crew to return this year and they have indicated their interest. Rob Kozarchuk has been our trail crew lead for a couple of years and has been involved in building three of our other trails on Ranch Ridge. Rylan Bokstrom has also worked on our trail crew - he used to work at Retallack Lodge and head their mountain bike trail crew.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No****8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No****9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

# RANCH RIDGE MTB TRAIL NETWORK: PROPOSED TRAILS



## PROPOSED TRAILS

<b>11</b>	Lower Butter Climb Trail	6,868 m
<b>12</b>	Telegraph Connector Trail	2,438 m

## EXISTING TRAILS

<b>4</b>	Rolling Thunder Trail	3,610 m
<b>5</b>	Butter Me Up Connector	1,580 m
<b>7</b>	BMU Connector	1,118 m
<b>10</b>	Roseberry Trail	371 m
<b>1</b>	Lower Butter Trail	3,788 m
<b>2</b>	Upper Butter Trail	3,715 m
<b>3</b>	Spine Trail	2,706 m
<b>6</b>	Butter Me Up Climb Trail	7,962 m
<b>8</b>	Switz Trail	539 m
<b>9</b>	Telegraph Trail	6,351 m

## LEGEND

- Project Area
- FSR/Access Road
- Beginner Trail
- Intermediate Trail
- Climb Trail
- Proposed MTB Trails
- Existing MTB Trails
- Parking

## Stakeholders





Village of New Denver  
P.O. Box 40, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0 • [office@newdenver.ca](mailto:office@newdenver.ca)  
PHONE (250) 358-2316 • FAX (250) 358-7251

October 28, 2025

North Slokan Trails Society  
New Denver, BC V0G 1S0  
Via email: [northslocantrailsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:northslocantrailsociety@hotmail.com)

**Regarding: Letter of Support for Trail Development Plan  
North Slokan Trails Society, New Denver**

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To Whom it May Concern,

The Village of New Denver supports the North Slokan Trails Society in its efforts to develop a trail network within a recreational polygon on Ranch Ridge above Rosebery to loop access to the existing Butter, Spine and Rolling Thunder trails.

The Council of the Village of New Denver is responsible for ensuring the long-term sustainability and resilience of the municipality and fostering community well-being. New Denver is a small municipality of approximately 560 residents, situated on the eastern shore of beautiful Slokan Lake. World class outdoor amenities are a defining feature of the area and are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

The mandate of the North Slokan Trails Society (NSTS) is to promote the year round, self-propelled recreational use of trails in the North Slokan through advocacy, programmes and education, and to provide trail-related infrastructure for human-powered community recreation through projects, trail maintenance, reclamation and new trail construction.

The Village of New Denver is confident in the capabilities of the NSTS which has been operating as a non-profit, volunteer-based society in our Village since 2010. They are an accomplished group with extensive experience managing projects and providing a valued service to the community.



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The benefits of outdoor recreation are numerous and varied. It supports healthy lifestyles, improved public health and can lead overall reduced costs to healthcare. It promotes residential growth to local communities by attracting new residents and skilled workers looking for areas to settle in that can provide regular access to the kind of physical activities and lifestyle they are looking for. It promotes economic growth to local communities through increased tourism and the potential for establishment of businesses related to manufacturing, supplying or repairing outdoor recreational equipment or infrastructure.

For these reasons, and many more, the Council of the Village of New Denver supports the NSTS in its proposal to move forward with the development of the proposed Ranch Ridge trails. We have every reason to believe that improved and expanded trails in this area will provide economic benefits to the North Slokan region.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L Casley", is written in a cursive style.

Mayor Leonard Casley



Valhalla Pure  
New Denver BC  
VoG 1S0  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025

To whom it may concern

I am the owner and manager of the Valhalla Pure shop in New Denver and have run this business since opening in 1990. Over the last 35 years I have seen many changes in the village, including the gradual closure of all the cafes and restaurants and the reduction of facilities and services.

I am keen to see the development of sustainable outdoor recreation in the area that would support my family business and the local community. Building a new mountain bike trail network would encourage riders to stay and spend their money here – I see many vehicles carrying bikes pass through the village but with a limited selection of trails, we do not have enough to keep visiting riders here.

With new trails establishing New Denver as a stop between existing popular mountain biking destinations, the economic benefits to local businesses would include increased visitation and spend on food, equipment and overnight/ multi-night stays.

I would welcome a more certain future for my business and the likelihood of new ventures opening to meet the demand and rejuvenate our main street.

Yours,



Kelley Wright

250-551-1519

Organization: **Slocan Solutions Society**

Registration # S0058249

**The Art of Safe Keeping** - Sponsored Organization

Project Title: **The Art of Safe Keeping**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan Hekkenberg will develop the project in her studio, after which it is displayed in the Hidden Garden Gallery (New Denver) in July 2026. The books will be for sale at the exhibition and in local stores around Slocan Lake. After this project is completed with the show in New Denver, it will tour to other communities in the Columbia basin, which will be funded by the CKCA touring grant and the hosting galleries. Likely galleries are Kootenay Gallery, The Langham, Centre 64 in Kimberley and the Golden Art Gallery. The tour is not part of the ReDi grant.

**Project Description:**

Phase 1 of the project (completed in 2025) allowed residents and visitors to engage with the interactive exhibition about the Slocan Lake Complex Wildfires and share their stories and emotions of their personal wildfire experiences. Phase 2 of the project will exhibit the results of that phase, using people's input and Hekkenberg's artwork. It will include the large map of the area, to which people pinned their stories. New work will be 10-20 artworks made by Hekkenberg, of items that people identified as their most precious belongings to keep safe when needing to evacuate. These will be accompanied by their handwritten stories. Hekkenberg will also publish a book that documents the Slocan Lake Complex wildfires and the project "The Art of Safe Keeping" itself. Most of the artwork has already been created, the next steps are to compile the stories, photographs and artwork into a book and to design and publish the book. The artworks need to be prepared for the future exhibitions (framing, displays etc). ReDi funding would pay for the material costs related to the exhibition, and for printing the books. Sales income of the book is part of the grant budget and will be used to help fund the project. The exhibition in New Denver will take place July 14-19 at the Hidden Garden Gallery.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$1,325.00	\$220.00
Contract Fees	\$5,705.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$3,957.00	\$1,980.00
Other Expenses	\$89.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,076.00</b>	<b>\$2,200.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$7,800.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Carl Schlichting will donate 16 hours of his time in-kind. Artist Petra Hekkenberg will donate her time hosting the Hidden Garden Gallery exhibition as in-kind (7 days x 5 hrs). There will be volunteers to assist during the exhibition and break down.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$2,200.00</b>	
Area H:	\$650.00
Slocan:	\$350.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$850.00</b>
Silverton:	\$350.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:**

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Phase 2, a final exhibition and book, provides another opportunity to process and understand wildfires through art. The published book will document an important moment in time and provide an historical record of the Slocan Lake Complex Wildfires. In 2025 the fires were still fresh, and some people felt too emotional still to visit the project. Others were not available during our opening days. The final exhibition in July 2026 will have new work and offers another processing and learning opportunity for both locals of the Slocan Lake area, visitors, organizations and government. Once the exhibition is touring to other communities, it will be an ambassador for the Slocan Lake area. The future media attention for this project will help keep the topic of wildfires and its emotional impact high on the agenda of our society and may open doors to organized emotional support for residents during natural disasters.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Slocan Solutions Society is an umbrella organization that supports unregistered groups that have a good idea but are not organized into a society structure. The focus is to promote a shared vision that enhances the cultural, social, economic and environmental development of Slocan communities. This is done through:

- organizing and bringing together stakeholder groups for collaboration, coordination and cooperating on goals
- finding and organizing resources for groups including services, funding, and personnel
- supporting groups by organizing workshops, seminars, and training programs

The Art of Safe Keeping artistically visualizes the sentiment around evacuations during wildfires. It offers impacted people of the Slocan Lake Complex fires and beyond, a chance to engage and share their story. The project consists of two phases.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Phase 2, a final exhibition and book, provides another opportunity to process and understand wildfires through art. The published book will document an important moment in time and provide an historical record of the Slocan Lake Complex Wildfires. In 2025 the fires were still fresh, and some people felt too emotional still to visit the project. Others were not available during our opening days. The final exhibition in July 2026 will have new work and offers another processing and learning opportunity for both locals of the Slocan Lake area, visitors, organizations and government. Once the exhibition is touring to other communities, it will be an ambassador for the Slocan Lake area. The future media attention for this project will help keep the topic of wildfires and its emotional impact high on the agenda of our society and may open doors to organized emotional support for residents during natural disasters.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

This project will address the impact, emotions and sentiment around the wildfires that threatened communities, people, belongings and animals in our area. During phase 1 of the project it became clear that there is lots of value in using art to process emotions, as well as to visualize complex matters like the large-scale emergency response that took place during the 2024 Slocan Lake Complex Wildfires. This project has been receiving interest from government, the forestry industry and media, showing the value of projects like these. We see the opportunity for this project to inspire and help our society develop proper emotional support and communications during and after natural disasters. Next to this, it offers the opportunity to residents of the Slocan Lake area, BC, and beyond be more (emotionally) prepared for future natural disasters, which are a growing concern and returning phenomenon.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Petra Hekkenberg is the artist behind "The Art of Safe Keeping". She has bachelor degrees in Product Design and Public Space design and received the Connection Award in The Netherlands for her excellent interpersonal skills. She has completed multiple community art projects and exhibitions in both Canada and The Netherlands and has training in visual arts and public speaking. Her illustrative work and two self-published books are successfully being sold in stores and galleries across the Kootenays. Petra Hekkenberg has recently served for 3 years on the Board of the Slocan Lake Arts Council and is well connected in the regional cultural scene. She works parttime in Kokanee Glacier

Park and parttime as a visual artist. In 2025 and 2026 she is dedicating her freelance artist time to this project, which she believes can make a difference for many people.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Petra Hekkenberg will be the main artist implementing this project, with some assistance of Carl Schlichting from Passmore and book editor Anne DeGrace. See Petra's experience described later in this application under "your organization"<sup>2</sup>. Carl Schlichting has training and work experience as an artifact's conservator for nearly 20 years, to an equivalent amount of time as a freelance mount maker working in museums and galleries nationally and internationally. He has assisted Petra Hekkenberg in phase 1 of this project as well. Anne DeGrace is a writer, editor, and publisher from Nelson, BC, specializing in storytelling, editing, and mentorship.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



Petra Hekkenberg &lt;petra.hekkenberg@gmail.com&gt;

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## Submission for show at the Hidden Garden Gallery 2026

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**Roni Jurgensen** <roni@ronidesign.com>

Sat, Jan 17, 2026 at 1:36 PM

To: Petra Hekkenberg &lt;petra.hekkenberg@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: leanne fulton &lt;leannefulton@gmail.com&gt;, sabrina curtis &lt;sabcurtis@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Petra,

We are pleased to inform you, your application for a show in 2026 has been accepted.

We have scheduled your exhibit tentatively from July 14-19, 2026 with a setup/installation day for Monday, July 13. Let me know if these dates are not doable for you soon so we can make adjustments before the other artists start to make plans for their shows.

Please be advised that we require all our exhibiting artists to be in attendance (or have a family member or friend present) from 10 am until 3 pm each day the week your show is at the Hidden Garden Gallery. **Please RSVP by January 31 with your availability to be present in the gallery during your dates.**

We will be preparing your Artists Checklist & Information Packages and sending them out to you in the spring. Once you have been notified of your designated host, you may communicate with them regarding the planning of your show.

I have enclosed a map of the gallery that outlines the measurements of the walls, floorspace and details on the plinths available in the space, so that you can start to plan the layout of your show.

Once you have been notified of your designated host, please direct your questions regarding planning of your show directly with them

We will look forward to hosting you and helping you put on a wonderful exhibit at the gallery.

Regards  
Roni Jurgensen  
Selection Committee Member

**Roni Jurgensen**  
[roni@ronidesign.com](mailto:roni@ronidesign.com)  
c: 403.988.9343  
[www.hiddengardengallery.ca](http://www.hiddengardengallery.ca)

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### 2 attachments

 **HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY**  
helping artists grow

HGG logo 100 dpi signature.png  
21K

 **5. floormap 2026.pdf**  
962K

## **The Art of Safe Keeping Media attention + interest from the industry**

***Please click on links to open articles. From newest to oldest.***

Kootenay Coop Radio, The EcoCentric - Recorded on Feb 13, 2026, broadcast date t.b.d.

Artist talk at MLA's office for BC Wildfire Services and the (BCWS) – Feb 12, 2026

Artist talk at MLA's office for Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) – Feb 12, 2026

Kootenay Coop Radio, Kootenay Morning interview - Feb 6, 2026 (no recording)

[CBC Radio Daybreak South interview - Feb 5, 2026](#)

[Nelson Star article, front page - Feb 4, 2026](#)

[Open House at MLA's office Nelson with artist talk for RDCK \(elected\) officials - Dec 16, 2025](#)

[2026 Articulate Magazine feature](#)

Project on display for 8 months in meeting room of MLA Brittny Anderson – Oct 17, 2025

[Valley Voice article - Oct 9, 2025](#)

[SIFCo event at Resiliency Centre - Aug 18, 2025](#)

[Valley Voice article, front page - July 3, 2025](#)

### **Visitor numbers for Phase 1**

Total participants in the interactive part: About 500 people

Total visitors of the exhibition: Estimated 600-1000

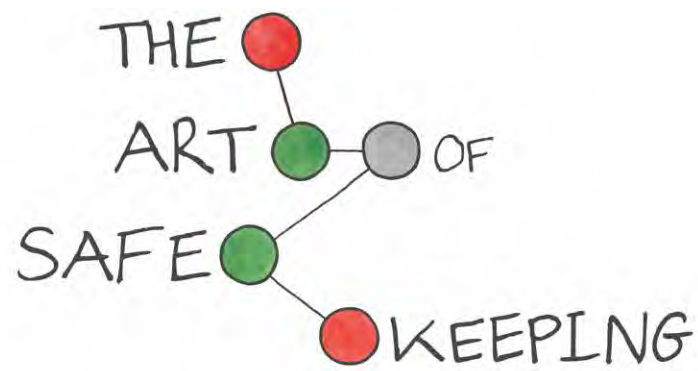
### **Funding already confirmed**

In the Spring of 2025, lots of different funding was sourced by Petra Hekkenberg to be able to undertake this project. Some of these funds support both phase 1 and 2. Funding still available for phase 2:

- CKCA Major Project's grant: \$10,000 (of which 40% is still available for phase 2)
- Private funding including in-kind: \$6220 (of which 20% is still available for phase 2)
- Donations and post card sales: \$1240 (of which 50% is still available for phase 2)

[Click here](#) for a full overview of funders and sponsors of The Art of Safe Keeping

THE ART OF SAFE KEEPING



Supportive images

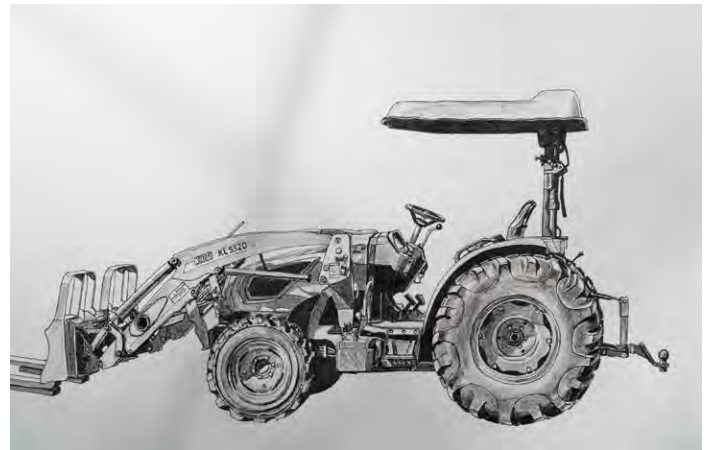
# Map + Artworks for phase 2, 2026 exhibition + book



The Map with public input for 2026 Exhibition



Drawing precious belongings for 2026 exhibition



# The Art of Safe Keeping on display at MLA's office



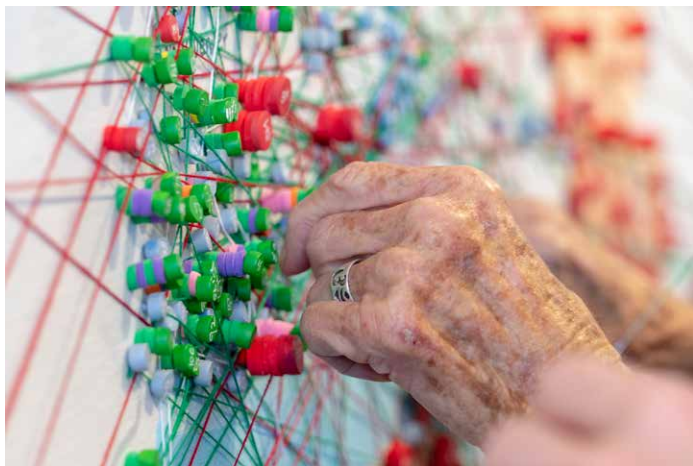
Open House with RDCK (elected) officials



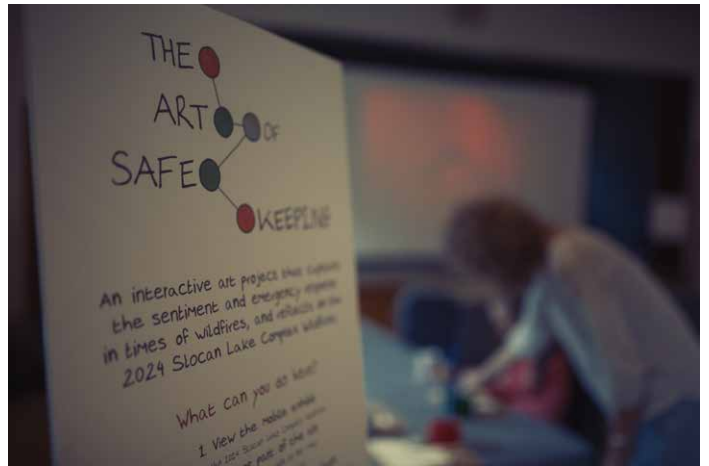
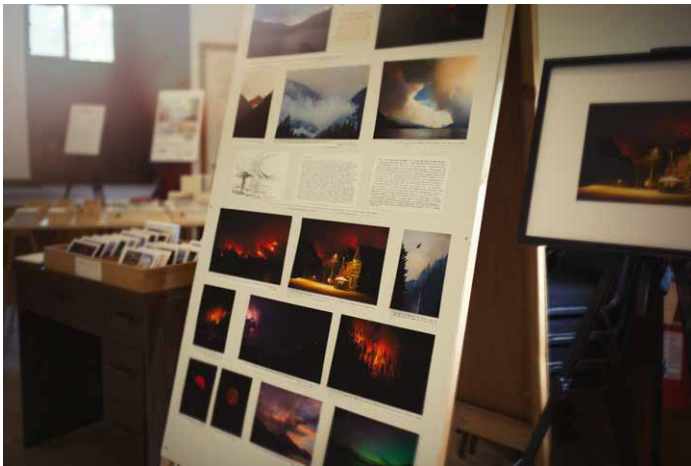
Artist talk for BCWS (and EMCR)



# The Interactive Exhibition of 2025, New Denver



# Appledale The Art of Safe Keeping event by SIFCo



# Slovan Saturday Market 2x and Slovan Resiliency Event



Organization: **Slocan Solutions Society**

Registration # S0058249

**North Slocan Community Library** - Sponsored Organization

Project Title: **North Slocan Community Library**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton

At the Community Library location below Knox Hall (in New Denver). Purchases will be made within the Regional District when possible. Other purchases will be made on-line.

**Project Description:**

The project has three aspects "" to continue to add new volumes to the collection, to enhance our newly acquired shelving through alphabetized labeling system, and to reduce the backlog of no longer needed material.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$730.00	\$600.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,480.00</b>	<b>\$3,350.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
All volunteer hours to operate the Library are donations in kind. We also received some shelving units from the Beaver Valley Library in Fruitvale. And, we were given a collection of DVDs from an out-of-town patron.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$3,350.00</b>	
Area H:	\$350.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
Silverton:	\$1,000.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:**

**1. Importance to the Community:**

The North Slocan Community Library is the major lending library within a 75 km area, providing traditional library services and access to the InterLibrary Loans, as well as technical and electronic services. We are within walking distance for many New Denver residents and have provided delivery of reading material to those who cannot come to us. We do not receive provincial funding and rely on community support and donations. Both patrons of the library and our volunteers will benefit "" through the updated catalogue, efficient shelving and labelling, and a sense of accomplishment for our volunteers.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Slocan Solutions Society is an umbrella organization that supports unregistered groups that have a good idea but are not organized into a society structure. The focus is to promote a shared vision that enhances the cultural, social, economic and environmental development of Slocan communities. This is done through:

- organizing and bringing together stakeholder groups for collaboration, coordination and cooperating on goals
- finding and organizing resources for groups including services, funding, and personnel
- supporting groups by organizing workshops, seminars, and training programs

The New Denver Reading Centre provides lending library services to residents of New Denver, Silverton and Area H North of the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

The North Slocan Community Library is the major lending library within a 75 km area, providing traditional library services and access to the InterLibrary Loans, as well as technical and electronic services. We are within walking distance for many New Denver residents and have provided delivery of reading material to those who cannot come to us. We do not receive provincial funding and rely on community support and donations. Both patrons of the library and our volunteers will benefit through the updated catalogue, efficient shelving and labelling, and a sense of accomplishment for our volunteers.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The main issue the Reading Centre faces is keeping our collection of books up-to-date and of interest to our repeat and long-standing patrons as well attracting new and younger readers.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

We are the easily accessible lending library serving New Denver, Silverton and Area H North. We are a dedicated group of dedicated and long-term volunteers who assist people on site and also deliver books in various formats (standard print, large print graphic, audio) to house bound readers.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The project will be managed by the group of ten Reading Centre volunteers who staff the library 15-20 hours each week.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



Village of New Denver

P.O. Box 40, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0 ♦ office@newdenver.ca

PHONE (250) 358-2316 FAX (250) 358-7251

February 18, 2026

To whom it may concern:

During my time as chair of the Village of New Denver Library Status Committee I have seen over and over again how important our North Slokan Community Library is to the Village of New Denver and the entire North Slokan Valley.

Our library has a long history of serving New Denver and North Slokan residents and deserves our continued support.

The excellent response to the 2024 Community Library Survey serves as a good example of resident recognition and appreciation of the services our library continues to provide.

COLIN MOSS

Village of New Denver Councillor

Village of New Denver Library Status Committee Chair

Organization: **The North Valley Mountain Film Festival Committee**  
Registration #

Project Title: **The North Valley Mountain Film Festival**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton  
Silverton Memorial Hall - 203 Lake Ave. Silverton, BC

**Project Description:**

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival(NVMFF) is an annual one day event that showcases locally produced films and slideshows. Held each winter in Silverton, BC it is attended by approximately 200 people from Nakusp to Winlaw and the communities in between. This year our event will be hosted on March 7th at the Silverton Memorial Hall. The festival is organized by an event coordinator who receives support from a dedicated group of community volunteers.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$3,900.00	\$2,400.00
Capital Purchases	\$400.00	\$400.00
Other Expenses	\$3,199.00	\$2,199.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,499.00</b>	<b>\$4,999.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b> Selection Committee, Video and Sound Technician, Event Set up and take down, Door prizes		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$4,999.00</b>	
Area H:	\$999.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
Silverton:	\$2,000.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: *No*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Held annually in late winter, The NVMFF offers an all ages opportunity to gather with our community for an evening of sharing, laughter and catching up with neighbours. The festival creates a venue for local aspiring film makers and photographers to creatively express their love for this place through the creation of short films and slideshows.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The North Valley Mountain Festival provides a venue for Columbia Basin based media artists to showcase their work. Films and slideshows that are either produced or directed by Columbia Basin residents or ones that showcase Columbia Basin locations or events are given preference during the selection process.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Held annually in late winter, The NVMFF offers an all ages opportunity to gather with our community for an evening of sharing, laughter and catching up with neighbours.  
The festival creates a venue for local aspiring film makers and photographers to creatively express their love for this place through the creation of short films and slideshows.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

There are limited social opportunities available in our community at this time of year. This event builds community and connection. The need is clear as evidenced by the continued community support that we receive. The NVMFF has sold out every year since it was first held 20 years ago.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The event coordinator is one of the founding members of the NVMFF and has been actively involved in organizing the event for the last 20 years. We also have a committed group of volunteers that help at the event and support the coordinator at other times when necessary.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Myles Berney - Project Coordinator - co-founder of NVMFF - actively involved in organizing the NVMFF for 20 years  
Jay Buttle - 13 year member of Organizing Committee, NVMFF AV technician  
Cora Skaien - 6 year member of Organizing Committee and Film Selection Committee, event MC  
Anita Werner - Film Selection Committee and 5 year event volunteer  
Claire Payton - Film Selection Committee and 4 year event volunteer

**7. Minors will be working on this project:** No

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers:** No

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support:** Yes

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Organization: **New Denver and Area Housing Society**  
Registration # S0069987

Project Title: **New Denver Area Home-Share**

**Project will be located in:** Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton

This project will take place in the New Denver and Silverton areas, from Enterprise Creek to Hills.

**Project Description:**

Our project creates home-sharing as an innovative solution to the lack of rental housing in the New Denver/Silverton area. A partnership between the New Denver and Area Housing Society (NDAHS) and HappiPad, a Canadian social enterprise dedicated to addressing Canada's affordable housing crisis, we will connect renters with homeowners offering a room rental in their home. Home hosts and renters will be screened, vetted and matched through the HappiPad platform, with ongoing operational support provided by NDAHS.

HappiPad offers a safe, reliable and easy-to-use web-based platform through which homeowners can list their spare rooms, and which renters can use to find homes. The platform vets both renters and hosts, provides background checks, prepares appropriate legal contracts, and works to ensure compatibility matching. The company has developed a beta network pricing model for nonprofit organizations and is offering this pricing to NDAHS. It supports the operational needs of the platform while NDAHS assumes responsibility for customer and operational support, mediation and conflict resolution.

The project addresses the lack of rental housing and the lack of resources available to address the issue. A 2025 survey showed that 91% of local homeowners support efforts to create housing for local people in the area. The area is small but has a strong community ethos, and this solution delivers housing through the power of community.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$150.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$4,480.00	\$2,580.00
Other Expenses	\$2,120.00	\$1,670.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,750.00</b>	<b>\$4,250.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
NDAHS board members will volunteer all labor for outreach and advertising, including coordinating public forums and events (40 hours annually). NDAHS board members and volunteers will provide mediation and conflict resolution as well as provide assistance to community members having trouble accessing/using the HappiPad website (120 volunteer hours annually). Total cost is estimated at 160 hours x \$20 = \$3,200.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$4,250.00</b>	
<b>New Denver:</b>	\$2,500.00
<b>Silverton:</b>	\$1,750.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** *Yes, we are applying to both New Denver and Silverton.*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Key housing issues in our area are: a lack of available, affordable rental units; an increasing senior population requiring senior-specific housing options; housing for younger community members; and housing for low-income households. Additionally, up to 50% of homes in the area are owned by non-residents and sit vacant much of the year.

Primary beneficiaries are community members who do not own their own home and who struggle to find rental housing. Secondary beneficiaries are senior homeowners and homeowners with a room, suite, or carriage home to rent. These populations will benefit from increased financial and housing stability.

Additionally, given that 43% of tenant respondents in the area are singles without family or partners, a home-share solution can build and strengthen a sense of community. And when hospital, retail, municipal, and school employees can find housing, our entire community benefits.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

To provide and maintain geared-to-income residential accommodation and/or related services in the Slocan Valley and area, to assist in the relief of poverty and to support low and moderate income households in need of affordable, appropriate, adequate or accessible housing.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Key housing issues in our area are: a lack of available, affordable rental units; an increasing senior population requiring senior-specific housing options; housing for younger community members; and housing for low-income households. Additionally, up to 50% of homes in the area are owned by non-residents and sit vacant much of the year.

Primary beneficiaries are community members who do not own their own home and who struggle to find rental housing. Secondary beneficiaries are senior homeowners and homeowners with a room, suite, or carriage home to rent. These populations will benefit from increased financial and housing stability.

Additionally, given that 43% of tenant respondents in the area are singles without family or partners, a home-share solution can build and strengthen a sense of community. And when hospital, retail, municipal, and school employees can find housing, our entire community benefits.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

This project will address the lack of available housing in the area. Newcomers to our communities, including Village of New Denver staff, teachers and hospital staff, cannot find appropriate rentals. The need for housing, identified in the 2016, 2021 and 2025 Village Housing Needs Reports, was further supported by a summer 2025 NDAHS survey of homeowners and tenants in the New Denver area that captured the input of approximately 30% of area households.

It revealed an aging homeowner population with about 10% looking to downsize, and another 19% interested in downsizing due to upkeep and health. The same survey showed 30% of tenant respondents, the majority single, concerned about their ability to remain in the area due to uncertainty around their rental situation.

Additionally, our experience with The Osprey has demonstrated a greater demand for one-bedroom and studio units than larger ones.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The NDAHS has been working on housing issues in the area since 2018 and has a dedicated working board and membership interested in developing feasible housing strategies. In December 2024, the NDAHS completed the Osprey, a 10-unit affordable housing complex with studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments. The project provided much needed housing and offered NDAHS board members a concrete understanding of the requirements and challenges in creating housing in the community.

Our Osprey experience, coupled with our drive to see every community member in safe, affordable housing qualifies us to lead this project. HappiPad has generated nearly 3,000 home-sharing contracts across Canada, and their experience adds credibility to the "boots on the ground" approach of the NDAHS board. NDAHS board members are trusted community members. Thus, while HappiPad lends its expertise in home-sharing, the collaboration with NDAHS can alleviate the hesitation of some homeowners with rooms/ units to rent.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The NDAHS board will collaborate with HappiPad to implement this project. HappiPad's experience in home-sharing adds credibility to the "boots on the ground" approach of the NDAHS board. NDAHS board members are trusted community members. Thus while HappiPad lends its expertise in home-sharing, the collaboration with NDAHS can alleviate the hesitation of some homeowners with rooms or units to rent. HappiPad has developed a beta network pricing model for nonprofit organizations that supports the operational needs of the platform while the NDAHS Board assumes responsibility for customer and operational support, mediation and conflict resolution.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



### **1. Date Happipad Started**

Happipad began operations in 2017 as a Canadian social enterprise focused on home-sharing and affordable housing, connecting hosts with compatible renters across the country.

### **2. Number of Home Shares Facilitated (BC & Nationwide)**

The platform has generated nearly 3,000 home-sharing contracts across Canada, reflecting broader engagement and usage beyond completed matches.

### **3. Number of Collaborative Partners (BC & Relevant Communities)**

Happipad works with a growing network of partners across British Columbia and Canada to support community-based housing initiatives. Notable partnerships include:

- **Nova Scotia:** Partnerships through the Nova Scotia Home Share Program, working with local community organizations to support affordable housing and home-sharing models.
- **Home Share Drumheller:** A structured home-sharing initiative supported by Community Futures Big Country, Travel Drumheller, the Drumheller & District Chamber of Commerce, and the Town of Drumheller.
- **Town of Okotoks, Alberta:** A municipal partnership aligned with the town's housing strategy to expand affordable home-sharing options.
- **Canada HomeShare (powered by Happipad):** Community-based nonprofit and municipal partners across multiple regions, including British Columbia.
- **SE Health:** A healthcare partnership supporting housing access for staff and students across Ontario.
- **In BC specifically,** Happipad has worked with several local councils, nonprofits, and housing advocates to deliver community home-sharing (e.g., seniors outreach and student housing partnerships in Kelowna & Revelstoke).

Happipad collaborated with multiple municipal and community partners across BC and Canada to advance home-sharing solutions.

### **4. Description / Reasoning Behind the Development of Network Pricing (\$2,500)**

Happipad's network pricing is designed to support the sustainability of the platform while maintaining affordability and high-quality service delivery. Pricing reflects the true cost of developing and operating the solution, including software development and engineering, overhead and insurance, dedicated support staff, and years of research and development. To date, Happipad has invested over \$1 million in building the framework, technology, and operational model.

Our network pricing model was developed to sustainably support the operational needs of Happipad platform while continuing to deliver high-quality service and customer care. Because Happipad is a social enterprise focused on housing affordability, the pricing structure serves several key purposes, including:

# happipad

- **Operational sustainability:** A modest service fee ensures we can maintain and improve the platform, keep systems secure and up to date, and manage daily functions such as background checks, compatibility matching, payment processing, and rental documentation.
- **Customer care & support:** Fees directly support our dedicated support teams who assist both hosts and renters through onboarding, conflict resolution, and ongoing account support—ensuring matches are safe, successful, and aligned with expectations.

Our standard program pricing is \$7,500 per year, which is comparable to, and often more affordable than, industry and enterprise alternatives. Also, unlike many free platforms in the market, Happipad does not sell or monetize user data; maintaining a sustainable pricing model allows us to protect privacy while continuing to deliver reliable, community-focused services.



# Housing In the New Denver And Silverton Area

Homeowner and Tenant Responses to a  
Community Survey

February 2026

## **Section I: Executive Summary**

The New Denver and Area Housing Society (NDAHS) seeks to create affordable housing opportunities for residents living along eastern shores of Slocan Lake from Enterprise Creek to Hills. The society was created in 2018 to address the lack of affordable, accessible housing for residents in the New Denver and Silverton area.

In spring 2025, the society hired a consultant to explore the feasibility of several innovative strategies to address the lack of sufficient housing in the area. In an effort to solicit homeowner and tenant input and to gauge community interest, the board requested a survey be conducted. This survey was made available to all residences in the area, with separate surveys completed by homeowners and tenants. The primary goal of the community survey was to gather homeowner and tenant input into housing strategies and to capture local perspectives on housing issues and solutions.

Survey questions focused on demographics, homeowner or renter status, willingness to explore diverse housing solutions, and interest in and support for housing initiatives in the community.

Results show the following among respondents:

1. Community members care about housing and recognize the need for affordable and accessible housing solutions;
2. Homeowners are typically older than renters and have lived in the community for a longer time;
3. Tenants are generally satisfied with their rentals;
4. Tenants face uncertainty about their housing situation for various reasons including rental homes being sold, lack of services in the area, and unaffordable rents;
5. Most homeowners, while concerned about housing, do not see themselves as part of the solution; and
6. Seasonal homeowners with secondary homes in the area are generally not interested in exploring avenues to rent out their secondary homes during periods in which they are not living in them.

Despite no conclusive respondent support for any of the proposed strategies, the survey revealed some promising results:

1. Nearly 40% of homeowners with secondary homes indicated that they would be more likely to rent to tenants if tenant rental insurance were required;
2. Thirty percent (30%) of homeowners stated that they would consider building an accessory/carriage home to provide rental housing for community members if their property could accommodate it;

3. More than 10% of homeowners are willing to rent out an extra room in their house or consider doing so.
4. Half of tenants are either willing or interested in learning more about flexible lease agreements.

The survey captured a snapshot of community residents and provided a better understanding of the attitudes of renters and homeowners in the area. This includes owners of secondary homes, both those living in the area fulltime and those visiting seasonally, as well as the challenges facing tenants.

Organization: **W.E. Graham Community Service Society**

Registration # 886669142RR0001

Project Title: **Seniors Driver Support Program**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan Predominately Slocan South to Nelson, Castlegar, and Trail. When there is a need in New Denver or Silverton, especially for medical appointment transport, the program will do its best to accommodate those seniors based on resources available at the time.

**Project Description:**

The Seniors Driver Support Program will expand the Community Connector program's ability to address a critical gap facing seniors in the Slocan Valley: lack of reliable transportation. Many seniors no longer drive, live in rural or remote areas, or face mobility and health challenges that make accessing food and medical care difficult.

This project will establish a driver service that provides twice monthly grocery delivery and transportation to medical appointments in Nelson, Castlegar and Trail for seniors. Offering a door-to-door service in our rural Valley, this will ensure access to nutritious food and essential health services, the project will support seniors' physical, mental, and emotional well-being, while reducing stress, isolation, and missed appointments.

The service will be coordinated through the Community Connector program, using a Social Prescribing approach. Our Community Connector will identify seniors in need through ongoing relationships, referrals, and outreach, and will help schedule rides or grocery deliveries based on individual circumstances. Drivers may include staff, contracted drivers, or trained volunteers, depending on availability and need.

Short-term impacts include improved access to food and health care, reduced isolation, and increased peace of mind for seniors and their families. By removing transportation barriers, and offering door-to-door help, the project helps seniors remain independent, connected, and supported within their communities.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00
Contract Fees	\$8,700.00	\$5,500.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,550.00</b>	<b>\$10,350.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$3,200.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Board governance and oversight time supporting the program		
Volunteer hours contributed by board members and program helpers		
Office and meeting space for program coordination and meetings		
Pro bono professional services, including legal support		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$10,350.00</b>	
Area H:	\$6,000.00
Slocan:	\$3,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$900.00</b>
Silverton:	\$450.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: *Silverton, New Denver, Slocan, RDCK Area H.*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project is vital for Slocan Valley seniors because existing bus services and taxi fares do not meet their needs. Many seniors live rurally, have limited mobility, or no longer drive, making it difficult to access groceries, medical care, and essential services. Without reliable transportation, they face missed appointments, food insecurity, isolation, and safety risks-especially in winter conditions or extreme heat. Many struggle to carry heavy groceries or walk long distances from bus stops, leading some to go without necessities.

The primary beneficiaries are seniors aged 65+ supported through the Community Connector program, particularly those who are isolated, on fixed incomes, or managing health challenges. Families and caregivers also benefit from knowing their loved ones have safe, dependable access to food and care.

This need was identified through ongoing conversations with seniors, staff observations, and partner feedback.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

WE Graham Community Service Society provides programs and services to residents of the rural Slocan Valley. Where possible, WEGCSS also refers people to the services of other local organizations.

In creative and ongoing partnerships with regional services and organizations, we provide inclusive and accessible opportunities in support of a healthy, vibrant and sustainable community. We strive to remain responsive to the current needs of Slocan Valley residents and to enhance the quality of life for all.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project is vital for Slocan Valley seniors because existing bus services and taxi fares do not meet their needs. Many seniors live rurally, have limited mobility, or no longer drive, making it difficult to access groceries, medical care, and essential services. Without reliable transportation, they face missed appointments, food insecurity, isolation, and safety risks-especially in winter conditions or extreme heat. Many struggle to carry heavy groceries or walk long distances from bus stops, leading some to go without necessities.

The primary beneficiaries are seniors aged 65+ supported through the Community Connector program, particularly those who are isolated, on fixed incomes, or managing health challenges. Families and caregivers also benefit from knowing their loved ones have safe, dependable access to food and care.

This need was identified through ongoing conversations with seniors, staff observations, and partner feedback.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Seniors in the Slocan Valley face significant transportation barriers that limit access to groceries, medical appointments, and community services. Many no longer drive, live in rural areas with long driveways, or have limited transit options. Mobility, health, and financial challenges further increase isolation and risk. Some seniors hitchhike to reach essential services, then wait for hours due to mismatched bus schedules; one even slept on a bus bench after missing a return trip. Many lack cell phones or family support and struggle to navigate complex transit and medical systems.

These issues were identified through ongoing one-on-one support and outreach in our Community Connector program. Transportation consistently emerges as the primary barrier to independence and well-being, reinforced by partner feedback and missed appointments.

This project addresses a clear gap by providing reliable transportation and grocery delivery, improving seniors' health, dignity, safety, and connection to community.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

WEGCSS has been serving the Slocan Valley since 1997 and has a long history of supporting seniors through trusted, community-based programs. WEGCSS Seniors' Services are well established and already work closely with seniors to address isolation, system navigation, and barriers to well-being.

WEGCSS has built strong relationships with seniors, families, local health providers, community organizations, and businesses. These connections allow staff to identify needs early and respond in ways that are practical and compassionate. The organization also has experience coordinating volunteers, managing grants, and tracking services and outcomes to meet funder requirements.

This project builds on existing relationships, infrastructure, and staff expertise. The project will use the two electric vehicles procured through a CBT grant to transport seniors. With proven systems in place and deep community trust, WEGCSS has both the capacity and experience needed to deliver this project effectively and ensure seniors receive safe, reliable transportation and grocery support.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The Community Connector, Jenny Mintenko  
The Seniors Service Manager, Miryam Bishop

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



**To Whom It May Concern,**

On behalf of the Nav-CARE Program, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the W.E. Graham Community Service Society's Senior Driver Support Program.

Through our work with older adults in the Slocan Valley who are living with serious illness, mobility limitations, and increasing vulnerability, we consistently observe transportation as one of the most significant and urgent barriers to health and well-being. Many seniors no longer drive, reside in rural or remote areas, and have limited access to safe and reliable transit options. As a result, they frequently miss medical appointments, face challenges accessing nutritious food, and experience considerable stress in attempting to coordinate transportation.

We have witnessed firsthand the serious consequences of these transportation gaps, including extended waits in town due to infrequent bus schedules, unsafe highway drop-offs, and, in some cases, overnight stays when return transportation is unavailable. These circumstances compromise not only physical health, but also personal safety and dignity.

The proposed Senior Driver Support Program will address this critical service gap by providing dependable, door-to-door transportation to medical appointments, as well as twice-monthly grocery delivery. This practical and compassionate support will enable seniors to maintain independence, reduce social isolation, and improve overall quality of life.

We strongly endorse this application and are confident that the Senior Driver Support Program will have a meaningful and lasting impact on seniors throughout the Slocan Valley.

Sincerely,

Sabina Schindel  
Slocan Valley Coordinator  
Nav-CARE Program/Kootenay Social Support Society  
slocan@ksss.ca  
westkootenaynavcare.org  
778.988.6685

Organization: **Red Mountain Road and Enterprise Creek Emergency Preparedness Society (REEPS)**

Registration # S0082292

Project Title: **Community Preparedness Training Initiative**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan

The project will take place within the Red Mountain Road and Enterprise Creek areas of Electoral Area H, with training and public events hosted in accessible community locations across the Slocan Valley, including Silverton, New Denver, and Slocan. Mapping fieldwork will occur along local road networks and surrounding rural areas relevant to evacuation routes and emergency access. Public events will be held in community halls or shared spaces suitable for workshops and training delivery.

**Project Description:**

This project is a coordinated Community Preparedness, Training and Recovery Initiatives designed to strengthen emergency response capacity in the Slocan Valley. The project will deliver structured training and practice opportunities for community volunteers, alongside public education events and updated emergency mapping resources.

Planned activities include S-100/S-185 renewal training (up to 20 participants), certified First Aid training (10 participants), chainsaw safety training, danger tree awareness training, radio communications training, and a facilitated full-day emergency practice exercise. These activities will build practical, safety-focused skills relevant to wildfire response, evacuation support, and rural emergency scenarios.

The project will also deliver three public education events focused on FireSmart awareness, emergency communications and evacuation preparedness, and post-event recovery and landscape resilience. In parallel, REEPS will update critical mapping datasets through field validation sessions and maintain shared emergency mapping resources.

Training will be delivered through qualified instructors, supported by volunteer coordination and partnerships with local preparedness stakeholders. The initiative focuses on practical, hands-on learning and durable preparedness systems that remain in place beyond the project period.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Contract Fees	\$14,300.00	\$14,300.00
Capital Purchases	\$3,200.00	\$700.00
Other Expenses	\$5,500.00	\$500.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$24,500.00</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$7,500.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Estimated value: \$5,000+ in volunteer contributions - volunteer coordination hours, board governance time, community venue support, volunteer fieldwork hours for mapping		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$17,000.00</b>	
Area H:	\$8,000.00
Slocan:	\$2,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
Silverton:	\$4,000.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:**

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project strengthens local safety and resilience in a region vulnerable to wildfire and emergency isolation. By increasing trained volunteer capacity and improving preparedness systems, the community becomes better equipped to support itself during emergencies.

Direct beneficiaries include up to 20 trainees per training session, 10 certified first aid participants, and residents attending public education events. Indirectly, all residents benefit from stronger communication readiness, improved mapping accuracy, and enhanced response coordination. These trainees can come from Area H, Silverton, New Denver, Slocan or surrounding areas like Rosebery, Hills and Sandon.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility in rural communities. This initiative ensures that skills, knowledge, and coordination systems remain active and current.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Red Mountain Road & Enterprise Creek Emergency Preparedness Society (REEPS) is a resident-led, volunteer-based society dedicated to strengthening emergency preparedness, response readiness, and long-term recovery capacity within the Red Mountain Road and Enterprise Creek areas of the Slocan Valley. REEPS works to empower local residents through training, coordination systems, community mapping, and public education initiatives that improve safety, resilience, and neighbour-to-neighbour support during emergencies.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project strengthens local safety and resilience in a region vulnerable to wildfire and emergency isolation. By increasing trained volunteer capacity and improving preparedness systems, the community becomes better equipped to support itself during emergencies.

Direct beneficiaries include up to 20 trainees per training session, 10 certified first aid participants, and residents attending public education events. Indirectly, all residents benefit from stronger communication readiness, improved mapping accuracy, and enhanced response coordination. These trainees can come from Area H, Silverton, New Denver, Slocan or surrounding areas like Rosebery, Hills and Sandon.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility in rural communities. This initiative ensures that skills, knowledge, and coordination systems remain active and current.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The Slocan Valley is a rural, wildfire-prone region with limited immediate emergency response resources. Increasing wildfire intensity, road access constraints, and communication gaps during past events highlight the need for stronger local preparedness capacity.

Community discussions and previous wildfire seasons have identified the need for renewed certifications, improved radio communications, first aid capacity, and updated emergency mapping. There is strong volunteer interest and community momentum to expand structured preparedness activities.

This project responds to these identified needs by increasing trained volunteer capacity, strengthening communication systems, improving hazard awareness, and ensuring that emergency mapping information remains accurate and accessible.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

REEPS is a locally established, volunteer-led organization focused specifically on emergency preparedness and recovery within the Red Mountain Road and Enterprise Creek communities. The society has already organized preparedness workshops, mapping initiatives, and community coordination activities and training.

REEPS understands local geography, road networks, and community dynamics, as REEPS is a resident-led group that lives in the Red Mountain Road and Enterprise Creek areas. The board has demonstrated capacity to coordinate

volunteers, manage funding responsibly, and deliver community initiatives. The administrator within the project ensures strong coordination and reporting capacity.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The project will be implemented by REEPS board members and volunteers. Qualified wildfire, safety, first aid, and communications instructors will deliver training sessions. Community volunteers will participate in training and mapping fieldwork. REEPS will collaborate with local fire departments and FireSmart representatives where appropriate. REEPS leadership will coordinate scheduling, logistics, communications, reporting, and financial accountability.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



## Letter of Support



To whom it may concern,

On behalf of **Loki Tree and Forest Service**, I am pleased to offer this letter in support of **REEPS** and its work strengthening community emergency preparedness.

In a time when communities face increasing risks, including severe weather and wildfires, REEPS provides an essential local service: practical preparedness education, coordination, and support that helps residents be ready before an emergency occurs. This work is not only important; it is needed.

REEPS is particularly well-suited to serve our community. Their local knowledge, established relationships, and trusted presence make them an effective and credible organization to lead preparedness efforts here. The benefits of their work are tangible: greater public awareness, stronger neighbourhood resilience, and a more coordinated local response when emergencies arise.

We are grateful for REEPS' leadership and encourage continued support for their mission. Please feel free to contact me if further information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

**Jake Roos**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Roos".

**Owner,**

**Loki Tree and Forest Service**

[Jake@lokitree.com](mailto:Jake@lokitree.com)



**SIFCo**

## **Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative**

Box 189, Winlaw, BC V0G2J0

250-226-7012

[office@sifco.ca](mailto:office@sifco.ca) [www.sifco.ca](http://www.sifco.ca)

February 16, 2026

To: ReDi Grants selection committee

Re: REEPS (Red Mountain Road & Enterprise Creek Emergency Preparedness Society) application for ReDi Grants

SIFCo is a Community Forest Cooperative with tenure in the REEPS jurisdiction, as well as in the south Slocan Valley. We are also stewards of the SIFCo Resiliency Center located in Appledale which provides community resources in preparation for (and during) local emergencies.

The wildfires of 2024 (The Slocan Complex Wildfires) burned a good percentage of the forests in the Red Mtn. Rd. and Enterprise Creek area, so SIFCo is very interested in any community efforts that aim to improve fire and emergency responses in this area. In 2025 SIFCo donated money to REEPS efforts and is also lending them fire-fighting equipment which will be situated in a central location near Enterprise Creek to increase local capacity during such events. In response to a request from REEPS and the Red Mtn. Residents Association, we will also be making a presentation on post-fire rehabilitation in order to incorporate resident feedback and information in the proposed SIFCo recovery plan which is funded by the Province.

We have developed a good working relationship with REEPS and support their efforts to proactively improve relationships with (and between) government agencies and to gather pertinent information (i.e. water resource mapping with Living Lakes Canada) that will make fire and emergency response more efficient and effective. We also support their goal to provide education and training to increase the resiliency and safety of the community. REEPS work benefits greatly social interconnectedness and ultimately increases local capacity, which is critical in these uncertain times.

Yours truly,

Stephan Martineau  
Manager  
SIFCo



**From:** RMR Secretary redmountainrdassociation@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Letter of support for REEPS  
**Date:** February 17, 2026 at 13:24  
**To:** Gordon Bone gordon.bone@gmail.com

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Dear REEPS team,

On behalf of Red Mountain Residents Association (RMRA), please accept this letter as a sincere expression of support for REEPS and the important work you do to strengthen emergency preparedness in our rural community.

In places like ours, we know that help can be delayed by distance, weather, and limited local resources. REEPS offers practical, grassroots leadership, helping neighbours become more informed, more equipped, and more connected before an emergency happens. That kind of readiness doesn't reduce just risk; it builds confidence and resilience across the whole community.

We are grateful for REEPS' commitment to education, planning, and community engagement. We believe your efforts make a meaningful difference for families, seniors, and vulnerable residents throughout our region. Please know that you have our encouragement as you continue to do this vital work.

With appreciation,

Sincerely,

Diane Morency  
President, Red Mountain Residents Association



Organization: **Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital & Health Foundation Society**  
Registration # 89312 3034 RR0001

Project Title: **Mental Health Matters Campaign**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area A, RDCK Area B, RDCK Area C, RDCK Area D, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area G, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, RDCK Area K, City of Nelson, Town of Creston, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Salmo, Planning commenced January 2026 at the KBRH Health Foundation/KBRH including securing further approvals and equipment quotes, and the team continues grant writing and broad reaching fundraising with major donors. Foundation staff have been coordinating with the mental health leadership team and capital projects team to prioritize allocation of campaign revenue from year one, to ensure facility upgrades can begin this year. All procurement involves consultation with KBRH leadership and aligns with required processes. Equipment purchased and the renovations will benefit the Daly Pavilion, Harbour House, and the outdoor space behind the Daly Pavilion which will serve Pediatric patients exclusively.

**Project Description:**

Mental Health Matters is a dedicated initiative to transform mental health services at Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital (KBRH) and its associated facilities, aiming to significantly enhance patient care, ensure safety, and support community reintegration.

Launched in 2025, this two-year campaign remains a critical need for the region to support rural mental health patients and their loved ones. Mental healthcare services are under pressure to address the complex and chronic mental health conditions that impact both individuals and communities across the Kootenay Boundary region. The facility upgrades for the Daly Pavilion, the acute psychiatric unit, are underway with the previous year's generous support for phase 1 urgent needs. Fundraising is continuing for further improvements in the Daly Pavilion, as well as, Harbour House's long term facility site. This year will also begin essential work for the Pediatric patients by securing the funding to create a safe, outdoor space at KBRH.

These enhancements will continue to create safer, more therapeutic spaces, support the well-being of healthcare workers, and help reduce stigma around mental health treatment. By improving these facilities, we will provide a more dignified and empowering experience for patients, families, and caregivers, ultimately contributing to a stronger, healthier community.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$2,000,000.00	\$41,000.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$41,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$1,959,000.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
he KBRH Health Foundation will provide the in-kind contribution of staff time as follows: Presentations to municipalities (50 hours)= \$1,750.00 Time spent on grant application (10 hours)= \$500.00 Time spent with IH on administration and ordering process (15 hours)= \$525.00		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$41,000.00	
Area A:	\$500.00
Area B:	\$500.00
Area C:	\$500.00
Area D/Kaslo:	\$500.00
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$500.00
Area E:	\$3,000.00
Area F:	\$3,500.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$2,000.00
Area H:	\$500.00
Area I:	\$1,500.00
Area J:	\$10,000.00
Area K-Arrow Park:	\$500.00
Area K-Burton:	\$500.00
Area K-Fauquier:	\$500.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$500.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$500.00
Slocan:	\$500.00
Castlegar:	\$6,000.00
Creston:	\$2,000.00
Nelson:	\$6,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Silverton:	\$500.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** *The Foundation will apply for the support of all the municipalities and rural areas of the RDCKB.*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

A more therapeutic environment assists to stabilize patients emotionally and promote relaxation. These elements are particularly important for patients with heightened sensitivities, such as those with anxiety or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, where external stimuli can trigger distress.

Children and adolescents experiencing mental health issues will benefit from a dedicated therapeutic outdoor area that is safe, engaging, and comforting. Designing spaces that take into account the unique needs of young patients as well as their families will aid in their recovery by providing outlets for expression, therapy, and recreation.

This campaign also provides targeted support to vulnerable populations, including those who may experience homelessness. Harbour House works closely with individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, delivering comprehensive care that helps them regain stability, access critical resources, and reintegrate into the community.

These enhancements prioritize compassion, dignity, and patient-focused care, benefiting patients, their families and our communities.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital & Health Foundation (KBRH Health Foundation) is a trusted partner in enhancing the quality of healthcare for our region. Since 1988, the KBRH Health Foundation (Foundation), formerly the Trail Regional Hospital Foundation, has raised over \$29.7 million to advance healthcare in the Kootenay

Boundary. The Foundation's revenue is generated through gifts from donors. A volunteer Board of Directors governs the Foundation.

Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital (KBRH) has 87 acute care beds, 125 long-term care beds, and responds to the healthcare needs of 88,000 residents. KBRH offers specialist services, core medical services, and advanced diagnostic services to the residents of its 29,000 sq. km area of accountability.

Residents of rural areas are often faced with significant travel when facing an acute medical emergency. Kelowna General Hospital is 315 km away, through two mountain passes that are often hazardous due to snow in the winter. It is essential that KBRH has the equipment and services needed to support the rural and remote populations it serves year-round. Enhancements at KBRH ensure that rural patients can stay close to home and their loved ones during their healthcare journey.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

A more therapeutic environment assists to stabilize patients emotionally and promote relaxation. These elements are particularly important for patients with heightened sensitivities, such as those with anxiety or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, where external stimuli can trigger distress.

Children and adolescents experiencing mental health issues will benefit from a dedicated therapeutic outdoor area that is safe, engaging, and comforting. Designing spaces that take into account the unique needs of young patients as well as their families will aid in their recovery by providing outlets for expression, therapy, and recreation.

This campaign also provides targeted support to vulnerable populations, including those who may experience homelessness. Harbour House works closely with individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, delivering comprehensive care that helps them regain stability, access critical resources, and reintegrate into the community.

These enhancements prioritize compassion, dignity, and patient-focused care, benefiting patients, their families and our communities.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The Daly Pavilion, Harbour House, and Pediatric Unit provide comprehensive care, addressing a wide range of mental health conditions, including Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Anxiety, Suicidal Ideation, and Borderline Personality. The Daly Pavilion focuses on acute crisis stabilization for adults, Harbour House offers longer-term rehabilitation for adults working toward community reintegration, and the Pediatric Outdoor Space offers a secure area for children and youth in crisis, with recreational therapy to support healing.

Patient-Centred Care: Improve the environment to send a strong message to patients: their well-being matters, and they are valued members of our community.

Reducing Stigma: Foster greater understanding and acceptance of mental health challenges, encouraging more people to seek help when they need it.

Supporting Vulnerable Populations: Work closely with individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, to deliver comprehensive care that helps them regain stability, access critical resources, and reintegrate into the community.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

KBRH is the regional hospital for the Kootenay Boundary and has a proven track record of delivering quality patient care. The Foundation's mandate is to purchase priority medical equipment to improve patient care. Funding

shortfalls continue due to budget constraints and competing demands to fund priority equipment across all sites in the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District and Interior Health.

Hospital Foundations play a critical role in supplementing equipment purchases, supporting facility renovations, and assisting with patient care programming costs so that our community members can receive the best healthcare possible. This campaign launched in 2025 with donations over \$900,000 received in the first year. We remain committed to raising the full \$2 million to ensure all priority equipment is on site as soon as possible and the facilities can be upgraded as intended.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The Directors and Managers of Clinical Operations for the Daly Pavilion, Harbour House, and the Pediatric Unit will work with the KBRH Health Foundation to purchase the equipment once funding is secured. KBRH Plant Services and the Project team will assist with the coordination and planning for any structural enhancements.

The Foundation team includes long term staff with over 25 years fundraising and other applicable experience, combined.

The KBRH staff working on this Project are all licenced and accredited by their respective governing agencies.

Interior Health's KBRH Administration and the KBRH Health Foundation's Board of Directors have approved this Project.

**7. Minors will be working on this project:** No

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers:** No

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support:** Yes

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

### **City of Nelson Addendum to CBT-ReDi Grant Application 2026: Mental Health Matters Campaign**

The Mental Health Matters Campaign is a region-wide initiative that strengthens mental health care services at KBRH, ensuring individuals of all ages can access critical treatment, resources, and support closer to home. The Daly Pavilion at KBRH serves as the regional service hub for acute psychiatric care for adults aged 18 and older throughout the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District Area. Investments in mental health care not only improve patient outcomes but also help foster resilient communities by reducing barriers to access, minimizing the need for travel, and enhancing local healthcare infrastructure. The Mental Health Matters Campaign will positively impact Nelson's Path to Sustainability Strategy Goals and Objectives in the priority areas of: Prosperity and Resiliency, and the Focus Areas of Healthy Living & Social Well-Being and Economy.

The majority of funding for the Mental Health Matters Campaign will be derived from donors within the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, including support from residents (individuals and families), auxiliaries, corporations, and municipalities throughout Trail, Warfield, Rossland, the Beaver Valley and the Electoral Areas A & B. Funding has been requested from the RDKB CBT-ReDi program totalling \$44,000. For proportional funding requests within the RDCK, please see the full CBT-ReDi submission documents. Every area/municipality in the RDKB and RDCK has been asked for funding support through the ReDi Grant process.

The Mental Health Matters Campaign has completed its first year of fundraising. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we're already halfway to our \$2 million Mental Health Matters Campaign goal. Increasing the capacity of KBRH to provide mental health care for the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District Region remains a critical need to support rural mental health patients and their loved ones.

#### **Prosperity & Resiliency:**

- The Mental Health Matters Campaign strengthens existing healthcare infrastructure and personnel, ensuring Nelson residents have access to essential mental health services. Interior Health employs over 600 healthcare professionals in the region, and this initiative directly supports their ability to provide high-quality care. The Daly Pavilion at KBRH serves as the regional hub for acute psychiatric care for adults aged 18 and older, offering critical services to individuals from Nelson and across the Kootenay Boundary region.
- Our hospitals (KBRH and KLH) play an important leadership role in maintaining regional hospital services. This role includes providing our citizens with the best healthcare possible and thus investment in this existing healthcare model is imperative. Our citizens expect a high level of healthcare provision, and it is our responsibility to facilitate an improved level of health care whenever possible, which will benefit all residents across the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District.
- Economic security and meaningful employment are benefits that can be derived from improvements in our regional healthcare system. As our facilities are improved, through capital projects and expansion of services, the importance of our healthcare system when considering regional referral services also increases.

- Enhancing mental health services strengthens patient care and community well-being while also supporting economic security. Investing in existing services helps retain healthcare professionals and ensures continued access to high-quality care for residents.
- The medical upgrades and equipment purchases requested in this grant will provide our Mental Health Care Teams with the critical tools necessary to continue their excellent work providing:
  - **Counseling Services:** Offering specialty services such as seniors' mental health, early psychosis intervention, and eating disorder programs.
  - **Support Programs:** Intensive case management, treatment, support and recovery services, a volunteer program, and the drop-in Clubhouse program.
  - **Culturally Safe Support:** Access to an Aboriginal Patient Navigator, ensuring culturally safe, inclusive, and personalized care for Indigenous patients.

Please see the grant application itself for full details on the Mental Health Matters Campaign.

**Healthy Living & Social Well-Being and Local Economy:**

- Supporting our healthcare system and improving our access to advanced healthcare strengthens our social and economic systems and will benefit the entire West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District during challenging times.
- Maintaining our current hospital system provides stable employment opportunities for many citizens and is an important economic driver for our communities.
- During times of mental health treatment and crisis, it is crucial for our citizens to access care locally, ensuring they receive a comprehensive array of services within their communities. The benefits of local care include:
  - Stronger resilience and reintegration into daily life by remaining close to home, where patients can receive continuous support from their families and community.
  - Preservation of intergenerational connections, which provide emotional strength and stability throughout recovery.
  - Reduced stress on employment and financial stability, as patients can avoid taking extended leaves of absence from work by receiving treatment locally, preventing disruptions to their livelihood.
  - Lowered costs associated with travel, eliminating the need for long-distance referrals, accommodations, and meals, which can place additional strain on families already facing mental health challenges.

We **thank you** for considering a 2026 contribution for the Mental Health Matters Campaign through the RDCK CBT-ReDi Program. Your support will enhance mental health care across our region and maintain good health for all those who choose to live and work in the City of Nelson and surrounding areas.

Sincerely,



Lisa Pasin  
Executive Director, KBRH Health Foundation

Friday January 31, 2025

KBRH Health Foundation  
Attn.: Lisa Pasin  
1200 Hospital Bench  
Trail, BC V1R 4M1

Dear Lisa and KBRH Health Foundation Team,

I am writing to request partnership and funding support to improve Mental Health Services provided by the Daly Pavilion (KBRH) and Harbour House.

Our appeal is to the KBRH Health Foundation to support efforts to enhance the patient experience and safety at the Daly Pavilion, as well as Harbour House, and better reflect recovery-oriented principles in delivering patient care.

These enhancements for patient care at the Daly Pavilion are designed to enrich recovery in an environment that is trauma-informed and better contributes to cultural safety and reflect our diverse patient needs. These enhancements will support quality patient care and ensure that patients experience the support they need during this most difficult time such as creating inviting and safe patient areas, improvements to increase opportunities for group programming that focus on life skills, creating space for family visits and expanding access to outdoor space.

The enhancements for the Daly Pavilion will also address improvements to safety for patients, staff and our Psychiatrists/Physicians such as installation of improved patient room doors, specifically designed weighted furniture for the acute care environment and improved visual coverage of the unit.

The KBRH Health Foundation Mental Health Matters Campaign will also add to the client experience and recovery at Harbour House by providing comfort and support necessary for long-term recovery from mental illness. This will include specifically designed furniture to increase safety and comfort, up-dating of the residence to better reflect client needs, increasing access for group programming by enhancing physical space and provision of supplies that will focus on improving life-skills and support community integration.

With thanks and appreciation for your consideration-

Sincerely,



Karen Leman  
Clinical Operations Director-KB MHSU, Allied Health and Arrow Lakes

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



**Interior Health**

**Health and well-being for all**

Quality | Integrity | Compassion | Safety

February 6, 2025

KBRH Health Foundation  
Attn.: Lisa Pasin  
1200 Hospital Bench  
Trail, BC V1R 4M1

Dear Lisa and KBRH Health Foundation Team,

I am writing to request partnership and funding support to improve the Pediatric Outdoor Space located outside of the Daly Pavilion at KBRH.

This space was originally constructed through funding graciously provided by your Foundation. We humbly request additional financial support to further optimize this area for the pediatric psychiatric patients we serve.

This space allows these patients to spend time off the pediatric unit in a safe environment, supporting de-escalation of behaviours and providing opportunities to experience the healing properties of nature—sunshine, fresh air, outdoor activities and unrestricted movement.

We are hoping that the KBRH Health Foundation will consider providing funds that will enable completion of the ceiling in the existing covered area, including the addition of soffit and lighting. It will allow for placement of film on windows for added security and privacy. Additional funding will also support the purchase of safe and functional outdoor furniture, purchase of recreation activities and supplies, and finally a camera system for improved safety for all.

With thanks and appreciation for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Dutchak  
Clinical Operations Director-Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital

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

## Stories of Resilience from the Daly Pavilion Nursing Team

### **Jack's Story: From the Streets to Stability**

When Jack was admitted to our inpatient psychiatric unit, he was living on the streets and deep in the grips of untreated schizophrenia. He hadn't seen a doctor in nearly a decade and was struggling with severe psychosis. The voices he heard made everyday survival terrifying. He arrived exhausted, malnourished, and distrustful of everyone.

From day one, our team provided more than just psychiatric stabilization — Jack received a full medical assessment from our on-site mental health and substance use general practitioner, helping us address his physical health concerns alongside his mental illness. Our staff helped Jack stabilize on medication, connected with him through daily therapeutic interactions, and slowly earned his trust in a way that honored his autonomy and dignity.

In the weeks that followed, Jack also worked with social workers to apply for identification and basic income support. By the time he was ready for discharge, we had partnered with a housing agency to secure a safe, supportive place for him to live — his first home in years.

### **Jane's Story: Rebuilding After a Manic Episode**

When Jane came to our psychiatric unit, she was in a full-blown manic episode. She hadn't slept in days, had impulsively spent large amounts of money, and was facing charges for disruptive public behavior. She was scared, overwhelmed, and unsure of how to fix the damage left in the wake of her illness. Through the structured environment of our inpatient unit, Jane received mood-stabilizing medication, group therapy, and activities facilitated by our recreation coordinator. Her psychiatrist worked with her to find the right treatment plan, and our nurses provided the consistency and compassion she needed to regain both her confidence and independence.

The healing went far beyond symptom management. With the help of our in-house social worker, Jane was able to begin sorting through her debt and legal issues. We helped her apply for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) income support, which gave her financial stability without the pressure of rushing back to work before she was ready. She eventually transitioned to a psychosocial rehabilitation facility — Harbour House, where she continued to recover in a safe, structured setting designed to support long-term reintegration.

### **John's Story: Rediscovering Hope After Suicidal Despair**

Before arriving at our psychiatric unit, John had lost all hope. Years of treatment-resistant depression had taken everything from him — his job, his connection to loved ones, and his will to live. He had recently attempted to take his own life and was brought to us following a psychiatric emergency and an ICU admission.

At our unit, John found a team ready to meet him exactly where he was — without judgment and with deep compassion. He was closely monitored and supported around the clock by our nurses and support staff. After a full evaluation, our team determined he was a candidate for ketamine therapy, a cutting-edge treatment for individuals with treatment-resistant depression.

Over the course of several treatments, John began to feel something he hadn't in years: relief. As his symptoms lifted, he worked with our team to re-establish daily routines, regain coping strategies, and reconnect with his family — who were brought into care planning sessions to support his recovery. Our

medical and psychiatric staff worked hand-in-hand with him throughout his stay, ensuring he had the emotional, medical, and therapeutic supports to move forward safely.

Today, John is back at work, reconnected with his family, and living with a sense of purpose — because he had access to innovative treatment in an environment designed for healing.

### **Why These Stories Matter**

Jack, Jane, and John each came to us at a breaking point. They didn't just need medication — they needed a compassionate environment where they could rest, be evaluated holistically, access coordinated care and start to rebuild their lives.

Every element of their recovery — from medical assessments to trauma-informed therapy to housing support — was made possible by our inpatient psychiatric unit. To continue delivering this level of care, we need your help.

Your donation will help us modernize our facility — creating calming, safe, and therapeutic spaces that reflect the dignity of the people we serve and support the complex, life-saving work our team performs every day.

**This isn't just a renovation. It's an investment in real people, real healing, and real second chances.**

Organization: **Goat Mountain Kids Society**  
Registration # 89038 1262

Project Title: **GMKC Outdoor Sensory Regulation Space**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton  
The project will take place in the outdoor play space at the daycare facility in New Denver.

**Project Description:**

The Goat Mountain Kids Centre would like to create a space in our outdoor play area designated for sensory regulation. The space will give children at the daycare the opportunity to quiet their minds, find their focus, and work to understand their feelings and emotions. The space will encourage children to engage in a moment of stillness through all the chaos and overwhelm that undoubtedly occurs throughout the daycare day. This will be achieved by enlisting some of the practices found in our research to assist with sensory regulation, such as upgrading our sandbox, comfortable outdoor seating, and various textured outdoor toys for example.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi	RDCK Funding Requested by Area <i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$5,000.00</i>	
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	Area H:	\$1,000.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>New Denver:</b>	\$3,000.00
Capital Purchases	\$8,700.00	\$5,000.00	Silverton:	\$1,000.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00		
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,700.00</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>		
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>				
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$3,700.00</b>			
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>				
Our board consists of 6 volunteer members who contribute many hours of work each month to ensure the daycare services are efficient and effective in our community. Our board members will volunteer their time to implement the sensory regulation space.				

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: *No*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Every current child and all future children enrolled at GMKC will benefit from the project by allowing for emotional, physical, and sensory growth and maturity. The project will also benefit children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other neurodiversities, which will help GMKC to provide a more well-rounded and inclusive space.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Goat Mountain Kids Centre provides quality childcare and early learning with a philosophy of nurturing the whole child. Our mission, philosophy, values, and mandate aim to guide us in taking care of children's needs and guiding them to take care of themselves, each other, the community, and the environment. Goat Mountain Kids Society mandate revolves around creating healthy relationships among educators, families, children, the community, and the natural world to set the foundation for personal, social, and environmental health and well-being.

**Project: GMKC Outdoor Sensory Regulation Space**

Developmentally appropriate activities and challenges aim to stimulate children's natural curiosity, reasoning, and problem-solving skills at our childcare centre. Children have many opportunities and resources to explore learning through literacy, dramatic play, science, music, singing, art, puppetry, and dance. Overall health, joy of movement, and development of fine and large motor skills are fostered. Children are guided through indigenous programming and explorations of other cultures and languages, diversity, and uniqueness is celebrated focusing on community integration.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Every current child and all future children enrolled at GMKC will benefit from the project by allowing for emotional, physical, and sensory growth and maturity. The project will also benefit children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other neurodiversities, which will help GMKC to provide a more well-rounded and inclusive space.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The children currently have no designated space to go to when feeling overwhelmed in the outdoor play area which results in fatigue, inability to regulate the big emotions (outbursts), and displays of behaviors. The staff at GMKC brought forward the idea of a quiet space for children to momentarily excuse themselves (under supervision) from fast paced play when they feel the need to step away and regulate themselves or with the help of a staff member.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

As the only daycare facility in the area, GMKC has an opportunity to provide an inclusive space for children to learn and grow with their emotional regulation and ability to thrive in a group environment.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Members of GMKC staff and board members will be implementing the project.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No****8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes****9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes****10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Organization: **Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network**

Registration # 862502432RR0001

Project Title: **Wild Voices for Kids RDCK**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area A, RDCK Area B, RDCK Area C, RDCK Area D, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area G, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, RDCK Area K, City of Nelson, Town of Creston, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Salmo,

This project will take place in schools and off-campus field-study sites across the RDCK.

**Project Description:**

Wild Voices for Kids supports school-based environmental education in the Columbia Basin by connecting pre K-12 teachers and students to hands-on presentations and field-studies, based on the local environment. These presentations and field-studies are created and delivered by community educators who are experts in their field, including biologists, ecologists, geographers, foresters, mountain guides, and cultural liaisons.

The goals of the Wild Voices program include:

1. Assisting teachers in reaching their curriculum goals in engaging and innovative ways
2. Facilitating learning opportunities that foster ecologically literate students
3. Providing access to environmental learning for students and teachers in the Columbia Basin through at least 100 fully subsidized and 100 heavily subsidized presentations each school year, with unlimited presentations available at slightly subsidized rates

Since 2008, students across the Columbia Basin have received curriculum-linked presentations and hands-on field studies through Wild Voices. Funding would be used to cover bussing expenses for student travel in the RDCK.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$43,300.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$37,000.00	\$5,100.00
Capital Purchases	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Other Expenses	\$16,200.00	\$3,100.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$98,000.00</b>	<b>\$9,700.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$88,300.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Our Volunteer/In-Kind contributions total \$35,000.00 They include:		
School District Liaisons - \$15,000		
Bussing Costs - \$2,500		
New Presentation Development - \$2,500		
Presentation Delivery (prep, cleanup, travel) - \$15,000		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$9,700.00	
Area A:	\$00.00
Area B:	\$500.00
Area C:	\$200.00
Area D/Kaslo:	\$00.00
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$00.00
Area E:	\$00.00
Area F:	\$00.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$00.00
Area H:	\$400.00
Area I:	\$500.00
Area J:	\$400.00
Area K-Arrow Park:	\$00.00
Area K-Burton:	\$00.00
Area K-Fauquier:	\$00.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$500.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$300.00
Slocan:	\$00.00
Castlegar:	\$3,200.00
Creston:	\$00.00
Nelson:	\$3,200.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Silverton:	\$00.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** *Yes, we have applied for funding from the ReDi grants in the RDEK and the RDKB.*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Wild Voices for Kids is important to our community as it offers localized environmental learning experiences to RDCK students, allowing them to better understand their relationship with the natural world outside their doorstep. Teachers benefit from Wild Voices by supplementing their classroom inquiry with curriculum-linked, topical programs. Our Community Educators benefit by sharing their knowledge and passion with local students and receiving honoraria for their time in delivery. Through participation in Wild Voices presentations and field studies, students benefit by connecting to our local ecosystem and a responsibility to steward their natural surroundings.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network's (CBEEN) is the regional network for environmental education in the Columbia Basin. Our organization commits to supporting a community of engaged and effective environmental educators by connecting them with the best and most current resources, information, professional development and

networking opportunities available. Our mission is to encourage environmental sustainability and stewardship in the Canadian Columbia Basin by supporting environmental educators. We accomplish this through three key focus areas:

1. Building capacity through professional development, information sharing, and networking opportunities for educators.
2. Facilitating collaboration amongst schools, community groups, and environmental education professionals.
3. Coordinating and promoting environmental education programs, events, and resources.

CBEEN has successfully been delivering the Wild Voices for Kids program since 2008, which offers environmental educational presentations and field studies to K-12 students across the Columbia Basin.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Wild Voices for Kids is important to our community as it offers localized environmental learning experiences to RDCK students, allowing them to better understand their relationship with the natural world outside their doorstep. Teachers benefit from Wild Voices by supplementing their classroom inquiry with curriculum-linked, topical programs. Our Community Educators benefit by sharing their knowledge and passion with local students and receiving honoraria for their time in delivery. Through participation in Wild Voices presentations and field studies, students benefit by connecting to our local ecosystem and a responsibility to steward their natural surroundings.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The Wild Voices for Kids (WVFK) program was developed in 1997 in response to an identified challenge. A survey conducted by Parks Canada and Rocky Mountain School District 6 revealed two major barriers to students' outdoor and environmental learning in the public system: access to specialist educators and funds for bussing to field sites. WVFK was established that very same year to address these needs. Since assuming WVFK in 2008, and expanding the program to the other school districts in the Columbia Basin (school districts 5, 8, 10, 19 and 20) as well to all private schools in the Basin, CBEEN has continued to offer complimentary and subsidized hands-on environmental educational programs for all students, as well as bussing to off-campus field study sites.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

CBEEN was established in response to an identified need for a professional network that could build capacity among environmental educators in the Columbia Basin region. One way CBEEN accomplishes this goal is through the coordination and promotion of environmental education programs, such as the Wild Voices for Kids (WVFK) program. CBEEN has been successfully delivering the WVFK program since 2008. The Community Educators delivering presentations for the WVFK's program include BC certified teachers, wildlife biologists, geologists, naturalists, foresters, habitat restoration technicians, and other professionals.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

In addition to working with local schools and the school districts, the Wild Voices for Kids program also involves community educators that deliver the presentations.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



# NATURE CAN IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Spending time in nature provides children with a wide range of health benefits.

## HEALTHY BABIES

Nature exposure for mothers can promote:



BETTER FETAL GROWTH<sup>3</sup>



HEALTHIER BIRTH WEIGHTS<sup>1,2,3</sup>

NATURE CONTACT IS

especially beneficial for mothers of lower education and socio-economic levels<sup>2, 3, 4</sup>

## HEALTHY EYES AND VITAMIN D LEVELS

Time spent in bright sunlight can:



## INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Access to parks and greenspace can foster:

INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY<sup>11,12</sup>

REDUCED RISK OF OBESITY<sup>13</sup>

## OUTDOOR PLAY

increases the likelihood that girls will remain active into adolescence<sup>9</sup>

Children are better able to cope with stress when they live near trees and other greenery.<sup>15, 16</sup>

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Learning in nature can support:



IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP SKILLS<sup>17,20</sup>



REDUCED STRESS<sup>17</sup>  
ANGER<sup>18,19</sup>  
AND AGGRESSION<sup>18,19</sup>

### SUPPORTING RESEARCH

<sup>1</sup>Dzhambov et al. (2014). Association between residential greenness and birth weight: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *Urban For Urban Gree*, 13(4), 621-629. <sup>2</sup>Markevych et al. (2014). Surrounding greenness and birth weight: Results from the GINIplus and LISAPlus birth cohorts in Munich. *Health Place*, 26, 39-46. <sup>3</sup>Dadvand et al. (2014). Inequality, green spaces, and pregnant women: Roles of ethnicity and individual and neighbourhood socioeconomic status. *Environ Inter*, 71, 101-108. <sup>4</sup>Agay-Shay et al. (2014). Green spaces and adverse pregnancy outcomes. *Occup Environ Med*, 71(8), 562-9. <sup>5</sup>French et al. (2013). Time outdoors and the prevention of myopia. *Exp Eye Res*, 114, 58-68. <sup>6</sup>He et al. (2015). Effect of time spent outdoors at school on the development of myopia among children in China. *JAMA*, 314(11), 1142-1148. <sup>7</sup>Dolgin (2015). The myopia boom: Short-sightedness is reaching epidemic proportions. Some scientists think they have found a reason why. *Nature*, 519, 276 - 278. <sup>8</sup>McCurdy et al. (2010). Using nature and outdoor activity to improve children's health. *Curr Prob Pediatr Adolesc Health Care*, 40(5), 102-117. <sup>9</sup>Pagels et al. (2014). A repeated measurement study investigating the impact of school outdoor environment upon physical activity across ages and seasons in Swedish second, fifth and eighth graders. *BMC Public Health*, 14(1), 803. <sup>10</sup>Almanza et al. (2012). A study of community design, greenness, and physical activity in children using satellite, GPS and accelerometer data. *Health Place*, 18(1), 46-54. <sup>11</sup>Hartig et al. (2014). Nature and health. *Annul Rev Publ Health*, 35, 207-28. <sup>12</sup>Christian et al. (2015). The influence of the neighborhood physical environment on early child health and development: A review and call for research. *Health Place*, 33, 25-36. <sup>13</sup>Wolch et al. (2011). Childhood obesity and proximity to urban parks and recreational resources: A longitudinal cohort study. *Health Place*, 17(1), 207-214. <sup>14</sup>Duncan et al. (2014). The effect of green exercise on blood pressure, heart rate and mood state in primary school children. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*, 11(4), 3678-3688. <sup>15</sup>Wells & Evans (2003). Nearby nature: A buffer of life stress among rural children. *Environ Behav*, 35(3), 311-330. <sup>16</sup>Corraliza et al. (2012). Nature as a moderator of stress in urban children. *Procedia - Soc Behav Sci*, 38, 253-263. <sup>17</sup>Chawla et al. (2014). Green schoolyards as havens from stress and resources for resilience in childhood and adolescence. *Health Place*, 28, 1-13. <sup>18</sup>Roe & Aspinall (2011). The restorative outcomes of forest school and conventional school in young people with good and poor behavior. *Urban For Urban Gree*, 10, 205-212. <sup>19</sup>Younan et al. (2016). Environmental determinants of aggression in adolescents: Role of neighborhood green space. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*, 55(7), 591-601. <sup>20</sup>Chawla (2015). Benefits of nature contact for children. *J Plan Lit*, 30(4), 433-452.



February 9, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to express the support of Take Me Outside (TMO) for the Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN) and their Wild Voices for Kids program.

Take Me Outside is a national non-profit organization committed to raising awareness and facilitating action on nature connection and outdoor learning in schools, reaching our target population of students and educators across Canada through the education system.

We work collaboratively with school boards, individuals, and other organizations, such as CBEEN, to encourage schools to use the outdoors as part of the regular teaching practice and for students to spend more time outside.

CBEEN's Wild Voices for Kids program enables local specialists to develop programs connected to the local environment and tailored to their area of expertise. These programs greatly benefit both students and teachers; students learn about their local environment and experience hands-on science, while teachers can supplement their teaching with curriculum-linked programs.

With most Wild Voices for Kids programs taking place in the school yard or nearby green space, we recognize the importance of CBEEN as a regional network for outdoor environmental education in the Columbia Basin, and we greatly appreciate the support they provide to this region for achieving our aligned goals of nature connection and outdoor learning.

TMO recognizes CBEEN and the Wild Voices for Kids program as being an important source of knowledge, expertise, and services that supports environmental literacy and learning in our communities.

Sincerely,

*Colin Harris*

Colin Harris  
Executive Director  
Take Me Outside



Amy Cross  
3040 Mt Fisher Place  
Cranbrook BC  
V1C 0A8

February 8, 2026

Re: Letter of Support for CBEEN's Wild Voices for Kids Program

Taanishi (Hello in Southern Michif),

Please accept this letter expressing my enthusiastic and heartfelt support for the Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network's Wild Voices for Kids Program. Wild Voices for Kids is an incredible program with far reaching positive impacts for the children of the Columbia Basin. These environmental education programs provide inspiring and uplifting opportunities to celebrate science throughout the basin.

The Columbia Basin is a beautiful place with many remote communities and schools. Wild Voices for Kids is incredibly inclusive programming and gives kids from all backgrounds and demographics a chance to learn from a broad spectrum of Community Educators (like me). Many of the Wild Voices Programs are delivered in communities that have many low-income families.

As Métis woman and a Community Educator with the Wild Voices Program, I am very excited for the Wild Voices platform to share my knowledge of Métis Culture and skills with kids in the Columbia Basin. My Wild Voices program topics include:

- Fur Trade: Introduction to Indigenous Impact and Involvement
- Introduction to Southern Michif Language
- Métis Jigging
- Métis Culture and History

Wild Voices for Kids provides an additional opportunity for kids to enhance their knowledge and understanding of many topics including Indigenous culture and heritage. Due to changes in strategic direction of the Columbia Basin Trust we have lost our main source of funding for the Wild Voices Program. The funding requested through this application is absolutely essential to allow us to continue to deliver these valuable place-based learning opportunities for kids.

Maarsii (Thank you in Southern Michif),



Amy Cross  
Amow-piyesis iskwew (Hummingbird Woman in Cree)  
Wild Voices Community Educator  
MÉSs Cultural Facilitator

# Wild Voices for Kids

Bringing curriculum-linked, place-based environmental education to classrooms, schoolyards, and the wilderness beyond!

“The program provided understandable and local examples students could relate to.

**It helped bring the provincial curriculum into their own backyards.”**

*-Lawrence, Twin Rivers Elementary, Castlegar on Animals in Winter*

“Grade 10 and 11 students were committed to collecting fungi and properly identifying them after spending the day with Tyson.

**They were more interested in understanding the role of fungi in the forest and its importance to sustainability.”**

*-Signy, Lucerne Secondary, New Denver on Introduction to Forest Ecology*

“The experience was very helpful as a start to our study of ecology, and students definitely had a changed perspective on the habitats we observed.

**The program helped my students make some valuable real world connections and think about their role in the systems of life in our local area.”**

*-June, Fruitvale Elementary, Fruitvale on Watershed Connections*

“The program exposed students to biologists in the area and informed them about the wildlife in their community.

**I had a student tell me the next day the program inspired her to pursue a career in that field.”**

*-Laura, Sparwood Secondary, Sparwood on Grizzlies in the Kootenays*



wild voices

is a program of the  
Columbia Basin Environmental  
Education Network (CBEEN)



Organization: **Slocan Solutions Society**

Registration # S0058249

**Shakespeare by the Shore** - Sponsored Organization

Project Title: **Shakespeare by the Shore**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan

The production will run nightly at 7:00 pm. from June 24<sup>th</sup>-27 (2026) at Slip Day Park in Silverton. Rehearsals will take place in the villages of Slocan and New Denver (at Knox Hall).

**Project Description:**

Shakespeare by the Shore will produce an outdoor production of a newly commissioned Canadian play, The Shale River Shakespeare Show, written specifically for our ensemble. This original work celebrates the spirit of Shakespeare while reflecting the landscape, humour, and cultural identity of the Slocan Valley.

The production will run nightly at 7:00 p.m. from June 24<sup>th</sup>-27 at Slip Day Park in Silverton. Admission is by donation, ensuring that the performances remain accessible to all members of the community regardless of financial circumstance.

This project supports:

- \* The commissioning and presentation of new Canadian work
- \* Intergenerational artistic collaboration
- \* Increased access to professional-quality theatre in a rural region

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$3,250.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$12,000.00	\$1,500.00
Capital Purchases	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Other Expenses	\$9,250.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$26,500.00</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$24,000.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
The cast of 20 performers are all volunteers (representing New Denver, Silverton, Nakusp, Enterprise Creek, Slocan, Winlaw, and Slocan Park). The Slocan Lake Arts Council has also gifted Shakespeare by the Shore with 20 hours a month of 'paid' rehearsal space at Knox Hall.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$2,500.00</b>	
Area H:	\$625.00
Slocan:	\$625.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	\$625.00
Silverton:	\$625.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:**

**1. Importance to the Community:**

The Slocan Valley is a rural region with limited access to live professional theatre. Shakespeare by the Shore addresses this gap by providing high-quality cultural programming within the community, eliminating the need for residents to travel to larger urban centres.

The project:

- \* Strengthens the region's cultural identity
- \* Provides accessible arts programming in a rural setting
- \* Supports local artists in practicing their craft within their own community
- \* Encourages intergenerational collaboration (participants range in age from 15"–79)
- \* Enhances summer tourism and contributes to the vibrancy of Silverton's waterfront

The enthusiastic response to our first two seasons confirms that this initiative fills a meaningful cultural need.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Slocan Solutions Society is an umbrella organization that supports unregistered groups that have a good idea but are not organized into a society structure. The focus is to promote a shared vision that enhances the cultural, social, economic and environmental development of Slocan communities. This is done through:

- organizing and bringing together stakeholder groups for collaboration, coordination and cooperating on goals
- finding and organizing resources for groups including services, funding, and personnel
- supporting groups by organizing workshops, seminars, and training programs

Shakespeare by the Shore is a Slocan Valley-based community theatre initiative dedicated to producing accessible, high-quality outdoor theatre while fostering artistic growth among local performers of all ages and experience levels. Our mandate is to strengthen the cultural life of the Slocan Valley by creating inclusive, intergenerational performance opportunities and offering professional-caliber theatre experiences in a rural setting.

Now entering our third season, we are committed to expanding artistic excellence while maintaining accessibility and strong community engagement.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

The Slocan Valley is a rural region with limited access to live professional theatre. Shakespeare by the Shore addresses this gap by providing high-quality cultural programming within the community, eliminating the need for residents to travel to larger urban centres.

The project:

- \* Strengthens the region's cultural identity
- \* Provides accessible arts programming in a rural setting
- \* Supports local artists in practicing their craft within their own community
- \* Encourages intergenerational collaboration (participants range in age from 15"–79)
- \* Enhances summer tourism and contributes to the vibrancy of Silverton's waterfront

The enthusiastic response to our first two seasons confirms that this initiative fills a meaningful cultural need.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Following the success of our first two seasons, audience attendance regularly averaged 100 attendees per performance. This growth highlighted the need to enhance infrastructure and accessibility to meet increasing demand and ensure professional standards.

Key challenges identified:

- Weather Vulnerability and outdoor performances were at risk of cancellation due to rain.
- Audibility Challenges. Wind from the lakeside location impacted sound clarity, particularly affecting senior audience members.
- Space Limitations as the previous venue became overcrowded as attendance increased.

Solutions Implemented:

To address these challenges and improve overall production quality, we will:

- Install tents to protect both performers and audience members from inclement weather
- Utilize wireless body microphones to ensure consistent, accessible sound quality
- Relocate to the larger Slip Day Park site to accommodate expanded audiences safely and comfortably

These improvements reflect our growth as an organization and our commitment to accessibility, professionalism, and audience experience.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

.Shakespeare by the Shore is entering its third consecutive season of successful outdoor theatre production. Our first two seasons demonstrated:

- \* Strong audience turnout (100+ per night)
- \* Effective volunteer coordination
- \* Professional artistic direction
- \* Positive community feedback

Our production team brings extensive experience in theatre production, arts education, and community arts leadership. Lessons learned from previous seasons have directly informed this year's infrastructure upgrades and production planning.

We have demonstrated the ability to manage project timelines, coordinate large ensembles, and deliver high-quality performances in a rural outdoor setting.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Valerie Campbell is a theatre artist, director and educator (Associate Professor Emerita- Drama, University of Calgary). She created the community-based arts initiative "'Shakespeare by the Shore' which has drawn warm accolades from Valley audiences. In addition to Val as the Director the production team includes:

- \* Producer
- \* Publicist
- \* Stage Manager
- \* Assistant Stage Manager
- \* Technical Director
- \* Sound Engineer
- \* Costume Designer

This experienced team ensures strong artistic leadership and effective project management.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: Yes**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Slocan Lake Arts Council  
408, 4th St, Silverton BC, V0G 1S1  
info@slocanlakeartscouncil.ca  
www.slocanlakeartscouncil.ca



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February 16, 2026

ReDi Grant Adjudication Committee

Dear Committee:

This letter is in support of Valerie Campbell's request for funding to support her production of Shakespeare By The Shore (SBTS) which is being sponsored by the Slocan Lake Arts Council.

The 2026 production plans to be even better than previous years with tent coverage for wet weather and with sound amplification of actors. The costs associated with provision of tents and sound is significant and is in addition to the other production costs of previous years.

Community support for SBTS has been significant and, with an absence of this production in 2025, is predicted to be more welcome than ever this season. The Slocan Lake Arts Council is supporting the production and hopes that the community have the opportunity to show their support through the ReDi grant adjudication process.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda', written in a cursive style.

Linda Kalbun, Administrator

Organization: **Kootenay Outdoors Recreation Enterprise (KORE Outdoors)**  
Registration # S0070724

Project Title: **ReHUB Mobile Repair Tour 2026**

**Project will be located in:** City of Nelson, Village of New Denver, Village of Salmo  
The project will take place in three (3) RDCK communities: Nelson, Salmo and New Denver

**Project Description:**

The 2026 ReHub Mobile Repair Tour will deliver measurable environmental and community impact across the East and West Kootenay, offering outdoor gear repair, sustainability programming, and workforce skill development. ReHub is KORE Outdoors's circular gear initiative focused on repair, reuse, and redesign of outdoor gear to sustain product life and divert materials from local landfills.

We're helping communities and the outdoor gear industry shifts away from single use thinking by keeping products in use longer. Through repair clinics, upcycling workshops, community gear swaps, and collaborations with designers, ReHUB helps reduce waste and create and extend new value from old outdoor gear.

The 2026 tour will travel to 12 communities in the Kootenay and Columbia Regions June 2026 September 2026. Each one day event will feature a seven-person ReHub Repair Crew (one Tour Manager, three Repair Technicians, one Intake Coordinator, and one DIY Educator, one driver) delivering repairs, demonstrations, and community workshops supported by local organizations and businesses.

The ReHub Tour is a collaborative project with College of the Rockies (COTR) who are providing the Mobile Education Lounge (MEL) truck and trailer and driver.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$47,400.00	\$7,500.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$47,400.00</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$39,900.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
College of the Rockies Mobile Repair Studio is a gift in kind donation of equipment in the value of \$7500 for three (3) tour stops: Nelson, Salmo and New Denver.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$7,500.00</b>	
Area G/Salmo:	\$2,500.00
Nelson:	\$2,500.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: Yes: Cranbrook, Kimberley, Elkford, Fernie, Golden, Canal Flats, Golden, Revelstoke

**1. Importance to the Community:**

The entire community benefits from this project through Environmental sustainability: Creating repair ecosystems locally helps reduce waste, conserve water and energy, and minimize emissions globally while contributing to larger sustainability goals. Social engagement: Growing community concern and support for circularity principles and practices can fuel broader participation in repair programs and local environmental stewardship. Having gear repaired directly keeps those items out of the landfill longer, allowing for more use and enjoyment. Even recycling products at the end-of-life stage takes a lot of energy and creates undesirable byproducts, so extending the life of the item has a big impact. As well, the production of new items contributes to more pollution and waste than just the manufactured products themselves, so it's environmentally healthier to reduce the need to buy things frequently to begin with. Repair and repurposing incentivize creativity and practical skill-building, and it provides economic value to talented local people.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Enterprise (KORE) is a non-profit industry alliance of outdoor recreation gear manufacturers and designers in the Kootenays of British Columbia. KORE is on a mission to foster growth through education, collaboration, and connecting businesses to valuable resources while positioning the Kootenays as a prime location to start or bring your outdoor gear business to life. With a membership of over 60 gear manufacturers from the region, KORE hosts a variety of initiatives to further the local industry and the circular economy of outdoor gear in the region. The ReHub mobile outdoor gear repair tour was initiated by KORE to protect the natural environment that inspires outdoor recreation, ensuring the region's cherished outdoor spaces remain vibrant for future generations.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

The entire community benefits from this project through Environmental sustainability: Creating repair ecosystems locally helps reduce waste, conserve water and energy, and minimize emissions globally while contributing to larger sustainability goals. Social engagement: Growing community concern and support for circularity principles and practices can fuel broader participation in repair programs and local environmental stewardship. Having gear repaired directly keeps those items out of the landfill longer, allowing for more use and enjoyment. Even recycling products at the end-of-life stage takes a lot of energy and creates undesirable byproducts, so extending the life of the item has a big impact. As well, the production of new items contributes to more pollution and waste than just the manufactured products themselves, so it's environmentally healthier to reduce the need to buy things frequently to begin with. Repair and repurposing incentivize creativity and practical skill-building, and it provides economic value to talented local people.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Issues of sustainability, workforce development were identified during the pilot ReHub Mobile Repair Tour in 2025. Key data from the 2025 KORE Re-Hub initiative included: ReHub extended the life of 509 items by an average of 9 months, totaling 382 years of extended gear life. The ReHUB Advanced circular economy principles: 14.5 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions avoided by repairing instead of buying new. Reduced environmental impact through repair drive diversion of waste, emissions avoidance and resource conservation. Supports local entrepreneurs: repairs made by local skilled repair specialists including ReHUB repair techs from Kimberley, Fernie and Golden. Contributes to ongoing workforce development, skills development and training.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

KORE Outdoors is the only non-profit delivering this type of service in the Province of BC. The Tour was designed to meet a gap in repair services throughout the Kootenay region.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

A KORE team based out of the Mobile Repair Studio: The ReHUB Crew consists of 7 people: 1 tour manager, 3 repair technicians, 1 Intake Coordinator, 1 DIY educator, 1 Driver

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

## What is KORE Outdoors?

### KOOTENAY OUTDOOR RECREATION ENTERPRISE

KORE Outdoors is a Kootenay-based, non-profit organization dedicated to creativity, sustainability and innovation in the outdoor gear manufacturing sector.

We are supporting the gear industry by attracting investment, advancing a new business sector, and adding to the cultural and economic atmosphere of the Kootenays. A focus on sustainability and circularity encourages responsible production and service.

KORE Outdoors is Canada's first outdoor craft gear makers alliance. Our focus is on attracting people keen on positively participating in our communities: local employment, local resources, local customers, local knowledge. We are for people who realize KORE Outdoors is at the center of a new manufacturing economy —the small-scale, craft outdoor gear economy.

## What is KORE ReHub?

### KORE REHUB MOBILE GEAR REPAIR TOUR 2026

ReHub is KORE Outdoors's circular gear initiative focused on repair, reuse, and redesign. We're helping the outdoor gear industry shift away from single-use thinking by keeping products in play longer. Through repair clinics, upcycling workshops, community gear swaps, and collaborations with designers, ReHub helps reduce waste and create new value from old gear.

It's about building a regional culture of repair that supports makers, benefits users, and lessens our footprint. Whether you're a gear junkie, a product developer, or someone with a pile of busted zippers, ReHub helps close the loop—locally.

To pursue the values of sustainability and environmentally conscious gear use, the KORE Rehub Mobile Gear Team is embarking on a repair tour in the summer of 2026.





## The Hidden Cost of Our Adventures

The outdoor recreation industry, a \$15 billion contributor to British Columbia's economy, faces a critical sustainability challenge with both soft and hard goods. Less than 1% of materials in outdoor clothing and gear—from jackets and tents to skis and climbing equipment—are recycled, with 85% ending up in landfills, persisting for centuries due to their complex, synthetic compositions.

## Innovative Pathways: Moving Towards Gear Sustainability

The complex, multi-material construction of items such as ski jackets and skis further hinders recyclability, with each pair of skis generating approximately one ski's worth of waste and typically lasting only 125 days of use, yet their materials persist in landfills for centuries.

However, solutions are emerging: extending a product's life by just nine months can reduce its environmental impact by 20-30%, and initiatives like the ReHub are addressing this by focusing on technical repairs, upcycling, and community education.

These efforts, combined with rising consumer demand for sustainable products offer hope for transforming the industry's approach to gear lifecycle management, turning potential waste into valuable, reusable resources and starting to create circularity in the system by encouraging manufacturers to design for reuse.





## 2025 KORE ReHub Mobile Gear Tour

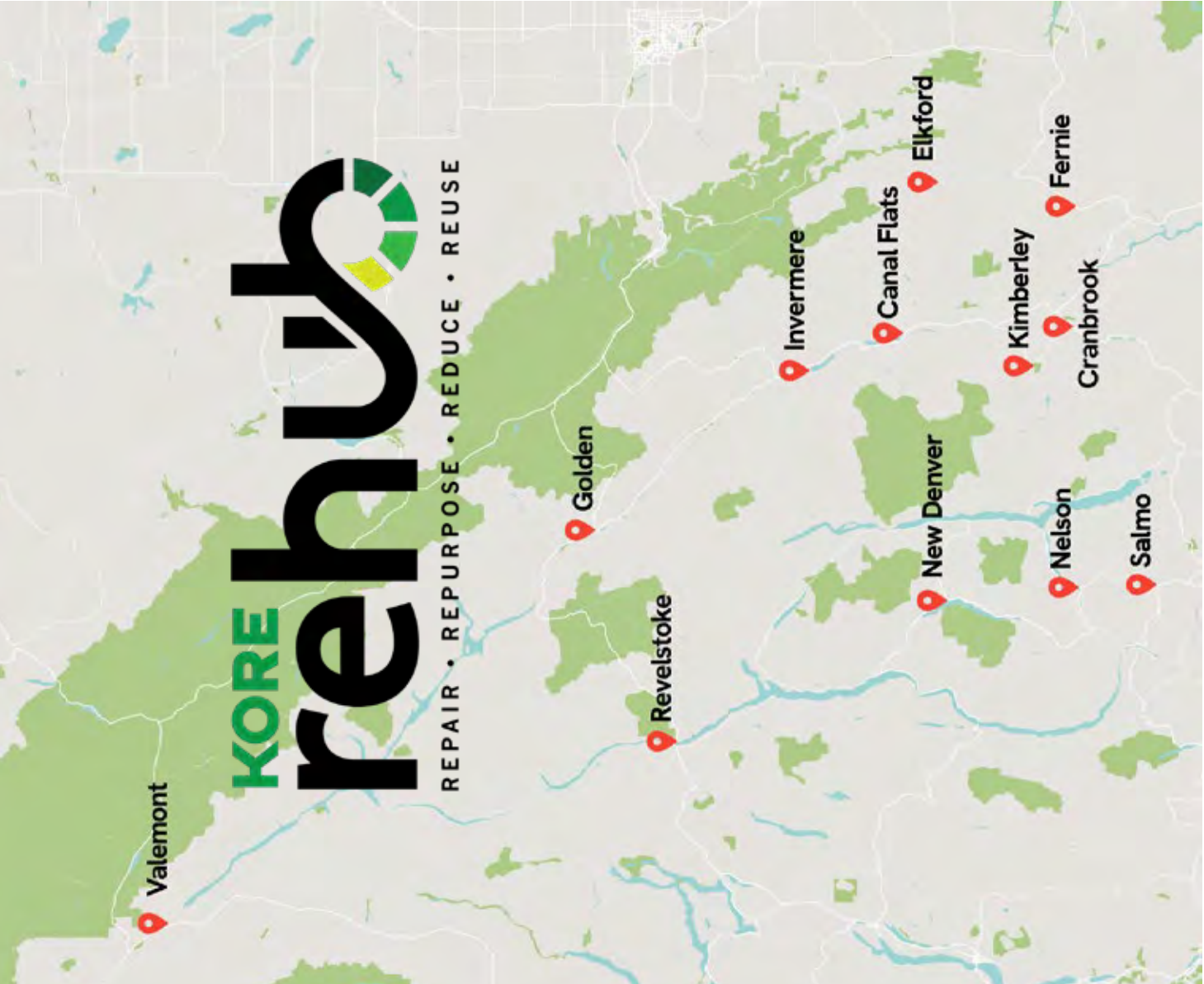
The KORE ReHub Gear Repair Tour visited 13 locations across the Kootenays this past summer to bring repair technicians and a fully equipped trailer to complete free on-site clothing repairs at community events. Whether it was a torn jacket or a busted pack, the team helped mend gear to keep it from out of the landfill.

Hard goods, like ski equipment, were brought to six of the locations (Revelstoke, Castlegar, Nelson, Kimberley, Cranbrook, and Invermere) to be assessed for possible off-site repair or replacement by Selkirk College's Technology Access Centre.

At each location the Rehub team collected data.

### ReHub Environmental & Social Impact

- 440 plastic/synthetic items diverted from landfill, representing 86% of all repaired items.
- Total emissions avoided by repairing 442 items: 14,554.11 kg CO2e.
- Water savings from repairs: 1,127,500 liters and energy savings are 6,286 kWh of energy.
- The average age of repaired items was 7.3 years, with an average replacement cost of \$244.68, underscoring the economic and environmental benefits of extending gear life through repair.
- 13 stops in the Kootenay region with 17 days setup and offering repairs. 509 total items repaired and 365 people served
- 1382 total years of extended product life achieved through the repair of 509 items, demonstrating significant environmental impact reduction.
- ReHub's mobile gear repair campaign led to a 25% increase in revenue for participating technicians, illustrating economic growth potential.
- 82% of respondents cited convenient repair services as the top factor encouraging them to choose repair over replacement.
- 65% of respondents believe circular economy practices are very important for the outdoor gear industry, reflecting strong consumer demand for sustainable solutions.
- The ReHub repair tour created 11 jobs, including roles like drivers, a tour manager, a sustainability consultant, and repair technicians.
- Over 408 hours of repair skills training provided, with each technician learning 2-3 new skills.



## 2026 Rehub Tour

In 2026, the KORE ReHub Mobile Gear Repair Tour will be hitting the road again. Travelling to 12 communities in the Kootenay region with potential to expand further across British Columbia. The KORE Rehub mobile gear repair tour will visit collection points for outdoor gear needing repair.

**Goal - To repair 1000 outdoor gear items during Summer 2026 and divert from Kootenay landfills.**



## Summary of Costs

### ReHub Repair Tour Crew

7 crew (1 Tour Manager, 3 Repair Techs, 1 Intake, 1 DIY Educator, 1 Driver)

Budget (1 day each location):

Personnel	\$5,200 x 12 events	= \$62,400
Travel	\$4,200 x 12 events	= \$50,400
Marketing	\$1,500 x 12 events	= \$18,000
Mobile Repair Studio	\$2,500 x 12 events	= \$30,000
Project Management	\$1,200 x 12 events	= \$14,400
Admin	\$1,200 x 12 events	= \$14,400
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$15,800 per event x 12 events</b>	<b>= \$189,600</b>

Costs include the repair studio trailer, sewing equipment, repair techs, project management, research, marketing, and logistics.

## Funding Breakdown

The KORE Rehub Mobile Gear Repair Tour is estimated to cost \$189,600.

That includes not only the trailer, equipment and travels but also the involvement of 14 staff who work in project management, research, repair, marketing and logistics.

### Funding Partners:

Sponsors	\$5,300 x 12 events	= \$63,600
COTR Repair Studio (In-Kind)	\$2,500 x 12 events	= \$30,000
Donations	\$1,000 x 12 events	= \$12,000
Community Grants (DGIA)	\$4,500 x 12 events	= \$54,000
Other Grants (ReDI)	\$2,500 X 12 events	= \$30,000
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$15,800 per event x 12 events</b>	<b>= \$189,600</b>



# Sponsorship Opportunities

Supporting the goals of sustainability, environmental responsibility and extended use of gear, sponsors can become a part of this project by contributing financially to the budget for the outdoor gear tour.

- Align company sustainability values with KORE's circularity mission
- Logo on the gear repair trailer
- Inclusion in every social media post
- On-site signage at every stop
- Logo placement on print materials (posters, postcards)
- Mention in all stories and blog posts

Two x \$30,000 sponsorship opportunities are being offered to secure final funding for this project.

Community partnerships are available for participating communities for both in-kind and financial investment.

# Connect

The KORE Rehub team includes directors with a variety of skills in business, politics, economic development, outdoor and recreation industries, gear making and academia.

If you have questions about the Rehub Tour or KORE, contact:

Kevin Pennock, Executive Director  
Email: [kevin@koreoutdoors.org](mailto:kevin@koreoutdoors.org) | Phone: (250) 908-7899

# Sponsorship Reach

In addition to the exposure to participants at the Rehub Tour, sponsors are able to reach larger audiences through the KORE social media network and website traffic.

- Social Media Reach: 640,313 post impressions related to the 2025 KORE Summit
- Website Statistics: 2025 Summit landing pages had 44,781 visits
- Subscribers: 1,607 newsletter subscribers

Organization: **Nelson Soccer Association**

Registration # S0051805

Project Title: **Nelson Celebrates the World: FIFA World Cup 2026,,ç**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area A, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area G, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, City of Nelson, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan

The project will take place over multiple days at Lakeside Fields in Rotary Lakeside Park in Nelson, British Columbia. This centrally located waterfront park is a well-known public gathering space that is fully accessible and easily reached by residents and visitors from Nelson and surrounding West Kootenay communities. The site offers open green space, accessible pathways, nearby washrooms, and strong sightlines suitable for large public events. Its close proximity to downtown, public transit, the Nelson trolley, and nearby parking supports inclusive participation and reduces transportation barriers. The location's visibility and scenic setting make it ideal for a free, community-wide celebration.

**Project Description:**

The project will deliver Nelson Celebrates the World: FIFA World Cup 2026,,ç, a free, inclusive community celebration anchored by a large public match-viewing event at Lakeside Fields in Rotary Lakeside Park, supported by complementary soccer-based and cultural programming led by the Nelson Soccer Association. The project will create an accessible opportunity for residents and visitors to come together to celebrate global sport, multiculturalism, and community connection during FIFA World Cup 2026,,ç.

The project is a multi-day event and will provide free public access to live match broadcasts on a large outdoor screen, family-friendly and non-competitive soccer activities, youth engagement opportunities, multicultural performances, and participation from local community organizations. Programming will be designed to be welcoming and inclusive, encouraging participation regardless of age, background, ability, or prior experience with sport.

The project will be delivered through a collaborative model led by the Nelson Soccer Association, working with community and cultural partners (Nelson and District Arts Council) and supported by municipal coordination as required. Existing public infrastructure at Lakeside Fields will be used to ensure cost efficiency and accessibility. Volunteer support, local performers, and community partners will contribute to program delivery.

In the short term, the project will strengthen social connection, increase civic pride, support inclusive participation, and reinforce Nelson's role as a regional soccer hub during a major global sporting event.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$9,000.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$135,500.00	\$16,000.00
Other Expenses	\$18,500.00	\$4,000.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$165,500.00</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$145,500.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
<p>The project is supported by significant in-kind contributions from the Nelson Soccer Association and the City of Nelson, including staff time for project planning, partner coordination, site logistics, permitting support, volunteer coordination, and on-site event management. Additional in-kind support is provided through volunteer labor on event day, the use of municipal facilities and public space at the Lakeside Soccer Fields, access to existing equipment and infrastructure where available, and communications and outreach support through partner networks. Community organizations and cultural partners also contribute in-kind programming and participation, helping to enhance the quality, accessibility, and community reach of the event.</p>		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$20,000.00	
Area A:	\$1,500.00
Area E:	\$1,500.00
Area F:	\$1,500.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$500.00
Area H:	\$750.00
Area I:	\$500.00
Slocan:	\$250.00
Castlegar:	\$1,000.00
Nelson:	\$12,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
Silverton:	\$250.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: No

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project is important because it creates a free, inclusive opportunity for the community to come together around sport, culture, and shared public space. Nelson and the surrounding West Kootenay region are home to a diverse and geographically dispersed population, and large, accessible community gatherings play a key role in strengthening social connection, belonging, and civic pride.

The project will benefit residents of all ages, including youth, families, seniors, and newcomers, as well as visitors from neighboring communities such as Castlegar, Trail, Salmo, Kaslo, and the Slocan Valley. Local artists, performers, community organizations, and small businesses will benefit from increased participation and visibility. Youth and families involved in local soccer will gain accessible pathways to engagement and volunteerism.

By offering free programming in a central public location, the project removes financial and transportation barriers and transforms a global sporting moment into a meaningful local celebration lasting community benefit.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Nelson Soccer Association (NSA) is a non-profit community soccer association whose mission is to provide all soccer players, coaches, officials and parents in the Nelson and area with programs and opportunities to learn, play and excel in the sport of soccer regardless of any aspect of their identity including but not limited to race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, ability or age. The association aims to ensure that these opportunities are granted in a safe, inclusive, fun and supportive manner.

**Project: Nelson Celebrates the World: FIFA World Cup 2026,,ç****3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project is important because it creates a free, inclusive opportunity for the community to come together around sport, culture, and shared public space. Nelson and the surrounding West Kootenay region are home to a diverse and geographically dispersed population, and large, accessible community gatherings play a key role in strengthening social connection, belonging, and civic pride.

The project will benefit residents of all ages, including youth, families, seniors, and newcomers, as well as visitors from neighboring communities such as Castlegar, Trail, Salmo, Kaslo, and the Slocan Valley. Local artists, performers, community organizations, and small businesses will benefit from increased participation and visibility. Youth and families involved in local soccer will gain accessible pathways to engagement and volunteerism.

By offering free programming in a central public location, the project removes financial and transportation barriers and transforms a global sporting moment into a meaningful local celebration lasting community benefit.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

This project responds to a timely opportunity to leverage FIFA World Cup 2026,,ç as a catalyst for community connection, cultural celebration, and inclusive participation in the West Kootenays. Nelson's role as a regional soccer hub, combined with strong engagement in sport and culture, creates strong conditions for a public celebration that brings people together across age groups and communities.

This opportunity was identified through the Nelson Soccer Association's ongoing work with youth, families, volunteers, and regional partners, alongside its experience hosting well-attended regional and provincial soccer events. Consistent participation and cross-regional involvement demonstrated both interest and capacity for a free, accessible public gathering.

The project uses an international sporting moment to amplify local strengths, encourage civic pride, and create a welcoming space for shared experiences, transforming a global event into a meaningful local opportunity with broad community benefit.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The Nelson Soccer Association is well suited to lead this project due to its strong community reach and membership base, regional role as a soccer hub, and trusted relationships with youth, families, and volunteers across the West Kootenays. While the Association has not independently delivered large-scale community events, it regularly coordinates complex programming, seasonal operations, and volunteer engagement for a broad membership base.

Project delivery will be strengthened through partnership with the City of Nelson and the Nelson and District Arts Council, both of which have extensive experience planning and delivering large, free public community events and managing municipal sites, permitting, and safety processes. This collaborative model combines the Association's sport leadership and community connections with the City's proven event delivery capacity.

Together, these complementary strengths ensure the project is well supported, responsibly managed, and delivered to a high standard.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The project will be implemented through a collaborative partnership involving the Nelson Soccer Association, the City of Nelson, the Nelson and District Arts Council, the Nelson Chamber of Commerce, Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism, and the Regional District of the Central Kootenay. Additional support will be provided by local volunteers, performers, and community organizations. This collaborative approach reflects strong local and regional partnerships and ensures the project is well supported and community driven.

- 7. **Minors will be working on this project:** No
- 8. **Project will be 100% completed by volunteers:** No
- 9. **Is the project viable without ReDi funding support:** Yes
- 10. **Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

February 3, 2026

To Whom This May Concern,

I am pleased to write in support of the City of Nelson's application to host a Canada Celebrates FIFA World Cup community event as part of the 2026 FIFA World Cup in Canada.

Greater Nelson Economic Development is a regional economic development partnership between the City of Nelson, Regional District of Central Kootenay Areas E and F, the Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce, and Community Futures Central Kootenay. Greater Nelson Economic Development works collaboratively to strengthen the local economy, support businesses and workforce development, and advance initiatives that enhance community vitality and long-term economic resilience.

Nelson has a strong track record of delivering inclusive, well-organized public events that bring residents together in meaningful ways. Hosting a FIFA World Cup community celebration in Lakeside Park would build on this experience by creating a free, accessible gathering that welcomes people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to participate in a shared national moment.

Events of this scale provide clear community and economic benefit. They foster civic pride, encourage greater use of public recreational spaces, and create opportunities for local organizations, volunteers, artists, and small businesses to engage with a broad audience. Supporting sporting and recreation-based events is a strategic priority for GNED, recognizing their role in driving visitation, strengthening the local economy, and reinforcing Nelson's reputation as an active, welcoming community.

The proposed event also reflects Nelson's values around accessibility, inclusion, and community-led programming. By centering local participation and ensuring the event is barrier-free and family-friendly, it would serve as a point of connection for long-time residents, newcomers, youth, and visitors to the region.

I am confident that the City of Nelson has the experience, partnerships, and community support required to successfully deliver a Canada Celebrates FIFA World Cup event that aligns with the goals of the program and leaves a positive legacy for the community.

Thank you for considering this application. I would be pleased to provide further information or respond to any questions if required.

Sincerely,



**Am Naqvi, Chair**  
Greater Nelson Economic Development





Brittney Anderson  
MLA, Kootenay Central

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**RE: Letter of Support for the City of Nelson's Application to the 2026 Community Event Support Fund**

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing in my capacity as MLA for Kootenay Central to express my support for the City of Nelson's application to host a Canada Celebrates FIFA World Cup community event as part of the 2026 World Cup in Canada.

Nelson has a long history of delivering inclusive, well-organized public events that bring residents together in meaningful ways. A FIFA World Cup community celebration in Lakeside Park would build on this track record by creating a free, accessible gathering that welcomes people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to participate in a shared national moment.

Events of this scale can contribute significant community benefit. They foster civic pride, increase public use of shared spaces, and create opportunities for local organizations, volunteers, artists, and small businesses to engage with a broad audience. In a community like Nelson, where volunteerism and collaboration are central to how events are delivered, this initiative would strengthen local capacity while providing a safe, celebratory environment for residents and visitors alike.

Importantly, the proposed event reflects Nelson's values around accessibility, inclusion, and community-led programming. By centering local participation and ensuring the event is barrier-free and family-friendly, the celebration would serve as a welcoming point of connection for long-time residents, newcomers, youth, and visitors to the region.

I am looking forward to celebrating the FIFA World Cup with our community at this event, and I am please to share my support to make it a reality.

Sincerely,

Brittney Anderson, MLA  
Kootenay Central

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**Constituency Office**

433 Josephine Street  
Nelson BC V1L 1W4  
T 250-354-5944 F 250-354-5937  
Toll Free 1-833-256-6270



03/02/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write in strong support of the City of Nelson's application to host a Canada Celebrates FIFA World Cup community event as part of the 2026 World Cup in Canada.

A FIFA World Cup community celebration in Lakeside Park would build on this track record by creating a free, accessible gathering that welcomes people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to participate in a shared national moment.

Events of this scale offer significant community benefit. They foster civic pride, increase public use of shared spaces, and create opportunities for local organizations, volunteers, artists, and small businesses to engage with a broad audience. In a community like Nelson, where volunteerism and collaboration are central to how events are delivered, this initiative would strengthen local capacity while providing a safe, celebratory environment for residents and visitors/tourists alike.

Importantly, the proposed event reflects Nelson's values around accessibility, inclusion, and community-led programming. By centering local participation and ensuring the event is barrier-free and family-friendly, the celebration would serve as a welcoming point of connection for long-time residents, newcomers, youth, and visitors to the region.

I am confident that Nelson has both the experience, and the community support required to successfully deliver a Canada Celebrates FIFA World Cup event that aligns with the goals of the program and leaves a positive legacy for the community.

Thank you for considering this application. I would be happy to provide further information or answer any questions if needed.

Sincerely,

Peter Moynes, Executive Director

Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism

## Project Alignment with City of Nelson Goals

This project reflects both the priorities and the spirit of the City of Nelson. Designed in partnership with the city, Nelson Celebrates the World: FIFA World Cup 2026™ builds on existing municipal relationships, public infrastructure, and proven community event experience to create a welcoming, inclusive celebration rooted in local pride and connection. By intentionally pairing a global moment with local participation, the project transforms an international event into a meaningful community experience that feels distinctly Nelson.

At its heart, the event aligns with the City's four sustainability pillars of social well-being, culture, economy, and environment by creating a free, accessible gathering space where residents and visitors can come together to celebrate, connect, and participate. Removing financial barriers ensures that families, youth, seniors, and community members of all backgrounds can take part, reinforcing the City's commitment to inclusive public spaces and shared experiences.

The project strongly supports the goals of Nelson Next and the Path to 2040 Sustainability Strategy by prioritizing community connection, active use of public space, and collaboration across sectors. The event encourages civic pride, strengthens social networks, and supports a healthy, vibrant community by bringing people together around sport, culture, and celebration.

Cultural vitality is a central component of the event. Local organizations, performers, and community groups are intentionally woven into the programming, showcasing the creativity, diversity, and collaborative spirit that define Nelson. These partnerships not only enhance the event experience but also strengthen relationships between community organizations and increase opportunities for meaningful local participation.

From an economic perspective Nelson Celebrates the World: FIFA World Cup 2026™ supports local businesses and the broader visitor economy by encouraging increased activity in the city during the event period. By leveraging a major international moment and anchoring it in local programming, the project helps translate global attention into tangible local benefit without creating ongoing operational demands for the city.

Environmental considerations are addressed using existing municipal facilities and public spaces, minimizing the need for new infrastructure while supporting low-impact, active community use. Close coordination with City staff and adherence to established event practices ensure responsible site management and alignment with municipal sustainability goals.

### Key Alignment Highlights

- Strong City Partnership: Developed in collaboration with the City of Nelson, building on shared experience, municipal expertise, and in-kind staff support.

- Community Pride & Inclusion: Free, accessible programming designed to bring people together across ages, backgrounds, and communities in a shared celebration.
- Alignment with Nelson Next & Path to 2040: Supports goals related to social connection, cultural vitality, healthy public spaces, and community resilience.
- Low-Risk, High-Impact Delivery: Builds on proven event delivery, site familiarity, and established partnerships to ensure a successful, well-managed event.

Overall, Nelson Celebrates the World: FIFA World Cup 2026™ represents a collaborative, values-driven approach to community development. It leverages strong in-kind contributions, volunteer involvement, and existing capacity, allowing grant funding to act as a catalyst rather than the sole driver of delivery. In doing so, the project reflects the City of Nelson's commitment to vibrant public spaces, inclusive community experiences, and initiatives that strengthen quality of life, not just for one day, but in the relationships and pride that carry forward long after the event.



To: City of Nelson  
RE: Canada Celebrates the FIFA World Cup 2026

Dear Nelson City Councillors and Staff,

I am writing in support of Nelson's application to host a Canada Celebrates FIFA World Cup community event in 2026.

In my role as Executive Director of the Kootenay Regional Arts Council, I work closely with rural and small urban communities across the Kootenays that regularly deliver public-facing events with limited infrastructure and staffing. From that perspective, I can say that Nelson is particularly well-positioned to successfully host an event of this nature.

Nelson has demonstrated a strong ability to manage complex logistics, volunteer coordination, public safety considerations, and cross-sector collaboration in outdoor public settings. These are not abstract strengths; they are capacities that have been built over time through repeated delivery of community festivals, arts events, and civic celebrations. This experience significantly reduces risk and increases the likelihood of a smooth, well-managed event.

A Canada Celebrates World Cup gathering in Lakeside Park would provide meaningful value to the broader region. Events of this scale are rare in rural communities, yet they play an important role in strengthening social connection, activating public spaces, and reinforcing a sense of belonging. They also create opportunities for local organizations, artists, and service providers to engage with the public in a positive, non-commercial setting.

From a regional perspective, Nelson often functions as a cultural hub, drawing participants and visitors from surrounding communities. A national celebration hosted here would extend benefits beyond municipal boundaries while remaining grounded in local leadership and community participation.

I believe this initiative aligns well with the goals of the Canada Celebrates program and reflects a realistic, community-informed approach to delivery. I strongly support the City of Nelson's application and encourage it to be given full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kallee Lins".

Kallee Lins  
ED, West Kootenay Regional Arts Council

February 4, 2026

Organization: **West Kootenay Brain Injury Association**

Registration # S0043569 ; 878987916RR0001

Project Title: **Rural & Remote Brain Injury Outreach Pilot**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton

The project will take place in the most remote corridor of our service region, specifically within communities such as Nakusp, Silverton, and New Denver. These communities are geographically isolated from our primary service hubs and have limited access to specialized brain injury services.

Clinic-style outreach days will be hosted in central, accessible community spaces within these towns. Ongoing follow-up support will be delivered remotely via phone or virtual platforms to ensure continuity between visits. This hybrid model allows us to provide meaningful in-person connection while minimizing travel burden for participants.

**Project Description:**

This project is a pilot rural/remote outreach initiative designed to expand one-to-one brain injury support services into the most remote communities within our geographic catchment area. While we currently provide individualized outreach support across the West Kootenay region, individuals living in rural and remote communities face significant barriers to accessing our services.

Through this project, two Outreach Workers will travel 2-3 times per year to central hub communities such as Nakusp, Silverton, or New Denver. In advance of each visit, we will collaborate with local service providers to identify and pre-screen potential participants. During in-person clinic-style days, individuals living with acquired brain injury and their caregivers will have the opportunity to meet our team, discuss their support needs, and develop initial action plans.

Following the in-person meetings, ongoing support will be provided remotely through phone and virtual check-ins. Each visit will also include a group education session to increase awareness of brain injury, provide practical tools and manuals, and build connections with clients, caregivers, and local professionals.

The majority of project costs relate to staffing wages, mileage, accommodation, and limited client transportation supports. This pilot will allow us to assess regional demand, build relationships, and determine the feasibility of establishing a more permanent outreach presence in the area.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$1,230.00	\$1,230.00
Contract Fees	\$10,692.00	\$2,768.00
Capital Purchases	\$600.00	\$600.00
Other Expenses	\$1,020.00	\$1,020.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,542.00</b>	<b>\$5,618.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$7,924.00</b>	
<p><b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b></p> <p>While this pilot does not rely on designated in-kind funding, KBIA will contribute significant organizational resources to ensure its success. Administrative oversight, project coordination, referral management, scheduling, reporting, and evaluation will be supported through existing organizational infrastructure and leadership time.</p> <p>We will also leverage established regional partnerships to assist with local promotion, space identification, and pre-referral coordination at no cost to the project. These collaborative relationships represent an important non-cash contribution.</p> <p>Although current donations are not specifically allocated to this pilot, if the project demonstrates sustained need, we will pursue community-based donations, local service club support, and regional funding partnerships to help expand services in this corridor.</p>		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
<i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$5,618.00</i>	
Area H:	\$732.00
Area K-Arrow Park:	\$230.00
Area K-Burton:	\$528.00
Area K-Fauquier:	\$528.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$2,000.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$400.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>
Silverton:	\$600.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** No

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project is important because rural residents living with acquired brain injuries often experience profound isolation and limited access to specialized support. Without intervention, individuals are at higher risk of housing instability, mental health challenges, caregiver burnout, and disengagement from community life.

By bringing services directly into remote communities, we reduce access barriers and create early connection points. Individuals living with brain injury will benefit from personalized support planning, system navigation, and education. Caregivers will gain tools, resources, and connection to reduce stress and increase confidence. Local service providers will benefit from increased collaboration and access to specialized knowledge.

Ultimately, the broader community benefits when vulnerable residents are better supported, more stable, and more connected.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Enabling individuals and families living with the effects of Acquired Brain Injuries (ABI) to enjoy and participate in life in their own home and local community.

Goals include:

- a) to assist individuals with ABIs and their families to access resources to participate in their community and support their agency
- b) to create awareness around the effects of ABIs to stimulate community action
- c) to deliver services that meet the lifelong needs of those impacted by ABI
- d) to prevent injuries through education initiatives

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project is important because rural residents living with acquired brain injuries often experience profound isolation and limited access to specialized support. Without intervention, individuals are at higher risk of housing instability, mental health challenges, caregiver burnout, and disengagement from community life.

By bringing services directly into remote communities, we reduce access barriers and create early connection points. Individuals living with brain injury will benefit from personalized support planning, system navigation, and education. Caregivers will gain tools, resources, and connection to reduce stress and increase confidence. Local service providers will benefit from increased collaboration and access to specialized knowledge.

Ultimately, the broader community benefits when vulnerable residents are better supported, more stable, and more connected.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Individuals living with acquired brain injuries in rural and remote communities face isolation, limited service availability, and significant transportation barriers. Many are unable to travel to larger centres to access support and often fall through service gaps once acute medical care ends.

These challenges have been identified through informal referrals, inquiries from families, and conversations with partner agencies across the region who report unmet need. We have consistently heard from rural providers that individuals with brain injury require more specialized support than is currently available locally.

This project addresses the opportunity to bridge that gap through periodic in-person engagement combined with ongoing remote follow-up. It allows us to test the level of demand, better understand the complexity of needs in these communities, and begin building a coordinated support network.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The Kootenay Brain Injury Association (KBIA) has been providing specialized brain injury support services in the region since 2001. Our Outreach Workers have extensive experience supporting individuals with complex acquired brain injuries through individualized case management, education, and systems navigation.

We already deliver one-to-one outreach services across a large geographic area and have established referral pathways with health authorities and community agencies. This project builds on existing expertise and infrastructure rather than creating a new program from scratch.

KBIA has the staffing structure, administrative systems, and regional relationships necessary to implement this pilot. Because the project involves periodic travel rather than full-time expansion, we have the capacity to deliver it within our current operational framework while carefully monitoring workload and outcomes.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The project will be implemented by two experienced Outreach Workers from the Kootenay Brain Injury Association (KBIA). These staff members specialize in individualized brain injury support, systems navigation, and caregiver education.

We will also collaborate with local partner organizations, community service providers, and health professionals who will assist in identifying potential participants and providing space for clinic days. Caregivers and family members will be encouraged to participate in meetings and education sessions.

Administrative coordination, scheduling, and reporting will be managed internally by KBIA leadership to ensure effective implementation and evaluation.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: No**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Organization: **W.E. Graham Community Service Society**

Registration # 886669142RR0001

**Kootenay Restorative Justice** - Sponsored Organization

Project Title: **Invigorate Local Restorative Justice Program**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, City of Nelson, Village of Nakusp, Village of Salmo

This project will revitalize and strengthen the Kootenay Restorative Justice program by developing a strategic plan to expand community justice services across the West Kootenays (RDCK, RDKB). Short-term impacts include increased community awareness of and access to restorative justice, stronger volunteer recruitment, and enhanced volunteer training in conflict resolution, accountability, and facilitation skills. Activities include developing a strategic plan building towards sustainability and longevity, community outreach and education, volunteer training sessions, and creating accessible pathways for community members to engage with restorative justice processes. These efforts will strengthen local capacity to address conflict and harm through community-led, healing-focused approaches.

**Project Description:**

The project is the revitalization of the Kootenay Restorative Justice (RJ) program, which has served West Kootenay communities since 2002 by offering a meaningful alternative to traditional legal systems. Restorative justice brings together those who have experienced harm, those responsible, and community members to engage in dialogue, take accountability, and repair relationships. The program fosters healing, builds trust, strengthens community safety, and supports meaningful resolution outside of court processes.

Under new leadership with extensive restorative justice experience, the project will renew and expand services across Nakusp, New Denver, Slocan Valley, Nelson, Salmo, Trail, Castlegar, and Kaslo. In recent years, the absence of dedicated funding has limited outreach, reduced referrals, and diminished volunteer engagement in several communities.

To achieve revitalization, the project will strengthen and expand its steering committee with local experts and community representatives, reengage and recruit volunteers, and develop a comprehensive strategic plan. This plan will focus on rebuilding community partnerships, increasing public awareness, restoring referral pathways, and delivering high-quality training in restorative practices, conflict resolution, accountability processes, and trauma-informed facilitation.

By building on its long-standing history, the revitalized Kootenay RJ program will restore access to restorative processes, ensuring people harmed in community have their needs addressed while promoting justice that heals rather than punishes.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$3,195.00	\$3,195.00
Contract Fees	\$7,500.48	\$3,500.48
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$13,806.00	\$13,806.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$24,501.48</b>	<b>\$20,501.46</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
An in-kind contribution will be provided in the form of space rental for the strategic planning event, ensuring a safe and accessible venue for the Steering Committee, volunteers, and community partners to collaboratively develop the program's renewed direction and implementation plan.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$20,501.46</b>	
Area D/Kaslo:	\$1,697.95
Area G/Salmo:	\$1,733.95
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$1,918.96
Slocan:	\$1,206.40
Castlegar:	\$5,731.22
Nelson:	\$6,819.29
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$1,393.69</b>

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** RDCK, RDKB

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project is vital to West Kootenay communities because it fills a critical gap in accessible, community-based restorative justice services-offering healing, accountability, and social cohesion beyond the traditional justice system. Currently, no similar programs serve this broad region except for Nelson's police-referred program. Our project supports referrals from RCMP, schools, community groups, or directly from those involved. Rural and diverse communities here face social and political divisions, isolation, and limited resources, yet need strong relationships with neighbors, colleagues, and youth. By revitalizing this program, we empower community members to resolve conflicts, and ideally transform harm, locally and collectively, fostering safer, connected neighborhoods. With 25 volunteers across the region, community involvement grows through our steering committee and outreach, ensuring the program reflects local values and remains a meaningful, sustainable resource for all.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Kootenay Restorative Justice (KRJ) believes that harm reduction is made possible by fostering connections between people and their community. We offer processes for the communities of the Central and West Kootenays to become involved in resolving issues around crimes through the practice of restorative justice.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project is vital to West Kootenay communities because it fills a critical gap in accessible, community-based restorative justice services-offering healing, accountability, and social cohesion beyond the traditional justice system. Currently, no similar programs serve this broad region except for Nelson's police-referred program. Our project supports referrals from RCMP, schools, community groups, or directly from those involved. Rural and diverse communities here face social and political divisions, isolation, and limited resources, yet need strong relationships with neighbors, colleagues, and youth. By revitalizing this program, we empower community members to resolve conflicts, and ideally transform harm, locally and collectively, fostering safer, connected neighborhoods. With 25 volunteers across the region, community involvement grows through our steering committee and outreach, ensuring the program reflects local values and remains a meaningful, sustainable resource for all.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The program has faced reduced activity and limited community engagement due to past funding constraints, resulting in low referrals from police and underutilized volunteer capacity. Volunteers often moved on or experienced skill erosion, leaving the program's potential largely untapped. This was identified through program history review and consultation with local experts and volunteers, highlighting gaps in outreach and support.

The opportunity lies in revitalizing the program with experienced leadership to meet community needs for accessible, effective conflict resolution and healing. By reconnecting with communities, rebuilding volunteer capacity, and strengthening relationships with referral agents-RCMP, Nelson Police, Crown, Victim Services, and enabling self-referrals-the project addresses the need for stronger, community-driven justice alternatives.

This revitalization responds to growing community interest in restorative approaches, transforming conflict into opportunities for accountability, healing, and connection, and positioning the program to foster trust, cohesion, and safer, more resilient communities.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The Kootenay Restorative Justice program brings 20 years of experience serving West Kootenay communities, including Nakusp, Nelson, and Trail. Despite past funding and staffing challenges, recent leadership with extensive RJ expertise has revitalized volunteer engagement and strengthened governance through an expert steering committee.

Our team combines peacebuilding, restorative justice education, conflict resolution, and local knowledge with trusted community relationships. We have a strong track record in volunteer recruitment, training, and community engagement. Under skilled coordination, we've rebuilt momentum by expanding volunteers across multiple communities and fostering collaboration with local institutions. Our past efforts have increased awareness and delivered restorative processes that promote healing and accountability. This collective experience, paired with strategic planning and ongoing community support, ensures we have the capacity to grow and sustain restorative justice services that meet the diverse needs of both rural and urban communities

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The Kootenay Restorative Justice program is led by a new Coordinator with extensive restorative justice experience, in place since May, who oversees implementation, outreach, and training. A revitalized and expanding Steering Committee of local experts and community representatives provides governance and strategic direction. Volunteers from communities across the West Kootenays will be recruited, trained, and supported to facilitate restorative processes, with a focus on conflict resolution, accountability, and social-emotional learning. Partnerships with local organizations, justice referral agents, and community leaders will strengthen outreach and engagement, ensuring services are accessible, inclusive, culturally responsive, and aligned with community needs.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: Yes**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

February 19, 2026

Subject: Kootenay Restorative Justice REDI grant

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of Kootenay Restorative Justice (KRJ) in their application for REDI funds to support their Revival Project. I come to this from multiple perspectives: as an instructor of Restorative Justice at Selkirk College since 2015, as Chair of the Mir Centre for Peace, as a past participant in an RJ process, as a former volunteer with Nelson Restorative Justice and as a current RJ facilitator for KRJ and a member of their Steering Committee.

Clearly, I am passionate about restorative justice (RJ)! This is because I have seen the incredible good that it can do for victims of crime and other affected parties (e.g., family members); the constructive ways it requires - and achieves - accountability from wrong-doers; and the huge benefits for communities when action is taken to right wrongs, heal wounds, and move forward in the most constructive way possible.

Those of us who do restorative justice have a great deal to offer in the way of our training, our passion, and our deep care for community. We are keen to work together with all referral agents - schools, police, Victim Services, lawyers, the Crown, judges, Corrections, and community members. I have friends and acquaintances in the criminal justice system who are just beginning to learn how powerful RJ can be, how it can complement their work, achieve positive outcomes, and strengthen the system as a whole. I strongly believe that this is a time when we can make serious inroads building relationships that will serve everyone's needs and interests.

Fledgling organizations like KRJ just need support to grow. I am very confident in the ability of the current leadership of KRJ to engage in careful planning and strategic development so we can expand services, recruit and train more volunteer facilitators and engage with the communities RJ is meant to serve. Achieving these goals will increase program referrals and provide community justice education to

students, teachers, parents, probation and RCMP officers, Crown counsel and other citizens who care about justice.

I strongly encourage you to consider KRJ's funding application and give your support to a worthwhile project that is being spear-headed by competent, passionate leaders, educators and community justice advocates.

Sincerely,



Jennie Barron, Chair  
Mir Centre for Peace at Selkirk College  
301 Frank Beinder Way  
Castlegar, BC



Date: February 19, 2026

**RE : Letter of Support: Kootenay Restorative Justice Program**

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Kyle J. MYLREA (Constable), and I am a General Duty Member of the Castlegar RCMP-GRC Detachment. Since the Fall of 2019 I have been acting as Restorative Justice Liaison. The Restorative Justice Liaison works in conjunction with the Restorative Justice Coordinator to address concerns, implement improvements, as well as advocate for the Restorative Justice Program.

I am writing to you in support of the Kootenay Restorative Justice Program.

The Kootenay Restorative Justice Program is the only program of its kind to service the Central Kootenays.

The Restorative Justice Program serves a pivotal role in the Criminal Justice System, and is a critical tool for Communities, Courts, and Police. Restorative Justice allows individuals to experience accountability and take ownership in lieu of Criminal proceedings. The process allows for resolution while simultaneously decongesting an overburdened Court System.

Restorative Justice is a community resource. Individuals participate, accept responsibility, and move toward reconciliation. It has been my experience that Restorative Justice referrals can be as successful as proceedings completed through the Criminal Court. This success is in no small part a reflection of the dedicated persons working within the Restorative Justice Program.

Please accept this letter, as my voice of support for the Kootenay Restorative Justice Program, as well as the invaluable services which the program staff and volunteers offer our communities.

Sincerely,

**Cst. Kyle J. MYLREA**  
**Castlegar Detachment**  
**Royal Canadian Mounted Police**  
440 Columbia Ave | Castlegar, BC | V1N 1G7  
Office: 250.365.7721 Fax: 250.365.0803



## **Safety and Protection Policy: Supervision of Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults**

### **Purpose:**

To ensure the safety, well-being, and protection of all children, youth, and vulnerable adults participating in our programs and activities.

### **Policy:**

1. **Supervision:**
  - All participants will be adequately supervised at all times.
  - Staff-to-participant ratios will follow recommended guidelines.
  - Supervisors are trained to identify and respond to safety concerns.
2. **Screening & Training:**
  - All staff and volunteers undergo background checks and reference verification.
  - Mandatory training on protection, recognizing abuse, and safety procedures before starting duties. – All staff must read and acknowledge the Protection, Abuse Recognition, and Safety Procedures Manual.
3. **Safe Environment:**
  - Facilities and activities are regularly inspected for hazards.
  - Emergency procedures (first aid, evacuation) are in place.
4. **Reporting & Response:**
  - Suspected abuse, neglect, or unsafe conditions must be reported immediately.
  - All reports are confidential and handled in accordance with legal requirements.
5. **Acknowledgment:**
  - All staff and volunteers must sign this document, confirming understanding and compliance.

### **Responsibility:**

The Executive Director oversees implementation and compliance. All personnel are responsible for adhering to this policy.

### **Review:**

This policy is reviewed annually or as needed.

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### **Acknowledgment of Policy**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read, understood, and agree to comply with the above Safety and Protection Policy.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Role/Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: **Kootenay Social Support Society**

Registration # S0083177

Project Title: **West Kootenay Nav-CARE**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area D, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area G, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, RDCK Area K, City of Nelson, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Salmo, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan, Village of Kas

Nav-CARE is offered in Salmo, Ymir, Nelson, Balfour, Kaslo, Argenta, Trout Lake, Nakusp, Fauquier, Edgewood, New Denver, Slocan, Crescent Valley, Castlegar and the areas in-between.

**Project Description:**

Nav-CARE is a compassionate community-based program developed to improve the quality of life of adults with declining health. Adults living at home with serious illness or increased frailty, particularly those who do not yet qualify for home-based nursing care, often live with unmet needs and heavy symptom burden resulting in poor quality of life. Many do not know the services that are available. However, if these needs go unmet, the ability of clients to stay healthy or access healthcare can be compromised. Nav-CARE was designed to address these needs that fall outside of the responsibilities of healthcare providers.

Nav-CARE provides volunteers with a specially-designed training centered on quality of life concerns. Volunteers are then matched 1:1 with clients to assist with the client and family priorities. Volunteers have the luxury of time to engage, listen, support decision-making, and assist clients with practical things that help to meet their needs. Each Nav-CARE Coordinator supports her volunteers and coordinates service delivery with other local organizations. The funding committed by each community or district will be invested specifically in their area.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$13,360.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$466,340.00	\$33,000.00
Capital Purchases	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$63,500.00	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$547,200.00</b>	<b>\$35,500.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$511,700.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
KSSS Board of directors in-kind contribution: \$6,750 (time valued at \$45/hr)		
Project Volunteers in-kind contribution: \$108,000 (time valued at \$25/hr)		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$35,500.00</b>	
Area D/Kaslo:	\$3,000.00
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$2,000.00
Area E:	\$2,000.00
Area F:	\$2,000.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$3,000.00
Area J:	\$2,000.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$4,000.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$3,000.00
Slocan:	\$1,500.00
Castlegar:	\$5,000.00
Nelson:	\$5,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
Silverton:	\$1,500.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: No

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Adults with declining health face many challenges in maintaining a high quality of life, including symptom burden, isolation, overwhelm, and grief (loss of health, independence). Nav-CARE services can transform lives by harnessing

the power of community volunteerism and compassion. Nav-CARE continues to scale up in response to local demand, growing both in geographic areas served, and numbers of clients and volunteers.

Nav-CARE is purposely designed to be broad in its services to be customizable to the individual and their community. While each region has its own gaps, overall we see a lack of services for non-seniors with declining health and their caregivers; navigation support to available resources; help understanding what in-home health services are available; and bridging support for clients waiting for long-term care. Many services that do exist are overwhelmed or overcapacity, including traditional healthcare.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Kootenay Social Support Society (KSSS) exists to:

- relieve conditions associated with aging, chronic illness, and disability by providing free, non-medical, community-based social, emotional, and practical support to vulnerable seniors living with declining health; and,
- improve quality of life by providing access to social supports, reducing isolation, and assisting individuals to navigate community resources and services.

KSSS delivers the West Kootenay Nav-CARE program, which is a social prescribing program offering personalized, volunteer-based support to adults experiencing chronic illness, disability, or age-related decline. Services are provided at no cost and are available to all eligible residents in the West Kootenay region without discrimination based on income, religion, ethnicity, background, or otherwise. KSSS aims to provide quality, compassionate support to our clients and to enhance the success of our work by building strong networks of mutual collaboration with other health and service agencies.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Adults with declining health face many challenges in maintaining a high quality of life, including symptom burden, isolation, overwhelm, and grief (loss of health, independence). Nav-CARE services can transform lives by harnessing the power of community volunteerism and compassion. Nav-CARE continues to scale up in response to local demand, growing both in geographic areas served, and numbers of clients and volunteers.

Nav-CARE is purposely designed to be broad in its services to be customizable to the individual and their community. While each region has its own gaps, overall we see a lack of services for non-seniors with declining health and their caregivers; navigation support to available resources; help understanding what in-home health services are available; and bridging support for clients waiting for long-term care. Many services that do exist are overwhelmed or overcapacity, including traditional healthcare.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Nav-CARE addresses social isolation, bereavement, mobility or sensory challenges, disengagement, coping with transitions and multiple decisions, or difficulty finding information or resources. These quality of life priorities were identified by Dr. Barbara Pesut, PhD Canada Research Chair in Health, Ethics and Diversity at UBC, and Dr. Wendy Duggleby, Research Chair in Aging and Quality of Life, of the University of Alberta. Together, they spent over 12 years researching the needs of adults with declining health in both rural and urban settings. Nav-CARE is evidence-based and builds upon years of collaborative work with rural Canadian communities.

Research has shown that adults of all ages struggle to find the necessary supports when facing health decline, and that it can be an extremely isolating experience, but Nav-CARE can help. Our compassionate volunteers have the luxury of time to listen, help clients prioritize, and address quality of life concerns with a person-centered approach.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Kootenay Social Support Society is the organization that was created in 2025 with the primary purpose of housing the West Kootenay Nav-CARE (WKNC) program. After working collaboratively under two local organizations, KSSS is

branching out to create the first regional organization in the West Kootenays addressing social prescribing needs. KSSS will allow WKNC to keep growing and evolving to serve more vulnerable people. WKNC has been recognized as a site of excellence by the program founders at UBC and the UofA since 2022. Working as a regional program streamlines the administrative and fundraising components, by applying for funding as a group and sharing assets like a database. In short, our team has the experience, staff capacity, community support, and the fundraising capability to commit to long-term service delivery in the communities that we take on.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The Nav-CARE team consists of eight staff. Erin Thompson, Funding Specialist; Ana Bokstrom, Program Manager, oversees six Coordinators: Valentina Guarneri, Kirsten Faris, Karen Scott, Audrey S. Calvo, Sabina Schindel, and Leslie Sharp. Together staff have a strong, complementary skill set including expertise in non-profit leadership, fundraising, communications, end-of-life care, and technology.

Community partners include: Nakusp, New Denver, Nelson, Castlegar, North Kootenay Lake, and Salmo Hospices; Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services; Kaslo Community Services; Castlegar Community Services; Salmo Community Services; Seniors Coordinating Society; Nelson Mental Health; community nurses, paramedics, seniors associations, and pharmacies; Divisions of Family Practice; Primary Care Network.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Organization: **Sandon Historical Society**  
Registration # s0014387

Project Title: **Sandon Museum Fire Exit Rebuild**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H  
At the Sandon Museum, Slocan Star Street, Sandon, BC

**Project Description:**

Our project is to install a new structure to the rear of the Sandon Museum, creating safe egress from the Museum in the event of an emergency. The structure includes new exit stairs and a roof cover and will replace the temporary tin structure that is currently in place.  
We already have a building permit and a set of engineered, architect-designed drawings. The materials have been purchased with the support of the Destination Development Fund so we are 'shovel ready'.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$200.00	\$200.00
Contract Fees	\$4,735.50	\$4,735.50
Capital Purchases	\$39,900.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$44,835.50</b>	<b>\$4,935.50</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$39,900.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
All project management will be volunteer hours and also the construction team working under Madden Timber.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$4,935.50</b>	
Area H:	\$2,200.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	\$1,700.00
Silverton:	\$1,035.50

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: *No*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

All buildings open to the public should be up to code for safety purposes. As a society we are responsible for maintaining the Sandon Museum and keeping people safe. The most direct beneficiaries are the staff and visitors; last year we had over 7000 visitors to the Museum between May Long weekend and Thanksgiving - they would have a faster, alternative route to safety in the event of an emergency. First responders benefit from additional points of entry to buildings and there is a reduced risk of significant property damage by allowing for more efficient emergency responses.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

To educate the public at large as to the unique position of Sandon in the Kootenay region of BC, of BC as a whole, of adjacent areas to the south and of Western Canadian development.

To acquire, manage and dispose of assets to enhance the heritage values of Sandon. To do all things needful to achieve the purposes of the Society including, but not limited to the preservation, restoration and replication of historic structures in Sandon.

To accept, hold and disburse funds received for the purposes of the Society.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

All buildings open to the public should be up to code for safety purposes. As a society we are responsible for maintaining the Sandon Museum and keeping people safe. The most direct beneficiaries are the staff and visitors; last year we had over 7000 visitors to the Museum between May Long weekend and Thanksgiving - they would have a faster, alternative route to safety in the event of an emergency. First responders benefit from additional points of entry to buildings and there is a reduced risk of significant property damage by allowing for more efficient emergency responses.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The Sandon Museum does not have a fully functional fire exit so this project is essential. As a historic building dating back to 1900, we are bringing it up to code and also improving the visual appearance of the building's rear.

This upgrade is part of our five-year plan to renovate, repair and upgrade our properties in Sandon making for a more appealing and safer destination.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The Sandon Historical Society was incorporated in 1979 and, as the building's owner, has been maintaining and running the Sandon Museum for many years. We have a strong board of directors that work well as a team and a supportive membership. Over the last few years we have run several projects renovating and upgrading our properties in Sandon and improving our exhibits and public feedback and interest has been wonderful! We intend to harness this enthusiasm and continue working to elevate Sandon.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Overseeing the project will be Madden Timber Construction. We have worked with them on previous projects and David and his crew are excellent, professional and experienced. A group of volunteers will also be working on the construction, under Madden Timber's supervision.

Project managing on behalf of the Sandon Historical Society will be Gerald Wagner, who has many years experience in both project management and construction.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

**Madden Timber Construction  
Inc.**

715 Crescent Bay Rd  
Nakusp BC V0G 1R1  
2502651807  
dave@maddentimber.com  
GST/HST Registration No.:  
812410934RT0001  
Business Number  
812410934BC0001

**Invoice 1753**

**BILL TO**  
Sandon Historical Society  
Box 52  
New Denver BC V0G  
1S0

DATE  
02/10/2025

PLEASE PAY  
**\$39,900.00**

DUE DATE  
02/10/2025

DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	TAX	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
	<b>Lump Sum</b>	Structural Materials Package for rear entranceway	GST	1	38,000.00	38,000.00
All materials installed by Madden Timber Construction Inc. to real property unless otherwise noted (PST not applicable)			SUBTOTAL			38,000.00
			GST @ 5%			1,900.00
			TOTAL			39,900.00
					TOTAL DUE	<b>\$39,900.00</b>

THANK YOU.

Title to the goods does not transfer until payment is received in full for said goods.  
Payment Due Upon Receipt. 2% per Month Interest after 30 days "Equivalent to 26.82% per year"  
All Sales Final

Please make cheques payable to Madden Timber Construction Inc.

**Madden Timber Construction Inc.**

715 Crescent Bay Rd  
Nakusp BC V0G 1R1  
2502651807  
dave@maddentimber.com  
www.maddentimber.com  
GST/HST Registration No.: 812410934RT0001  
Business Number 812410934BC0001

# Estimate

**ADDRESS**

Sandon Historical Society  
Box 52  
New Denver BC V0G 1S0

**ESTIMATE # 1043**

**DATE 19/02/2026**

DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	TAX	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
	<b>Lead Carpenter</b>	55 hours lead carpenter to oversee and work with volunteers on new construction of required fire escape entrance to Sandon Museum. 10% discount included in this price	GST	55	82.00	4,510.00

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SUBTOTAL	4,510.00
GST @ 5%	225.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,735.50</b>

Accepted By

Accepted Date

Payment Due Upon Receipt. 2% per Month Interest after 30 days "Equivalent to 26.82% per year"  
All Sales Final

Please make cheques payable to Madden Timber Construction Inc.

Organization: **Valley View Golf Club**

Registration # S0007905

Project Title: **Course Improvements and Upkeep**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H

At the Valley View Golf Club located at 6937 Highway Six Winlaw

**Project Description:**

A well-maintained public golf course requires ongoing course improvements, equipment maintenance, and infrastructure upgrades. Our goal is to continue to provide an affordable, high-quality golfing experience for our guests through essential greens improvements, equipment servicing, and updated signage.

These investments allow us to continue fostering strong community partnerships while providing affordable, healthy outdoor recreation. In addition to traditional golf and disc golf, our course also supports off-season activities such as sledding and cross-country skiing-ensuring the space remains a valuable community asset year-round.

**Greens Maintenance & Irrigation:**

Fertilizer, herbicide, fungicide

Sand and irrigation supplies

Continued phased irrigation system upgrades

The health of our greens is integral to overall course operations. Rising input costs have placed increasing pressure on our limited resources. As part of a multi-year irrigation improvement plan, we are replacing aging sections of the system as needed to improve efficiency and turf health.

**Power Cart Fleet Repairs:**

Our aging fleet of power golf carts requires ongoing maintenance and repairs to ensure safe, reliable service for our guests.

**Updated Signage:**

Modern, clear signage will enhance navigation, improve course flow, and create a more enjoyable and professional experience for golfers of all skill levels.

By addressing these priorities, the Valley View Golf Club can continue to provide a welcoming, high-quality recreational space that benefits both golfers and the broader community.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
<i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$12,000.00</i>	
Area H:	\$7,500.00
Area I:	\$500.00
Slocan:	\$1,500.00
Castlegar:	\$1,500.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Silverton:	\$500.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: No

**1. Importance to the Community:**

For nearly 60 years, Valley View Golf Club has been more than just a golf course, it has been a gathering place where memories are made - from weddings and celebration-of-life gatherings to tournaments, musical events, winter activities, and community meetings.

As a destination for golfers from near and far, the club welcomes visitors from outside the area, helping support and strengthen our local businesses. Each season, we also provide employment opportunities for local residents, contributing to the economic vitality of our region.

Above all, Valley View Golf Club offers a fun, healthy, and positive environment for people of all ages and backgrounds. It's a place where young people can learn the sport, golfers can sharpen their skills and families can spend time together.

We are proud of the role we play in this community and look forward to continuing that tradition for generations to come.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Valley View Golf Club is a proud non-profit organization that has been providing affordable golfing facilities to the public for almost 60 years.

Our full-service clubhouse and restaurant offer the community an accessible and welcoming recreational and social venue. From casual rounds and social games to tournaments, weddings, private gatherings, and public events, Valley View Golf Club continues to be a place where people come together to connect, celebrate, and enjoy quality experiences at an affordable price.

**Project: Course Improvements and Upkeep****3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

For nearly 60 years, Valley View Golf Club has been more than just a golf course, it has been a gathering place where memories are made - from weddings and celebration-of-life gatherings to tournaments, musical events, winter activities, and community meetings.

As a destination for golfers from near and far, the club welcomes visitors from outside the area, helping support and strengthen our local businesses. Each season, we also provide employment opportunities for local residents, contributing to the economic vitality of our region.

Above all, Valley View Golf Club offers a fun, healthy, and positive environment for people of all ages and backgrounds. It's a place where young people can learn the sport, golfers can sharpen their skills and families can spend time together.

We are proud of the role we play in this community and look forward to continuing that tradition for generations to come.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The Board identified areas that require ongoing financial support to ensure the continued success of our golf course.

Each season, our course requires consistent maintenance to remain in top condition. Essential products such as fungicide and fertilizer are critical to maintaining healthy greens. Investing in these necessities helps preserve the quality of play and encourages golfers to continue supporting our public golf course. Additionally, upgrading our irrigation system is vital to properly watering our greens, a fundamental need for the overall health of the course.

Our aging fleet of power golf carts requires regular repairs and maintenance. Ensuring our carts remain reliable allows all golfers to enjoy their experience particularly those with mobility challenges who rely on carts to access the course comfortably.

Clear signage promotes safety, helps everyone navigate the course with ease, and ensures that the rules and expectations of our facility are respected.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Our Board members and staff are passionate, dedicated, and hardworking. Having operated the course for nearly 60 years, we have developed extensive experience in providing ongoing improvements to our infrastructure, assets, and services. With the support of a committed membership, Board of Directors, and community, we share the workload and are committed to maintaining a solid plan that ensures a high-quality experience for all. The project can be completed within our normal operational framework and will not require additional staff, aside from the usual volunteer contributions.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The volunteer Board of Directors will oversee the planning and implementation of this project. Board members will research and confirm all purchases in consultation with our greens staff to ensure products and materials meet the specific needs of our course.

We will also engage local tradespeople and draw on the expertise of our knowledgeable members to assist with installation and implementation. This collaborative approach allows the Valley View Golf Club to make informed decisions, maximize available resources, and complete improvements efficiently while maintaining strong community involvement.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

- 8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**
- 9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**
- 10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Organization: **West Kootenay Football Club**

Registration # S0072363

Project Title: **2026 Unity Cup**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, Village of Salmo, Village of Slocan, Village of Kaslo

The Cup takes place in Nakusp using School District 10 elementary and high school fields.

**Project Description:**

The Unity Cup is the closing event of the spring soccer season. Youth teams from the entire club gather in Nakusp to celebrate the sport and the community. All teams enter the event without rankings and play in a friendly tournament format. Every player receives a medal. Teams from Crescent Valley, Salmo, Kaslo, Winlaw, Slocan, New Denver and Nakusp attend. Families travel to Nakusp for the weekend. Many stay in local campgrounds and hotels. The event supports local tourism while giving youth a positive and active experience.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$1,480.00	\$1,480.00
Capital Purchases	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Other Expenses	\$2,570.00	\$2,570.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,850.00</b>	<b>\$5,850.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Volunteer Coaches - 200 hours</li> <li>- Volunteer Cup Committee - 40 hours</li> <li>- Local business will be solicited for refreshments and snacks.</li> </ul>		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$5,850.00</b>	
Area D/Kaslo:	\$825.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$603.00
Area H:	\$1,925.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$1,365.00
Slocan:	\$592.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$540.00</b>

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** Yes, while the tournament is in Nakusp, all teams from multiple areas in the RDCK participate and Cup expenses are being requested from each area based on the number of players registered in each area.

**1. Importance to the Community:**

- Youth players are very excited to participate in the Unity Cup and benefit in this event. Along with fun and exciting game play, the weekend is a celebration of soccer and all teams, players and families coming together with events like movie night in the campground.
- The Village of Nakusp will see full campground, lots of activity and spending take place in and out of the Village.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Providing fun, engaging, and inclusive Recreational and Competitive Soccer programs for Children, Youth and Adults in the Slocan Valley, Salmo, Nakusp and Kaslo, BC

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

- Youth players are very excited to participate in the Unity Cup and benefit in this event. Along with fun and exciting game play, the weekend is a celebration of soccer and all teams, players and families coming together with events like movie night in the campground.
- The Village of Nakusp will see full campground, lots of activity and spending take place in and out of the Village.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The club keeps soccer accessible by maintaining some of the lowest registration fees in the Kootenays. Grant funding for tournament expenses helps us protect that accessibility. The club operates all teams without gender restrictions to support maximum participation.

Many families rely on programs such as Jumpstart and KidSport. The club provides support with funding applications, and no youth is turned away because of cost.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The Unity Cup is an annual event and has been running for a few years now. It has been successful and we continue to try to make it better for all involved. Last year weather conditions resulted in Saturday play being cancelled so fields weren't damaged. The Club adjusted on the fly with a revised Sunday scheduled that made for the best experience possible for players and families. The Club is most suited to run an event of this scope and size and has demonstrated previous success.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

- There will be numerous volunteers making this happen - coaches, organizers, Board members and support crews.
- Games will take place at SD10 high school and elementary school fields.
- Washrooms at the high school are made available for the tournament.
- All youth players with exception of minis will participate with many families travelling and staying in Nakusp
- In kind donations of food or drink will be sought from local businesses

**7. Minors will be working on this project: Yes**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

Organization: **Central Kootenay Food Policy Cncl.**

Registration # S0066941

Project Title: **Communicating Regional Food Systems**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area A, RDCK Area B, RDCK Area C, RDCK Area D, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area G, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, RDCK Area K, City of Nelson, Town of Creston, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Salmo,

This project will serve residents across the entire RDCK, including both rural electoral areas and municipalities. The Kootenay Food Council's primary geographic focus is the RDCK, and its communications tools are intended to support local food access organizations, producers, community members, and local governments within that region.

The upgraded website, directory, and Food Security Report Card will be accessible online across the RDCK, with digital and print-ready directory services available to smaller and rural communities. While the Council does collaborate more broadly across the Kootenays, this project will directly strengthen food system awareness, participation, and coordination within the RDCK.

**Project Description:**

Public understanding of the Kootenay Food Council's work is essential because informed residents are key partners in building a resilient regional food system. When people understand how their local food system functions-and the challenges it faces-they are better equipped to participate in solutions, support regional producers, and contribute to long-term food security.

Currently, food system information in the RDCK is fragmented across multiple websites and often communicated in technical or abstract language, limiting public understanding and participation.

This project will integrate the Kootenay Food Council website and Central Kootenay Farm and Food Directory into a single, accessible hub; refresh messaging to better serve broader public audiences; enhance printed and digital directory tools by aligning them with the Grow & Connect regional database; and expand the Food Systems Report Card with new indicators and visual tools that make regional conditions more visible and measurable at a community scale. Through improved efficiency, reduced duplication, and better information access for rural residents, this project will strengthen regional food literacy and public understanding.

The project will be delivered through web development, communications strategy refinement, GIS mapping integration(Grow & Connect), stakeholder engagement, and content development, creating an accessible information hub that strengthens participation and regional dialogue across the RDCK.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$3,980.00	\$3,980.00
Contract Fees	\$30,300.00	\$27,070.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$35,530.00</b>	<b>\$32,300.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$3,230.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Project Steering Committee Hours - 5 members x 10 hours @ \$35/hr = \$1750		
Report Card Steering Committee Hours - 3-5 members x 8hours @ \$35 = \$840 - \$1400		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$32,300.00</b>	
Area A:	\$500.00
Area B:	\$1,000.00
Area C:	\$500.00
Area D/Kaslo:	\$1,750.00
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$2,000.00
Area E:	\$1,750.00
Area F:	\$1,750.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$2,000.00
Area H:	\$2,000.00
Area I:	\$500.00
Area J:	\$3,500.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$2,500.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$500.00
Slocan:	\$700.00
Castlegar:	\$3,200.00
Creston:	\$2,750.00
Nelson:	\$4,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>
Silverton:	\$700.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: *no*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Food security is more relevant than ever in the RDCK. Rising costs across the food supply chain are impacting farmers, local businesses, and households. Food is a shared concern across all communities in the region-everyone is a stakeholder. As supply chain disruptions and economic pressures continue to affect affordability and access, informed communities are critical to building resilience.

Across the RDCK, efforts are underway to strengthen local food production, improve access, and build more resilient systems. However, this work is not always visible or easily understood by the public. Stakeholders have repeated the need for more public facing food literacy and clear, regionally specific information.

This project will benefit residents, producers, food access organizations, and municipalities by improving transparency, strengthening food literacy, and creating clearer pathways for community members to engage in their local food system.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

We bring people, ideas and information together to build a food secure region with a vibrant, resilient and just regional food system.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Food security is more relevant than ever in the RDCK. Rising costs across the food supply chain are impacting farmers, local businesses, and households. Food is a shared concern across all communities in the region-everyone is

**Project: Communicating Regional Food Systems**

a stakeholder. As supply chain disruptions and economic pressures continue to affect affordability and access, informed communities are critical to building resilience.

Across the RDCK, efforts are underway to strengthen local food production, improve access, and build more resilient systems. However, this work is not always visible or easily understood by the public. Stakeholders have repeated the need for more public facing food literacy and clear, regionally specific information.

This project will benefit residents, producers, food access organizations, and municipalities by improving transparency, strengthening food literacy, and creating clearer pathways for community members to engage in their local food system.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The project addresses the lack of clear, accessible, and unified food systems information in the RDCK. The Kootenay Food Council's current web presence is outdated, difficult to navigate, and overly focused on technical materials, limiting public understanding and engagement. Key resources, including the Farm and Food Directory, educational tools, and regional data, are spread across separate platforms with inconsistent messaging. As a result, residents lack a single, reliable entry point to learn about local food, connect with producers, and understand factors affecting regional food system resilience.

These issues have been consistently identified through Council and stakeholder engagement, regional food system reports including the Food Security Implementation Plan, and the recent Food Systems Report Card process.

Together, these inputs highlight the opportunity to improve accessibility, reduce information silos, and strengthen community participation in building a more resilient RDCK food system.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The Kootenay Food Council is uniquely positioned to deliver this project due to its established role as a regional convener and information hub within the RDCK. The organization works across communities, sectors, local organizations and governments, providing coordination and shared platforms for regional food initiatives. It has successfully delivered multi-partner projects, including the Farm and Food Directory, the Food Security Implementation Plan, and coordination initiatives such as Grow & Connect.

The Council has demonstrated capacity to manage contractors, steward grant funding, and facilitate engagement across rural and municipal contexts. Its Executive Director brings strong project management experience and regional relationships, supported by partnerships with technical and communications professionals.

Building on established tools and partnerships, this project advances existing regional work, ensuring feasibility within the grant timeframe while improving how RDCK residents access and engage with food system information.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The Kootenay Food Council includes membership from the farming community, food producers and processors as well as retailers, local non profits, local and municipal government and Interior Health.

Two steering committees will be convened from council members to oversee the project and report card work.

The project staff will include a KFC project coordinator (executive director), engagement coordinator (report card implementation), Grow and Connect technical partners (for the directory and database integration) as well as a local communications consultant, brand designer and web designer.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No****8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No****9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes****10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



Grow & Connect is a multi-regional, community-led initiative developing shared digital coordination infrastructure to strengthen regional food supply chains across British Columbia. In its pilot phase, it operates as a digital platform, designed to test and refine tools that improve visibility, logistics coordination, and business-to-business connectivity within regional food economies.

Across many regions, small and mid-scale producers, food hubs, processors, carriers, institutional buyers, and community food access organizations operate within fragmented coordination systems. While physical infrastructure gaps are often highlighted, there is also a critical need for relational and digital infrastructure that enables stakeholders to find one another, share information, coordinate distribution, and align supply with demand. The absence of shared coordination tools contributes to duplicated transportation, underutilized aggregation capacity, limited market access, and reduced resilience during supply chain disruptions.

Grow & Connect addresses this coordination gap by developing digital tools that support aggregation, distribution, procurement, and collaboration across regional food networks. The platform includes:

- A structured, searchable directory of food system actors, products, and services
- A logistics load board for sharing routes, backhauls, and freight opportunities
- Asset and route visualization tools to map infrastructure and movement pathways
- Communication and collaboration features to support coordination between partners

The initiative is guided by a multi-regional partnership that includes food hubs, regional food organizations, logistics providers, procurement networks, and local governments. Development is iterative and grounded in stakeholder engagement, ensuring that the platform reflects operational realities across diverse geographies and supply chain contexts. By aligning digital infrastructure with on-the-ground workflows, Grow & Connect strengthens regional value chains, improves transportation efficiency, increases transparency across markets, and enhances collective capacity to adapt to environmental, economic, and supply chain disruptions.

To view the platform and register: <https://kootenay-pilot.growandconnect.ca/#/>

If you're interested in more details or a one on one demo, please reach out to [growandconnect@ckfoodpolicy.ca](mailto:growandconnect@ckfoodpolicy.ca)



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To view the platform and register: <https://kootenay-pilot.growandconnect.ca/#/>

If you're interested in more details or a one on one demo, please reach out to [growandconnect@ckfoodpolicy.ca](mailto:growandconnect@ckfoodpolicy.ca)

## **Sites**

[www.kootenayfood.ca](http://www.kootenayfood.ca)

[www.council.kootenayfood.ca](http://www.council.kootenayfood.ca)

[www.growandconnect.ca](http://www.growandconnect.ca)

## **Kootenay Food Council Reports - Actions Alignment with proposal**

Food Security Action Plan

<https://council.kootenayfood.ca/central-kootenay-food-security-action-plan/>

Actions:

- 1.3 - Establish an annual calendar for soliciting needs and priorities from area food system actors
- 2.1 - Undertake an annual survey of emergency food providers
- 2.4 - Develop and disseminate a solid understanding of food insecurity stressors and cycles
- 3.3 - Support annual Farm & Food Directory
- 3.4 - Use communications platforms to educate about food

Evidence Based Policy Development Project

<https://council.kootenayfood.ca/evidence/>

## **Nelson Path to 2040 Sustainability Plan - Objective alignment with proposal**

- HLSW1: Support & encourage healthy living choices and be responsive to the needs of individuals, families and the greater community.
- FFSA1: Ensure availability and accessibility of nutritious whole foods.
- FFSA2: Participate in a coordinated approach to support farmers' access to the land and resources they need in order to maximize regional food production, processing and distribution.
- FFSA3: Support and encourage food production, processing and storage within city limits at both the commercial level and individual level.
- FFSA4: Inspire a greater understanding of the local / global food system and available resources to build community capacity and to foster more informed, ethical choices.
- ACH4: Integrate the Arts, Culture and Heritage sector with others to enrich and build a stronger community

## **Rethinking How We Measure Food Systems - Food System Report Card**

### **What's a Food Systems Report Card and why does it matter?**

Industrial agriculture often defines “success” by yield and profit, but what if we measured food systems differently? A Food Systems Report Card takes a holistic, locally-informed approach. It uses community-based indicators to assess the social, environmental, and economic health of a region's food system, highlighting gaps, strengths, and opportunities for change. When we redefine how we measure success, we can reshape how food systems are organized and governed. Report cards help communities see the bigger picture of their local food system, providing knowledge communicated in an accessible way.

### **What Are Indicators?**

Indicators are the metrics of the food system: data points that reflect local realities, including number of food suppliers buying local food, meal plans reaching students, or the quantity of nutrition support coupons used at farmers markets in the region.

### **Progress to date**

To date, we have focused on what is possible within our current capacity, drawing from existing data sources and building on established datasets to shape the foundation of the Food Systems Report Card. We have conducted community and stakeholder engagement to clarify what matters most to measure. Initial surveys helped us better understand local priorities and how residents, producers, and food system partners define success. These initial insights have guided which indicators we are advancing first.

Sources we gleaned indicators from include the BC CDC, Statistics Canada, Farmer's Markets BC, and the Kootenay Food Council Farm and Food Directory. Indicators include measurements of household income compared with food prices (regionally), number of farmers' markets in the district, and we are in the early stages of developing indicators to analyze food literacy programming. Certain indicators, despite potentially not providing quantitative data, will provide rich insightful information, which we will present in a narrative analysis. These indicators will also provide fruitful grounds for further research and data collection.

We are currently collaborating with the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) on their State of Climate Action Report, specifically contributing to the agriculture indicator page. The page will reference and highlight our more detailed, narrative-based final report, which will be housed on the Kootenay Food Council website. Additionally, our collaboration with Interior Health has supported our creation of a community-based advisory committee to provide insight and perspectives from agriculture, food production, health, research and local government. Potential committee member organizations include: Selkirk College, RDCK, Interior Health, food access organizations (NCFC, Kaslo Community Services) and regional food hubs.

The current iteration of the long form Food Systems Report Card, scheduled for publication in spring 2026, will serve as a feasibility-focused version. It reflects what can be developed using available data and existing capacity, while laying the groundwork for deeper data collection and expanded indicators in future phases.

Organization: **Kootenay Wellness Foundation**

Registration # XS007805

Project Title: **Pharatree Kids Zone at the Kootenay Wellness Festival**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area F, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, City of Nelson, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan, Village of Kaslo

This project will happen at the Kootenay Wellness Festival, hosted at the Vallican Whole Community Centre in Vallican, BC. It welcomes participants from throughout the Kootenays and beyond. Pharatree is located in Winlaw.

**Project Description:**

The Kootenay Wellness Festival is an all-ages weekend festival, hosted at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, which gives attendants the opportunity to immerse themselves in an array of classes, workshops, educational talks, art, culture & more, with a focus on wellness and intentional living.

This project funding will support the coordination, facilitation, materials, and infrastructure required to deliver a safe, engaging, and inclusive Kids Zone at the Kootenay Wellness Festival, managed by the Pharatree Education Foundation. The Kids Zone will offer creative, wellness-focused, and STEAM-based activities for children and families, facilitated by trained educators, artists, and youth mentors.

This space will allow children to be involved in the festival and create festival accessibility to parents and families. Because the festival programming is so intensive, the Kids Zone needs to be a deeply engaging, well-organized and well-staffed space that can provide long hours of care and entertainment for children and youth.

The Pharatree Education Foundation is a Winlaw-based non-profit that programs learning and creative opportunities for children and families in the Slocan Valley, and is well-positioned to facilitate a healthy and happy space for children to be engaged at the Festival. The space would be coordinated by Pharatree Director Nicole Carere, who will engage a group of trained volunteers and paid facilitators to provide days of care and entertainment.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$150.00	\$50.00
Contract Fees	\$1,400.00	\$1,200.00
Capital Purchases	\$300.00	\$300.00
Other Expenses	\$550.00	\$450.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,400.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$400.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Pharatree Learning Centre will contribute additional unpaid planning and coordination time, volunteer supervision and mentorship, transport and setup support, existing equipment and activity materials. Estimated in-kind value: \$600		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$2,000.00</b>	
Area D/Kaslo:	\$150.00
Area F:	\$100.00
Area H:	\$800.00
Area I:	\$150.00
Area J:	\$100.00
Slocan:	\$150.00
Castlegar:	\$100.00
Nelson:	\$200.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
Silverton:	\$100.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** *This application will seek some funding from various areas of the RDCK. The Wellness Festival is also seeking funding for other aspects of the Festival.*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Parents and families can struggle to make space in their lives for well-being and personal growth, and children are not always explicitly considered in event programming. Creating intentional, well-designed, safe and inclusive space, a "village" where all members are welcomed and encouraged to thrive, makes our entire community healthier and more resilient, and encourages lifelong healthy learning habits.

Kids Zones at events are sometimes just a messy and chaotic craft table, where kids are left to fend for themselves. This space will be explicitly programmed so that children are safely cared for, and provided with a diversity of entertaining experiences and learning spaces - so they're not a burden or an afterthought, but meaningful participants in the community.

Creating spaces where local youth can access mentorship, build leadership skills, and gain valuable volunteer experience, is also incredibly important to the project and benefits community. Tourism also benefits from this event.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Kootenay Wellness Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the well-being of all lives in the Kootenay region, with an impact that ripples across the province. Through initiatives like the Kootenay Wellness Festival, we cultivate nourishing environments by providing access to holistic wellness practices to all.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Parents and families can struggle to make space in their lives for well-being and personal growth, and children are not always explicitly considered in event programming. Creating intentional, well-designed, safe and inclusive space, a "village" where all members are welcomed and encouraged to thrive, makes our entire community healthier and more resilient, and encourages lifelong healthy learning habits.

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Creating spaces where local youth can access mentorship, build leadership skills, and gain valuable volunteer experience, is also incredibly important to the project and benefits community. Tourism also benefits from this event.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The Kootenay Wellness Festival attracts over 200 attendees from all over the Kootenays to the Slocan Valley, for an intensive weekend of gathering, connection, learning, celebration and personal growth. Offering excellent childrens programming makes the festival much more accessible to parents and families, and encourages wholistic family wellness, literacy, attachment, and lifelong learning habits in the whole community of attendees. Multi-generational programming welcomes diversity, collaboration, and connection, strengthening the community and enlivening the festival space in myriad ways.

Making the festival accessible to parents, and creating spaces where children are welcomed participants in community, is an important value for the Festival. The Kids Zone will also provide mentorship for youth facilitators in the community, where teenage volunteers will gain crucial skills and experience in childcare, group facilitation, and STEAM programming. Creating opportunities for leadership and meaningful community participation for Valley youth is an important facet of Pharatree's work.

**Project: Pharatree Kids Zone at the Kootenay Wellness Festival**

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Pharatree Education Foundation has been cultivating a physical learning space, resources, and a network of trained facilitators in the Slocan Valley for five years, and has successfully delivered hundreds of hours of child, youth and family programming including weekly classes, camps, one-on-one tutoring, and home-school enrichment spaces to the Valley and surrounding area.

The Wellness Festival has been successfully running annually in the Slocan Valley for several years, showing strong engagement with the community, excellent attendance, and a commitment to diverse and inclusive community built on well-being. The festival is well-organized and has a great reputation in the community. Festival planning for this year is in progress, and the Kids Zone will be an important part of the overall offering. This partnership allows both organizations to focus on their strengths and collaborate to ensure thoughtful programming that meets the needs of all attendees.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The project will be coordinated by Nicole Carere, Director of Pharatree Education Foundation, who will assemble a team of trained educators, artists, and youth mentors who will program and facilitate the weekend. Pharatree is working collaboratively with Kootenay Wellness Festival staff and volunteers to make sure the Kids Zone works well within the whole framework of the Festival.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: Yes**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

## Pharatree Kids Zone

### Budget Details

Category	Description	Amount
Program Coordination & Administration	Planning, scheduling, volunteer coordination, facilitator coordination, communications with festival organizers, setup planning, on-site management, and post-event reporting. Provided by Pharatree Learning Centre (Nicole Carere).	\$600
Facilitator Honorariums	Honorariums for local facilitators providing workshops and activities (arts & crafts, mindfulness, yoga, storytelling, maker activities, creative play). Approx. 6 facilitators, \$100 each.	\$600
Program Supplies & Materials	Craft supplies, maker materials, sensory and creative play materials, reusable activity tools, and consumable workshop supplies.	\$300
Canopy Tent with Walls (Weather & Safety Infrastructure)	Purchase of durable canopy tent with sidewalls to provide shade, rain protection, and defined safe space for children's programming. Reusable for future community programming.	\$300
Operational Costs & Miscellaneous	Printing signage, program materials, small equipment, replacement materials, and contingency.	\$150

Pharatree Learning Centre

Winlaw, British Columbia

pharatreelearningcentre@gmail.com

250-509-2888

February 18, 2026

Re: Partnership Confirmation — Pharatree Learning Centre & Kootenay Wellness Foundation

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter serves to formally affirm the partnership between Pharatree Learning Centre and the Kootenay Wellness Foundation and Festival, and to confirm Pharatree Learning Centre's active role as a contributing community partner in the planning and delivery of youth and family programming as part of the festival.

Pharatree Learning Centre is a community-based educational hub located in the Slocan Valley, dedicated to providing inclusive, intergenerational learning opportunities in STEAM education, creative arts, wellness, and community connection. Our programs serve children, youth, families, and seniors, with a particular focus on fostering creativity, confidence, leadership, and a strong sense of belonging.

As part of our partnership with the Kootenay Wellness Foundation and Festival, Pharatree Learning Centre is coordinating and delivering the festival's Kids Zone and youth-focused programming. This includes the design and facilitation of hands-on creative arts, maker-based STEAM activities, mindfulness and wellness experiences, storytelling, collaborative play, and skill-building opportunities that support social, emotional, and creative development.

Pharatree Learning Centre provides leadership in program planning, staffing coordination, youth volunteer mentorship, and on-site facilitation. We work closely with festival organizers to ensure that programming aligns with the festival's mission of promoting wellness, resilience, creativity, and meaningful community connection.

This partnership contributes to important community outcomes, including:

- Providing safe, inclusive, and enriching wellness programming for children and families
- Supporting youth leadership, mentorship, and volunteer skill development
- Strengthening intergenerational relationships and community engagement
- Increasing access to creative, educational, and wellness-based opportunities in a rural region
- Enhancing the accessibility and family inclusivity of the Kootenay Wellness Festival

Pharatree Learning Centre is proud to collaborate with the Kootenay Wellness Foundation and Festival and remains committed to supporting its continued growth and impact within our community. We fully support funding initiatives that strengthen this partnership and expand youth and family programming as part of the festival.

Please feel free to contact us for any additional information.

Sincerely,

Nicole Carere

Founder & Director

Pharatree Learning Centre

Winlaw & Nelson, British Columbia

Organization: **Central Kootenay Food Policy Cncl.**

Registration #

Project Title: **Growing Community Food Procurement Systems**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area A, RDCK Area B, RDCK Area C, RDCK Area D, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area G, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, RDCK Area K, City of Nelson, Town of Creston, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Salmo,

This project takes place across the RDCK, serving multiple communities including rural and remote areas. Emphasis has been placed on improving coordination and ease of access across the region. While not every community has a local food provider, residents access regional services across community boundaries.

Activities will occur within existing infrastructure, including food hubs, schools, warehouses, community food access sites, and partner facilities. Rather than operating from a single location, the project uses a distributed regional coordination model-connecting communities through shared communication, convening, and collaborative logistics planning. The Network remains open to organizations across the district, with continued outreach underway.

**Project Description:**

The Kootenay Food Procurement Network is a regional coordination initiative designed to strengthen collaboration between community food providers, schools, producers, food hubs, and logistics partners. Its purpose is to address fragmentation in food sourcing, recovery and redistribution by creating shared communication and collaboration systems.

An initial pilot phase was implemented across multiple regions to test coordination approaches and identify practical opportunities for improvement. This continuation phase focuses specifically on the RDCK, while maintaining collaboration with regional partners where appropriate.

Within the RDCK, the project will formalize and stabilize the Network through regular convening, shared communication tools, and clearer coordination processes. It will refine and expand a regional inventory of food assets"mapping storage, aggregation, and distribution capacity to improve responsiveness. The Grow & Connect platform will support the asset mapping and provide tools to facilitate logistics coordination.

The project will also test practical approaches to collective purchasing and food recovery coordination, including structured producer engagement. Short-term impacts include reduced duplication, improved reliability of local food access, and strengthened regional relationships across the food system. Strengthening coordination at the regional level contributes to a more resilient and responsive local food system for residents and communities alike.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
Contract Fees	\$18,600.00	\$16,200.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$24,400.00</b>	<b>\$22,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$2,400.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Grow & Connect Tools and Technical Support - mapping, analysis, systems and logistics development, communications - In kind value \$5000 - \$8000		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$22,000.00</b>	
Area B:	\$750.00
Area D/Kaslo:	\$1,250.00
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$1,500.00
Area E:	\$1,025.00
Area F:	\$1,000.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$1,500.00
Area H:	\$1,500.00
Area J:	\$2,250.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$2,250.00
Slocan:	\$500.00
Castlegar:	\$2,750.00
Creston:	\$2,225.00
Nelson:	\$3,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: *no*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project is critical to communities across the RDCK as rising costs, supply uncertainty, and economic pressures continue to strain local food systems. Emergency food providers and school meal programs face growing challenges in managing demand, budgets, and logistics while working to provide nutritious, dignified meals. Strengthening regional coordination reduces duplication, improves efficiency, and increases shared capacity among community food providers. Aligning these programs with local producers also reinforces regional supply chains. The need for this work was identified through pilot implementation, Food Council and Network meetings, and direct feedback from food access organizations, school food coordinators, producers, and supply chain partners. Participants consistently emphasized the need for clearer communication, stronger collaboration, and equitable distribution. The project benefits community food providers, schools, producers, and logistics partners by improving coordination, consolidating demand, and expanding access to local food-ultimately supporting residents who rely on community food programs and school meal initiatives.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

We bring people, ideas and information together to build a food secure region with a vibrant, resilient and just regional food system.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project is critical to communities across the RDCK as rising costs, supply uncertainty, and economic pressures continue to strain local food systems. Emergency food providers and school meal programs face growing challenges in managing demand, budgets, and logistics while working to provide nutritious, dignified meals. Strengthening regional coordination reduces duplication, improves efficiency, and increases shared capacity among community food providers. Aligning these programs with local producers also reinforces regional supply chains. The need for this work was identified through pilot implementation, Food Council and Network meetings, and direct feedback from food access organizations, school food coordinators, producers, and supply chain partners.

**Project: Growing Community Food Procurement Systems**

Participants consistently emphasized the need for clearer communication, stronger collaboration, and equitable distribution.

The project benefits community food providers, schools, producers, and logistics partners by improving coordination, consolidating demand, and expanding access to local food-ultimately supporting residents who rely on community food programs and school meal initiatives.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Across the RDCK, food recovery and purchasing systems remain largely fragmented and localized. Surplus food is unevenly distributed between communities, while transportation and logistics barriers limit redistribution. At the same time, rising food costs are placing increased strain on emergency food providers and community food programs.

Through a six-month pilot phase led by the Kootenay Food Council, and engagement with 23 food access organizations, three school districts, five producers, and five carriers, partners identified persistent coordination gaps. Organizations reported limited internal capacity to develop shared purchasing or recovery systems, even when collaboration could reduce costs or improve efficiency. Participants also noted a lack of coordinated mechanisms to aggregate demand, align producer supply, and manage storage and delivery logistics at a regional scale.

These challenges were consistently identified through network meetings, partner feedback, and school food coordinator discussions.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The Kootenay Food Council is well positioned to deliver this project, having led and implemented the initial six-month Food Procurement Network Pilot phase. During this period, the Council established cross-sector partnerships with food access organizations, school districts, producers, food hubs, carriers, and supply chain stakeholders across the RDCK.

The organization has extensive experience convening regional stakeholders, facilitating collaborative initiatives, and managing multi-partner projects. Through the pilot phase, the Council developed operational knowledge of coordination barriers, logistics alignment, and demand aggregation processes, along with baseline quantitative and qualitative data.

Administrative and financial management systems are in place to oversee project delivery, reporting, and compliance. Existing data tracking tools and coordination processes provide a strong foundation for continuation and refinement. This experience, combined with established relationships and regional trust, ensures the organization has the capacity to successfully implement the next phase.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Project lead - Kootenay Food Council ED, project management, facilitation, financial oversight, and regional stakeholder engagement.

Procurement Coordinator "" Contractor with six months of pilot experience in partnership development, data gathering, supplier engagement, and logistics coordination.

Community Food Access Organizations "" Active network participants providing on-the-ground operational insight and participation in recovery and purchasing activities.

School Districts "" Collaborative partners exploring feasible local purchasing opportunities.

Supply Chain Stakeholders (e.g., Castlegar Warehousing, Kootenay Farms Food Hub) "" Support aggregation, storage, and regional logistics coordination.

Grow & Connect Partners "" Provide technical infrastructure and asset mapping support.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No****8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No****9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



Grow & Connect is a multi-regional, community-led initiative developing shared digital coordination infrastructure to strengthen regional food supply chains across British Columbia. In its pilot phase, it operates as a digital platform, designed to test and refine tools that improve visibility, logistics coordination, and business-to-business connectivity within regional food economies.

Across many regions, small and mid-scale producers, food hubs, processors, carriers, institutional buyers, and community food access organizations operate within fragmented coordination systems. While physical infrastructure gaps are often highlighted, there is also a critical need for relational and digital infrastructure that enables stakeholders to find one another, share information, coordinate distribution, and align supply with demand. The absence of shared coordination tools contributes to duplicated transportation, underutilized aggregation capacity, limited market access, and reduced resilience during supply chain disruptions.

Grow & Connect addresses this coordination gap by developing digital tools that support aggregation, distribution, procurement, and collaboration across regional food networks. The platform includes:

- A structured, searchable directory of food system actors, products, and services
- A logistics load board for sharing routes, backhauls, and freight opportunities
- Asset and route visualization tools to map infrastructure and movement pathways
- Communication and collaboration features to support coordination between partners

The initiative is guided by a multi-regional partnership that includes food hubs, regional food organizations, logistics providers, procurement networks, and local governments. Development is iterative and grounded in stakeholder engagement, ensuring that the platform reflects operational realities across diverse geographies and supply chain contexts. By aligning digital infrastructure with on-the-ground workflows, Grow & Connect strengthens regional value chains, improves transportation efficiency, increases transparency across markets, and enhances collective capacity to adapt to environmental, economic, and supply chain disruptions.

To view the platform and register: <https://kootenay-pilot.growandconnect.ca/#/>

If you're interested in more details or a one on one demo, please reach out to [growandconnect@ckfoodpolicy.ca](mailto:growandconnect@ckfoodpolicy.ca)



## **Re: Letter of Support – Kootenay Food Procurement Network**

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Fields Forward Society, which operates the Kootenay Farms Food Hub in Creston, we are pleased to provide this letter of strong support for the Kootenay Food Council's application to continue strengthening the Kootenay Food Procurement Network.

Fields Forward Society is dedicated to advancing a resilient, regionally connected food system in the Creston Valley and throughout the Kootenays. Through the Kootenay Farms Food Hub, we aggregate, store, and distribute food from local producers, serving institutional buyers, food access organizations, and community partners. Our work positions us at a critical intersection between agricultural production and food distribution, giving us direct insight into both the abundance of the Creston Valley and the unmet food access needs across the broader Kootenay region.

The Creston Valley is one of the most productive agricultural areas in the Kootenays. Each season, our farmers produce significant volumes of high-quality fruits, vegetables, and value-added products. At the same time, we see surplus and seconds that, without coordinated systems, risk going underutilized. Meanwhile, communities throughout the East and West Kootenays face ongoing challenges related to food affordability, supply chain instability, and consistent access to fresh, locally grown food.

The Kootenay Food Procurement Network presents a powerful opportunity to bridge this gap.

By strengthening regional coordination, logistics, and communication, the Network creates practical pathways to move surplus and recovered food from high-production areas such as the Creston Valley into communities across the Kootenays where it is needed most. This not only reduces food waste but also keeps food dollars circulating within our regional economy, supports farm viability, and enhances food security outcomes.

During the pilot phase, we observed how improved alignment between producers, food hubs, food banks, schools, and community food programs can significantly increase efficiency and impact. The Network reduces duplication of effort, clarifies roles within the regional system, and builds the trust necessary for long-term collaboration. It also strengthens emergency responsiveness by establishing clear channels through which food can move quickly during supply disruptions or climate-related events.

Continued investment in the Kootenay Food Procurement Network will:

- Expand aggregation and distribution capacity across the region
- Improve data sharing and demand forecasting
- Strengthen cross-regional logistics from Creston to communities throughout the Kootenays
- Increase the volume of surplus and locally produced food reaching food access organizations
- Support long-term regional food system resilience

As the operator of the Kootenay Farms Food Hub, Fields Forward Society sees firsthand the transformative potential of a coordinated regional approach. Linking the agricultural abundance of the Creston Valley with the broader needs of the Kootenays is not only possible—it is essential for building a more equitable, efficient, and resilient food system.

We fully support the continuation and expansion of this initiative and look forward to ongoing collaboration to ensure that surplus food in one part of our region becomes nourishment and opportunity in another.

Sincerely,

*Tanya Wall*

Executive Director  
Fields Forward Society & Kootenay Farms Food Hub  
401 Payne St. Creston B.C.  
[tanya@fieldsforward.ca](mailto:tanya@fieldsforward.ca)  
250-254-5815



February 20, 2026

Re: Letter of Support – Kootenay Food Procurement Network (ReDi Grant Application)

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of School District #8 (Kootenay Lake), I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Kootenay Food Council's application to continue strengthening the Kootenay Food Procurement Network.

School food programs operate within tight timelines, budgets, and staffing capacity. Exploring opportunities to source more local food requires coordination, communication, and logistical clarity that can be difficult for individual programs to manage on their own. Through engagement with the Network's pilot phase, we have appreciated the opportunity to discuss barriers, seasonal availability, and practical coordination options with regional partners.

The Network provides a structured space to explore and test feasible local purchasing opportunities while remaining responsive to the operational realities of school programs. Continued support for this work will help strengthen communication between school districts, food access organizations, and regional suppliers in a way that benefits students and communities.

We support the continuation of this initiative and look forward to ongoing collaboration.

Sincerely,

Chandra Moon  
District Food Equity Programs Advisor  
School District #8 (Kootenay Lake)



Box 546, 336 'B' Avenue, Kaslo, BC, V0G 1M0  
Tel: 250 353 7691 • Fax: 250 353 7694  
office@kaslo.services • www.kaslo.services

*Serving the communities of  
North and Central Kootenay Lake and the Lardeau Valley*

Feb 19, 2026

**Re: Letter of Support – Kootenay Food Procurement Network**

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Kaslo Community Services, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Kootenay Food Council's application to continue strengthening the Kootenay Food Procurement Network.

As a small rural food bank, we operate with limited staff and volunteer capacity. Coordinating food sourcing, transportation, and distribution requires time and logistical support that we are not always able to manage independently. Through the pilot phase of the Network, we have experienced the benefit of improved communication, shared purchasing discussions, and stronger coordination of food recovery across communities.

The Network has helped us connect more effectively with regional partners, reduce duplication of effort, and improve access to food supplies. For smaller organizations like ours, regional coordination increases our capacity while supporting increasingly strained budgets. Continued support will help solidify this work and ensure rural and smaller communities remain connected, supported, and better positioned to serve residents in need.

We fully support this application and look forward to continued participation.

Sincerely,

Erin Carr

Food Cupboard Coordinator  
Kaslo Community Services

February 19, 2026

Re: Letter of Support – Kootenay Food Procurement Network (ReDi Grant Application)

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of School District 20, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Kootenay Food Council's application to continue strengthening the Kootenay Food Procurement Network.

School food programs operate within tight timelines, budgets, and staffing capacity. Exploring opportunities to source more local food requires coordination, communication, and logistical clarity that can be difficult for individual programs to manage on their own. Through engagement with the Network's pilot phase, we have appreciated the opportunity to discuss barriers, seasonal availability, and practical coordination options with regional partners.

The Network provides a structured space to explore and test feasible local purchasing opportunities while remaining responsive to the operational realities of school programs. Continued support for this work will help strengthen communication between school districts, food access organizations, and regional suppliers in a way that benefits students and communities.

We support the continuation of this initiative and look forward to ongoing collaboration.

Sincerely,



Caley Mairin  
Healthy Schools Coordinator  
School District no. 20 Kootenay-Columbia

**February 19, 2026**

**To:** Kootenay Food Council

**Subject:** Letter of Support – Kootenay Food Procurement Network

On behalf of the Nakusp Food Alliance, we are pleased to provide this letter of support for the Kootenay Food Council's application to continue strengthening the Kootenay Food Procurement Network.

The Nakusp Food Alliance works to enhance local food resilience by connecting farms, community organizations, schools, and food access initiatives within Nakusp and the surrounding area. Through partnerships with local producers and food-based community infrastructure, we are deeply engaged in strengthening regional food pathways and supporting access to nutritious, locally grown food.

As a rural community, we regularly encounter both abundance and barriers within our food system. Local farms and food businesses often have surplus or seasonally abundant products, while community organizations and households face challenges accessing consistent, affordable supply. The gap is rarely about willingness — it is about coordination, logistics, and shared systems.

Through engagement with the Procurement Network's pilot phase, we have seen the value of improved regional communication and infrastructure. The Network is creating new pathways for locally produced and recovered food to move more efficiently between farms, food hubs, storage facilities, and community food programs. By strengthening connections between producers, food access organizations, schools, and distribution partners, the Network helps reduce duplication of effort and opens new opportunities for collaboration.

For a community-based alliance such as ours, regional coordination expands our capacity beyond what we can accomplish independently. It enables surplus food to be shared more broadly across communities, improves visibility of available supply, and strengthens relationships that build long-term resilience.

Continued investment in the Kootenay Food Procurement Network will deepen these connections, enhance system-wide coordination, and help rural communities like Nakusp participate more fully in a collaborative regional food economy.

We fully support the continuation of this initiative and look forward to ongoing collaboration.

**Sincerely,**



**Date: 2026-02-19**

Re: Letter of Support – Kootenay Food Procurement Network

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of W.E Graham Community Service Society, Slocan Food Cupboard, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Kootenay Food Council's application to continue strengthening the Kootenay Food Procurement Network.

As a small rural food bank, we operate with limited staff and volunteer capacity. Coordinating food sourcing, transportation, and distribution requires time and logistical support that we are not always able to manage independently. Through the pilot phase of the Network, we have experienced the benefit of improved communication, shared purchasing discussions, and stronger coordination of food recovery across communities.

The Network has helped us connect more effectively with regional partners, reduce duplication of effort, and improve access to food supplies. For smaller organizations like ours, regional coordination increases our capacity while supporting increasingly strained budgets.

Continued support will help solidify this work and ensure rural and smaller communities remain connected, supported, and better positioned to serve residents in need.

We fully support this application and look forward to continued participation.

Sincerely,

*Darrian K. Sar*

Food Bank Manager  
W.E. Graham Community Service Society  
Phone: 250-355-2484  
[www.wegcss.org](http://www.wegcss.org)



*W.E.G.C.S.S. is based in the traditional, ancestral and unceded təmxʷulaʔxʷ (homeland) of the Sinixt Peoples.*

*We make this acknowledgement to show our respect and gratitude for the people who act as stewards and caretakers of the land which nourishes us all, past, present, and future.*

# Kootenay Food Procurement Network

## Pilot Phase – Interim Project Summary

The Kootenay Food Procurement Network was launched to strengthen coordination between community food access organizations, school food programs, producers, and logistics partners across the region. Six months into the pilot phase, the Network has established strong participation, early procurement results, and growing regional momentum.

## Progress to Date

### Network Participation

- 23 community food access organizations engaged
- 4 school districts / school food programs participating
- 5 food producers engaged
- 25 one-on-one meetings with food access organizations
- 3 producer site visits
- 1 regional online launch + 1 in-person roundtable (16 organizations)

### Procurement & Recovery Outcomes

- 9 coordinated food recoveries/donations
- 2 collective purchasing trials (local ground beef + bulk apples)
- 4,200 lbs of food moved through the network
- \$703 in documented savings for participating partners, and growing!

### Logistics & Coordination

- 6 examples of shared logistics (storage, pick-up coordination, resource sharing)
- 7 coordinated transportation supports

- Procurement and recovery tracking system established and in use

## **What We're Learning**

The pilot has confirmed strong regional interest in collective purchasing of both local and staple foods. Partners value consistent coordination opportunities that allow them to plan menus and budgets more effectively.

Relationship-building has been foundational. Organizations are increasingly proactive—sharing leads, identifying surplus opportunities, and collaborating without prompting. Trust and momentum are growing.

Key system challenges remain:

- Limited staff/volunteer capacity affecting recovery uptake
- Storage constraints (cooler, freezer, dry space)
- Transportation costs and coordination timing

The pilot has also clarified the importance of aligning collective purchasing efforts with existing community relationships and operational realities.

## **Emerging Opportunities**

- Strong alignment with school food programs, including interest in collaborative procurement pathways
- Active exploration of broader regional partnerships
- Development of transparent collective purchasing pricing models now being tested

## **Current Position**

Six months into implementation, the Network has moved from concept to operational coordination. Early procurement trials, measurable food movement, and sustained partner engagement demonstrate viability. While infrastructure and capacity barriers persist, the groundwork for a coordinated regional procurement system is coming into place.

Organization: **Bee Awareness Society**

Registration # S-0065268

Project Title: **Bee Awareness Education Program**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area E, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, City of Nelson, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Slocan

Our project will take place at schools throughout the region from Lucerne, New Denver, WE Graham in Slocan, Whole School, Winlaw Elementary, Brent Kennedy, Blewett School, Redfish Elementary, Hume and Wildflower Schools, Nelson to Robson elementary and other schools. We receive requests to go to new schools throughout the year.

Elementary/high schools, pre-schools and daycares all benefit from this program, as well as homeschooling and outdoor education groups which have learning locations from the Junction area all the way up to Slocan.

We attend garden and community festivals and fall fairs, sharing our project with the community at large.

**Project Description:**

We use glass observation bee hives in schools throughout the Kootenays. We use observation hives as "Live Learning Tools" to get kids curious and engaged in the world of bees and other pollinators. We use Portable Secure Observation Day hives as a way to diversify our ability to bring the bees to more classrooms and home learning and outdoor education programs in the area. We offer a dynamic Pollinator Education Program. Using our developed curriculum, we educate kids about why pollinators are a vital part of our planet, and how we can care for the environment and our communities in ways that will support pollinators, and therefore ourselves. Our curriculum includes sharing and knowledge circles where we share facts, answer questions, and have discussions about pollinators. We also use interactive games and hands on crafts and activities to enrich the learning experience in various ways. It's a hands-on and fully immersive experience. We offer an extended program consisting of 3 sessions over the school year, and we also have the option of a one day session. This is based on what is best suited for each school, as well as funding availability.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$500.00	\$500.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$4,300.00	\$4,300.00
Other Expenses	\$13,200.00	\$13,200.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,000.00</b>	<b>\$18,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK Redi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Keith Stetsko- Labour to build, intall and maintain hives (worth \$600.00 per hive)		
Linda Martin-Labour for accounting and grant writing (\$50.00 per hour)		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
<i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$18,000.00</i>	
Area E:	\$2,200.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$1,500.00
Area H:	\$2,800.00
Area I:	\$600.00
Area J:	\$800.00
Slocan:	\$1,800.00
Castlegar:	\$2,300.00
Nelson:	\$4,200.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$1,800.00</b>

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: *yes, RDCK to provide the educational program in schools of that area*

**Project: Bee Awareness Education Program****1. Importance to the Community:**

To educate the community, and most importantly kids, about the importance of all our pollinators in sustaining 35% of our food supply by their pollination, and the challenges they are facing. To encourage the importance of keeping our environment clean and healthy, so that our pollinators will survive. All humankind, plants, animals, and insects will benefit from a clean environment and the bounty of the food we eat. This is the most important aspect of our project. We are developing new ways to communicate to our communities, alongside the children in schools, about the importance of refraining from the use of herbicides and pesticides which are very harmful to our honeybees and other pollinators. The children involved in our programs share the knowledge they learn, art projects, and gardening ideas with their families and friends which expands our learning community.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

The Bee Awareness Society is in our 12th year of operation. We use glass observation bee hives in the schools in the Kootenays and surrounding area. We provide an education program and our instructors teach the basics of pollination, why it is important, risk to all pollinators and what students/community can do to reduce risk to pollinators in their own backyard. We teach the life cycle of the honeybee and how the honeybees work together in their own community. We instill responsible stewardship in the school children which will result in a sustainable healthy environment for humanity, plants, animals and insects in the future.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

To educate the community, and most importantly kids, about the importance of all our pollinators in sustaining 35% of our food supply by their pollination, and the challenges they are facing. To encourage the importance of keeping our environment clean and healthy, so that our pollinators will survive. All humankind, plants, animals, and insects will benefit from a clean environment and the bounty of the food we eat. This is the most important aspect of our project. We are developing new ways to communicate to our communities, alongside the children in schools, about the importance of refraining from the use of herbicides and pesticides which are very harmful to our honeybees and other pollinators. The children involved in our programs share the knowledge they learn, art projects, and gardening ideas with their families and friends which expands our learning community.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Teaching the importance of looking after our environment. Keeping the environment clean and healthy by using sustainable means to control or remove unwanted plants and pests in our gardens and community spaces. To refrain from using herbicides and pesticides, as they are very harmful to all pollinators. Sharing the need to plant flowers, crops, and trees that will benefit bees and other pollinators. We emphasize the importance of the honeybee as pollinators as they are responsible for pollinating 35% of our food supply. We also educate about the wide variety of native bees in BC. We obtain this knowledge from our own observations of the bees in our apiaries, science research, and reputable online resources. We attend workshops and education days presented by the BC Honey Producers Association (BCHPA), as well as the West Kootenay Beekeepers (a local branch of the BCHPA). This learned information is included in our education program.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Our organization is comprised of a diverse group of seasoned beekeepers. Together we have more than 100 years of beekeeping experience. Each beekeeper lives in different communities and microclimates, and faces different challenges their bees experience. We have knowledgeable and experienced educators presenting our Education Program. Both of our educators are experienced beekeepers/homesteaders, and both have backgrounds in childhood education, youth care, and education assistance. Our society and educators are members of the West Kootenay Beekeepers and the BC Honey Producers. We attend their meetings, AGM and workshops. We are learning and enriching ourselves with continual education and sharing our knowledge with the teachers, school children, their families and our community.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Laena Brown and Brianna Walker are our educators. They are involved in program development and learning, as well as coordinating classroom sessions with teachers. They both have 12 years of beekeeping experience, and are active members in the beekeeping community. They have been developing and teaching the Bee Awareness Education Program together for 4 years.

Keith Stetsko, president of our non-profit assists in maintaining the beehives. He has over 60 years of beekeeping experience.

Linda Martin, secretary and treasurer, does the accounting, grant writing, and assists in beehive maintenance and community correspondence.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.





February 3rd, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Nadine Coombes and I am the grade 2/3 teacher at École des Sept-sommets in Rossland. For the last three years, my students and I have had the amazing opportunity to have three educational sessions each year to learn about the fascinating life of bees and the utmost importance of their survival. These creative, hands-on sessions are animated by Laena Brown and Brianna Walker.

During these fun and instructional moments, my students have learned so many important facts on a multitude of topics such as pollination, the environment, the anatomy of bees, the life cycle of bees, how wax, honey and propolis are made, the names of the local bee species, candle-making, lavender and wax salve just to name a few. Laena and Brianna bring all their own resources and always leave us with a useful project to come away with.

Every time I mention to my students that our special “bee” guests will return in our class to teach us, their reaction is unanimously “YES!, When?”.

As stated above, these sessions are so valuable in so many ways, especially now in our world filled with conflict and environmental turmoil, our new generations need to learn and feel empowered on how to live as responsible and educated citizens.

We hope that we will continue to have these interesting, learning sessions offered to us in the future.

Here are a few comments from my students:

“I am always so happy when they (Laena and Brianna) come in our class!”

« I appreciate everything they do with us since the projects we do with all the material must be expensive.”

“It was so fun, we made candles and extracted honey using a centrifuge!”

“We made salve that smelled so good and we got to take it home in little jars to use at home.”

« My favourite is when we get to try the honey from their own hives, it’s so delicious!”

“I like colouring and playing the game to draw and name the parts of a bee.”

We hope these very skilled beekeepers, Laena and Brianna will continue to visit us and teach us so many things. Please offer them funding to do so.

Kindly,

Madame Nadine and grade 2/3 students





How has the purchase of honey affected the local economy?  
How did interactions between Europeans lead to conflict and cooperation?

+	Addition	Split
+	Add	More Than
+	Combine	Less Than
+	Together	Take-Away
+	Tally	Remainder
+	Count	Subtract
+	Sum	Greater Than
+	Perimeter	Difference
+	Plus	Decrease
-	Subtraction	Factor
-	Less Than	Product
-	Take-Away	Groups of
-	Remainder	Array
-	Subtract	Twice
-	Greater Than	Area
-	Difference	Factors
-	Decrease	Perimeter
-	Factor	Plus
x	Times	Divide
x	Multiplication	Half
x	More Than	Divided By
x	Multiples	Dividend
x	Product	Divisor
x	Groups of	Share
x	Array	Area
x	Twice	Perimeter
x	Area	Factor
x	Factors	Plus

BATHROOM

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh

How has the purchase of honey affected the local economy?  
How did interactions between Europeans lead to conflict and cooperation?

- Game: Planning Meeting
- Early Snack
- Bee Presentation
- City of Ember
- Topics
- Ms. Kierz
- Lunch & Refresh
- Socials
- Daily 200s

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umbrella	on	lollipop	fish	bat	buzz	wind	strong	van	oo oo

avril

Apr

pinetops

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37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60

Warm Fuzzies

BEFORE YOU SPEAK



In appreciation of the Bee Awareness Society:

As the teacher of the grade 6/7 class at Lucerne School in New Denver, BC, I would like to express my most enthusiastic thanks to the Bee Ladies for buzzing into our classroom and sharing their extensive knowledge and passion for all things "Bee". My classroom becomes a sweet hive of activity when they come to share so many aspects of the life and times of bees. We have made candles, salves, mason bee homes, tried out the honey extractor and bee suits and learned more about the bees that we had previously had, and loved, in our classroom. We would love to have another demonstration hive as well, but having the Bee Ladies come every few months has been so fun, functional and informative but, even more importantly, has helped connect my class to some of the marvellous gifts of nature and our responsibility as caretakers of this precious earth. We never turn down a visit from the Bee Ladies.

Here are a few of the things my students had to share about them:

"I would love for the Bee Ladies to come back. All the time they came, I had so much fun learning and making the crafts." Arhianna

"I personally like the bees in our class. It was nice."

"I really liked having the Bee people come and enjoyed making the salve" Johnny, Liam, Arlo, Griffin

"It was really fun learning about how bees make honey and how they kill their queen." Isobel

"I really like when the Bee Ladies come because I enjoyed making the salve and the candles last year. I would love it if they come again." Kendyl

"I do think that the Bee Girls should come back, it's always so fun when they come!" Emma

"I think the Honey Girls should come back. It's always a fun experiment!" Ella

"I like when the Bee Ladies come because we learn something different." Arlo

Sincerely,

Donna Hicks and the Class Who Love the Bees!



Organization: **Valley Gems Community Theatre Society**  
Registration # S0072784

Project Title: **A Country Road Theatre and Performance Lab**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H

The Lab will be held at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, in the Slocan Valley (Sinixt Territory), and promotions/outreach will extend to artists throughout the West Kootenays.

**Project Description:**

A Country Road Theatre and Performance Lab, facilitated and organized by Valley Gems Community Theatre Society, is a two-day gathering of theatre artists, who come together for workshops, networking, skill-building, and performances.

Hosted at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, the Lab features collaboration, learning, workshops, skill shares, and co-creation opportunities that welcome performers from throughout the region. This will be the third annual Lab, which usually attracts attendance of over 100 people throughout the weekend, either as participants or audience.

The Valley Gems Board organizes and facilitates the event, curating a series of workshops by local and regional theatre professionals. The Vallican Whole is the location of the event, and collaborates with the Gems to host the New Works Cabaret, an evening of short performances of original work-in-progress theatre work that welcomes a community audience.

Participants come from around the region, and contribute their work and skills to a weekend of rich learning, networking and collaboration. Through past Labs, partnerships, performance opportunities and other creations have been developed. Participants have come from the East Shore, Kaslo, Nakusp and beyond.

Examples of programming themes that may be part of this year's lab include: rural self-producing, playwriting, dramaturgy, improv and sketch comedy, mask and puppet creation and performance, directing in community, movement and voice, and more.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$2,100.00	\$1,000.00
Capital Purchases	\$250.00	\$250.00
Other Expenses	\$2,040.00	\$1,200.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,390.00</b>	<b>\$2,450.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$1,940.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
100+ hours of volunteer administrative labour by the Valley Gems Board. 8 hours (\$200) worth of in-kind promotional and venue support from the Vallican Whole (co-production of the New Works Cabaret).		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$2,450.00</b>	
Area D/Kaslo:	\$125.00
Area H:	\$1,300.00
Slocan:	\$300.00
Castlegar:	\$100.00
Nelson:	\$125.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
Silverton:	\$250.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** No.

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project creates local opportunities for artists and curious community members to build skills, network and collaborate, leading to more local arts and culture being created. Theatre builds community, resilience, emotional intelligence and inspiration, and brings community together for local cultural experiences. As artists build their skills and capacity, they also contribute to tourism, economic activity, and collective storytelling in the region, and the ripple effects of theatre can be felt well-beyond Lab participants.

Past Lab participants have raved about the experience - the relationships and collaborations they've built, the ways they've been inspired, and the work that has come out of the event - increased creative production and local storytelling is beneficial to the whole community. Artists leave inspired and bolstered by their work at the Lab, and often

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Valley Gems Community Theatre creates and facilitates theatre and performance opportunities in the Slocan Valley for everyone, from enthusiastic amateurs to working professional theatre artists. We seek to make theatre and performance welcoming, transformative, entertaining, and community-focused.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project creates local opportunities for artists and curious community members to build skills, network and collaborate, leading to more local arts and culture being created. Theatre builds community, resilience, emotional intelligence and inspiration, and brings community together for local cultural experiences. As artists build their skills and capacity, they also contribute to tourism, economic activity, and collective storytelling in the region, and the ripple effects of theatre can be felt well-beyond Lab participants.

Past Lab participants have raved about the experience - the relationships and collaborations they've built, the ways they've been inspired, and the work that has come out of the event - increased creative production and local storytelling is beneficial to the whole community. Artists leave inspired and bolstered by their work at the Lab, and often

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Rural theatre can be a difficult art to perform! Artists in this region don't have as many opportunities for professional development and collaboration as urban performers do, and the challenges that come along with small populations and regional isolation can get in the way of our artistic production. The Valley Gems seeks to create opportunities amongst the regional theatre community for skill-building and connection, ultimately hoping to lead to more creative practice and locally-developed arts and culture for audiences in our area.

This being the third year that the Lab is being hosted here in the Slocan Valley, the feedback from participants has been wonderful - we've had many diverse participants, who are grateful and excited for the space created by the Theatre Lab, and who generate enthusiasm and ideas for future gatherings. There is clearly a need for this type of intensive, meaningful skill development for regional artists.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

The Valley Gems has been cultivating amateur and community theatre in the Slocan Valley since the society was first formed in 2013. The Gems collaborated with the Vallican Whole for the first year of the Theatre Lab (2024), and then took on primary organizing in 2025. Gems members are all working theatre artists in the Valley, deeply connected to the needs of this creative community and excited to see the growth and development of regional theatre artists. Members of the Gems Board have extensive event organizing experience, as well as experience in all areas of theatre creation from production, direction, performance and technical theatre. The Vallican Whole has an excellent, flexible space with theatre resources that allow the Lab to operate smoothly.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The Board of the Valley Gems will collaborate with the Vallican Whole as the host venue.  
Facilitators will be a selection of regional theatre professionals and arts facilitators.

The Valley Gems Board Members:

Marya Folinsbee, arts administrator and theatre artist/producer

Valerie Campbell, Associate Professor Emerita- Drama, School of Creative and Performing Arts at University of Calgary, Slocan Valley Resident

Joanne Feenstra, Writing Facilitator, 25+ years experience in all aspects of community theatre

Martina Avis, long time play director for Valley Gems, Drama teacher at Mt. Sentinel

Patricia McLaughlin, long time Valley Gems member, children's instructor

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: Yes**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.







**The Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society**  
Parent organization of the Vallican Whole Community Centre  
Registered Canadian Charity #119124724RR0001  
BC Charity #9609

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

RE: A Country Road Rural Theatre Lab 2026

To: Valley Gems Community Theatre

This is to confirm that the Vallican Whole will once again collaborate as host venue for “A Country Road Rural Theatre and Performance Lab”, tentatively scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Your rental fee will be \$640 for the two-day rental, plus \$250 for use of our a/v and theatre equipment package during the weekend.

The Vallican Whole will support the event by providing in-kind staff technical support, and co-production of the New Works Cabaret on the evening of October 17<sup>th</sup>, through promotions, volunteer front-of-house management, and sound/lighting techs.

We look forward to once again supporting this wonderful event!

Organization: **Nelson Civic Theatre Society**

Registration # 811788702 RR 0001

Project Title: **Supporting the Kootenay Screen-Based Industry**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area A, RDCK Area B, RDCK Area C, RDCK Area D, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area G, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, RDCK Area K , City of Nelson, Town of Creston, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Salmo,

While KSBI staff are based in Nelson, and the film commissioner is based in Creston, the project is regionally focused with the film region spanning as far as Elkford and Sparwood in the east, to Edgewood and Burton in the west, to the Rossland and Montrose in the south. and as far as Radium Hot Springs and Edgewater to the north. Through our strong online presence and digital engagement, the project connects all rural communities within the Columbia Basin. In 2025-2026, a major focus of the project is to enhance regional engagement via touring the meetups regionally.

**Project Description:**

This project will continue to support the Kootenay Screen-Based Industry (KSBI) Program for the 2026-2027 year, through funding the key roles of KSBI Regional Program Manager and KSBI Community Engagement and Communications Coordinator to run economic and cultural community initiatives.

The project will:

1) Continue to strengthen the region's film economy and industry. This will be achieved through the KSBI Program Manager's integral role in managing the Kootenay Regional Film Commission (KRFC) and leading funding applications and successfully funded projects. The KSBI Program Manager has successfully achieved an ETSI-BC grant to train location scouts in our region with a DGC location scout and is coordinating this project with the film commissioner, with training to commence in Spring 2026.

2) Foster local film and screen-based community engagement, collaboration and cross-pollination. This will be achieved through the continuation of monthly industry meetups, workshops, and speaker events.

The ReDi Program (previously CIP), has been integral to the success of the KSBI Program, having supported it in various ways:

- Funding the start-up consulting process to identify the economic needs of this program and how it can address those needs
- Development of KootenayFilm.com
- Support for the KRFC (which was established as a result of the KSBI Program)
- Annual contributions to funding program staff

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$6,500.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$42,673.00	\$22,000.00
Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$49,173.00</b>	<b>\$22,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$27,173.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Some meetups will be hosted in-kind by local/regional businesses, as well as food and beverage sponsorships. For example, we've had Nelson Innovation Centre and Kootenay Co-Op contribute in the past. NCTS offers considerable overhead to this project in the form of meeting/office space, supplies, printing, and bookkeeping, as well as hosting screening and meetup events using its own venue.		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
<i>TOTAL ALL AREAS: \$22,000.00</i>	
Area A:	\$500.00
Area B:	\$500.00
Area C:	\$500.00
Area D/Kaslo:	\$500.00
Area D/Lardeau Valley:	\$500.00
Area E:	\$1,500.00
Area F:	\$1,500.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$500.00
Area H:	\$500.00
Area I:	\$500.00
Area J:	\$500.00
Area K-Arrow Park:	\$500.00
Area K-Burton:	\$500.00
Area K-Fauquier:	\$500.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$500.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$500.00
Slocan:	\$500.00
Castlegar:	\$3,501.00
Creston:	\$2,000.00
Nelson:	\$4,999.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Silverton:	\$500.00

Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?: No.

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project has shown valuable and important to our community over the years as it has successfully fostered and stewarded a regional network of industry workers (our membership has grown to over 650+ and continues to grow steadily). Through this project, industry workers have benefitted from being connected to mentors, networking with each other to collaborate on film and media projects, building their professional skills to stay relevant in a competitive and ever-evolving industry. Especially now with the KRFC, industry workers are benefitting more as the bridge from local industry to commercial and feature film projects that materializing in the region, is strengthened. This program and the staff who make it happen, are critical to connecting the local economy to these regional projects, also benefitting local businesses adjacent to the film industry. The project has key importance in providing access to work opportunities on film projects.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Organization Mandate:

As a registered Canadian charity, Nelson Civic Theatre Society's (NCTS) mandate is to provide a public amenity by operating and maintaining a theatre as a multi-use facility for film screenings and for other artistic, educational and community-building programs and events for the benefit of the general public; be a home and presenter of lectures,

**Project: Supporting the Kootenay Screen-Based Industry**

workshops, courses and seminars on topics related to film or utilizing digital media for a diverse range of audiences; and protect, preserve and improve Nelson's historic Civic Theatre.

We fulfill our mission through:

Programming a wide range of cinematic presentations that respond to community interests.

Protecting, preserving and improving The Civic Theatre as a venue for cinematic and live cultural experiences, and for other educational and community-building programs and events.

Supporting local film, digital media and their creators, and encouraging the study and appreciation of film as an art and as a medium for information and education.

Working with community partners and local screen-based media artists toward building an information and communications technology hub that provides our rural community the means of engaging with and participating in a global community.

Engaging with other organizations, institutions and individuals to create synergy and grow community capacity.

Continuing to invest in the future of our community and, in particular, its youth.

Our Values:

Our programming reflects our community's diversity and culture.

We provide a fulfilling and respectful working environment for our staff and volunteers.

Community input, dialogue and volunteerism are essential to our operation.

We strive to be innovative and entrepreneurial, a catalyst to local thought leaders as they contribute positively to the digital world.

We foster a spirit of collaboration and endeavour to complement the goals and programs of other community groups and organizations.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project has shown valuable and important to our community over the years as it has successfully fostered and stewarded a regional network of industry workers (our membership has grown to over 650+ and continues to grow steadily). Through this project, industry workers have benefitted from being connected to mentors, networking with each other to collaborate on film and media projects, building their professional skills to stay relevant in a competitive and ever-evolving industry. Especially now with the KRFC, industry workers are benefitting more as the bridge from local industry to commercial and feature film projects that materializing in the region, is strengthened. This program and the staff who make it happen, are critical to connecting the local economy to these regional projects, also benefitting local businesses adjacent to the film industry. The project has key importance in providing access to work opportunities on film projects.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

The KSBI program was inceptioned in 2016 as an answer to issues identified by Kootenay industry members through community consultations made possible by ReDi/CIP funding.

Economic and networking barriers were identified as a result of living in a rural region with far-reaching distances apart. These barriers included a lack of cultural infrastructure, and opportunities for professional development.

Since the program's birth, ongoing engagement, surveys, and discussions with members have been maintained in order to be responsive to the local needs and economic issues as they evolve.

The KSBI Program will address these needs through continuing to provide regular support, outreach, industry updates/news and skill-building/networking/professional development opportunities. These offerings are further enhanced through the KRFC and its work to connect local industry with production opportunities, with an outcome of developing and growing the region's film economy.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

NCTS has been committed to developing the KSBI since 2016 and has since become the trusted go-to source for KSBI workers to connect, find work, and opportunities. Our networking group and community remains strong and active. Furthermore, our role in establishing the KRFC has established our place as a pillar on the provincial level, to represent, support and encourage film production in the Kootenays. Through our collaboration with the Provincial Film Commission at Creative BC and other Regional Film Commissions in the province, we have the pulse on industry and economic advancements. Through our MOU partnership with Kootenay Rockies Tourism, we remain connected to the tourism industry also. We are one of the main organizations driving this type of work in our region. While the theatre remains closed and impacts operational funding, we sustain capacity to deliver this project through continuously being successful in securing funds from various grants.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

Eleanor Stacey, Executive Director of NCTS

Lynn Trinh, Kootenay Screen-Based Industry Regional Program Manager

Carla Sinclair, Kootenay Screen-Based Industry Community Engagement & Communications Coordinator

Sarah Kapoor, Kootenay Regional Film Commissioner

Megan Harvey, Destination Stewardship Coordinator (Kootenay Rockies Tourism/MOU Partner in the Kootenay Regional Film Commission)

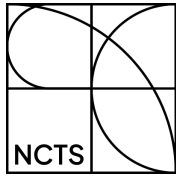
**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



**Nelson Civic Theatre Society**

719 Vernon Street  
Suite 103  
Nelson, BC V1L 4G3

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**February 20, 2026**

Mayor and Council  
City of Nelson  
310 Ward Street  
Nelson, BC V1L 5S4

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of Nelson Civic Theatre Society (NCTS), I am writing to request the City of Nelson's continued support for our economic development initiative, Supporting the Kootenay Screen-Based Industry (KSBI).

KSBI is a regionally focused program based in Nelson that strengthens the screen-based sector through workforce development, industry coordination, professional networking, and partnership with the Kootenay Regional Film Commission. While this initiative has regional impact, Nelson remains its anchor community and the primary beneficiary of the economic, cultural, and employment activity it generates.

As Nelson moves forward under its newly adopted Official Community Plan, envisioning a resilient, inclusive, climate-forward city through 2050, KSBI aligns directly with the City's long-term goals.

### **Alignment with Nelson's Official Community Plan (Nelson 2050)**

#### **Economic Resilience and Diversification**

Imagine a Nelson with a resilient, diversified economy that provides meaningful local employment and supports downtown vitality. The screen-based industry is a high-growth economic sector with strong multiplier effects across hospitality, retail, trades, and tourism. Through KSBI, NCTS cultivates local production capacity, connects creators and technicians with opportunities, and supports the readiness of the region to host inbound productions.

#### **Outcome**

- Increased locally generated film and digital media projects
- Greater retention of creative professionals in Nelson
- Strengthened downtown economic activity through industry gatherings, workshops, and production-related spending
- Enhanced positioning of Nelson as a film-ready community

By investing in workforce development and industry coordination, the City supports a sector that contributes to long-term economic diversification without increasing environmental footprint.

### **Climate Leadership and Low-Carbon Community**

Imagine a Nelson that leads in climate action, where local initiatives reduce emissions and strengthen community-based systems. Film production traditionally requires significant travel, equipment shipping, and external labour sourcing. KSBI reduces these impacts by building local capacity.

#### **Outcome**

- Local gear-sharing networks reduce transportation emissions
- Increased hiring of regional crew decreases travel from outside communities
- Strengthened local service capacity reduces reliance on imported production infrastructure

Supporting KSBI aligns with Nelson's climate objectives by reinforcing a place-based creative economy that minimizes carbon intensity while growing opportunity.

### **Housing Stability and Workforce Retention**

Imagine a Nelson where people of all ages can live and work locally in stable, meaningful employment. A key challenge identified in Nelson's Official Community Plan is retaining working professionals in the face of housing pressure and economic volatility. Creative sector workers are particularly vulnerable to out-migration when local opportunities are limited.

#### **Outcome**

- Expanded local employment pathways in media arts and production
- Improved income stability for creative workers
- Greater retention of young professionals and mid-career talent

By strengthening a viable creative economy, KSBI contributes indirectly to housing stability and community continuity by making it possible for residents to remain in Nelson.

### **Reconciliation and Inclusive Community**

Imagine a Nelson where Indigenous voices and diverse cultural perspectives are elevated, respected, and woven into the cultural fabric of the city. KSBI supports inclusive participation in the screen-based industry, fostering intergenerational mentorship and professional exchange. The program's networks contribute to increased representation and access within a historically underrepresented sector.

#### **Outcome**

- Open, accessible industry meetups and professional development opportunities
- Increased collaboration across communities and cultural groups

- A stronger platform for diverse storytelling rooted in place

By nurturing equitable access to creative opportunity, KSBI aligns with the Official Community Plan's emphasis on inclusion, reconciliation, and belonging.

### **Connected and Vibrant Neighbourhoods**

Imagine neighbourhoods that are vibrant, culturally alive, and connected through shared experiences. While infrastructure and land use are core components of the Official Community Plan, cultural participation and creative exchange are equally vital to a thriving community.

#### Outcome

- Regular industry gatherings and public engagement opportunities hosted in Nelson
- Strengthened creative networks that activate community spaces
- Cultural vibrancy that enhances quality of life and civic pride

KSBI contributes to Nelson's identity as a cultural centre in the Kootenays, a place where stories are told, ideas are exchanged, and innovation is nurtured.

### **Why Municipal Support Matters**

KSBI began with provincial support and has evolved into a cornerstone of regional screen-based industry development. It now functions as a key driver and complementary feature to the Kootenay Regional Film Commission partnership.

Without sustained support for the KSBI Regional Program Manager and coordination functions, the region risks losing momentum at a time when provincial production activity is increasingly competitive.

Municipal investment signals that Nelson is committed to long-term economic diversification, climate-aligned development, and cultural leadership consistent with its Official Community Plan.

Nelson has always understood that culture and economy are intertwined. The creative sector strengthens community identity, supports employment, and attracts people who contribute to the vitality of our city.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Executive Director  
Nelson Civic Theatre Society



WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Assessment Department Location**

**Mailing Address**

PO Box 5350  
Station Terminal  
Vancouver BC V6B 5L5

6951 Westminster Highway  
Richmond BC  
V7C 1C6  
www.worksafebc.com

**Clearance Section**

Telephone 604 244 6380  
Toll Free within Canada  
1 888 922 2768  
Fax 604 244 6390

Nelson Civic Theatre Society  
719 Vernon Street  
Suite 103  
NELSON, BC V1L 4G3

February 20, 2026

**Person/Business : NELSON CIVIC THEATRE SOCIETY**  
**Account number: 905844**

We confirm that the above-mentioned account is currently **active** and **in good standing**.

This firm has had continuous coverage with us since February 18, 2013 and has satisfied assessment remittance requirements to **January 01, 2026**.

The next payment that will affect this firm's clearance status is due on February 28, 2026.

This information is only provided for the purposes of Section 258 of the *Workers Compensation Act*, which indicates that a person using a contractor or subcontractor to perform work may be responsible for unpaid assessments of the contractor or subcontractor.

Employer Service Centre  
Assessment Department

**Clearance Reference # : C136430747**  
**CLRA1A**

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*Please refer to your account number in your correspondence or when contacting the Assessment Department.*

**To alter this document constitutes fraud.**

Organization: **W.E. Graham Community Service Society**

Registration # 886669142RR0001

Project Title: **Seniors Emergency Response Support**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area H, Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Village of Slocan  
In the Slocan Valley Better at Home catchment area, Hills to Krestova and all communities in between.

**Project Description:**

The Seniors Emergency Response Support project will enhance the Slocan Valley Better at Home program's ability to respond to urgent and unforeseen situations affecting vulnerable seniors aged 65 and older. The project provides flexible, short-term emergency supports to help seniors remain safe, stable, and independent during periods of heightened need.

Grant funds will be used to address personal, health-related, and environmental emergencies that fall outside regular program delivery. This may include additional housekeeping and personal support during recovery from surgery or illness, support following the death of a family member, waived fees for urgent home repairs or safety-related expenses, and increased support during community-wide emergencies such as wildfire smoke events, evacuations, extreme heat, or prolonged cold temperatures. Supports may also include practical items such as gas gift cards, air purifiers, and food supplies to ensure seniors' immediate needs are met.

The project will be delivered by BH staff, who are embedded in the community and well positioned to identify seniors at risk. Emergency needs will be assessed individually, and supports coordinated quickly to prevent further harm.

Short-term impacts include increased safety, reduced stress, and improved well-being for seniors during emergency or crisis situations. The project aims reduce the stress and financial burden that occurs during emergencies, reduce isolation, and support seniors to continue living independently in their homes and communities.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK Redi
Administration Expenses	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Contract Fees	\$9,345.00	\$9,345.00
Capital Purchases	\$1,175.00	\$1,175.00
Other Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,320.00</b>	<b>\$12,320.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
Board governance and oversight time supporting the program Volunteer hours contributed by board members, drivers, and program helpers Use of agency vehicles for transportation and outreach Office and meeting space Storage space for program supplies and equipment Pro bono professional services, including legal support		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$12,320.00</b>	
Area H:	\$4,000.00
Slocan:	\$3,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	\$3,000.00
Silverton:	\$2,320.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** *Silverton, New Denver, Slocan, RDCK Area H.*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

This project is critical to the Slocan Valley community, where many seniors live alone, face limited mobility, and experience social isolation. Emergencies, whether health-related, environmental, or home-based, can quickly threaten their safety and independence. By providing timely, flexible support, the Seniors Emergency Response Support project addresses a clear and urgent need, helping seniors maintain well-being and stay connected to their community.

The primary beneficiaries are vulnerable seniors aged 65 and older who are clients of the Better at Home program or identified through community outreach. Secondary benefits include families, caregivers, and the broader community, as the project reduces strain on local health services and strengthens social resilience.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

WE Graham Community Service Society provides programs and services to residents of the rural Slocan Valley. Where possible, WEGCSS also refers people to the services of other local organizations. In creative and ongoing partnerships with regional services and organizations, we provide inclusive and accessible opportunities in support of a healthy, vibrant and sustainable community. We strive to remain responsive to the current needs of Slocan Valley residents and to enhance the quality of life for all.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

This project is critical to the Slocan Valley community, where many seniors live alone, face limited mobility, and experience social isolation. Emergencies, whether health-related, environmental, or home-based, can quickly threaten their safety and independence. By providing timely, flexible support, the Seniors Emergency Response

Support project addresses a clear and urgent need, helping seniors maintain well-being and stay connected to their community.

The primary beneficiaries are vulnerable seniors aged 65 and older who are clients of the Better at Home program or identified through community outreach. Secondary benefits include families, caregivers, and the broader community, as the project reduces strain on local health services and strengthens social resilience.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Vulnerable seniors in the Slocan Valley face ongoing challenges such as isolation, frailty, limited access to resources, and increased risk during unexpected emergencies. Personal health crises, urgent home repairs, extreme weather, wildfire smoke, and gaps in basic necessities can threaten their safety, independence, and well-being.

These needs have been identified through years of direct engagement with seniors in the Better at Home program, observations by staff during wellness checks, and feedback from community partners. Every year our clients experience unexpected emergencies that requires targeted support that goes beyond regular program services.

This project allows Slocan Valley Better at Home the ability to respond to emergencies with practical supports such as additional care, gas cards, heaters, air purifiers, and food supplies. By addressing immediate risks, the project not only safeguards seniors' health and independence but also strengthens community resilience and connectedness.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

W.E. Graham Community Service Society (WEGCSS) has been supporting seniors and families in the Slocan Valley since 1997 and is deeply rooted in the communities we serve. As the home of Slocan Valley Better at Home program, along with the Therapeutic Activation Program for Seniors (TAPS), Community Connector, and Seniors' Lunch programs, WEGCSS has a strong track record of delivering responsive, senior-focused services.

Through these programs, we have built trusted relationships with seniors, caregivers, local businesses, and partner agencies, allowing us to identify needs early and respond quickly. Our experience supporting seniors through health challenges, isolation, and emergency situations directly aligns with the goals of this project.

WEGCSS has the staff, systems, and community connections in place to deliver this project effectively and responsibly. This project builds on existing services and proven approaches, ensuring we have both the experience and capacity to support seniors during times of urgent need.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The Slocan Valley Better at Home Coordinator and Service Providers as well as volunteers.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: Yes**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.



## **Letter of Support**

February 20, 2026

Re: Seniors Emergency Response Support Project

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Slocan Valley Nav-CARE Coordinator Nav-CARE, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Seniors Emergency Response Support project proposed by W.E. Graham Community Service Society.

Through our shared work supporting older adults in the Slocan Valley, we recognize the increasing vulnerability seniors face during health crises, environmental emergencies, and unexpected life events. Many older adults live alone, manage complex health conditions, and have limited financial flexibility. When emergencies arise—whether due to wildfire smoke, extreme weather, illness, bereavement, or urgent home repairs—timely, practical assistance can mean the difference between stability and displacement.

The Seniors Emergency Response Support project addresses a critical gap by providing flexible, short-term resources tailored to individual circumstances. By enabling rapid access to additional home supports, essential supplies, and safety-related expenses, this initiative will help seniors remain secure in their homes while reducing stress on families and the broader health care system.

W.E. Graham Community Service Society has demonstrated deep community trust, strong program management, and a sustained commitment to senior well-being. Their established infrastructure and experienced staff position them well to deliver this project effectively and responsibly.

We fully support this important initiative and believe it will significantly enhance the safety, dignity, and independence of seniors in our region.

Sincerely,

Sabina Schindel  
NavCARE Coordinator Slocan Valley  
slocan@ksss.ca  
778~988~6685  
westkootenaynavcare.org

Organization: **Selkirk College Foundation**

Registration # 119144582RR0001 (CRA Charities Registration Number) / 119144582BC0001 (BC Societies Registration Number)

**Selkirk College** - Sponsored Organization

Project Title: **Field Learning Access Van**

**Project will be located in:** RDCK Area A, RDCK Area B, RDCK Area C, RDCK Area E, RDCK Area F, RDCK Area G, RDCK Area H, RDCK Area I, RDCK Area J, RDCK Area K, City of Nelson, Town of Creston, Village of Nakusp, Village of New Denver, City of Castlegar, Village of Salmo, Village of S

Across all environment and geomatics programs, students participate in over 400 field excursions annually throughout the RDCK and neighbouring RDKB. These excursions support local land-use planning, watershed stewardship, forestry operations, ecological restoration, and municipal and First Nations partnerships. The requested vehicle is essential for safe and reliable access to these dispersed rural field sites.

Occasional field courses outside the immediate region also rely on the vehicle; however, its primary use sustains RDCK- and RDKB-based field education and community-engaged projects. The vehicle and related safety equipment will be purchased locally within the Kootenay region.

**Project Description:**

Selkirk College Foundation, in partnership with Selkirk College, is seeking support to purchase a 15-passenger van to sustain immersive field-based education for students in the School of Environment and Geomatics. The van is essential infrastructure that enables applied learning and community-engaged projects throughout the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK).

The vehicle will provide safe, reliable transportation to dispersed rural field sites, allowing students to gain hands-on experience that strengthens academic learning, builds workforce-ready skills, and prepares them for careers in environmental and natural resource sectors. Field labs and service-learning projects directly support RDCK land-use planning, watershed stewardship, wildfire risk reduction, parks and trail initiatives, and ecological restoration. These applied projects are delivered at no cost to partners; while several choose to make voluntary donations, no fee is charged.

The vehicle will support more than 400 annual field excursions delivered across five environment and geomatics programs, focused on environmental data collection, forestry operations, wildlife monitoring, hydrology, GIS mapping, and restoration. Students will collect and analyze field data, producing mapping, monitoring, and planning outputs for partners such as the RDCK and Okanagan Nation Alliance.

Short-term impacts include equitable access to remote sites, strengthened partnerships, enhanced technical skill development, and expanded delivery of applied environmental and geospatial services aligned with RDCK priorities.

Budget Details	TOTAL	Requested from RDCK ReDi
Administration Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contract Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Capital Purchases	\$115,319.00	\$31,000.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$115,319.00</b>	<b>\$31,000.00</b>
<b>Other Project Revenue (not including RDCK ReDi)</b>		
Other expected grant funds, own funds and/or project income:	<b>\$84,319.00</b>	
<b>In-kind Sources &amp; Contributions:</b>		
<p>Selkirk College will fully support the acquisition and ongoing operation of the vehicle through institutional staffing, fleet infrastructure, and program resources:</p> <p>Procurement &amp; Outfitting: Purchasing Department staff time to specify, procure, and outfit the vehicle and required safety equipment in accordance with institutional policies.</p> <p>Fleet Ownership &amp; Risk Management: Vehicle ownership, insurance coverage, storage, maintenance scheduling, and administrative oversight through established college fleet and risk-management systems.</p> <p>Curriculum Integration &amp; Safety Oversight: Faculty and staff time to integrate the vehicle into field programming, coordinate excursions, orient authorized drivers, and ensure adherence to safety and maintenance protocols.</p> <p>Operating Costs: Fuel, insurance premiums, routine servicing, and repairs covered through existing program budgets.</p>		

RDCK Funding Requested by Area	
TOTAL ALL AREAS: <b>\$31,000.00</b>	
Area A:	\$1,000.00
Area B:	\$1,000.00
Area C:	\$1,000.00
Area E:	\$2,000.00
Area F:	\$200.00
Area G/Salmo:	\$1,000.00
Area H:	\$1,000.00
Area I:	\$1,000.00
Area J:	\$2,000.00
Area K-Arrow Park:	\$200.00
Area K-Burton:	\$200.00
Area K-Fauquier:	\$200.00
Area K-Bayview/Nakusp:	\$1,000.00
Area K-Edgewood:	\$200.00
Slocan:	\$1,000.00
Castlegar:	\$10,000.00
Creston:	\$3,000.00
Nelson:	\$3,000.00
<b>New Denver:</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
Silverton:	\$1,000.00

**Does the organization have plans to apply to other ReDi Regions?:** *Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB)*

**1. Importance to the Community:**

Selkirk College contributes to the vitality of the Kootenay-Boundary region, supporting one in 12 jobs and generating an estimated \$450 million in regional economic activity. The School of Environment and Geomatics strengthens RDCK capacity by connecting students with community-identified projects. Students support 54+ non-profits,

businesses, local governments, and First Nations through applied research and service-learning supporting environmental monitoring, restoration, land-use decision-making, and wildfire risk reduction-at no cost to partners.

This project is a priority in a rural district where field sites are dispersed and public transit is limited. The need is evidenced by sustained enrolment, intensive field programming, and repeat requests from RDCK partners for applied research support.

Community partners set priorities, host field sites, and collaborate with students on projects supporting RDCK stewardship and natural resource management. Students gain practical skills, employers benefit from career-ready graduates, and communities receive no-cost applied research and technical support.

**2. Organization Mandate:**

Selkirk College is Canada's destination for applied learning and inquiry grounded in a sense of land and place. As a regional community college, its mission is to inspire generations of changemakers through relevant, inventive, and sustainable education. In the words of a community member, "Selkirk College is the heartbeat of the West Kootenay and Boundary regions. It nurtures local talent and invites international diversity. It's not just a college "" it's a community builder."▯

Selkirk College has a \$70-million operating budget, recently reduced by \$9 million in response to federal policy changes. This operating budget supports over 80 associate degrees, diplomas, certificates and apprenticeship programs that graduate future-ready, skilled workers and entrepreneurs. Over 2,500 full-time students benefit from the college's programs.

Selkirk College Foundation is the college's trusted partner in garnering resources to support student success, program and curriculum enrichment, and campus enhancements. It is a non-profit, charitable organization led by the Selkirk College Foundation Board of Directors, a committed team of volunteers with broad experience in philanthropic development.

**3. Community objectives the project will work towards are:**

Selkirk College contributes to the vitality of the Kootenay-Boundary region, supporting one in 12 jobs and generating an estimated \$450 million in regional economic activity. The School of Environment and Geomatics strengthens RDCK capacity by connecting students with community-identified projects. Students support 54+ non-profits, businesses, local governments, and First Nations through applied research and service-learning supporting environmental monitoring, restoration, land-use decision-making, and wildfire risk reduction-at no cost to partners.

This project is a priority in a rural district where field sites are dispersed and public transit is limited. The need is evidenced by sustained enrolment, intensive field programming, and repeat requests from RDCK partners for applied research support.

Community partners set priorities, host field sites, and collaborate with students on projects supporting RDCK stewardship and natural resource management. Students gain practical skills, employers benefit from career-ready graduates, and communities receive no-cost applied research and technical support.

**4. Project will address issues or opportunities pertaining to:**

Rural geography creates a structural barrier to experiential learning within the RDCK and broader Kootenay-Boundary region. Unlike urban institutions, students cannot rely on public transit to access forest tenures, restoration sites, or municipal planning locations. The School of Environment and Geomatics operates a limited fleet of field vehicles, including one aging van nearing the end of its service life. Without replacement, field excursions

would be reduced, limiting hands-on skill development and constraining service-learning projects with RDCK partners such as Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society and Ktunaxa First Nations.

The need to sustain dedicated transportation capacity has been identified through consistent program enrolment, intensive field programming requirements, fleet assessments, and repeat requests from regional partners for applied research and technical support.

Replacing the aging vehicle will protect safe access to field sites, maintain community partnerships, and ensure continued delivery of workforce-ready graduates to support RDCK environmental and natural resource priorities.

**5. This organization is best to provide this project to the community because:**

Selkirk College Foundation and Selkirk College have the governance, financial oversight, and operational capacity to successfully deliver this project. The Foundation is a registered charitable organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors with expertise in finance, executive leadership, and community development, ensuring strong accountability and grant stewardship. The College provides established procurement systems, risk management protocols, vehicle-use policies, and experienced faculty to implement the project effectively.

The School of Environment and Geomatics delivers provincially and nationally accredited programs supported by Program Advisory Councils composed of industry and sector experts who ensure curriculum quality, workforce alignment, and field safety. Faculty regularly coordinate complex, field-based education and applied research projects with local governments, Indigenous nations, environmental organizations, and industry partners. This strong academic oversight, industry engagement, and project management experience position the College to responsibly acquire and operate the vehicle while seamlessly integrating it into curriculum delivery and community-based fieldwork.

**6. Partners involved in implementing this project:**

The project will be led by the Selkirk College Foundation in partnership with Selkirk College. The Foundation will administer funds and oversee accountability, while the College's Purchasing Department will manage procurement in accordance with institutional policies. The vehicle will be owned, insured, stored, and maintained through Selkirk College's fleet and risk-management systems, with operating and maintenance costs covered by existing program budgets.

Faculty in the School of Environment and Geomatics will integrate the vehicle into curriculum and field safety protocols. Authorized drivers (faculty/staff and eligible students), approved under college policy, will operate the van during scheduled academic and community-engaged activities.

**7. Minors will be working on this project: No**

**8. Project will be 100% completed by volunteers: No**

**9. Is the project viable without ReDi funding support: No**

**10. Supporting documents attached, if submitted:**

Organizations are also asked to present copies of supporting documents at community engagement meetings.

## Alignment with City of Nelson's Sustainability Strategies and Nelson Next

The Selkirk College School of Environment and Geomatics (SEG) field van project advances the City of Nelson's Path to 2040 Sustainability Strategy and the Nelson Next Climate Action Plan. While field sites are located throughout the RDCK, ecosystems and climate systems are interconnected; enabling access strengthens environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and sustainable economic development that benefit Nelson.

## Alignment with Nelson's Path to 2040 Sustainability Strategy

Nelson's Path to 2040 emphasizes robust ecosystems, resiliency, cultural strength, healthy neighbourhoods, and prosperity. The requested van enables the School of Environment & Geomatics to contribute meaningfully to these priorities.

### **Robust Ecosystems and Environmental Stewardship**

Students conduct applied research and service-learning projects supporting environmental monitoring, restoration planning, watershed assessment, and land-use decision-making. Partnerships with organizations such as Living Lakes Canada (groundwater monitoring), the Nelson Cycling Club (trail development), and regional community forests contribute to watershed and ecosystem health that connects directly to Nelson's landscapes and water systems. These projects are delivered at no cost to partners, increasing access to technical expertise and environmental data that support informed local decision-making.

### **Resiliency and Collaborative Action**

Path to 2040 prioritizes community resiliency and collaborative governance. Students support land-use planning, park development, wildfire risk reduction, remote sensing, and restoration research in partnership with the Regional District of Central Kootenay, Parks Canada, and community forests including Harrop-Proctor. This work strengthens climate adaptation, ecosystem management, and emergency preparedness capacity across the region, enhancing the environmental knowledge and professional expertise that support informed municipal decision-making, including in Nelson.

### **Prosperity and Local Skills Development**

The Strategy identifies meaningful employment and a diversified local economy as pillars of sustainability. Through immersive field education, students gain practical field, geospatial, forestry, and ecological skills. Many graduates live and work in Nelson and the surrounding region, supporting local employers and public agencies with career-ready expertise that strengthens environmental and natural resource sectors.

## Alignment with Nelson Next Climate Action Plan

By enabling applied climate and environmental fieldwork, the proposed van advances Nelson Next objectives related to resilience, emissions reduction, and informed planning.

### **Climate Capacity and Data-Informed Action**

The van supports regional climate capacity by enabling students to engage in field data collection, GIS analysis, drone-based mapping, habitat restoration planning, and wildfire risk reduction assessment. Collaborations with municipalities and regional agencies on land-use planning, active transportation analysis, and wildfire fuel management contribute to climate adaptation strategies that align with Nelson Next objectives.

### **Efficient Shared Transportation**

Nelson Next prioritizes efficient and low-carbon transportation systems. By providing shared transportation for student field activities, the van reduces reliance on multiple personal vehicles traveling to dispersed sites, supporting more efficient regional mobility for education and community service projects.

## Community Partnership and Participation

Community participation is foundational to the project's design and delivery. Partners identify priority needs and host field sites where SEG students conduct applied research and service-learning, supported by faculty expertise. Enabled by the van, students engage in environmental monitoring, drone mapping, habitat restoration, wildfire risk assessment, and land-use analysis in collaboration with local governments, Indigenous Nations, non-profits, and industry. First Nations partners—including Ktunaxa, Sinixt, Okanagan Nation Alliance, and Yaqaan Nukiy—work with students on initiatives such as fish habitat restoration and wetland mapping.

By providing safe and reliable access to regional field sites, the van sustains this community-engaged education model and advances Nelson's vision of a resilient, sustainability-focused community.

## Direct Benefit to the City of Nelson

Nelson benefits both as a municipal government and as a community. Graduates contribute to environmental planning, infrastructure analysis, watershed protection, wildfire mitigation, and climate adaptation. Field-based projects strengthen the region's environmental knowledge base, informing municipal decision-making and advancing Nelson's sustainability objectives under Path to 2040 and Nelson Next. By enabling safe and reliable access to field sites, the van makes this community-connected work possible.

## Community Partners in Specific RDCK Areas Benefiting from Service-Learning & Applied Research Projects

The following table highlights examples of service-learning and applied research projects conducted by students and faculty in partnership with community organizations in the RDCK. The projects are provided at no cost to partners. The requested vehicle is essential infrastructure to sustain and expand the delivery of these valuable projects across RDCK communities.

RDKB Area	Years	Community Partner	Service-Learning & Applied Research Projects
Area B & Creston	Annually	Creston Community Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest harvesting and operations</li> <li>Wildfire risk reduction assessment and prescribed burning</li> </ul>
Area C & Creston	Annually	Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various wildlife projects</li> </ul>
Area E	Annually	PRT Harrop Proctor Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Silviculture seedling growth and production</li> </ul>
Area E	2023-24	UBC Research Forest (Harrop-Proctor Community Forest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forestry research, harvesting operations innovations</li> </ul>
Area H, Slocan, Silverton, New Denver	Annually	Slocan Lake Research Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remote sensing studies</li> </ul>
Area I	Annually	Kalesnikoff Lumber Co. Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geospatial research</li> </ul>
Area J	Annually	Woodlot 400 (Blueberry Unit & McPhee Unit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest engineering and health including application of pheromone</li> <li>Silviculture systems and sustainable forestry operations</li> </ul>
Area J	Annually	Woodlot 403	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applied forest research and policy development</li> <li>Consulting on silviculture systems and sustainable forest management</li> <li>Woodlot plan submission mapping</li> </ul>
Area K	Annually	Arrow Lakes Caribou Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildlife monitoring; lichen collection in support of their maternity pen project</li> </ul>
Area K & Nakusp	Multiple	Nakusp Community Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annually: wildfire risk reduction and prescriptions</li> <li>2022: Timber evaluation</li> </ul>
Areas A, B, C & Creston	Multiple	Yaqa Nukiy Band, Creston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drone-based wetland mapping project</li> </ul>
Castlegar	Multiple	Castlegar Pistol Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drone surveys</li> </ul>
Castlegar	Multiple	City of Castlegar	<p>In 2025, students supported the following projects using GIS analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing conversion strategies</li> <li>Locating potential sites for a community and cultural centre, new dog park, and local food production</li> </ul> <p>Annually, students support with wildfire risk reduction through combustible fuel management.</p>

<b>RDKB Area</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Community Partner</b>	<b>Service-Learning &amp; Applied Research Projects</b>
Castlegar	Multiple	Silver City Trap Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drone survey</li> </ul>
Castlegar	Annually	Castlegar Parks & Trails Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail building and inspections</li> </ul>
Castlegar*	2019-2025	Castlegar Nordic Ski Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational tenure management support</li> <li>• Planning for silviculture systems and old growth management areas</li> </ul>
Nelson	2021-22	Nelson Cycling Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail building</li> </ul>
Salmo	Annually	Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding suitable hydrometric stations in the tributaries of Salmo Watershed</li> <li>• Finding areas for remediation of wetlands</li> </ul>

\* While the actual property is outside the RDCK, the recreation area and club serve many residents of the City of Castlegar and surrounding RDCK areas.

## Community Partners Operating Across Multiple RDCK Jurisdictions Benefiting from Service-Learning & Applied Research

The following table highlights examples of service-learning and applied research projects conducted by students and faculty in partnership with community organizations in the RDCK. The projects are provided at no cost to partners. The requested vehicle is essential infrastructure to sustain and expand the delivery of these valuable projects across RDCK communities.

Years	Community Partner	Student-Led Service-Learning Projects & Applied Research / Faculty Expertise
Annually	School District 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of S100 Firefighting Certificate Training Course for high school students</li> </ul>
Annually	The Association of West Kootenay Rock Climbers (TAWKROCK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trail building</li> <li>Geomatics for rock-climbing areas</li> </ul>
Annually	Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecology restoration</li> </ul>
Annually	Columbia Power Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecology restoration</li> </ul>
Annually	Living Lakes Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteer Observation Well: groundwater levels tracking</li> <li>Saltwater dilution discharge monitoring</li> </ul>
Annually	Regional Municipalities (various)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation for local land use plans (semester-long projects for students)</li> </ul>
Annually	Ministry of Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long-term soil productivity study</li> </ul>
Annually	Nature Conservancy of Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various wildlife projects</li> <li>Drone-based data collection and analysis of forest structure</li> </ul>
Multiple	Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annually: students prepare park development and land use plans</li> <li>Some years: student research on various projects including active transportation routes, best locations for new charging stations, etc.</li> </ul>
Multiple	Ktunaxa First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drone-based data collection and analysis</li> </ul>
Multiple	Okanagan Nation Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drone-based data collection and analysis (select years)</li> <li>Fish habitat restoration (annually)</li> </ul>
Multiple	Sinixt First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drone-based data collection and analysis</li> </ul>
Multiple	Parks Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remote sensing studies (annually)</li> <li>Whitebark pine restoration research (select years)</li> </ul>
Multiple	Columbia Mountains Institute of Applied Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student contributions to researcher conference &amp; faculty participation on Board of Directors</li> </ul>
2025	CR Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildland and fire ecology projects</li> </ul>
2025	Forest Professionals BC (FPBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest policy development</li> <li>Professional forestry obligations</li> </ul>
2024	BC Native Plant Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finding suitable habitat for showy milkweed and monarch butterflies</li> </ul>
2024	Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finding potential habitats for Townsend's Big Eared Bat in the West Kootenays</li> </ul>

## Learning & Skill Outcomes from Field-Based Education & Service-Learning Projects

Reliable field transportation is essential to sustaining and strengthening applied learning in the School of Environment & Geomatics. Field-based education develops the following workforce-aligned skill sets in students:

**1) Applied Environmental Data Collection & Technical skills**

Students collect real-world environmental data using industry-standard equipment and protocols across hydrology, ecology, forestry, wildlife management, soils and geomatics. Hands-on experience with GPS, surveying tools, drones, and sampling equipment builds practical, job-ready technical competency that cannot be developed through classroom instruction alone.

**2) Environmental Analysis & Problem-solving**

Students apply theory to complex ecological and land-use challenges, assessing ecosystem function, disturbance, and sustainability. They develop evidence-based mitigation or restoration recommendations, strengthening their analytical and decision-making capacity.

**3) Field-to-GIS Integration & Spatial Literacy**

Students translate field observations into geospatial analysis and professional-quality mapping. Using drones and high-tech sensors, students transform accurate field data into site plans and actionable spatial information used in environmental planning and resource management.

**4) Professional Practice, Safety & Teamwork**

Students develop field safety competencies, ethical practice, hazard recognition, risk mitigation, and collaborative communication skills in diverse terrain and weather conditions.

**5) Environmental Stewardship & Community Context**

Engagement with Indigenous perspectives, community priorities, and regulatory framework builds cultural awareness and responsible environmental leadership.

**6) Career Readiness & Workforce Alignment**

Field experiences mirror professional practice, helping students build the confidence, competence and applied skills that regional employers expect of entry-level environmental professionals.



Preview Order Q107 - U5X 350 HD High Roof Pass AWD: Order Summary Time of Preview: 02/14/2026 13:26:18 Receipt: 2/4/2026

Dealership Name: A.M. Ford Sales Ltd

Sales Code : CB7223

Dealer Rep.	Kelly Zaytsoff	Type	Stock	Vehicle Line	Transit	Order Code	Q107
Customer Name		Priority Code	40	Model Year	2026	Price Level	630

DESCRIPTION	MSRP	DESCRIPTION	MSRP
U5X0 T350HD HR PASS XL AWD	\$83300	HD TRAILER TOW PACKAGE	\$600
148" WHEELBASE	\$0	CONN PKG: 1 YR INCL W/FORDPASS	\$0
2026 MODEL YEAR	\$0	FORD CO-PILOT360 ASSIST 2.0	\$1500
FEDERAL EXCISE TAX	\$100	.FRONT FOG LAMPS	\$0
TOTAL BASE VEHICLE	\$83400	EXTENDED FUEL TANK (117 L)	\$350
OXFORD WHITE	\$0	FRONT OVERHEAD SHELF	\$100
CLOTH	\$0	TRAILER BRAKE CONTROLLER	\$500
DARK PALAZZO GREY	\$0	LARGE CENTRE CONSOLE	\$0
PREFERRED EQUIPMENT PKG.301A	\$0	PARTIAL GAS FILL	\$0
.XL TRIM	\$0	2 ADDITIONAL KEYS	\$150
3.5L ECOBOOST V6	\$0	*****	\$0
.10-SPEED TRANSMISSION	\$0	*"THIS VEH. NOT INTENDED FOR *	\$0
205/75R16C BSW ALL-SEASON	\$0	* SALE OR REGISTRATION IN US"	\$0
3.73 LIMITED SLIP AXLE	\$0	* RETAIL PRICES EXCLUDE *	\$0
JOB #1 ORDER	\$0	* GST/HST *	\$0
CV LOT MANAGEMENT	\$0	*****	\$0
FRONT LICENSE PLATE BRACKET	\$0		\$0
253 DEGREE OPENING	\$100	U.S. GAL FUEL CHARGE	\$0
10360# GVWR PACKAGE	\$0	FDAF ASSESSMENT	\$0
50 STATE EMISSIONS	\$0	DESTINATION & DELIVERY	\$2995

TOTAL BASE AND OPTIONS	\$89695.00	MSRP	\$89695
DISCOUNTS			NA
TOTAL	+ 4007.64 winter tires/trims		\$89695

93702.64  
 889 admin/documentation  
 45.50 tirelogy  
94637.14  
 + 5% GST  
 + 7% PST  
 = \$105,993.59 including taxes

Customer Name:

Customer Address:

Customer Email:

Customer Phone: