

**COUNCIL REPORT**

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Administration

**Date:** January 25, 2023

**Subject:** Visitor Centre Caboose Operations 2023

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council approves the 2023 Visitor Services Agreement with the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce;

AND THAT Council authorizes a \$20,000 contribution towards the service agreement;

AND THAT Council authorizes an increase of up to \$10,000 to the Caboose Visitor Centre general operating budget towards repairs to the entrance to the facility;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the agreement and any related documentation.

**BACKGROUND:**

The District has historically contracted visitor services in Mackenzie to the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce. They have operated the seasonal Caboose Visitor Centre facility at the junction of Hwy 39 and 97 as well as welcomed visitors year-round at their Chamber Office. The service agreement has come up for renewal for 2023. A copy of the draft agreement has been attached for Council's consideration.

**Operating Budget**

The typical operating budget funded by the District is \$27,400 and is allocated as follows:

\$20,000	Service Agreement w/Chamber
<u>\$ 7,400</u>	<u>Maintenance/Insurance</u>
\$27,400	TOTAL

The District also receives a grant of \$15,000 towards the operations of the visitor centre from Destination BC. This funding is given directly to the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce as our operator of the facility.

### **Request for Further Funding**

In December, an unknown vehicle drove into the Caboose Visitor Centre deck/ramp. The extent of the damage resulted in the removal of the deck and ramp due to safety concerns. For the 2023 season, the District would be required to build new access to continue operation. If Council wishes to open the facility and continue the service agreement, a simpler set of stairs would be recommended. The cost is not expected to exceed \$10,000 including materials and labour.

If approved, the general operating budget would be increased to \$37,400 for 2023.

### **BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

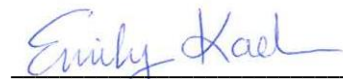
\$37,400 would be allocated from the General Government Operating Budget.

### **COUNCIL PRIORITIES:**

#### **Economic Vitality**

- The District is a leader on efforts aimed at diversifying the community's economy, supporting local businesses, and attracting new investment to the community. Diversification, a strong business sector and new investment are key to our economic vitality.

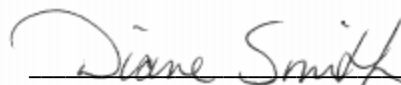
Respectfully Submitted,



Emily Kaehn  
Director of Corporate Services



Kerri Borne  
Chief Financial Officer



Approved for Submission to Council