

MACKENZIE
BRITISH COLUMBIA
DISTRICT OF MACKENZIE
2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Our community continues to demonstrate their resilience despite challenges with shrinking industrial tax base and increasing operational costs. In November 2024, BC Assessment notified the municipality that two industrial properties applied for and been granted full closure allowances on their Mackenzie properties. This resulted in a net tax revenue loss of \$1,505,918. This certainly made our 2025 budget process extremely challenging. Council and Staff worked diligently with community members to ensure there was as little impact to the services we provide as we could manage but unfortunately had to make some very hard choices.



Despite these fiscal challenges, Mackenzie had reasons to celebrate in 2024 including on April 1st, Mackenzie moved from an "on call" model for Ambulance coverage to a 24/7 full time coverage which greatly enhances our medical delivery in the community.

In June, Mackenzie hosted the BC Community Forest Provincial conference for the first time. This event brought 150 participants to Mackenzie, who by all accounts were very impressed with our community and our outstanding recreational facilities. The McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest also provided the District of Mackenzie and the McLeod Lake Indian Band with a dividend disbursement of \$400,000 each from profits earned in 2023.

Our major project for 2024 was the replacement of the ice slab at the Mackenzie Recreation Centre. This project grew in scope when it was determined this was a perfect opportunity to explore how operations at the Rec Centre could reduce its overall environmental impact. The expanded scope of the project included several energy-efficient upgrades that qualified us for federal funding, which resulted in grant funding for this project of just over \$2.9 million. This upgrade will result in annual energy savings of 27% (at minimum) and reduce Green House Gases by 158 tonnes.

Mayor and Council are eager to chat with all of you regarding your concerns, questions or ideas on how we can continue to make Mackenzie a great place to live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Joan Atkinson". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Mayor Joan Atkinson

COMMUNITY VISION

From its roots as a new town for forestry workers, Mackenzie has grown into a strong and supportive community that residents are proud to call home. Supported by a healthy environment, Mackenzie's economic base is now diverse and robust, providing consistent employment for residents. Recreation is key to our high quality of life and healthy lifestyle, with exceptional natural features drawing residents outdoors. Great community services and facilities complement the outdoors with opportunities to meet and engage with neighbors, and the town takes great pride in how attractive it is for both residents and visitors.



Photo Credit: Darrin Rigo

DISTRICT MISSION

It is the mission of the District of Mackenzie to improve the lifestyle, services and opportunities to our residents and visitors by:

1. Providing quality executive and administrative leadership from an open and responsible Council and administration.
2. Providing quality services, recreational facilities and programs that promote and enhance livability and a healthy lifestyle.
3. Maintaining a healthy environment and economic conditions that allow for business and individuals to flourish and realize their full potential.

ORGANIZATION CHART

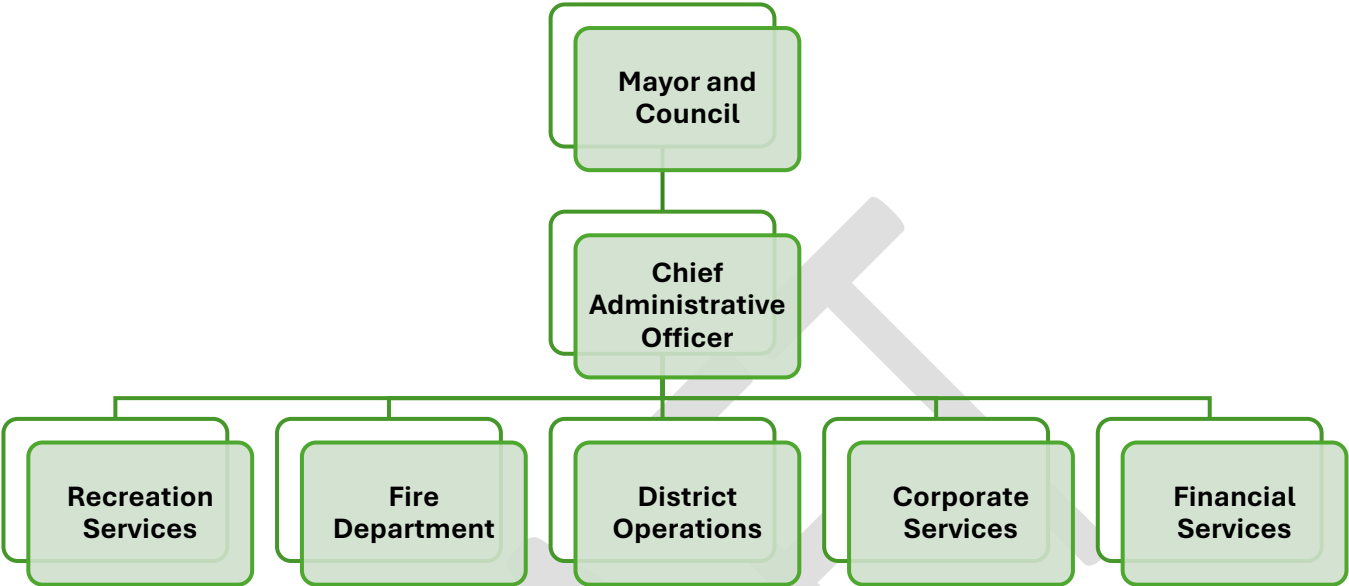


Photo Credit: Adrienne Lacey

2022 – 2026 MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The District of Mackenzie Council is comprised of a Mayor and six Councillors, elected for four-year terms. Municipal Councils are elected by the people and make decisions on behalf of the residents of our municipality.



Mayor Joan Atkinson



**Councillor
Andy Barnes**



**Councillor
Viktor Brumovsky**



**Councillor
Amber Hipkiss**



**Councillor
Raye McMeeken**



**Councillor
Kyle Tapper**



**Councillor
Jesse Wright**



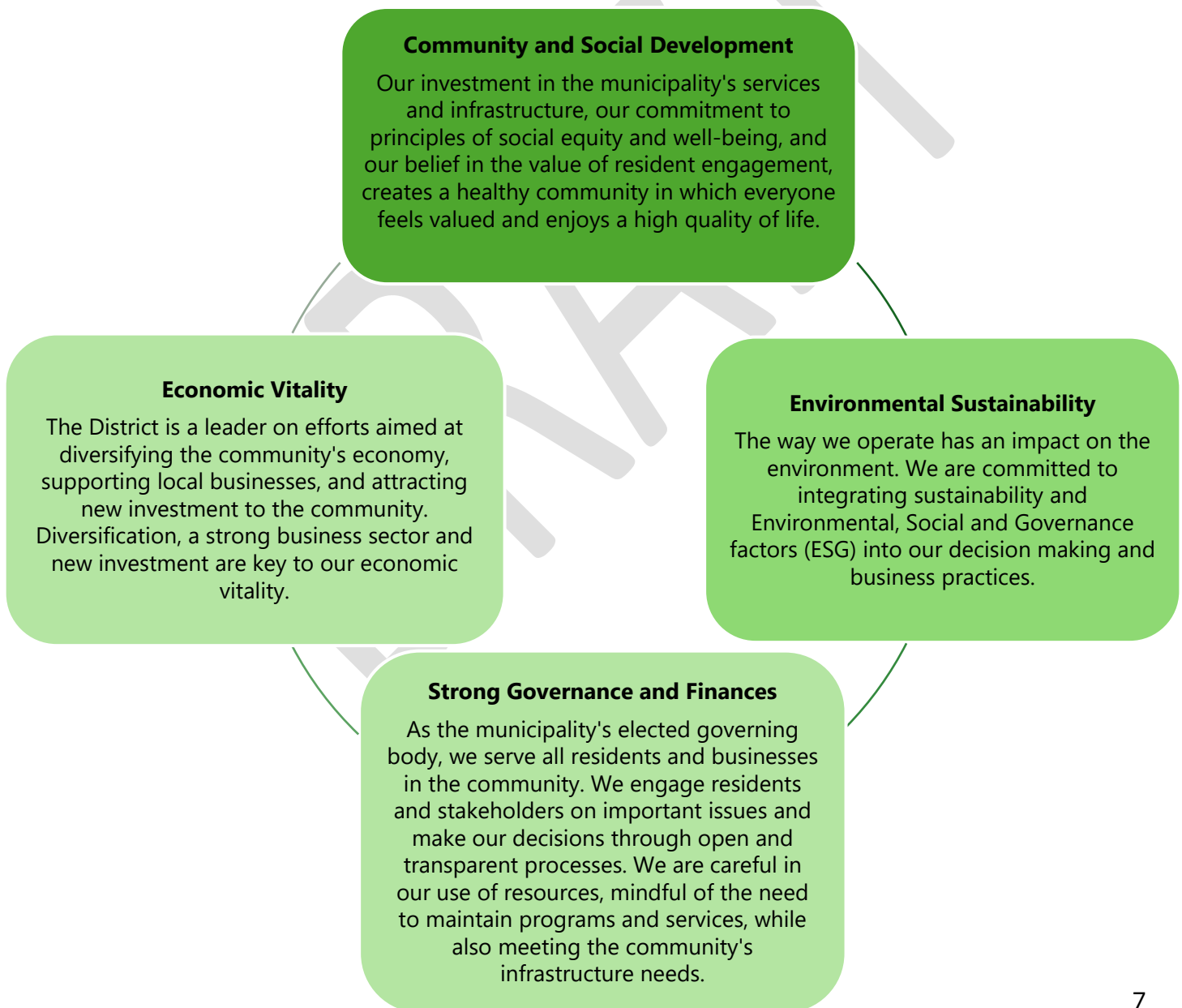
**Councillor
Peter Kylo**

In August 2024, Councillor Hipkiss resigned and a Municipal By-Election was held on November 16, 2024. Councillor Peter Kylo was elected.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The Council Priorities are designed to advance Council's vision, mission, and operational plans for the District of Mackenzie.

Council's Priorities for the 2021-2025 period reflect today's emerging issues and developing opportunities. Council reviews the plan annually to respond to new ideas and changes in circumstances that arise as we work through the 2021 - 2025 period. Community consultation is an important part of setting priorities, achieving our goals (operational plans) and in updating Council's Priorities.



2024 COUNCIL LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

Committee/Position	Elected Official
Deputy Mayors	Councillors Barnes, Hipkiss, McMeeken and Wright
Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee	Liaison: Councillor McMeeken Alternate: Councillor Brumovsky
Agricultural Opportunities and Food Security	Liaison: Councillor Tapper Alternate: Councillor Brumovsky
Asset Management Committee	Liaison: Mayor Atkinson Alternate: Councillor Wright
BC Hydro Peace River/Williston Advisory Committee	Liaison: Mayor Atkinson
Chamber of Commerce	Liaison: Councillor Hipkiss Alternate: Councillor Brumovsky
CityWest	Liaison: Councillor Brumovsky Liaison: Chief Administrative Officer Smith
Climate Action Liaison	Liaison: Councillor Hipkiss Alternate: Councillor Tapper
CNC Advisory Group	Liaison: Councillor Barnes Alternate: Councillor Tapper
Emergency Executive Committee	Liaison: Mayor Atkinson Alternate: Councillor McMeeken
Education Liaison	Liaison: Councillor Wright Alternate: Councillor Brumovsky
Forestry Liaison	Liaison: Mayor Atkinson Alternate: Deputy Mayor
Grant Adjudication Committee	Liaison: Councillor Brumovsky Liaison: Councillor McMeeken
Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	Liaison: Councillor Barnes Alternate: Councillor Wright
Mackenzie Wildfire Advisory Committee	Liaison: Councillor Barnes Alternate: Councillor Brumovsky
McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest (MLMCF)	Liaison: Councillor Hipkiss
Mining Liaison	Liaisons: Councillor Barnes Alternate: Councillor Wright
Municipal Library	Liaisons: Councillor Tapper Alternate: Councillor Brumovsky
New Horizons - Senior Inclusion Solutions Advisory Group	Liaison: Councillor Wright Alternate: Mayor Atkinson
Northern Development Initiative Trust – Prince George Regional Advisory Committee	Liaison: Mayor Atkinson Alternate: Councillor Wright
Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee	Liaison: Councillor Wright
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George	Director: Mayor Atkinson

COUNCIL REMUNERATION

Mayor Atkinson	\$30,588
Councillor Barnes	\$13,490
Councillor Brumovsky	\$12,965
Councillor Hipkiss	\$8,707
Councillor Kylo	\$1,260
Councillor McMeeken	\$13,489
Councillor Tapper	\$12,965
Councillor Wright	\$13,489



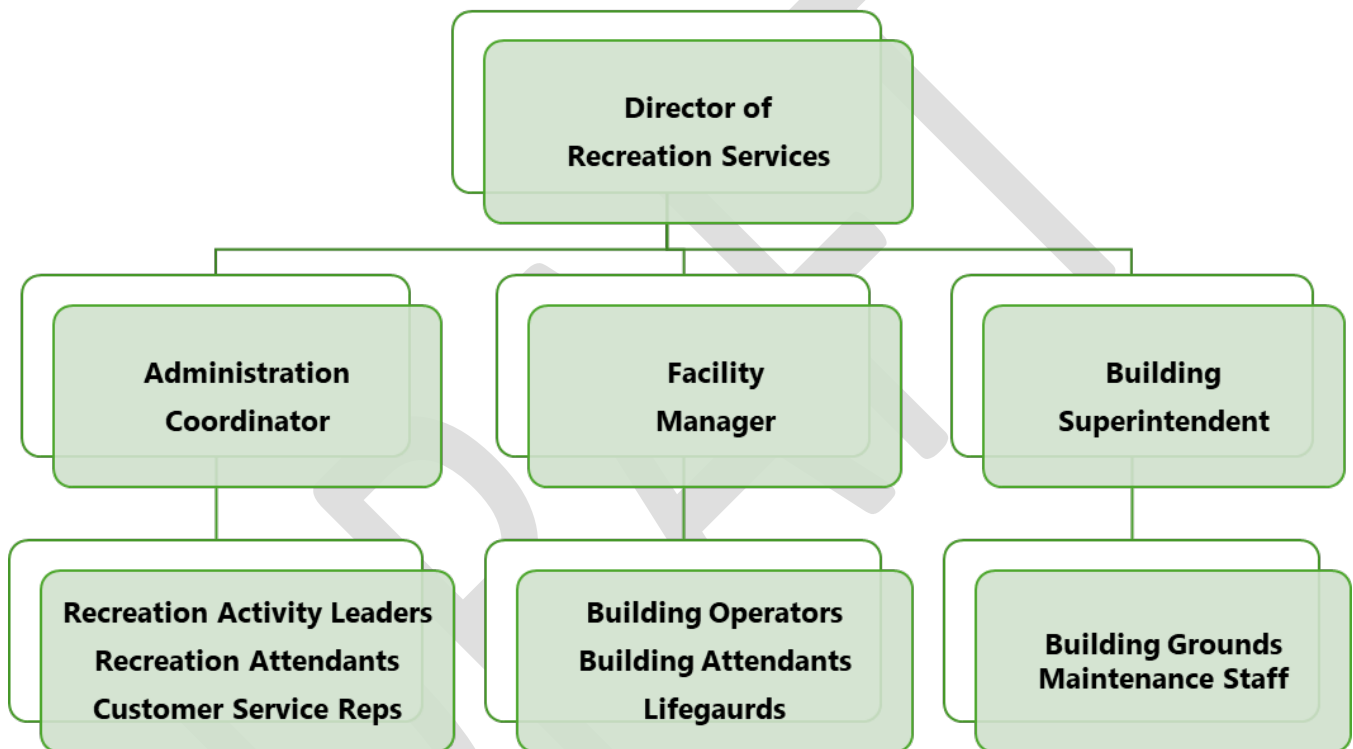
Photo Credit: Sarah-Lynn Pineau

The background of the image is a light green color with a pattern of thin, dark green contour lines, resembling a topographic map. In the center, there is a semi-transparent, darker green rectangular box. Inside this box, the words "RECREATION" and "SERVICES" are written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font, stacked one above the other.

RECREATION SERVICES

RECREATION SERVICES ORGANIZATION CHART

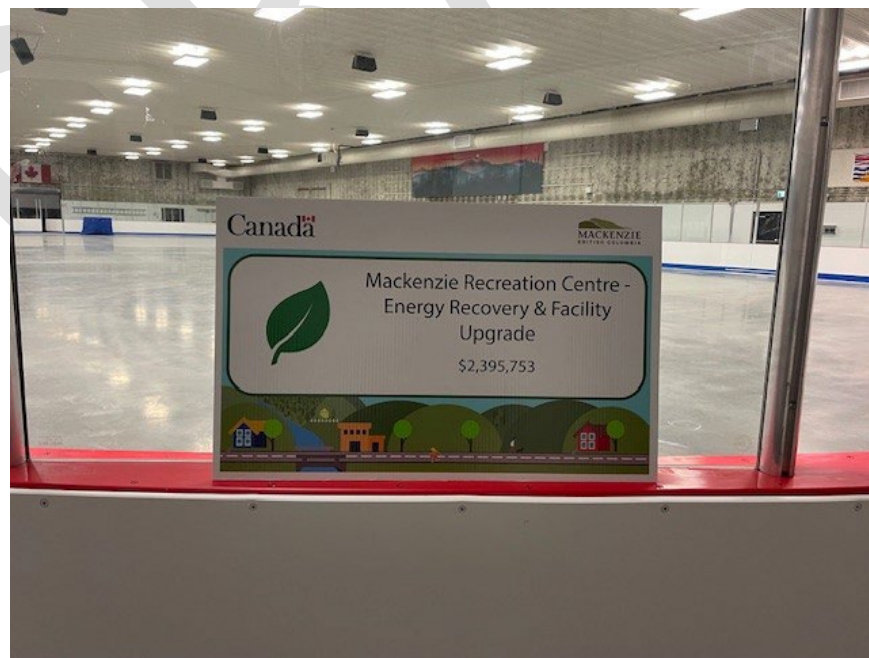
The Recreation Services Department oversees the operation and maintenance of the Recreation Centre, Ernie Bodin Community Centre, Little Mac Ski Hill, John Dahl Trail, tennis/pickleball court, outdoor rink, and playground inspections in Mackenzie. Recreation staff work to enhance the lifestyle and health of people in the community through a variety of quality programs and services based on public consultation. Their dedicated team is committed to providing recreation services for people of all ages, stages, and abilities.



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2024 Recreation Centre Utilization

Recreation Centre Activities	Number of Bookings
Fitness Centre	13,705
Skating	621
Aquafit	912
Swimming	9,414
Curling	51
Climbing	337
Pickleball	432
Ski Hill	199*
Sport Court	1,064
School Use	2,153
Junior Pathways	444
Total Number of Bookings	29,332



*The 2024 Little Mac season was affected by unusually warm weather and below average snowfall contributing to low numbers.

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RECREATION SERVICES ACTION PLANNING

Actions completed in 2024	Action Plan for 2025
Hosted 4th Annual WinterQuest 2024, ice carvers and trail light-up festival.	Host 5th Annual WinterQuest 2025, ice carvers and trail light-up festival.
Hosted our 2nd Annual Rockin' the Ridgeline festival.	Host our 3rd Annual Rockin' the Ridgeline festival.
Hosted inaugural Summer Concert Series on every Thursday in July and August in the new Park.	Host Summer Concert Series in the Park.
Hosted Canada Day, Holiday Parade and Recreation Fair community events.	Host Canada Day, Holiday Parade and Recreation Fair community events.
Completed Active Transportation Master Plan.	Work with Directors and Council to determine the next steps as it relates to priority work and grant funding applications.
Created concept plans with cost D estimates for 616 and Rec Centre outdoor space upgrades, as part of Active Transportation project.	Work with Directors and Council to determine the next steps as it relates to priority work and grant funding applications.
Finished bike park features, main landscape, zipline and gazebo part of the Signature Trail, Park, and Little Mac project. This project has reached significant completion status.	Coordinate with Public Works Department to complete outstanding work in new park, which includes pathway, earth and seeding.
Reached significant completion for the arena slab replacement and green energy upgrades project, including dasher boards, solar and heat pump.	Finalize repairs of deficiencies for arena slab replacement and green energy upgrades project.
Completed 100% of Mac 1 playground upgrade, which includes new border, swing set and topping up surface.	Resurface the court in Babine Park, which also includes adding basketball nets.
Awarded grant for pool and accessibility upgrade project. Completed flooring on pool deck and in change rooms as part of the project.	Complete outstanding work such as slide and lobby bathroom accessibility upgrades - part of the pool and accessibility upgrade project.
Tenants vacated Ernie Bodin Community Centre and staff had a pre-demolition hazard assessment completed.	Work with Directors to finalize a plan to demolish Ernie Bodin Community Centre.
Continued developing programs with greater focus on specialized programming.	Continue to develop programs which fill gaps in the community.

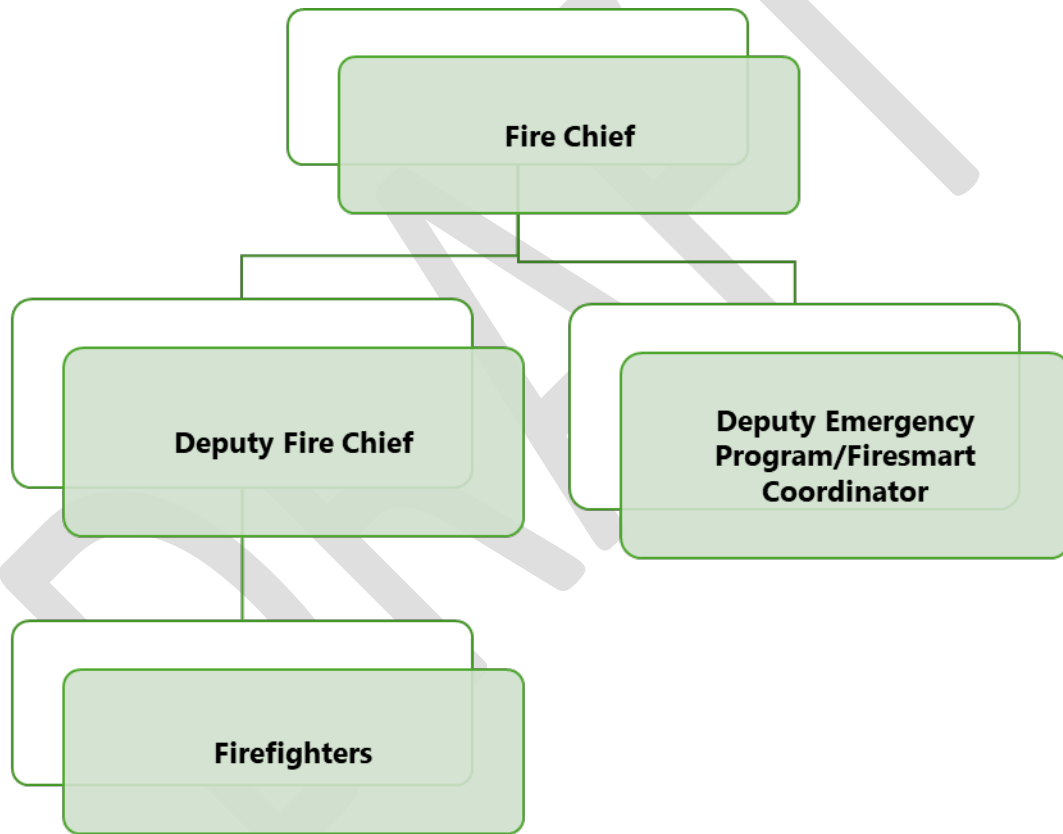


The background of the image is a light green color with a pattern of thin, dark green contour lines, resembling a topographic map. A semi-transparent, medium-green rectangular box is centered horizontally and vertically. Inside this box, the words "FIRE" and "DEPARTMENT" are written in a bold, dark green, sans-serif font, stacked one above the other.

**FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART

The Fire Department strives to deliver quality services in a fiscally responsible manner to the citizens of the District of Mackenzie. The District of Mackenzie supports this service delivery through a well-established safety and training program. The Fire Department is responsible for fire suppression, vehicle extrication, hazardous material response, environmental protection, fire inspections of multi-residential, public assembly, industrial, and commercial properties, promotion of compliance to the provincial Fire and Building Codes and local municipal bylaws, and public education and awareness. The Department also actively participates in the FireSmart program, working with residents and stakeholders to reduce wildfire risks through community education, mitigation initiatives, and strategic planning.



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FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTION PLANNING

2024 FIRE CALLS

Nature of Call	# of Calls
Assist other Agency	37
Burn Complaint	14
Carbon Monoxide alarm	1
Chimney Fire	1
Dumpster Fire	1
Electrical Hazard	3
False Alarm	29
Motor Vehicle Incident	48
Public Service	14
Rubbish Fire	1
Structure Fire	8
Vehicle Fire	4
Wildland Fire	5
Unclassified Fire	1
Investigation no Fire	1
TOTAL	168

2024 FIRE FIGHTERS

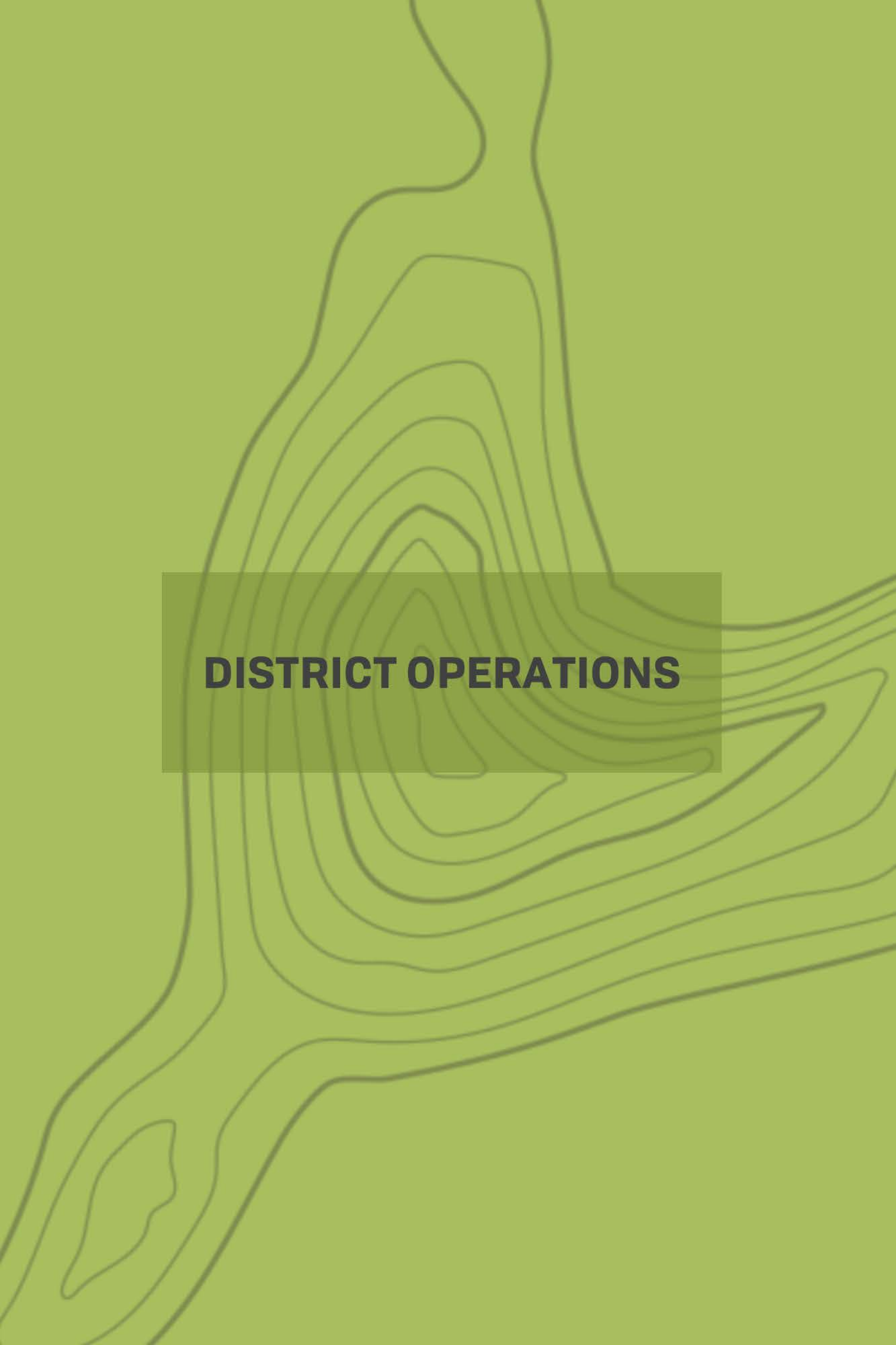
Position	Number
Fire Chief	1
Deputy Fire Chief	1
Assistant Chiefs	1
Training Officers	2
Captains	2
Lieutenants	2
Engineers	2
Fire Fighters	9
Fire Fighters (Probationary)	6
Junior Fire Fighters	4
TOTAL	30



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Actions Completed in 2024	2025 Priorities
New Fire Hall was completed in Fall 2024.	Finalizing landscaping & paving for Fire Hall #1.
Ongoing Training of Fire Fighters.	Specialized training for Live Fire, First AID, and Auto Extrication, Wildfire/Structure protection which will be grant funded.
Distributed new turnout gear.	Update Mutual Aid Agreement with McLeod Lake Indian Band.
Purchased new pagers.	Purchase new radios.
Purchased new Wildland truck delivered in 2025.	Outfit Wildland 11 to be ready for in town use or deployment.
Participated in wildfire deployments in Fort Nelson & Williams Lake.	Revaluate and update the District of Mackenzie Emergency Response Plan.
Hired a Fire Smart/ Assistant Emergency Program Coordinator.	Hire a Junior Fire Smart Coordinator to assist with public education, assessments and updating records.
Submitted application for Union of British Columbia Municipalities Emergency Operations Centres grant and Emergency Support Services grants. These grants will be used to purchase equipment and training.	Submit application for Union of British Columbia Municipalities Emergency Operations Centre grant and Emergency Support Services grants. These grants will be used to purchase equipment and training.
Managed the fuel treatment process for the Tree Crusher Area.	Upgrade Fire Hall #2 to facilitate comprehensive training for the Mackenzie Fire Department and Tse'Khene Fire Department.
Recruitment and retention are an ongoing priority for 2025.	Hire a new Deputy Fire Chief.
Outfitted and trained crews on Ladder 11.	Train Crews on Wildland 11.
Facilitated a danger tree removal program.	Launch Mackenzie Public Alerting System.
Launched a Fire Smart rebate program.	Purchase trailer and equipment to start developing a structure protection trailer SPU #3. Funded through the CRI Grant.

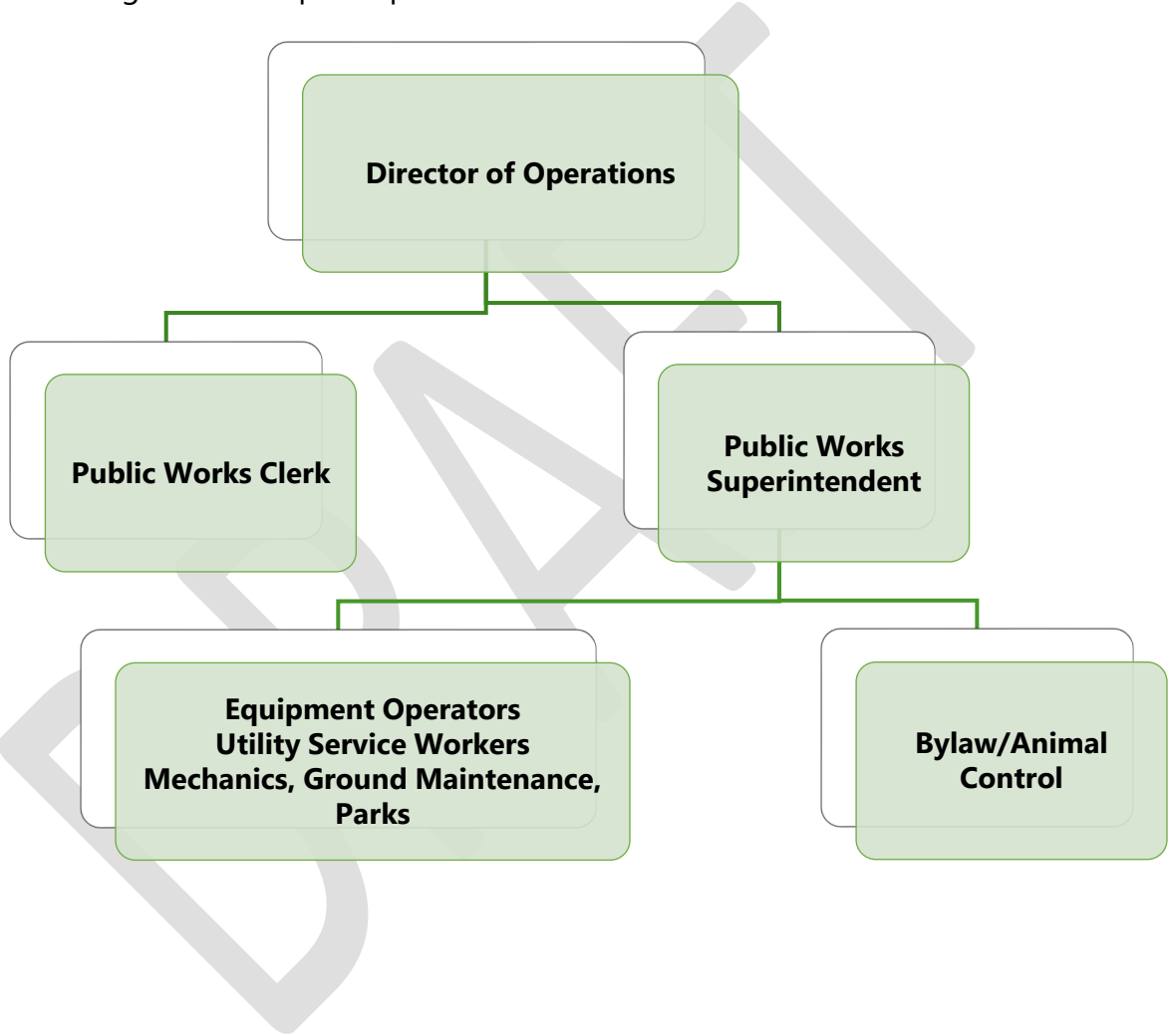


The background of the image is a light green color with a pattern of thin, dark green contour lines, resembling a topographic map. A semi-transparent, darker green rectangular box is centered horizontally and vertically, containing the text "DISTRICT OPERATIONS" in a bold, dark blue font.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

The Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining roads, sidewalks and walkways, boulevards, fire hydrants, public parks and beaches, ball diamonds and the Municipal Campground. It's also responsible for snow removal, residential and business garbage collection, building inspection services, bylaw services and animal control, sewage, and water systems, as well as maintaining the Municipal Airport.



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DISTRICT OPERATIONS ACTION PLANNING

2024 By the Numbers	
Water pumped from the Town pump house (Imperial Gallons)	123,891,300*
Water pumped from the Gantahaz pump house (Imperial Gallons)	9,208,235
Commercial Garbage Collected (kg)	727,000
Residential Garbage Collected (kg)	616,340
Total number of Fixed Wing Landings	463
Total number of Helicopter Landings	267
Fuel Purchases	528

*The numbers for in town are high because our recording keeping is becoming more comprehensive. In addition, there were several leaks in the system, one on Gagnon (repaired), two on Centennial Drive and 4 in Morfee Trailer Court. The required repairs are in progress.

Bylaw & Animal Control	
Animals Impounded	39
Animals Adopted	6
Number of Tickets Issued	1
Dog Licenses Purchased	456

Permits & Licenses	
Business Licenses Awarded	267
Plumbing Permits Awarded	3
Building Permits Awarded	22

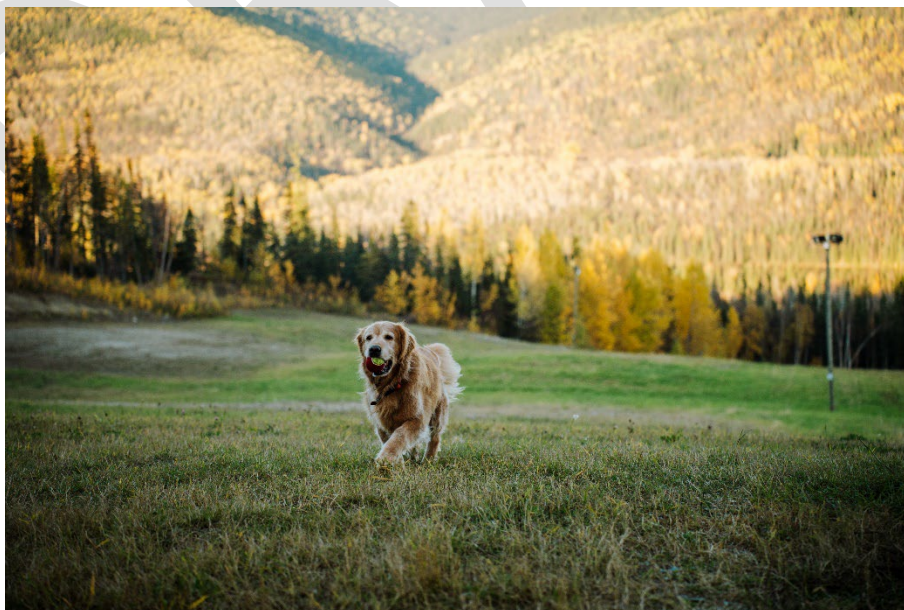


Photo Credit: Darrin Rigo

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Actions Completed in 2024	Action Plan for 2025
Installed a Pressure Reduction Valve station on Centennial Drive and Nation Avenue. Two other Pressure Reduction Valve stations are scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2025. One on Little Cloud Maker and one in Woodlands Mobile Home Park.	Will have to inspect the Pressure Reduction Valve station on Nation this year. These were chosen in order of priority and we have a plan moving forward for the replacement of all Pressure Reduction Valve stations.
Second year of Pavement Rehabilitation Plan.	Second year of a five-year plan is being implemented this summer.
Planted numerous trees around town.	Tree planting will continue in 2025.
Sand/topsoil and sod were brought in for Bike Park Project.	Continue training for Management Team and Employees.
Implementing a pre-trip inspection booklet.	Inspection Booklet to be used to generate mechanical work orders.
Water and Sewer Rehabilitation Plan.	First year of water and sewer plan to be implemented.
Repaired the Statutory Right of Way Road to the Sewer Lagoon.	First year of Water and Sewer Plan to be implemented.
Completed the Paving Plan preliminary assessment.	Initiate the roads and pathways replacement plans for the District.
Asset Management Activities and Training	Continue Asset Management Activities and Training.
Gantahaz water treatment facility upgrade to begin in 2024.	Permits are in place. Construction is underway - estimated commissioning in July 2025.
Sand/topsoil and seed were placed at Firehall.	Firehall Landscaping project to continue this summer.
New Commercial Truck and Bins have been purchased and are currently being used throughout town.	New Truck and Bins are working great. Very few Bear Complaints.



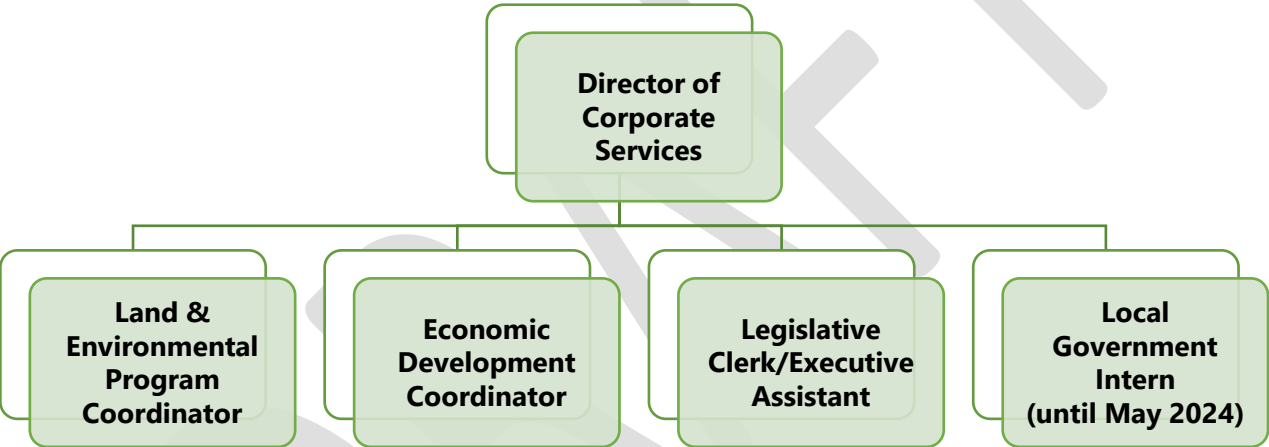
The background of the image features a light green color with a pattern of darker green, wavy, concentric lines that resemble topographic map contour lines. These lines are more densely packed in the center and become more sparse towards the edges. Overlaid on this background is a semi-transparent, medium-green rectangular box. Inside this box, the text "CORPORATE & FINANCIAL SERVICES" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered both horizontally and vertically.

**CORPORATE
&
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

CORPORATE SERVICES

Corporate Services supports Council and ensures the District performs all its legislative duties, including preparing for Council Meeting and administering local elections. In addition, the department is also responsible for, and assists other departments with, reviewing and creating policies, procedures, bylaws, legal matters, records management and Freedom of Information requests, land use agreements, development applications, environmental programs and reporting, communications, accessibility and inclusion initiatives, as well as economic development and tourism.

The department also works with Council, staff, and the community on long-term strategic planning, including the development of Mackenzie’s Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw, Council’s Strategic Priorities, Housing Needs Assessments, Economic Development and Tourism Plans, Age-Friendly Accessibility and Inclusion Action Plan, and Corporate Environmental Plans.



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CORPORATE SERVICES ACTION PLANNING

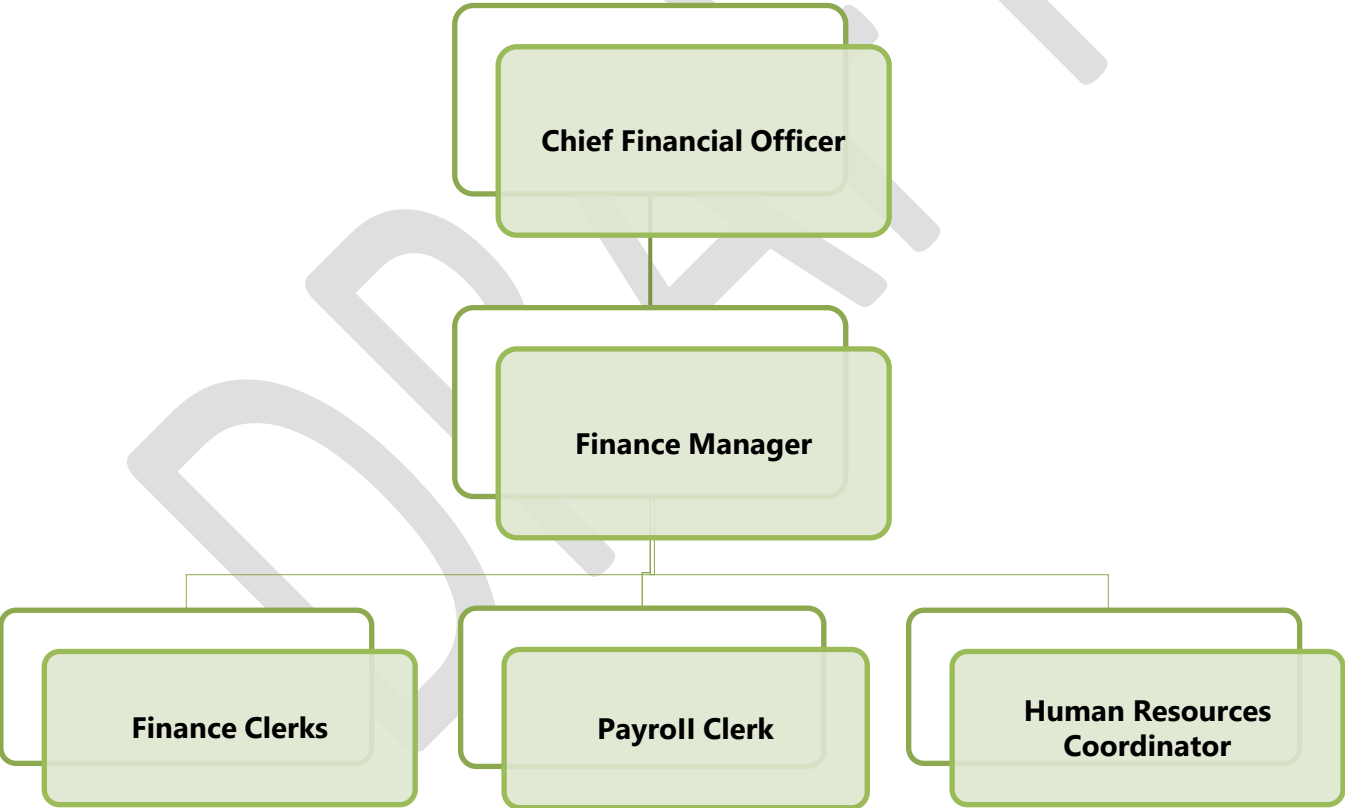
Actions Completed in 2024	Action Plan for 2025
Held By-Election in Fall 2024	Preparations for 2026 General Election.
Completed Audio/Visual project in Council Chambers and the Recreation Centre. Livestreaming began January 2025.	Improve accessibility features of live streaming and Council meeting attendance (ie. hearing loop installations).
In collaboration with the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, began implementation of the District's Age-Friendly Access and Inclusion Action Plan.	In collaboration with the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, continue implementation of the District's Age-Friendly Access and Inclusion Action Plan.
\$202,000 was distributed for the 2024 Community Grants Program.	\$159,790 has been included in the budget for the Community Grants program for 2025.
Continue to participate in Northern BC Climate Action Network.	Continue to participate in Northern BC Climate Action Network.
Continue to pursue opportunities to move the District's Corporate Energy Emissions Plans forward.	Continue to pursue opportunities to move the District's Corporate Energy Emissions Plans forward.
Completed Food Cycler Program Phase 2.	Host 2nd Annual Agricultural Symposium.
New signage was installed at Mill Road/Hwy 39 and another new billboard was installed at the Junction of Hwy 39 and 97.	Continue to support high-speed internet projects in the community and pursue opportunities to extend services.
Continue to participate on regional economic development and tourism committees and marketing campaigns.	Continue to participate on regional economic development and tourism committees and marketing campaigns.
Offered Grant Writing Support Services and hosted a free community grant writing workshop.	Continue offering this service and host a free community grant writing workshop.
Completed updates to Zoning Bylaw to support Provincial Housing Initiatives.	Complete update to Housing Needs Report and Official Community Plan Amendment to support Provincial Housing Initiatives.
Northern Development Initiative Trust awarded the District \$20,000 to offer the Business Façade Improvement Program.	Remaining funds from 2024 Business Façade Improvement Program have been allocated for use by business in 2025.
Created new shop local and community marketing program.	Create a community marketing campaign utilizing the new "Explore Mackenzie" brand.
Develop Communications and Public Engagement Policies.	Carry-over project. Develop Communications and Public Engagement Policies.

FINANCE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

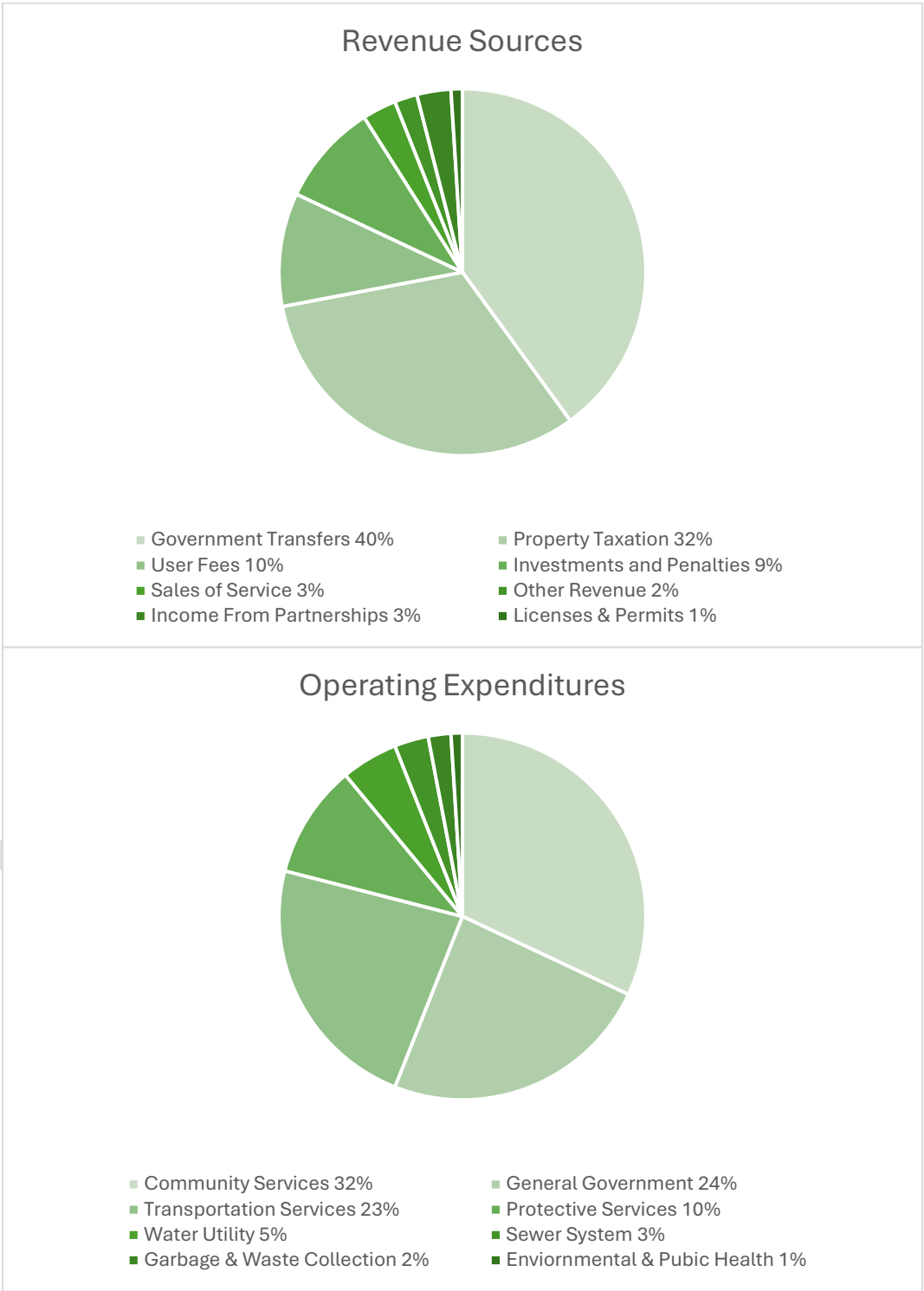
The Finance Department is responsible for managing the health of the District’s finances as well as the monitoring, managing and allocation of financial resources in order to achieve the District’s short and long-term goals and objectives.

Finance manages expenditures through the annual budget process, prepares financial reports, administers property taxation, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, Human Resources and IT services. The department is also responsible for ensuring that financial transactions are properly recorded to support financial and grant claim reporting.

Finance produces annual public documents including a Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw, Tax and Utility Rate Bylaws, Audited Financial Statements, and Statement of Financial Information disclosures.



REVENUE SOURCES



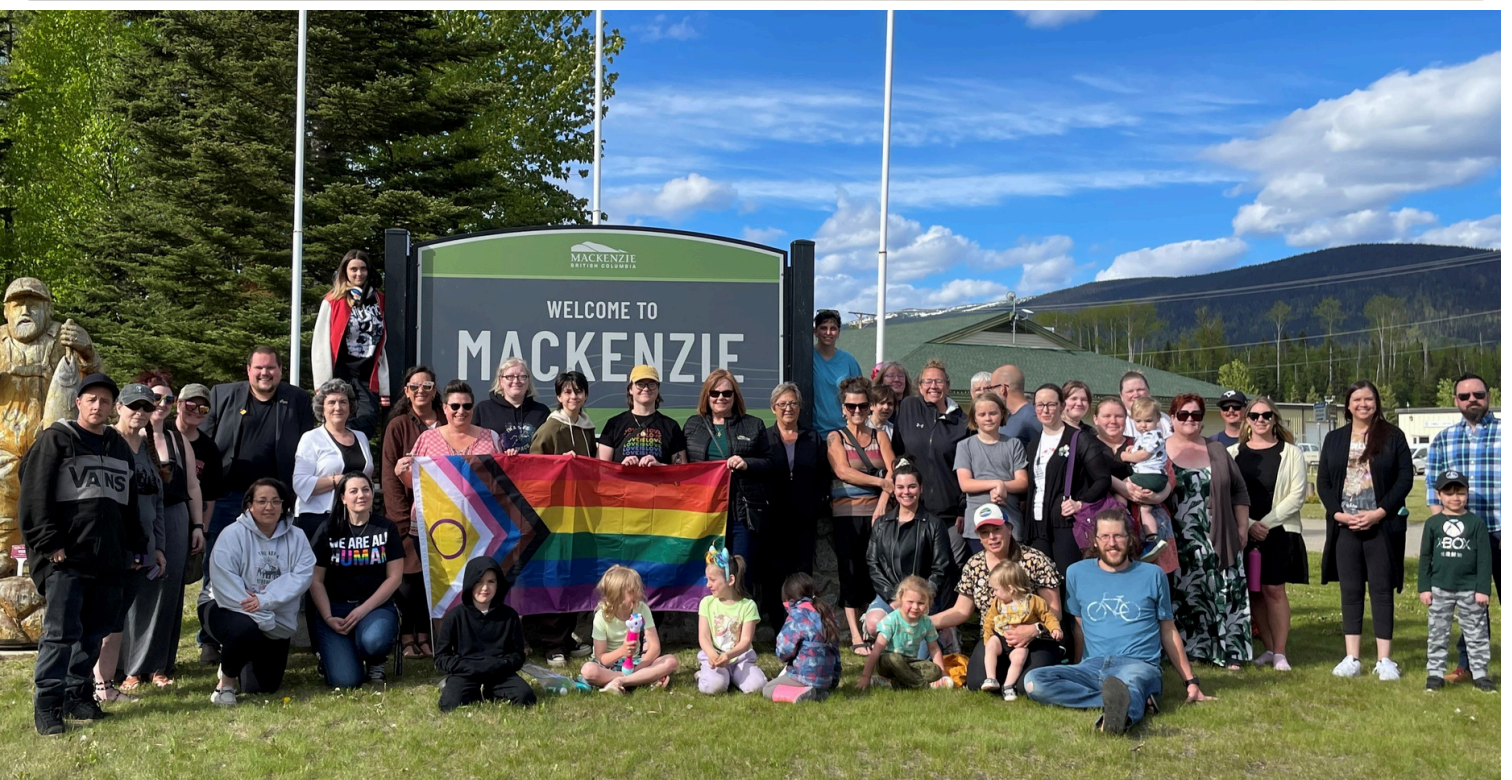
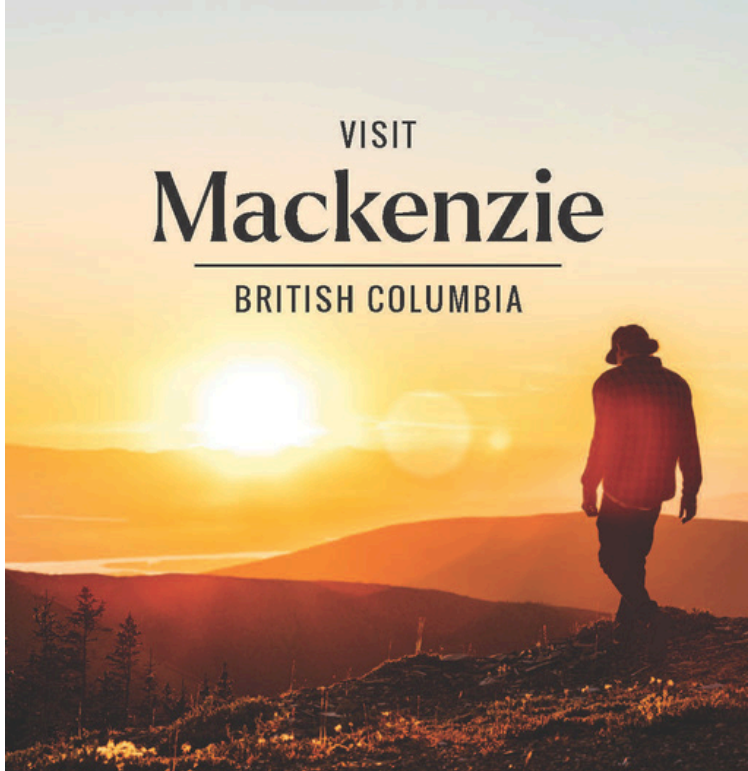
Details of the composition of revenues and expenses shown in the charts above are derived from the 2024 Audited Financial Statements.

FINANCE ACTION PLANNING

Actions Completed in 2024	Action Plan for 2025
Hosted public engagement sessions and survey regarding the 2024 budget.	Continue to provide public engagement opportunities during the 2025 budget process
Condition assessment reports added to the 10-year capital plan.	Update 10-year capital plan with additional condition assessments and work summary reports
Performance Management process updated and implemented in 2024.	Update the purchasing and procurement policy to reflect current economic climate and business practices



Photo Credit: Darrin Rigo



CLIMATE ACTION

A key part of a local government's role in dealing with climate action is to reduce emissions caused by its own assets. The District of Mackenzie has signed the *Climate Action Charter*, committing the District to work towards being carbon-neutral in its own operations. In 2021, the District developed a Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan to help prioritize actions to meet this goal. Included in the plan were a number of recommended action items. The following table outlines our progress as we move work through the plan:

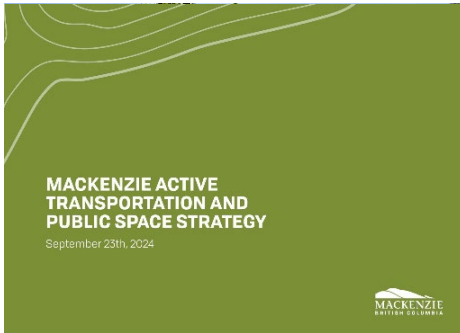
ACTION		Complete	Ongoing	Research Required
1.1	Build energy efficient buildings ¹	X	X	
1.2	Build energy efficient infrastructure	X	X	
1.3	Optimize siting and orientation of new buildings		X	
2.1	Conduct building energy audits	X	X	
2.2	Implement energy retrofits recommended by building energy audits **	X	X	
2.3	Conduct energy-focused operational review of infrastructure	X	X	X
2.4	Implement measures from operational review of infrastructure			X
2.5	Incorporate energy management into annual building maintenance procedures	X	X	
3.1	Install solar PV on corporate buildings ²	X	X	
3.2	Low-carbon heating systems for buildings			X
3.3	Conduct corporate renewable energy study			X
4.1	Right-size vehicles for assigned tasks	X	X	
4.2	Develop a vehicle purchasing policy	X		
4.3	Invest in EVs and EV Charging Stations ³	X	X	
4.4	Assess renewable fuels for corporate fleet			X
4.5	Fuel efficient driver training & anti-idling policy		X	
4.6	Energy-focused fleet maintenance			X
4.7	Encourage employee carpooling where possible		X	
4.8	Provide end of trip facilities		X	
5.1	Have dedicated staff person or department for plan implementation	X		
5.2	Allocate funds for plan implementation	X	X	
5.3	Develop KPIs, monitor and track for progress	X		
5.4	Demonstrate leadership on corporate waste and water	X	X	
5.5	Join PCP	X		

¹ 1.1 New Fire Hall is being built to new BC Step Code standards for energy efficiency. Any future buildings will be built to the same or higher standards.

² 2.2 Energy upgrades are being completed as budget allows. Some upgrades are being combined with larger retrofit projects and will be held off until all can be completed at once.

³ 4.3 The District entered into a memorandum of understanding with BC Hydro in 2022 to participate in their EV Charging Station network expansion. A new charging station was installed in the community in 2024

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ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION – MASTER PLAN

In 2024, staff, in collaboration with VDZ+A, finalized the Active Transportation Plan. The objective of this plan is to promote the use of active transportation and create a safe and reliable way for residents and tourists to commute to and from destinations around Mackenzie.



BUILDINGS: MACKENZIE RECREATION CENTRE

The Energy Recovery and Facility Upgrades project at the Mackenzie Recreation Centre was completed in 2024. Initially funded in January 2023, the project included energy-efficiency improvements such as replacing the arena slab and underfloor, upgrading glass shielding and building insulation, modernizing HVAC units and water heaters, and installing new solar panels and a heat recovery system.



WASTE REDUCTION – FOODCYCLER

In 2024, the District of Mackenzie successfully completed a second round of the FoodCycler Program in partnership with Food Cycle Science. Building on the success of the initial pilot, this innovative program allowed more households to turn kitchen scraps and food waste into nutrient-rich compost using state-of-the-art FoodCycler technology. The initiative continues to help residents reduce their carbon footprint, minimize landfill waste, and create compost that can be used to enrich gardens, potted plants, or safely dispose of in general waste.



TREE – PLANTING INITIATIVE

The District of Mackenzie is pleased to report on the successful completion of the 2024 tree-planting initiative. A total of 49 trees and 120 shrubs were planted across various parks and green spaces throughout the community. Led by the District's Public Works team, the initiative supports ongoing efforts to enhance local biodiversity, improve air quality, and contribute to the beautification of public spaces for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2021, the District completed the *Mackenzie 2.0 Community Economic Development Plan* a community-based, roadmap for creating a strong, vibrant, and diverse local economy. The objectives below are at the core of our strategy, identifying what *Mackenzie 2.0* will help to achieve.

- **Support a resilient economy**
- **Promote good local jobs**
- **Support and grow local business**
- **Attract new, compatible economic activity**
- **Nurture strategic partnerships**
- **Enhance the District's fiscal health**
- **Protect our environment**

The table below summarizes the recommended actions from *Mackenzie 2.0* and progress to date:

ACTION		Complete	In Progress	Ongoing	Research Required
Foundational - ongoing and will support all other actions.					
F1	Target and incentivize (tax, permit, land, buildings) industrial development in emerging sectors and secondary industries, promoting Mackenzie's energy and land availability	X		X	
F2	Support opportunities for natural resource development			X	
F3	Continue to pursue shared economic development opportunities and partnerships with neighbouring First Nations			X	
F4	Actively seek opportunities for partnerships with other levels of government, agencies and not-for-profits to promote economic development in Mackenzie.			X	
Underway - already underway or included in a work plan to be completed in the near future.					
U1	Continue seeking high speed internet for the whole community		X	X	
U2	Provide development incentive to projects to meet strategic community needs (e.g. public parks, rec facilities)			X	
U3	Continue developing and expanding local recreation trail amenities		X	X	
U4	Continue to improve District-wide wayfinding and signage.		X	X	
U5	Continue to offer and facilitate access to programs that support local businesses, both new and existing			X	
U6	Continue to foster collaboration between industry, major employers, and schools to match skills/training with emerging industry needs.			X	
U7	Continue strategic land sales.		X	X	
U8	Update and maintain inventory of businesses operating in Mackenzie	X		X	

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Quick Wins - require minimal funding and minimal stakeholder involvement					
QW1	Support more events and festivals that link with local businesses		X	X	
QW2	Expand upon recreation rentals; could be promoted as a business opportunity and offered additional marketing		X	X	
QW3	Support improving and promoting local recreation and trail amenities with simple interventions such as string lights along trails.		X	X	
QW4	"Working with the District 101" – Promote District procurement process.		X	X	
QW5	Distribute promotional materials to attract and welcome new residents, remote workers, and home-based businesses.		X	X	
QW6	Maintain and publicize a land inventory focusing on industrial land and including vacant downtown lots and buildings.		X		
QW7	How a Community-to-Community forum with local First Nation and District of Mackenzie		X		
Simple - requires some funding and some stakeholder involvement (1-3 years)					
S1	Promote creative use of gathering spaces and underutilizes/empty buildings and lots			X	
S2	Encourage small scale agriculture and agrotourism (including food production and sales on larger, semi-rural residential lots.	X	X	X	
S3	Support business-to-business opportunities and networking	X		X	
S4	Host regional technology and innovation meet-ups				X
S5	Encourage local procurement by large and small purchasers and organizations			X	
S6	Explore interest in establishing a Business Improvement Area				X
S7	Encourage a local commissary kitchen by collaborating with local commercially-certified kitchens				X
S8	Conduct a feasibility study on the demand for additional and modern/office and/or co-working space within Mackenzie				X
Complex - require significant funding, extensive stakeholder engagement, and a multi-year effort					
C1	Develop an improved cohesive downtown Mackenzie look and feel through incentivizing public art, storefront, beautification, hardscaping, and landscaping.		X	X	
C2	Work with Province to promote and facilitate forestry innovation and emerging technology (e.g. value-added forestry products)			X	X
C3	Support diversifying our housing stock (age-friendly homes, larger rural lots, recreational properties, etc.)			X	
C4	Work with employers and organizations to create shared childcare solutions		X	X	

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C5	Explore shared agriculture amenities				X
C6	Seek opportunities for attracting public services (e.g., government offices, health and education facilities)		X		X
C7	Continue to support airport development	X	X	X	
C8	Encourage multi-modal transportation to and within the Downtown Core and provide supporting infrastructure		X	X	X
Tourism Related Community Economic Development Actions					
T1	Create a new exciting Tourism District in downtown Mackenzie		X	X	X
T2	Create an 'Iconic Gateway' at Highway 39/97 Intersection		X		
T3	Define a visitor experience that is compelling and easy to access		X		X
T4	Develop Traditional Tourism Industry Product Opportunities		X	X	X
T5	Engage the Region		X	X	

Notes:

- If an action item has multiple status boxes checked off, this means that there may be more than one project associated with this action and that some work has been completed already, but there may be ongoing activities or new projects in the works that support these actions.



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TOURISM MARKETING & PROMOTION

In 2024 we a completely redesigned Tourism Guide, replacing the nearly decade-old version with a clean and ad-free layout. It was widely distributed through 10 poster stands placed in key community locations. To further increase accessibility and visibility, 'Visit Mackenzie' rack cards featuring QR codes were placed at all local cash registers and counters. Additionally, frontline customer service staff received quick-facts info cards to help them better assist visitors. Staff presented the tourism guide at the NBCTA Summit in October.



VIDEO PRODUCTION

In 2024, the District launched the Explore Mackenzie relocation video to highlight the community's beauty, recreation, and quality of life. Featuring local faces and stunning scenery, the video aims to attract new residents and support workforce retention.



NEW SHOP LOCAL BRAND

In 2024, the District launched Explore More – Support Local, a fresh Shop Local brand and campaign aimed at supporting local businesses and strengthening the community economy. The word "Explore" encourages residents to discover the full range of local goods, services, and experiences available in Mackenzie. Featuring a bold new visual identity, promotional materials, and a presence at events like Plaid Friday.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Council established an "Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee" to provide advice and recommendations to Council on matters relating to citizens with disabilities, seniors and other citizens with access issues that may impede participation in everyday aspects of community living. The committee is comprised of five diverse individuals who are committed to creating an inclusive and accessible community for all its members. Council is greatly appreciative for the dedication and incredible amount of work the committee has completed to increase awareness and advocate for all community members. Full details of their activities to date, current initiatives, and resources, please visit the Accessibility and Inclusion webpage here:

<https://districtofmackenzie.ca/government-town-hall/accessibility-and-inclusion/>



ACCESSIBLE PARKING

In 2024, the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee addressed the need for accessible parking spaces both at the District of Mackenzie Municipal Office, and the Mackenzie Recreation Centre. Working with the Public Works Department, this project was complete in July 2024.



TRAILRIDER SEASON

Thanks to the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, along with Hero Dirt Trails and the Mackenzie Outdoor Route and Trail Association, the District of Mackenzie now has a permanent TrailRider. This unique mobility device offers accessibility to the vast trail systems around town. Two (or more) people power the device, enabling a person with a physical disability to take part in hikes and excursions, to enjoy nature as part of an inclusive and supportive team.

2024 Committee Membership

Chair: Elizabeth Blackburn

Cassandra Carter

Kymberly Grywinski

Alice Pritchett (until April 2024)

Amy Coates (beginning May 2024)

Dave Schindler

Council Liaison: Councillor McMeeken



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2024 GRANT FUNDING

The District applies for numerous grants each year. The grants allow the District to access additional funding and reduce the burden on the taxpayer. Below is the list of grants the District applied for and the status of the applications for 2024.

Project Name	Funder	Approval/Status	Grant Amount
Treemendous Community Capacity 2024	Tree Canada & CN Rail	Approved	\$10,000
Economic Development Capacity 2024	NDIT	Approved	\$50,000
Emergency Support Services	UBCM	Approved	\$29,489
District of Mackenzie Airport Master Plan	SPMT	Denied	\$38,129
Mackenzie Pedestrian/Bus Stop Safety Project 2024	Northern Health Authority	Approved	\$18,557
Emergency Operations Center	UBCM	Approved	\$30,000
Accessible Mapping Interactive Experience	Outdoor Recreation Council of BC	Denied	\$2,600
Rockin' the Ridgeline Event	Enbridge	Approved	\$3,000
Fire Department Capacity Building	IREN	Approved	\$10,000
Recreation Centre Facility/Pool Upgrades Project	NDIT	Approved	\$ 251,795
Fitness Centre Senior Training	CNC	Approved	\$1,600
Mackenzie Fire Rescue Live Fire Training	UBCM	Approved	\$39,350
2025 Fire Smart Grant	UBCM	Approved	\$541,075
Cemetery Road Bridge Repairs	Provincial Government	Approved	\$40,270
Tourism Photography	Northern BC Tourism Association	Approved	\$1000
Total Funding Applied For			\$1,066,865
Total Funding Approved			\$1,026,136
Total Funding Pending			\$0
Total Funding Denied			\$40,729

2024 GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS

The District receives provincial, federal, and other grant transfers every year. These transfers help to offset the cost of services and aid in funding capital projects.

Grant Source	Amount	Total
Provincial Grants Total		\$3,371,800
Conditional	\$619,241	
Unconditional	\$171,275	
Grants in Lieu	\$12,198	
BC Hydro	\$2,569,086	
Federal Grants Total		\$2,427,055
Conditional	\$2,417,272	
Grants in Lieu	\$9,783	
Other Grants Total		\$1,506,168
Conditional	\$865,606	
Unconditional	\$427,492	
Fortis BC	\$34,342	
Miscellaneous	\$178,728	
Total Government Transfers		\$7,305,023



Photo Credit: Danielle Carlson

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

Council has adopted a Community Grants Policy to provide financial and in-kind support to community associations and other community organizations. This support is in recognition of these groups as a valuable resource in assisting the municipality to provide a strong community focus.

Cash and In-Kind Grants

Organization	Project	Grant (\$)
Mackenzie Alpine Horse Riders Club	Snow removal and sanding of club roads	\$2,300
Curl Mackenzie	Cover cost of set up and take down of curling ice preparation, hacks and rocks on the ice surface	\$4,141
Banshee Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron	Host Ceremonial Review at the Mackenzie Secondary School Gymnasium	\$650
Mackenzie Community Arts Council	Rent subsidy for Festival of Bells craft fair, security cameras, Hire musician for Rockin' the Ridgeline event	\$400
Mackenzie Community Garden	Installation of a waterline	\$2,000
St. Peter's Church	Purchase food and supplies for St. Peter's Pantry to help residents in times of need	\$5,000
Mackenzie Community Services	Insulation of office space walls	\$2,000
Mackenzie Figure Skating Club	Waiver of Ice rental fees for Ice Show	\$1,064
Mackenzie Fish & Game Association	Request for snow removal at the range entrance	\$1,728
Mackenzie Minor Lacrosse	Waiver of fees to rent room at Recreation Centre for 3 days to host an Open House, Awards Day and AGM	\$581
Mackenzie Area Radio Society	Rent subsidy and assistance with relocation	\$7,650
Mackenzie & District Hospital Auxiliary Thirft	Rent subsidy	\$7,800
Mackenzie Golf & Country Club	Use of District aerator three times a year to aerate the golf course	\$180
Mackenzie Nature Observatory	Use of showers (Campground/Rec. Centre), garbage bin, grading of road to Mugaha Marsh, and installing barricades at road, request to keep and continue using shelving units located at the Ernie Bodin Community Centre, once building is torn down	\$3,295
Mackenzie Rocky Mountain Riders	Request to assist with trail maintenance, and reimbursement of trail work completed to-date and request for two-year groomer use agreement, including training for two operators.	\$11,500
TOTAL:		\$65,084

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FEE – FOR – SERVICE AGREEMENTS

The District provides fee-for-service agreements to organizations for on-going operational support. This agreement may be considered when the recipient is a not-for-profit organization delivering a service or program that extends the reach of the District programs and services.

Organization	Funding Use	Amount
Mackenzie Autumn Lodge Society	Staffing and Operations	\$25,000
Mackenzie & District Museum	Staffing and Operations	\$12,000
Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce	Staffing and Operations	\$43,600
Mackenzie Community Arts Centre	Staffing and Operations	\$28,000
Mackenzie Golf and Country Club	General Operations	\$15,000
Mackenzie Outdoor Routes and Trails Association	Trails Maintenance	\$5,000
TOTAL:		\$128,600

RENTAL SPACE IN DISTRICT FACILITIES

The District provides accommodation or equipment storage space free of charge to non-profit or sports organizations that are presently allocated space in the Recreation Services Complex, the Ernie Bodin Community Centre, and Fire Hall subject to availability. Following is a list of organizations that received this benefit in 2024, throughout the year or temporarily:

CHMM Radio Station	Mackenzie Community Arts Council	Old Timers Hockey
CUPE Local 3706	Mackenzie Figure Skating Club	Rainbow Swim Club
Curl Mackenzie	Mackenzie Nordiques	Rocky Mountain Riders
Figure Skating Club	Mackenzie Outdoor Routes and Trails Association	Speed Skating Club
Girl Guides of Canada	Mackenzie Search & Rescue	
Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Store	Mackenzie Autumn Lodge Society	
Mackenzie & District Museum	Minor Lacrosse	
Minor Hockey Association	Notable Expressions	

PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTIONS

In accordance with Section 98(2) (b) of the *Community Charter*, the following properties in the District of Mackenzie were provided permissive property tax exemptions for 2024 by Council:

Organization	2024 Value of Exemption
Canadian Baptists of Western Canada	\$2,098.40
Living Joy Christian Centre	\$1,343.92
Mackenzie Alpine Riders Horse Club (300 Mill Road)	\$4,848.97
Mackenzie Alpine Riders Horse Club (651 Mill Road)	\$1,614.36
Mackenzie Community Arts Council	\$1,837.18
Mackenzie Elks Lodge #547	\$2,540.89
Mackenzie Fish and Game Association	\$1,636.02
Mackenzie Golf & Country Club	\$4,571.57
Mackenzie Nordiques Cross-Country Ski Club	\$642.11
Roman Catholic Episcopal Corp	\$3,340.56
Royal Canadian Legion	\$1,402.28
Trustees Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses	\$642.18
Youth for Christ Prince George	\$1,794.27
	\$28,312.70

DECLARATION OF DISQUALIFICATIONS

There were no declarations of disqualifications made in 2024.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2024 District of Mackenzie Consolidated Financial Statements are attached to the end of this report.