

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

March 9, 2018

Building Asset Management Capacity & Awareness, and Solids Processing at the Okanagan Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant

Projects made possible thanks to Federal Gas Tax Fund

We are pleased to announce that the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) has received grant funding from the Federal Gas Tax Fund. Our projects are two of the many important projects receiving funds across the Province of BC.

Building Asset Management Capacity & Awareness

The RDOS owns a diverse and extensive list of assets. These include water infrastructure, sewer infrastructure, vehicles, parks, trails, community centres, fire vehicles and equipment as well as the sanitary landfills. The project will assist the RDOS to improve understanding of all asset renewal levels required to sustain its infrastructure over the long term based on condition and willingness to assume risk. The state of the asset data will be reviewed and recommendations on improvements will be made. A software needs assessment will be completed with plans to move into implementation of a software solution that provides planning information to all levels of the organization. The RDOS recognizes the benefit to the citizens of the region when staff can make recommendations and elected officials can make decisions based on a robust understanding of the long-term costs of the various assets involved in service deliveries. This project has received funding from the Capacity Building Stream of the Strategic Priorities Fund in the amount of \$225,000.

Solids Processing at the Okanagan Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant

The RDOS owns and operates a state of the art wastewater treatment facility servicing the community of Okanagan Falls. During construction, one key component was postponed due to overall budget constraints. This is the installation of a grit removal and a sludge dewatering system. At present, the sludge is taken by septic hauling trucks to be dewatered and further processed at the Penticton Advanced Wastewater Treatment System. As hauling and maintenance expenses and wastewater flow to the Okanagan Falls facility increase over time, the cost to haul the sludge offsite has been significantly increasing each year. The RDOS submitted an application to the Strategic Priorities Fund under the Capital Infrastructure Stream to purchase and install these important solids processing components. It is anticipated that the addition of grit removal and dewatering systems at the Okanagan Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant will economically benefit the community and reduce the current expenses associated with solids treatment, transportation and processing practices. The project has received a Capital Infrastructure grant of \$2,061,470.

Each year, the Government of Canada provides over \$278 million in funding for local government infrastructure across British Columbia through the Federal Gas Tax Fund. The Union of BC Municipalities administers the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

“Improvements to local infrastructure are so important. They make our communities even better places to live,” said Selina Robinson, B.C. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “We are pleased to partner with local governments and the federal government to improve the daily lives of British Columbians.”

“Communities across BC are looking for funding to replace, upgrade and expand local infrastructure,” said Director Wendy Booth, President of the Union of BC Municipalities. “The Federal Gas Tax Fund is accelerating the pace of infrastructure renewal through the transfer of close to \$3 billion since 2005 for projects in our province. I appreciate the Government of Canada’s long-term commitment to fund priorities identified by BC local governments.”

“The RDOS is grateful for the contributions of our Federal and Provincial partners in supporting these two very important projects,” said Chair Karla Kozakevich. “The funding will allow the RDOS to continue to improve on the delivery of services for residents and we sincerely appreciate this investment in our future.”

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For the full list of projects funded through this intake, visit <https://news.gov.bc.ca/16553>

For further information, please contact Janine Dougall, Public Works Manager, at (250) 490-4103 or info@rdos.bc.ca.



Karla Kozakevich, Chair
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

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