



THOMPSON-NICOLA
REGIONAL DISTRICT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



tnrd.ca

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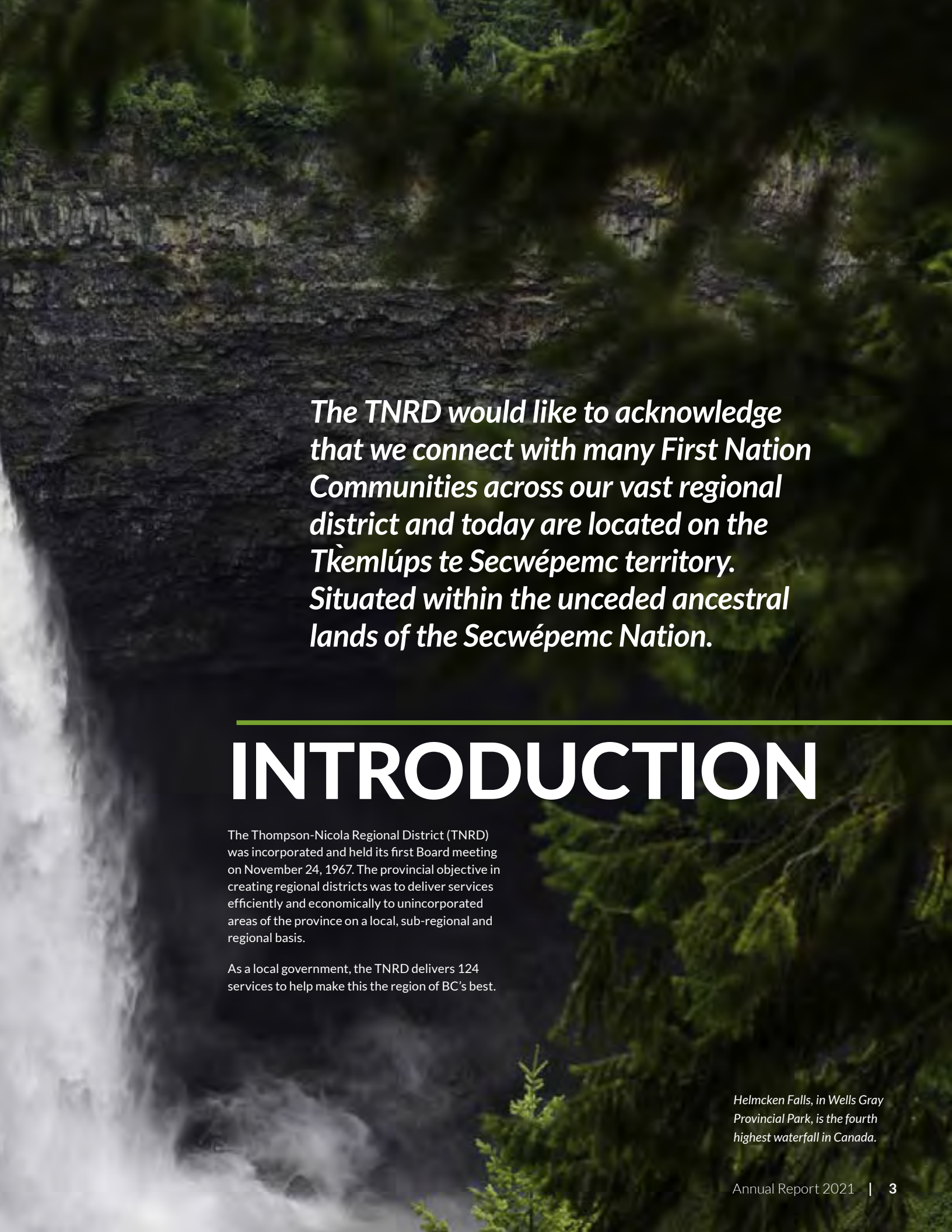
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The TNRD would like to acknowledge that we connect with many First Nation Communities across our vast regional district and today are located on the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc territory. Situated within the unceded ancestral lands of the Secwépemc Nation.

INTRODUCTION

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) was incorporated and held its first Board meeting on November 24, 1967. The provincial objective in creating regional districts was to deliver services efficiently and economically to unincorporated areas of the province on a local, sub-regional and regional basis.

As a local government, the TNRD delivers 124 services to help make this the region of BC's best.

Helmcken Falls, in Wells Gray Provincial Park, is the fourth highest waterfall in Canada.



THE REGIONAL DISTRICT

As a local government, the TNRD's role is to provide regional governance and services that will advance the interests of this vibrant region as a whole.



Profile of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District

The Thompson-Nicola region covers 44,449 km² of river valleys, desert terrain, towering mountains and rolling grasslands across B.C.'s southern interior. Covering an area larger than Switzerland, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) includes 10 Electoral Areas and 11 member municipalities.

The region offers a range of rural and urban lifestyles, from the ranching communities in Lower Nicola to the convergence of the Fraser and Thompson Rivers in Lytton, from the wilderness of the North Thompson Valley to the hub of the City of Kamloops.

The TNRD provides 124 services, including the Thompson-Nicola Regional Library system, planning and development, recycling and solid waste, water and wastewater utilities, community and regional parks, community halls, fire protection, 9-1-1 service, the Thompson-Nicola Film Commission and much more.

The TNRD also administers the Thompson Regional Hospital District (TRHD). Governed by the Hospital District Act, regional hospital districts generally exist to borrow funds and finance construction projects or equipment purchases at facilities within hospital district boundaries. Capital projects are cost-shared between the Province of BC and the TRHD.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



In my 2019 Message from the Chair, I said: the year “will surely bring new challenges...” Little did I know! We have endured and, I hope, responded well in 2021 to a multiplicity of seemingly overwhelming problems. To all of these problems, we have managed to respond with a steady hand, always mindful of our responsibility to our constituents.

Undoubtedly, our greatest success was the hiring of our new Chief Administrative Officer, Scott Hildebrand, who has recruited a fine group of senior managers from both within our ranks and outside, resulting in a fresh, optimistic and happy atmosphere among all levels of staff. We now attract a keen, bright and frequently younger batch of applicants every time we post a job – an indication of a sunny future for our region.

From the outside, we have encountered fires and floods of unprecedented proportions, challenging our capacity to cope with thousands of displaced residents, to assist in restoration and remediation of their property and to protect our residents and their homes. Again, our staff rose to each occasion, working long hours with selfless dedication. Holidays were postponed; family reunions were missed.

Of course, all of these events were overlaid with the COVID-19 pandemic, which dictated that some staff work from home, that conferences and meetings be cancelled, and that our Board meetings be a challenging combination of in-person and virtual. Through it all, the TNRD continued to provide all services to the public and to maintain our high standards. As a Board, we managed to stay the course through heavy seas, but it was our staff who did the work to keep the ship afloat, and I am immensely proud of their success.

Now, however, is not the time to look back; now is the time to look forward and to reap the benefits of the wholesale changes this Board has made to the operations of the TNRD. There are exciting projects afoot and the prospect of many more to come.

It seems only a short time since I was a rookie Area Director, trying to get my feet under me. Today, as I consider the organization we will hand over to a new Board in November, I look with pride on the reshaping of TNRD operations this Board has achieved. We will turn over a much-improved, more efficient, more accountable organization to our successors. That, I believe, is what we were elected to do.

Ken Gillis
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Gillis', written in a cursive style.

MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

As we reflect on the challenges and successes of 2021, I'm extremely proud of what our team has been able to accomplish in the past year. Our staff have done a remarkable job to adjust to unexpected challenges in a professional manner, while continuing to advance on Corporate and Board priorities, and action items in our Strategic Plan.

The Emergency Operations Centre was open for 75 straight days due to wildfires and remained open into 2022 due to November flooding. This has required an immense amount of energy and dedication of our staff who worked more than 11,000 hours in the EOC. Our team also worked diligently to make sure services operated effectively and efficiently as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to evolve.

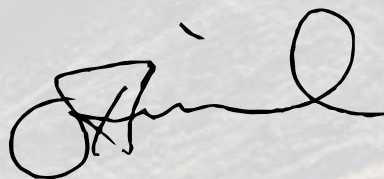
Our Planning and Development team processed a record number of building permits and we continued to advance on significant capital projects. We received more than \$1.6 million dollars in grants to upgrade fire halls, regional parks, community halls and public infrastructure. The Thompson-Nicola Regional Library adjusted during the pandemic to provide more programs and services online. Filming continued to boom in the region, and the Thompson-Nicola Film Commission website was launched. We initiated a forensic audit which was fully completed in 2021, and has helped inform progress that our organization has made. Policy changes were initiated and the overall tax rate was reduced. We continued to strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities and focus on being an effective ally in reconciliation.

Our team has also shown resiliency and courage in the past year as we continue to move forward in a positive and transparent manner. I am confident that this is an organization where members of our team feel welcome and are treated with the utmost respect, and where best practices are being followed carefully as we continue to make meaningful strides to strengthen our systems.

I hope you find this report both interesting and informative, which highlights quality work done by our team on initiatives that benefit the residents of our region. Our staff continue to give significant attention to economic sustainability, livability, relationships, communication, emergency planning and response, and climate action. We look forward to continued progress in 2022 on doing important work for our residents.

Sincerely,

Scott Hildebrand
Chief Administrative Officer





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The TNRD Board consists of 26 Directors, one each from 10 electoral areas (that are unincorporated, defined in area by the provincial government and identified separately by letters of the alphabet). As well, there are 16 Municipal Directors representing the 11 member municipalities (incorporated communities) within the regional district boundary that are appointed by their respective municipal councils.

Directors from the regional district electoral areas are known as Electoral Area Directors. They are elected directly to the Board by the electors in the areas they represent and serve a four-year term, with the last election held in October 2018. Each Board of Directors is headed by a Chair, who is the Chief Executive Officer of the regional district corporation. Each year, the Board elects one Director to serve as Chair and another to serve as Vice Chair.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>1. Rod Crowe
Director, Village of Chase</p> <p>2. Herb Graham
Director, Electoral Area "N" (Beautiful Nicola Valley – South)</p> <p>3. Ken Gillis
Board Chair; Director, Electoral Area "L" (Grasslands)</p> <p>4. Bill Kershaw
Director, Electoral Area "O" (Lower North Thompson)</p> <p>5. Al Raine
Director, Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality</p> <p>6. Mike O'Reilly
Director, City of Kamloops</p> | <p>7. Dale Bass
Director, City of Kamloops</p> <p>8. Mel Rothenburger
Director, Electoral Area "P" (Rivers and the Peaks)</p> <p>9. Stephen Quinn
Director, Electoral Area "B" (Thompson Headwaters)</p> <p>10. Susan Swan
Director, Village of Clinton</p> <p>11. Linda Brown
Director, City of Merritt</p> <p>12. Robin Smith
Director, District of Logan Lake</p> <p>13. Barbara Roden
Board Vice-Chair; Mayor, Village of Ashcroft</p> | <p>14. Ward Stamer
Director, District of Barriere</p> <p>15. Carol Schaffer
Director, Electoral Area "A" (Wells Gray Country)</p> <p>16. Jan Polderman
Director, Village of Lytton</p> <p>17. David Laird
Director, Electoral Area "M" (Beautiful Nicola Valley – North)</p> <p>18. Steven Rice
Director, Electoral Area "I" (Blue Sky Country)</p> <p>19. Ken Christian
Director, Village of Kamloops</p> <p>20. Kathy Sinclair
Director, City of Kamloops</p> | <p>21. Merlin Blackwell
Director, District of Clearwater</p> <p>22. Ronaye Elliott
Director, Electoral Area "J" (Copper Desert Country)</p> <p>23. Dieter Dudy
Director, City of Kamloops</p> <p>24. Sally Watson
Director, Electoral Area "E" (Bonaparte Plateau)</p> <p>25. Santo Talarico
Director, Village of Cache Creek</p> <p>26. Arjun Singh
Director, City of Kamloops</p> |
|---|---|--|---|

OUR SERVICES

The TNRD provides 124 services to meet the needs of residents. A skilled workforce of more than 200 staff provide a variety of services in different parts of the region.

The following pages summarize the core services provided by the TNRD:

- **Solid Waste and Recycling** 10
- **Regional Planning and Development** 11
- **Nuisance Mosquito Reduction** 12
- **Invasive Plant Management** 12
- **Utilities** 13
- **Regional Library** 14
- **Emergency Preparedness** 15
- **Film Commission** 15

*Pennask Road,
Electoral Area "M"*



SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

The TNRD operates 27 Eco-Depots and Transfer Stations and two landfills within the region, providing solid waste disposal for residents with a mandate to minimize waste and maximize resource recovery.

Through the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, the TNRD follows eight guiding principles, including promoting zero waste approaches, maximizing beneficial use of waste materials, and enabling individuals and firms to make environmentally sound choices.

All 10 electoral areas and 11 municipalities within the TNRD are provided solid waste and recycling service. The TNRD manages all of these solid waste programs except for in the City of Kamloops, which manages its own solid waste programs and facilities.

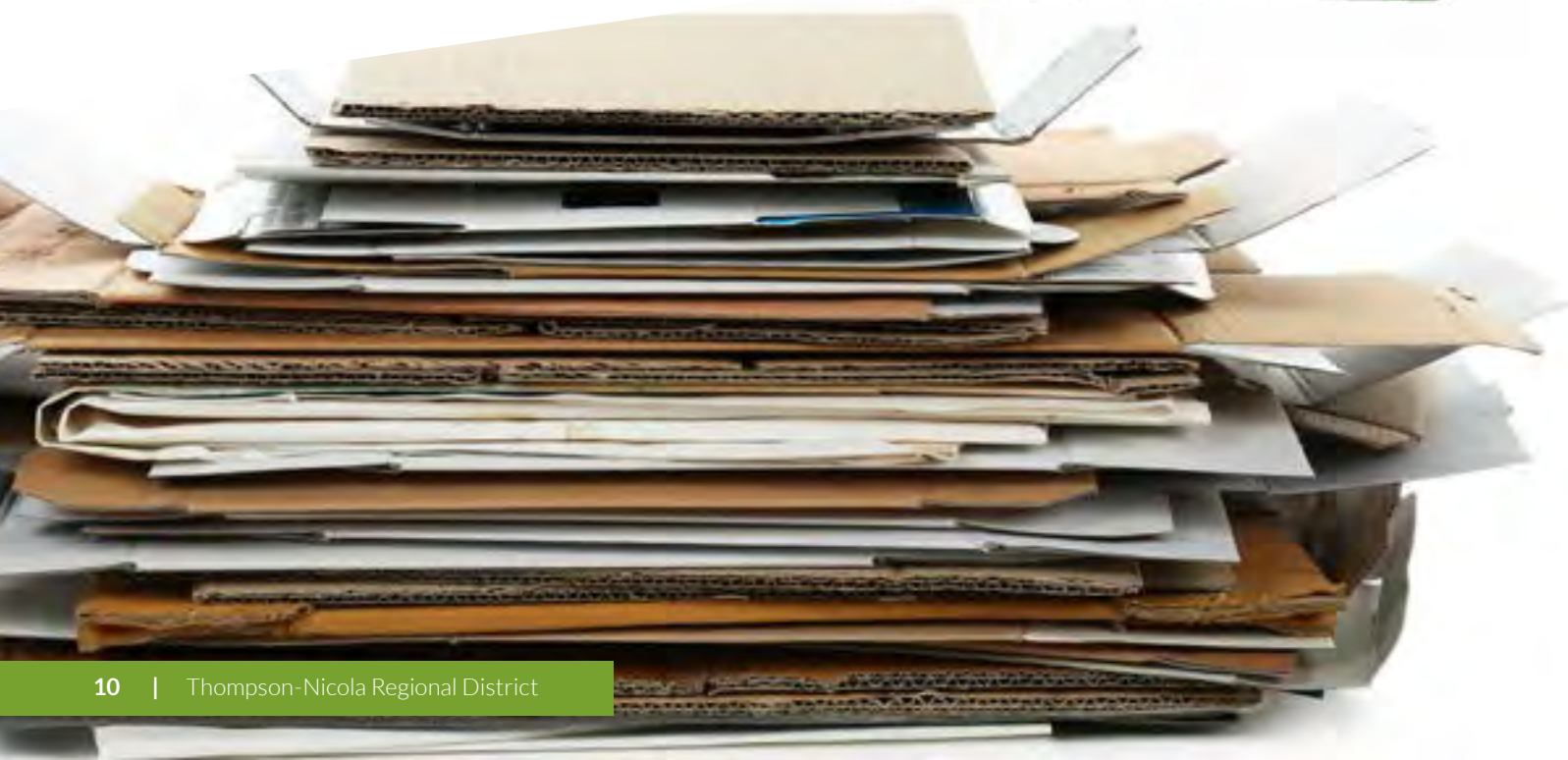


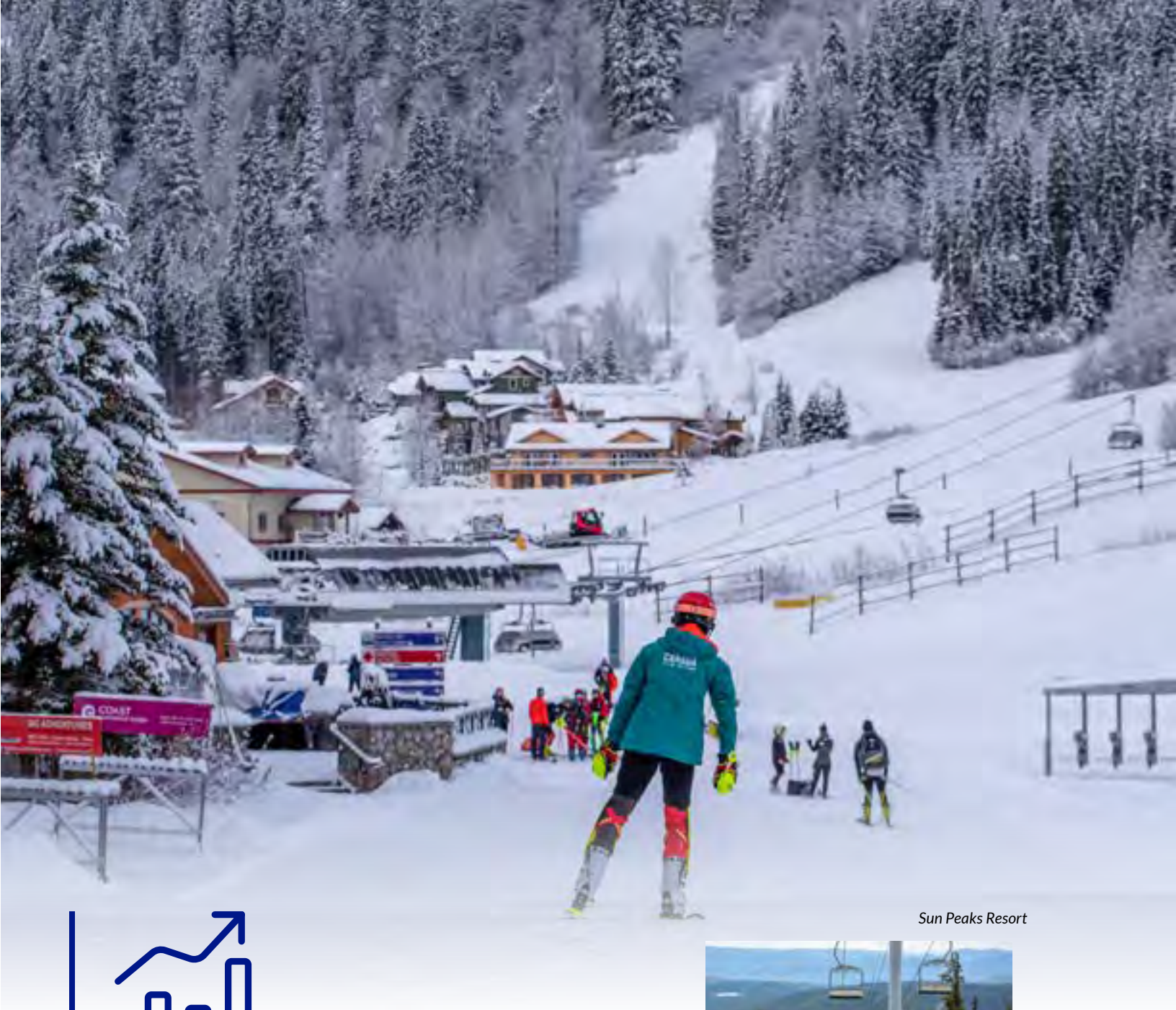
TNRD residents and businesses can now get reloadable Eco-Cards for use at TNRD solid waste facilities, replacing the \$10, \$20 and \$50 punch Eco-Card system.

Eco-Cards can be loaded with funds at home or on the go, using our new customer portal website. New accounts come with a one-time, \$10 welcome credit from the TNRD.

For more information, visit:

tnrd.ca/ecocard





Sun Peaks Resort



REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Planning Services is responsible for land use planning for all Electoral Areas. The TNRD also provides planning services for several member municipalities on a contractual basis, and supports cross-jurisdiction long-range planning under the umbrella of the Regional Growth Strategy, South Thompson Settlement Strategy, and other broad planning initiatives.

The TNRD manages a broad range of land use and development application processes, including but not limited to: rezoning, variance, temporary use permit, Agricultural Land Reserve, manufactured home parks, campgrounds and referrals for Crown land matters, liquor and cannabis licenses, and subdivisions.

Encouraging sustainable growth, managing development

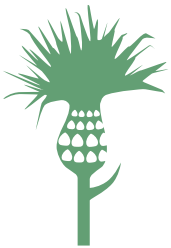
The TNRD supports the health, safety and the protection of persons and property related to planning and development.

Over 80 percent of the region has geospatial data that can be accessed, visualized, manipulated and analyzed by our Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team.



NUISANCE MOSQUITO REDUCTION

Nuisance Mosquito Reduction is conducted in a portion of Electoral Area "A" and in Electoral Areas "J", "L", "M", "N" (except the Coquihalla Recreation Area), "O" and "P". The program also covers the municipalities of Clearwater, Barriere, Sun Peaks, Kamloops, Chase and Logan Lake. This program targets those species of mosquitos that pose a nuisance for humans, primarily, those known as floodwater and snowmelt mosquitoes.



INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

The TNRD and Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee (TNIPMC) works towards protecting environmental, economic, and social values being impacted by invasive plants within the Thompson-Nicola Region. The TNRD offers education and outreach programs for residents, through the TNIPMC. We have a number of programs to support property owners to manage invasive plants and noxious weeds - and disposal is free at TNRD solid waste facilities. Learn more at tnipmc.com



Growing Our Service...

Invasive Plant Management was expanded to include Clearwater, Clinton, Logan Lake, Merritt and Sun Peaks. The program now covers these five municipalities and all 10 Electoral Areas.

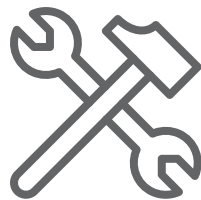
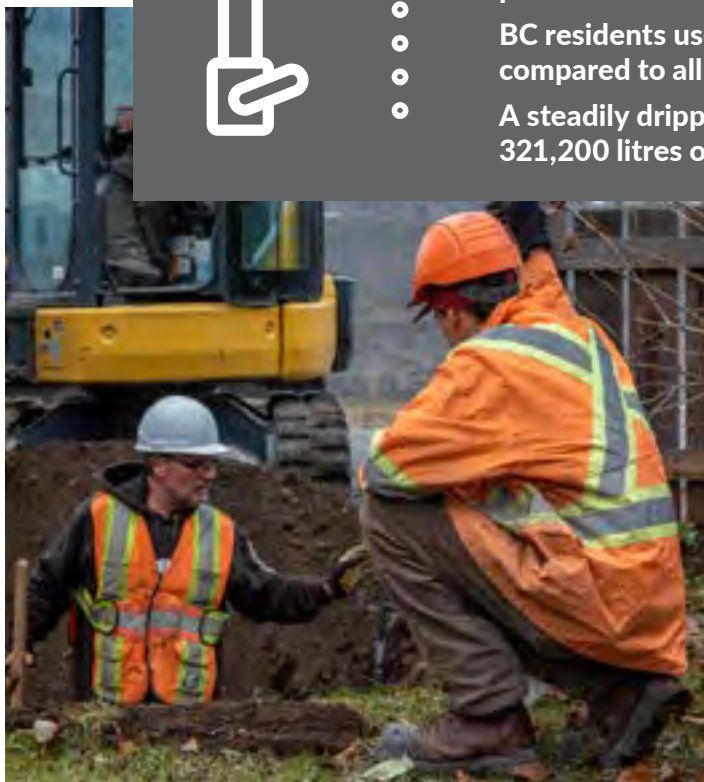




Did you know...

On average, Canadians who live in homes that are metered use 39 percent less water than those who live in homes that are not metered
BC residents use the second-highest amount of water per capita when compared to all other provinces

A steadily dripping tap can waste up to 880 L of water a day – or 321,200 litres of water a year!



UTILITIES

The TNRD supplies drinking water to eleven communities and oversees the operation of two wastewater systems in the regional district.

Stewardship of our drinking water supply means careful management of the systems that bring the water from the source to your tap, ensuring safe and sustainable drinking water for today and into the future.

Applications for federal and provincial infrastructure grants to fund needed utility infrastructure improvements are continuously applied for as programs become available.



REGIONAL LIBRARY

The Thompson-Nicola Regional Library (TNRL) is an integrated public library system that provides services to residents of the regional district through 13 branch libraries and a mobile library. The TNRL has been dedicated to meeting the lifelong learning, reading and informational needs of TNRD residents for over 40 years.

More than just a place to borrow materials, the TNRL is a place of engagement and creativity which is dedicated to community building through lifelong learning. We strive to be a leader in celebrating literacy and transforming lives through knowledge and information. By providing resources that enrich, educate and empower, we help make this the best region in BC to live, work and play. We value customer service, literacy, lifelong learning, intellectual freedom, inclusion, respect and innovation.



LIBRARY FAST FACTS

- Last year, the TNRL added 34,157 physical items to its library collection
- Circulation rose 15% compared to 2020, to more than 890,000 materials being signed out
- Free WiFi is provided at all TNRL library branches, 24/7
- tnrl.ca was visited more than 194,000 times in 2021, with 73,000 unique users
- We offer tens of thousands of virtual items to borrow, including streaming movies and TV shows, magazines, newspapers, eBooks and eAudiobooks





HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR VOYENT ALERT?

Voyent Alert! is a multi-purpose communication service used to send alerts to residents, businesses, and visitors during critical events like fires or floods, and for communications such as water advisories. Registration for the service is free, simple and anonymous.

To register, visit:
tnrd.ca/emergency-alerts



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The TNRD Emergency Preparedness program provides direction and coordination to respond to, and recover from, major emergencies or disasters in Electoral Areas. The TNRD program is in place to assist incident commanders when emergencies exceed their response capabilities, training or available resources. The TNRD also provides technical assistance, direction and training to participating member municipalities.

The TNRD Emergency Program does not take the place of Emergency Management BC (EMBC), nor does it address emergencies that are normally handled at the scene by the appropriate first responding agencies, such as police, fire or ambulance.



FILM COMMISSION

The Thompson-Nicola Film Commission (TNFC) is a full-service film commission that works closely with Creative BC – BC's Provincial Film Commission. The TNFC markets the region's locations, services and amenities, crew and talent worldwide. As well, it facilitates and supports productions filming in the region.

In addition, the TNFC created and oversees the **Explore TNRD** digital photo library, consisting of photos from across the region. Images are free for non-commercial use by all TNRD-based non-profits, government agencies, tourism and economic development agencies, as well as Indigenous organizations, Bands and Councils. Images can be viewed by the public and copies can be purchased from the photographers.

tnrd.ca/photolibrary

The TNFC manages the newly branded Live Music! Thompson-Nicola website. Live music performers, venues and events are listed for residents and tourists.
livemusicthompsonnicola.ca



HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

- 2021 was the TNFC's most successful year ever; revenue generation, amount of shooting days and the number of productions reached all-time highs
- Producers of the TV series Van Helsing loved the region so much that they wrote scripts to suit TNRD landscapes for the final season
- In the TV series The Good Doctor, the season finale featured the Merritt Airport doubling as Guatemala
- Kamloops is becoming the destination of choice for love stories, with 2 films shot in the city in 2021 and 5 more slated for 2022

2021 PROGRESS





Making Progress on Key Priorities

The 2020-2022 Strategic Plan identifies more than 70 action items within six Strategic Focus Areas. By the end of 2021, 78 percent of tasks were either “completed” or “in progress” by TNRD staff.

The purpose of the strategic plan is to foster a common understanding of issues facing the region, and establish a strategic approach to addressing our priorities and challenges.

Many initiatives and projects span multiple years and involve other organizations, and the achievements described here capture only a snapshot of our organization’s work.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS:



Economic Sustainability & Resiliency



Livability, Connectivity & Infrastructure



Strategic Relationships & Partnerships



Dynamic Communication & Branding



Emergency Planning & Response



Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship



NEW MANDATORY RECYCLING BYLAW

The implementation of a regional bylaw limiting the amount of recyclable material in waste going to landfill is a key strategy of the TNRD's Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP). This bylaw applies at all solid waste disposal facilities, in the TNRD and the City of Kamloops. Old corrugated cardboard (OCC) is the only material currently identified in the bylaw.

The bylaw will only be enforced at disposal facilities, and enforcement will focus on large commercial and municipal type loads, not residential haulers. Inspectors have authority, if necessary, to issue a penalty for loads of garbage that contain more than the 10% allowable threshold of recyclable cardboard. Staff held consultation meetings to hear directly from stakeholders who would be most impacted.

The first phase of the Implementation Plan in 2021 was exclusively focused on education, with no enforcement. The second phase is a continuation of communication efforts, as well as "mock ticketing." Actual Notices (penalties) may be issued beginning in September of 2022.



RELOADABLE ECO-CARD PROGRAM

A new scale and mobile software program was launched at select solid waste facilities, offering commercial and residential customers a portal to view loads, pay invoices and top up their account. The new system also offers a reloadable Eco-Card function, which is being used to phase out the \$10, \$20 and \$50 punch style Eco-Cards. This change results in less waste to the landfill, as the spent punch cards were non-recyclable. This also means cost savings to taxpayers, through reduced program operating costs, and offers flexible ways to pay disposal fees.

CACHE CREEK ECO-DEPOT

Construction began on a new Eco-Depot in Cache Creek to replace the existing transfer station. The facility will offer increased opportunities for diversion and recycling for residents of Cache Creek, Ashcroft and the surrounding area. The grand opening of the new facility is scheduled for late summer of 2022.



MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

2021 marked the 50th season of the TNRD Nuisance Mosquito Reduction and Surveillance Program. Reduction efforts and surveillance are conducted in portions of Electoral Areas 'A', 'J', 'L', 'M', 'N', 'O' and 'P', as well as Kamloops, Barriere, Clearwater, Chase, Logan Lake and Sun Peaks.

Program goals are to identify and suppress larval populations to reduce adult mosquito annoyance for residents, businesses, workers, and visitors in the service areas. Public education initiatives are also ongoing.

Comprehensive Integrated Pest Management to mosquito reduction is focused on timely detection, control, and prevention of larval mosquito development.

In 2021, 1,773 hectares of standing water was treated aerially and 370 hectares was treated manually for reduction of larval populations.



Lac De Bois Grasslands,
Electoral Area "P"



BLACK PINES REFERENDUM

On February 20, 2021, a successful public assent process was held by referendum in Black Pines to authorize borrowing up to \$455,000 to upgrade the Black Pines Community Water System.

The total cost of the upgrades is estimated to be \$1,365,000. Other funding sources include a joint federal and provincial grant of \$896,666, as well as \$150,000 through a Community Benefits Agreement provided by Trans Mountain.

Following the referendum, drilling and testing of a new groundwater production well was also completed in late 2021.



PLANNING SERVICES

Through 2021, Planning was focused on timely responses to current planning applications and waves of inquiries from the public, as well as a charged real estate market. The department had a record number of requests for property and building information reports. Accordingly, some long-range planning initiatives were held off until 2022.



WATER METERING COMPLETED

The TNRD completed a multi-year project to install water meters at properties in all 11 Community Water Systems, with 1,050 water meters installed in total.

Water meters will provide communities with improved water conservation and leak detection information, reduce the cost of operation, ensure fair billing, and improve access to grant funding.

Costs to install water meters were fully covered by a federal Community Works Fund grant received by the TNRD in 2017, worth more than \$3.47 million.

RECORD YEAR FOR BUILDING

The TNRD had a record year for building permits in 2021, for both the number of permits processed and total value of construction. There were 527 permits approved worth a combined \$124.4 million. Construction value grew by 45% compared to 2020, and the number of permits processed grew by 28%. Main factors included continued residential growth in the region, construction on the Trans-Mountain pipeline expansion and other large projects. Staff also received a record number of building inquiries last year.



HOUSING NEEDS REPORT

A Housing Needs Report was completed by the TNRD, which provides a thorough analysis of current housing needs, projected growth and housing needs for the next five years. The TNRD received a grant worth \$150,000 from the Union of BC Municipalities to complete the report, which covers all 10 Electoral Areas, and Clearwater, Sun Peaks, Logan Lake, Clinton, Cache Creek and Merritt as partnering municipalities.

The full Housing Needs Report can be found online, at tnrd.ca/housing-needs

FOCUS ON PEOPLE



The TNRD focused on cultivating a workplace that is safe, welcoming and inclusive for all staff members. An internal wellness program expanded to highlight mental health. This was accompanied by an enhanced benefits plan for employees. The Human Resource Information System was optimized to increase ease of use and efficacy. An organizational structure review resulted in allocating new resources for key departments.

During 2021, COVID-19 safety in the workplace remained a top priority. The TNRD monitored and followed all guidance recommended by Public Health, and regularly updated its Workplace Safety Plan to be in compliance with WorkSafeBC. A new Working From Home policy was developed, to ensure flexibility for staff is available and meets the needs of the TNRD.



2021 WILDFIRES

Areas of the TNRD were significantly impacted by wildfires in 2021. During the spring and summer, the TNRD issued 100 evacuation orders and 193 evacuation alerts, impacting more than 6,700 properties. In total, wildfires burned more than 8,690 square kilometres in BC, making 2021 the third-worst wildfire year on record for amount of land burned.



2021 FLOODING

Flood events in November of 2021 resulted in 13 evacuation orders, and nine evacuation alerts within the TNRD, impacting more than 3,000 properties. Washouts occurred on Highways 1, 5 and 8, affecting transportation routes and resulting in immediate work for temporary repairs.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Between wildfire and flood events in 2021, more than 60 staff members of the TNRD worked in the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), combining to work more than 11,000 hours.

The TNRD opened a Resiliency Centre during wildfires and again during flooding to support evacuees, which was operational for 143 days in 2021.

Interior Savings Internet to Go kits were made available to Merritt and area residents impacted by flooding, thanks to a donation of \$20,000 from Interior Savings. These 20 kits loaned by the TNRL each include a Chromebook laptop and Kajeet hotspot device that enables wireless access to online services.



FOCUS ON COMMUNICATIONS

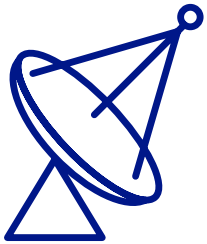


EMERGENCY ALERTS

Voyent Alert! was utilized by the EOC to notify residents of evacuation orders, alerts and rescindments, as well as certain weather warnings. Notices are also issued to users of Community Water Systems where needed.

Close to 400 notices were activated via Voyent Alert within the TNRD last year, in large part due to wildfire and flood emergencies. Users can receive Voyent Alert notifications via the Voyent Alert! app on their smartphone, text message, email, or voice message to a user's home phone. Total notifications in the TNRD were close to 200,000.

You can learn how to register to receive Emergency Alerts by visiting:
tnrd.ca/emergency-alerts



NEWS UPDATES

More than 330 news releases were issued by Communications, EOC Staff and the TNRL. Many news releases informed residents of ongoing emergencies, but many others focused on opportunities for public engagement, information to increase accountability, updates on services, highlights from TNRD Board Meetings, and details on programs through the TNRL.



NEW WEBSITES CREATED FOR TNRD DEPARTMENTS

The Communications and IT departments led two key web projects: an overhaul of the Thompson-Nicola Regional Library website, and the creation of a brand new Thompson Nicola Film Commission website.

These projects helped the TNRD achieve strategies outlined in the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan on improving internal systems to aid in communications.

You can learn more by visiting
tnrl.ca or filmthompsonnicola.com



PUBLIC MEETINGS

EOC Communications staff held 25 public information meetings via Zoom with wildfire and flood updates. The TNRD held these meetings in consultation with local, regional and provincial agencies, in order to provide timely updates and centralize information on emergencies and resources available to residents.

DON'T MISS A MEETING

2021 was the first year that the TNRD streamed all public board and committee meetings. Visit tnrd.ca/events to watch any meeting live, and watch full recordings of all public meetings on the Thompson-Nicola Regional District YouTube page.



Buse Hill,
Electoral Area "L"

LYTTON LIBRARY SERVICE

The Lytton Library was destroyed during the wildfire on June 30, and the TNRL worked through 2021 towards returning library service in the short-term. The Village is now one of the stops for the Mobile Library. Long-term planning for the TNRL will include rebuilding of the Lytton library.



LIBRARY LATE FEES ELIMINATED

Late fees on all Thompson-Nicola Regional Library materials were eliminated in 2021. Removing late fees helps the TNRL achieve a foundational goal of being a free and equitable service to all residents. Late fees have disproportionately impacted low-income residents, children and other vulnerable populations.



INDIGENOUS INVOLVEMENT

In partnership with Thompson Rivers University and the Cariboo Regional District Public Library, the TNRL launched its first One Book One Community initiative, featuring the telling novel *Five Little Indians*, written by Michelle Good. The TNRL also launched Secwepemctsin Words of the Week, a self-paced virtual program designed to help beginners learn Secwepemctsin vocabulary. The Board of Directors adopted a traditional Land Acknowledgement that is now read in advance of each Board and Committee meeting.

The TNRL also has its first-ever Indigenous Engagement Coordinator in place during 2021.





TNFC REPORTS CONTINUED GROWTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LOCAL FILMING DURING PANDEMIC

2020 was one of the Film Commission's best years from an economic standpoint. Jurassic World Dominion, Twilight Zone: A Small Town episode, and key scenes in the mini-series The Stand, completed filming in the region by early 2020. Other productions completed included scenes for the final season of Van Helsing, the Canadian feature Outrunners and the action-thriller Dangerous. Four docuseries were produced: Mud Mountain Haulers, Backroad Truckers, Highway Thru Hell and Rust Valley Restorers, depicting local workers in extreme and entertaining situations in the TNRD.

In 2021, more than \$8.5 million was spent in the region for film productions, resulting in approximately \$25 million in induced spending. Productions including, The Good Doctor, Bones of Crows, Death Pursuit, and a number of other films, series and commercials highlight a year where productions spent 329 days filming in the TNRD. The Film Commission facilitated more productions, increased employment and increased expenditures compared to previous years. While the COVID-19 pandemic affected the motion picture industry worldwide, the past two years were among the best on record for filming in the Thompson-Nicola.



GRANT FUNDING DRIVES COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Grants help fund a number of local projects in the TNRD each year. Eligible projects often involve providing energy efficiency, clean water or recreation opportunities, as well as many other initiatives that focus on building healthy, resilient and vibrant communities.

In total, the TNRD received nearly \$3.1 million in grants in 2021. Some of the projects approved in 2021 that were funded with grants include:

- Upgrades to the Blackpool and Vavenby Volunteer Fire Departments
- Loon Lake Community Hall upgrades
- LED lighting installation at Overlander Ski Club
- Blue River Community Water System upgrades
- Spences Bridge Irrigation District upgrades
- Expansion to the Wells Gray Trail System
- Paul Lake Lift Station upgrades
- Infrastructure upgrades and additions to Smith Pioneer Park

In 2021, design work began on significant upgrades to the Pritchard Community Water System. The TNRD was previously awarded a joint federal and provincial grant worth more than \$4.9 million, to cover 100 per cent of eligible costs. The project will include upgrades to the river intake pumphouse, a new membrane filtration water treatment facility, primary and secondary disinfection, and distribution system piping.



*Dutch Lake,
Municipality of Clearwater*



2021 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following is a consolidated financial overview for the 2021 fiscal year, covering January 1 to December 31, 2021. Highlights of key budget information are also outlined on the following pages.



PROPERTY TAXES

With continued impacts on the local economy in 2021 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the TNRD Board approved a reduction of the overall tax requisition by \$393,575, or 1.7%. The overall tax requisition to fund local TNRD services was \$22,674,824 in 2021, which was the lowest tax requisition since 2012.

There continues to be a shift in property assessment values, and in 2021 Class 1 residential properties made up 66.99% of total converted assessment values in the TNRD, compared to 65.38% in 2020, mainly due to the rapid increase in residential market values year over year. Because the taxes are collected on relative property values, the shift means that residential property owners would experience a tax increase in 2021 even if the property taxes collected in total remained the same, as they would now be charged a greater portion of those same taxes.

Changes in estimated average TNRD residential property taxes are estimated by individual municipality and EA, and ranged in 2021 from a decrease of \$26.64 or 5.34% in Electoral Area "J" to an increase of \$20.45 or 10.17% in Electoral area "I". 7 of the 21 member municipalities and Electoral Areas which make up the TNRD saw decreases in residential property taxes in 2021 on average, while the other 14 saw increases despite the overall reduction in taxes collected in 2021.

ANNUAL TNRD BUDGET

The Finance Department is responsible for the preparation of the annual operating budget that establishes the tax rate for each of the 124 services that the TNRD provides. In addition to taxation, there are local services such as water, sewer and garbage which are funded through user fees.

Regional Districts must keep all services and reserves separate, and cannot combine or mix funds between any services. As of the first quarter of 2022, there are 124 individual budgets, one for each service the TNRD provides.

Taxation for Regional District residents is slightly different than for municipalities. In accordance with the *Local Government Act*, Regional Districts do not have the authority to collect taxes directly from residents or businesses. Instead, taxes for Regional District purposes are collected by the Province and by the member municipalities.

The TNRD continues to prudently manage financial resources, while investing in new capital infrastructure necessary to support the region and meet growing demands for service delivery. The TNRD also continues to leverage grant funding to complete capital projects that improve the overall health and livability of our communities.

Mud Lake,
Electoral Area "B"

The TNRD also administers the Thompson Regional Hospital District (TRHD). The TRHD covers all of the TNRD except for part of Electoral Area "E" and also includes the District of Lillooet, Electoral Areas "A" and "B" of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, and Electoral Area "F" of the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District. In partnership with Interior Health, the TRHD provides funding for hospital equipment and capital projects at healthcare facilities within the region. Those in Electoral Area "E" outside of the TRHD are part of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Regional Hospital District.

The 2021 tax requisition for the TRHD was \$15,915,225, which was a 1.5% increase from 2020. The Board previously approved a taxation strategy that the TRHD budget be adjusted by 1.5% annually in order to set up reserves to deal with the next phase of development of Royal Inland Hospital. In 2021, the average TNRD residential property assessed at \$384,955 paid \$159.06 in hospital taxes, compared to \$154.55 paid in 2020. Like TNRD property taxes, a shift in property assessment values has the same effect on TRHD property taxes.



Find TNRD Financial Information Anytime:

Start your search at tnrd.ca/budget-finance. Here, you'll find Annual Financial Reports including Audited Financial Statements, Annual Budget Highlights, Frequently Asked Questions and much more.

TNRD 2021 Operating Budget



General

\$ 33,288,639



Water

\$ 1,626,360



Sewer

\$ 322,291

Total

\$ 35,237,290

2021 Capital Budget



\$ 37,133,956

2021 Hospital District Budget



\$ 63,636,611

TNRD CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

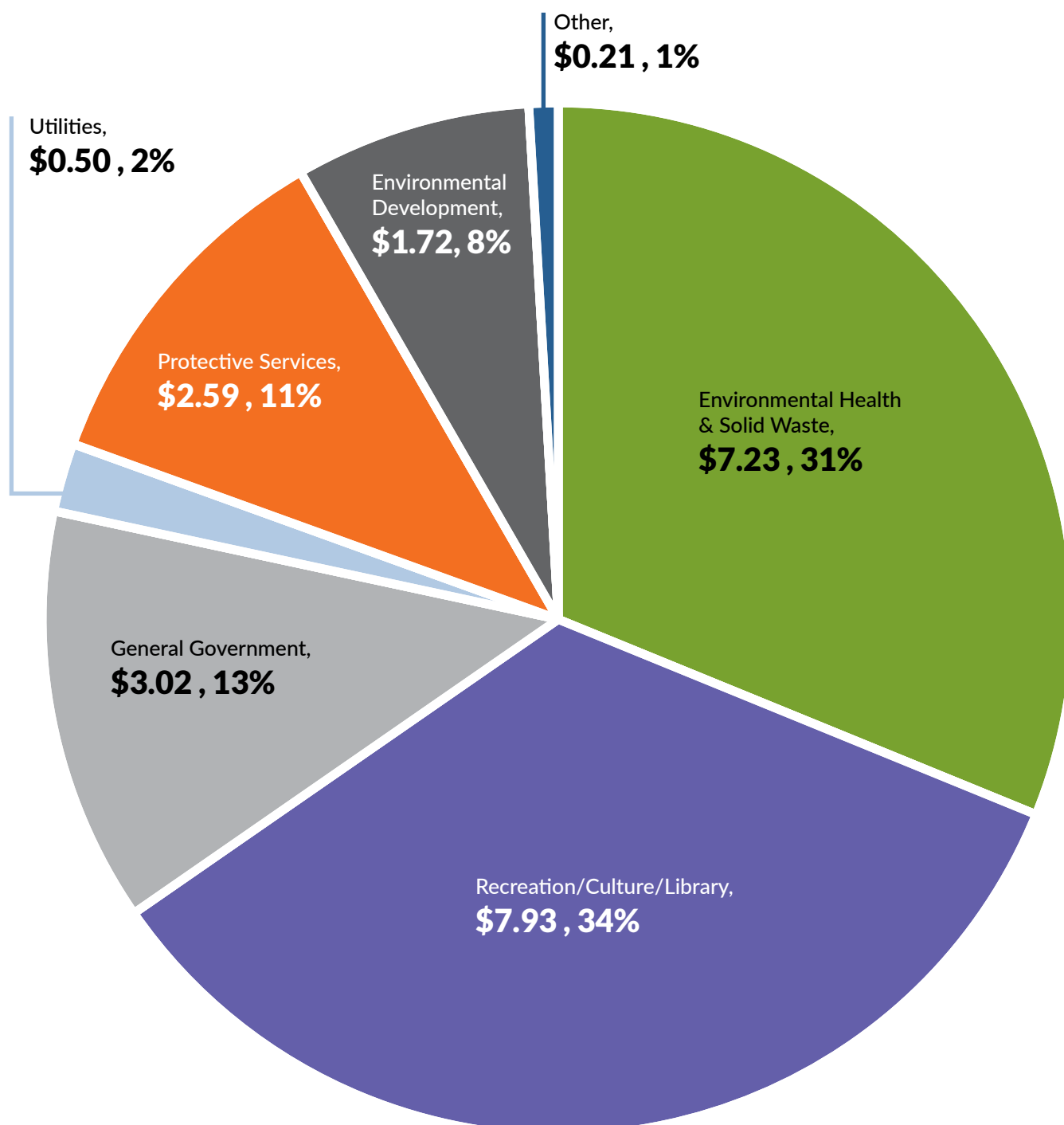
	2021	2020
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	49,035,884	47,727,306
Accounts receivable	7,981,263	3,452,978
Total financial assets	57,017,147	51,180,284
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	6,285,317	3,289,207
Deferred revenue	9,403,811	7,242,826
Short-term debt	56,683	69,324
Long-term debt	1,885,233	1,989,006
Landfill remediation liability	8,001,044	7,835,534
Total liabilities	25,632,088	20,425,897
Net financial Assets	31,385,059	30,754,387
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets	55,841,927	54,174,974
Prepaid expenses	207,506	217,412
Total non-financial assets	56,049,433	54,392,386
Accumulated Surplus	87,434,492	85,146,773

TNRD CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2021	2020
Revenue		
Tax requisition	23,208,589	23,619,247
Government transfers and other grants	9,832,219	5,495,899
Grants in lieu of taxes	154,188	173,948
Sale of services	4,643,249	3,838,312
Water and sewer tolls	994,671	967,445
Interest	318,190	507,453
Other revenue	1,432,026	865,517
Gain on disposal of assets	(238,399)	24,455
Actuarial adjustment of long-term debt	15,808	32,404
Total revenue	40,360,541	35,524,680
Expenses		
General government services	6,056,506	5,519,095
Protective services	9,098,260	3,853,899
Transportation services	118,576	99,275
Environmental health services	10,965,160	12,165,796
Public health and welfare	224,435	172,863
Environmental development	1,799,592	1,817,182
Recreation and cultural services	8,704,075	8,348,074
Waterworks	854,823	882,704
Sewerage	251,395	255,063
Total expenses	38,072,822	33,113,951
Annual surplus	2,287,719	2,410,729
Accumulated surplus, beginning of the year	85,146,773	82,736,044
Accumulated surplus, end of the year	87,434,492	85,146,77

2021 TAXATION REVENUES BY FUNCTIONS (IN MILLIONS)

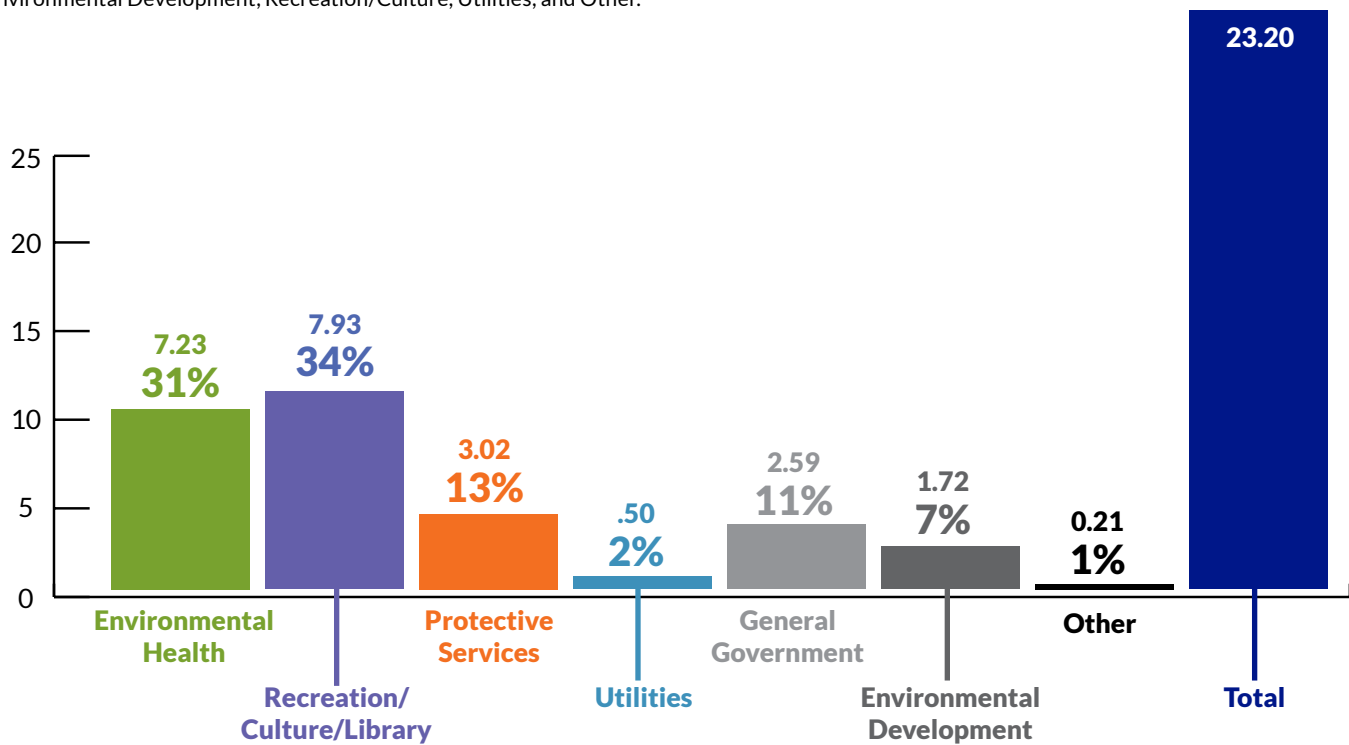
The TNRD cannot directly tax properties. Instead, the regional district requisitions its member municipalities and the Provincial Surveyor of Taxes (for rural electoral areas) to tax on behalf of the regional district in order to meet annual revenue needs. Each of these services is budgeted separately. The TNRD's five-year financial plan (budget) was adopted on March 25, 2021.



TAXES BY SERVICE

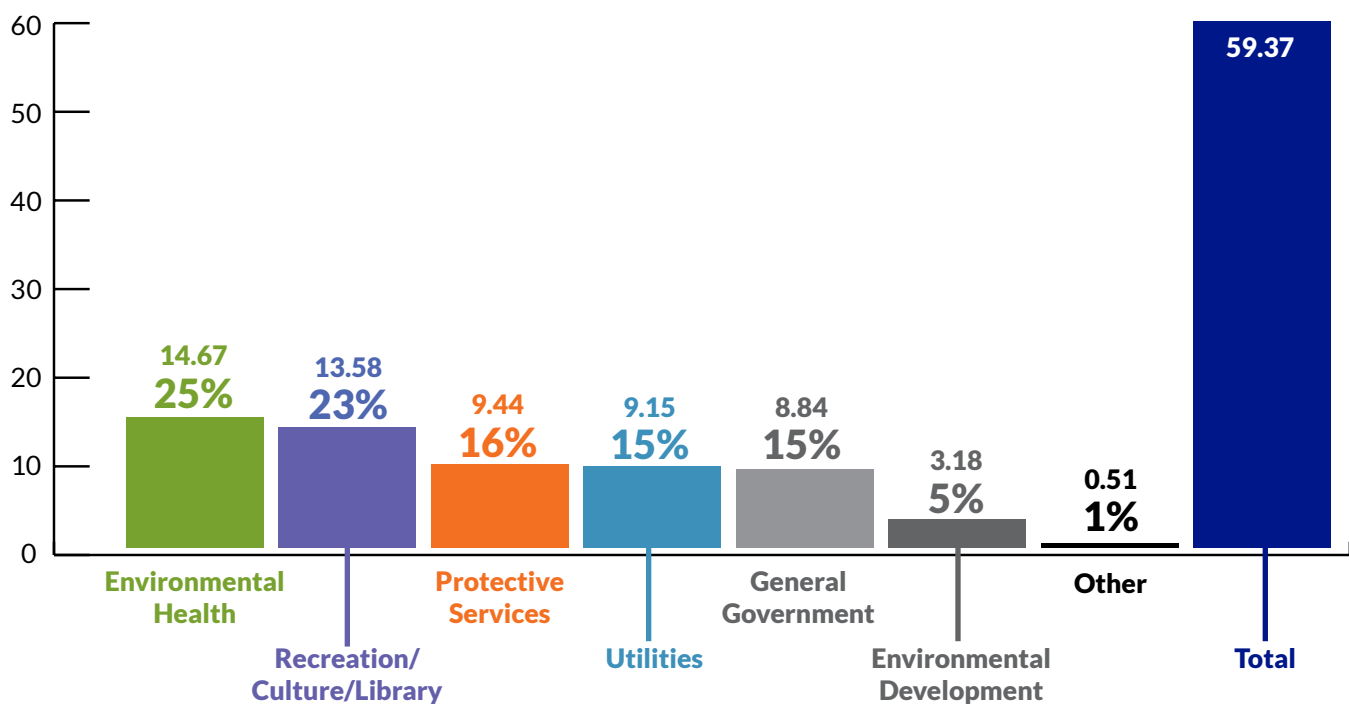
(IN MILLIONS)

Each of the TNRD's services is established by a separate bylaw which sets out the purpose of the service. The service categories are General Government, Protective Services, Environmental Health, Environmental Development, Recreation/Culture, Utilities, and Other.

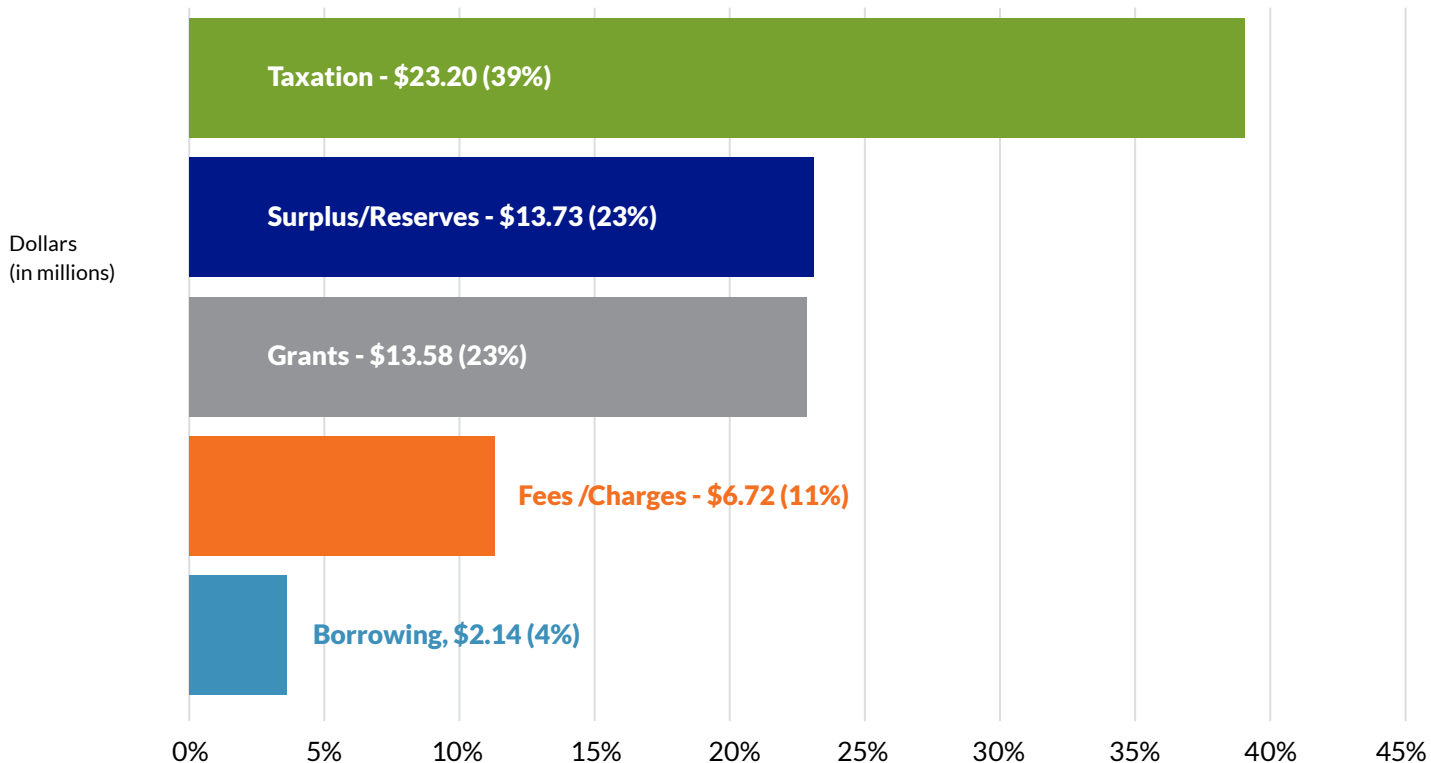


EXPENSES BY SERVICE

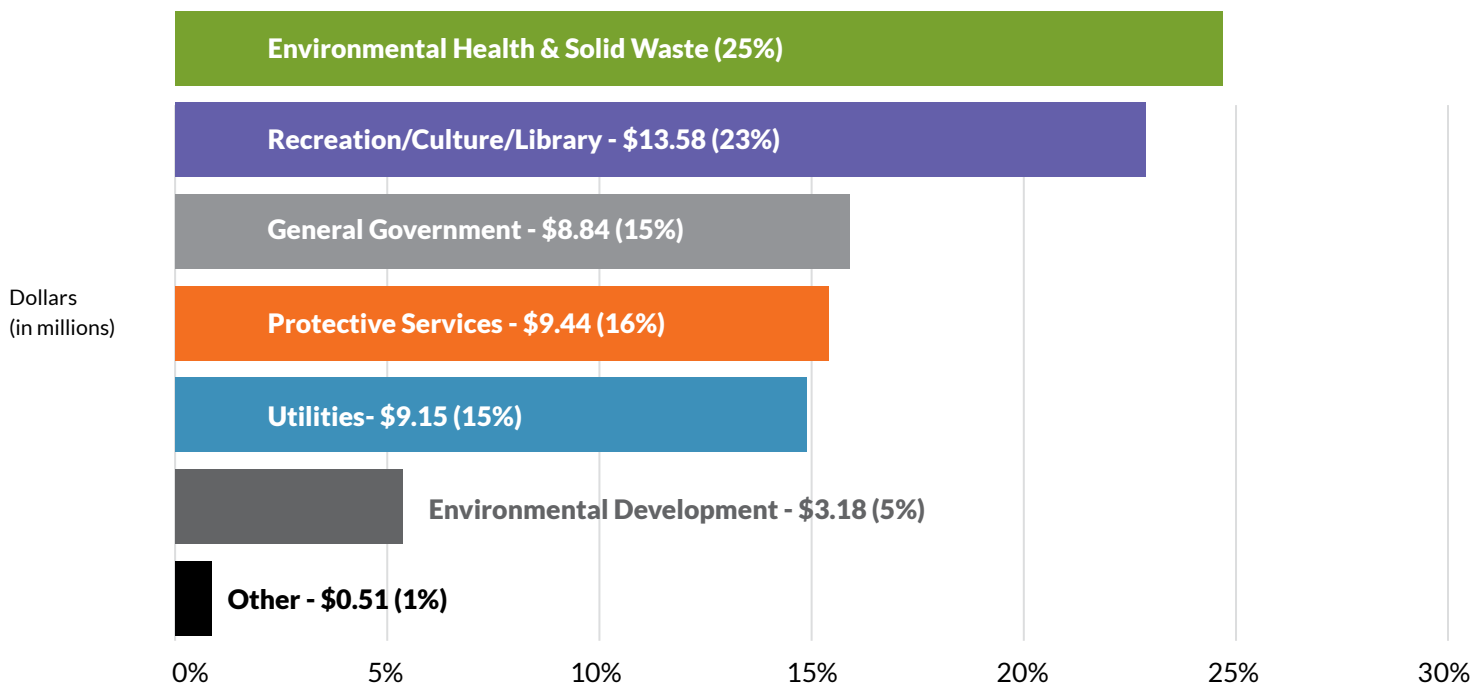
(IN MILLIONS)



2021 BUDGETED REVENUES (IN MILLIONS)



2021 BUDGETED EXPENSES (IN MILLIONS)





THOMPSON-NICOLA

REGIONAL DISTRICT

The Region of BC's Best

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