



**THOMPSON-NICOLA**  
REGIONAL DISTRICT

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

[tnrd.ca](https://tnrd.ca)





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*The TNRD would like to acknowledge that we connect with many First Nation communities across our vast regional district. TNRD administrative offices are located on Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc territory, situated within the unceded ancestral lands of the Secwépemc Nation.*

Fraser River near Lytton, Electoral Area "I" (Blue Sky Country)



# About the Thompson-Nicola Region

**The Thompson-Nicola Regional District is located in south-central British Columbia, and includes 10 Electoral Areas, 11 Member Municipalities and 25 First Nations. It is one of 27 regional districts in B.C., and it is the sixth largest regional district by population and seventh-largest regional district in land size.**

The TNRD include nearly 5% of land mass in British Columbia. Its diverse geography includes the swaths of the world's only inland temperate rainforest of the upper North Thompson Valley and Wells Gray Park, the vast wilderness of the Bonaparte Plateau, the rolling grasslands of the Nicola Valley, the incredible depths of Adams Lake, the desert and semi-arid climates at Kamloops Lake and the shores of the Thompson River, and parts of the historic Fraser Canyon.

There is a mix of rural and urban communities within the TNRD, and diverse economic drivers including agriculture, forestry, mining, construction, transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, healthcare, education, tourism, and more.

The TNRD provides **125 services** to residents, which range from being **local** services (such as fire protection or water service), **sub-regional** services (such as garbage and recycling or invasive plant management), and **region-wide** services (such as library service or general government administration). Details on each department within the TNRD, and the services provided by those departments, are outlined in the pages ahead.



Population:  
**143,680\***

Land Area:  
**44,347.23 square km\***

Total private dwellings:  
**65,065\***

*\*= 2021 Census data*



# About the Thompson Regional Hospital District

The Thompson Regional Hospital District (TRHD) is a separate entity from the TNRD that is administered by its own Board of Directors, which has a similar but slightly different composition than that of the TNRD Board of Directors. The TRHD generally exists to borrow funds and finance construction projects or equipment purchases at facilities within its boundaries, which are cost-shared between the Province of BC and the TRHD. To learn more, visit: [tnrd.ca/trhd](http://tnrd.ca/trhd).



Mountain ranges near Clearwater, Electoral Area "A" (Wells Gray Country)

## Population of TNRD Communities\*

\*= 2021 Census data

**Village of Ashcroft:** 1,670  
**District of Barriere:** 1,765  
**Village of Cache Creek:** 969  
**Village of Chase:** 2,399  
**District of Clearwater:** 2,388  
**Village of Clinton:** 646  
**City of Kamloops:** 97,902  
**District of Logan Lake:** 2,255  
**Village of Lytton:** 210  
**City of Merritt:** 7,051  
**Mountain Resort Municipality of Sun Peaks:** 1,404

**Electoral Area "A" (Wells Gray Country):** 1,573  
*Main Communities: Blackpool, East Blackpool, Upper Clearwater, Birch Island, Vavenby*

**Electoral Area "B" (Thompson Headwaters):** 230  
*Main Communities: Avola, Blue River*

**Electoral Area "E" (Bonaparte Plateau):** 1,084  
(including First Nations reserves: 1,244)  
*Main Communities: 70 Mile House, South Green Lake, Loon Lake, Eagan Lake, Pressy Lake*

**Electoral Area "I" (Blue Sky Country):** 1,038  
(including First Nations reserves: 2,369)  
*Main Communities: 16 Mile, Botanie Valley, Spences Bridge, Thompson River Estates, Venables Valley, Walhachin*

**Electoral Area "J" (Copper Desert Country):** 1,796 (including First Nations reserves: 2,038)  
*Main Communities: Cherry Creek, Lac Le Jeune, Paska Lake, Red Lake, Savona, Tobiano, Tranquille Valley*

**Electoral Area "L" (Grasslands):** 3,321  
(including First Nations reserves: 3,626)  
*Main Communities: Barnhartvale (East), Del Oro, Knutsford, Monte Creek, Monte Lake, Paxton Valley, Pritchard (South), Turtle Valley, Westwold*

**Electoral Area "M" (Beautiful Nicola Valley – North):** 1,637  
(including First Nations reserves: 2,506)  
*Main Communities: Glimpse Lake, Lower Nicola, Mamit Lake, Miller Estates, Quilchena, Stump Lake*

**Electoral Area "N" (Beautiful Nicola Valley – South):** 717  
(including First Nations reserves: 1,330)  
*Main Communities: Aspen Grove, Brookmere, Canford, Sunshine Valley*

**Electoral Area "O" (Lower North Thompson):** 1,523 (including First Nations reserves: 1,719)  
*Main Communities: Agate Bay, Darfield, East Barriere Lake, Little Fort, Louis Creek*

**Electoral Area "P" (Rivers and the Peaks):** 4,023 (including First Nations reserves: 8,386)  
*Main Communities: Black Pines, Heffley Lake, Knouff Lake, McLure, Paul Lake, Pinantan Lake, Pritchard (North), Rivershore, Vinsulla, Whitecroft*



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



In 2021, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District continued to deal with the challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as well as an unprecedented season of wildfires and floods that affected almost every part of the region.

Thankfully, 2022 did not bring anywhere near the same number of challenges, but the TNRD continued to deal with the devastation wrought in 2021 and the needs of residents impacted by those disasters. The organization also increased its efforts to be a leader in terms of disaster preparedness, taking steps to ensure that staffing and resources will allow us to not only be more proactive, but to ensure that supports are there for residents in need.

Also in 2022, the world began to return to something like normal following two years of pandemic. Although TNRD staff continued to provide a high level of service to residents throughout the pandemic, despite many challenges, this return to normal in 2022 allowed them to focus completely on the services on which so many residents depend.

At the end of 2021, the TNRD received the final report which detailed the findings of a lengthy and thorough forensic audit into the organization. The report included 65 recommendations regarding changes and improvements needed to ensure that the TNRD remains fully accountable and completely transparent in all its dealings.

'The hard work of turning those recommendations into action took place throughout 2022, and by the end of the year the vast majority of them had been implemented, thanks to the hard work of staff and the Board. It does not mean, however, that the work is done. Rebuilding public trust in the TNRD continues to be a focus, and informs everything the organization does.

In October 2022 municipal elections took place, leading to many changes at the TNRD board table. A 27th seat was added thanks to the population growth of the City of Kamloops, and at the inaugural meeting in November a total of 18 new faces were at the table. The returning directors were able to provide continuity and experience, while the new directors brought with them the passion and plans that prompted them to run for elected office.

This new Board, along with our approximately 200 dedicated staff members, will continue to serve the people of this vast region with integrity, commitment, openness, and transparency. We all look forward to completing the many projects already underway, and implementing new projects that will continue to ensure that the Thompson-Nicola Regional District remains a place where people want to live, work, and play.

**Barbara Roden**  
Chair

A handwritten signature of Barbara Roden in black ink. The signature is cursive and stylized, matching the printed name above it.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

Culture is the first word that comes to mind when considering 2022 at the TNRD. We have a professional and dedicated staff whom I am proud to lead, and we have established a great culture and a positive work environment for the benefit of residents now and into the future. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but I am very confident in our team and their ability to get things done.

We committed to advancing transparency and accountability at the TNRD, and in 2022 we achieved this goal in many ways. As you will read in the pages ahead, we significantly updated or created more than 30 Board and Administrative policies last year to improve our organization's safeguards and formalize best practices. We committed to acting on all 65 recommendations made by BDO Canada related to financial controls. Major organizational changes have now been made over several years and we are committed to continuing to build on these positive changes.

While we prioritized making changes that are mentioned above, we also remained focused on meeting priorities established by the Board in our 2020-2022 Strategic Plan, and by year's end we were complete or in progress on 90% of these priorities.

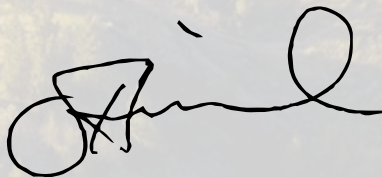
We were fortunate to see a far different year in 2022 for natural disasters compared to 2021 with significantly fewer impacts on our residents. With that in mind, we recognize that many residents are still recovering from 2021 emergencies. Our staff is prepared for wildfires and floods in the future, and we are building capacity to expand our emergency preparedness capabilities and FireSmart programming.

We welcomed a new Board of Directors following the 2022 Elections and I look forward to continuing to build working relationships with the leaders you chose. We are also committed to continuing to build partnerships with our community partners across the Thompson-Nicola region, including those with the 25 First Nations within our boundaries and advancing reconciliation efforts.

Please take the time to learn about initiatives completed in 2022 to benefit TNRD communities, and find more information about our services. In 2023, we look forward to establishing our new Strategic Plan and building on the positive momentum we have made in the past three years.

Sincerely,

**Scott Hildebrand**  
Chief Administrative Officer



City of Kamloops





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## **Back Row: Left to Right:**

**Ward Stamer** - District of Barriere,  
**Merlin Blackwell** - District of Clearwater,  
**Mike O'Reilly** - City of Kamloops,  
**Katie Neustaeter** - City of Kamloops,  
**Roland Stanke** - Village of Clinton,  
**Mike Goetz** - City of Merritt,  
**Mike Grenier** - EA "J" (Copper Desert Country),  
**Doug Haughton** - Electoral Area "L" (Grasslands),  
**Reid Hamer-Jackson** - City of Kamloops,  
**John Ranta** - Village of Cache Creek

## **Middle Row: Left to Right:**

**Bill Sarai** - City of Kamloops,  
**Herb Graham** - Electoral Area "N"  
 (Beautiful Nicola Valley - South),  
**Lee Morris** - EA "P" (Rivers and the Peaks),  
**Al Raine** - Mountain Resort Municipality  
 of Sun Peaks,  
**Usoff Tsao** - Electoral Area "A" (Wells Gray Country),  
**Tricia Thorpe** - Electoral Area "I" (Blue Sky Country),  
**Denise O'Connor** - Village of Lytton,  
**Jim Smith** - Electoral Area "E" (Bonaparte Plateau)

## **Front Row: Left to Right:**

**Kelly Hall** - City of Kamloops,  
**Margot Middleton** - City of Kamloops,  
**David Laird** - Electoral Area "M"  
 (Beautiful Nicola Valley - North),  
**Dale Bass** - City of Kamloops,  
**Barbara Roden** - Village of Ashcroft/ Board Chair,  
**Robin Smith** - District of Logan Lake/ Vice Chair,  
**Lee Onslow** - Electoral Area "B"  
 (Thompson Headwaters),  
**Jill Hayward** - EA "O" (Lower North Thompson),  
**David Lepsoe** - Village of Chase

## About the TNRD Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. The TNRD Board is comprised of 27 members, including one (1) director from each of the 10 TNRD Electoral Areas, one (1) director from each of the 10 smaller TNRD Member Municipalities, and seven (7) directors from the City of Kamloops (based on population).

Each of the 10 Electoral Area Directors are elected or acclaimed to the TNRD Board of Directors. Each Municipal Director is appointed by their respective mayor and council.

Each year, at the inaugural Board Meeting (the first meeting after November 1), legislation from the Province of BC requires regional district

boards of directors to elect one Director to serve as Chair of the Board, and one Director to serve as Vice-Chair. The Chair is the Chief Executive Officer of the TNRD, as established in legislation by the Province of BC. Learn more about your Board of Directors by visiting:  
[tnrd.ca/board-of-directors](http://tnrd.ca/board-of-directors).





Upper Hat Creek Area,  
Electoral Area "I"

## Thompson Regional Hospital District Board

The Thompson Regional Hospital District Board (TRHD) is separate from the TNRD Board of Directors and has slightly different boundaries and a slightly different composition from the TNRD Board.

The TRHD Board of Directors includes all 27 TNRD Board members, as well as one (1) elected official from each of:

- Columbia-Shuswap Regional District – Electoral Area "F"
- Squamish-Lillooet Regional District – Electoral Area "A"
- Squamish-Lillooet Regional District – Electoral Area "B"
- District of Lillooet

To learn more about the Thompson Regional Hospital District and the TRHD Board, visit: [tnrd.ca/trhd](https://tnrd.ca/trhd).



### The following healthcare facilities receive capital funding within the TRHD:

- Royal Inland Hospital
- Ashcroft Community Health Centre
- Barriere Health Centre
- Blue River Health Centre
- Chase Health Centre
- Clinton Health & Wellness Centre
- Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital
- Lillooet Hospital & Health Centre
- Logan Lake Primary Health Centre
- Nicola Valley Hospital



# OUR SERVICES







The TNRD provides 125 services to residents, which range from being local, sub-regional and region-wide. Find information anytime about TNRD services by visiting: [tnrd.ca/services](https://tnrd.ca/services).

-  Community Services - 12
-  Fire Protection - 12
-  Emergency Preparedness - 13
-  Garbage & Recycling - 13
-  Utilities - 14
-  Mosquito Control - 14
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-  Public Libraries - 15
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-  Regional Planning & Development - 17

Village of Clinton,



# COMMUNITY SERVICES

The TNRD provides a number of Community Services, which vary in each Electoral Area depending on services that have been approved by residents. For more information, visit: [tnrd.ca/community-services](http://tnrd.ca/community-services).



- **Cemeteries:** The TNRD operates three cemeteries in the North Thompson Valley, and looks after groundskeeping and interment services at these sites. These cemeteries are located in Little Fort (Electoral Area “O”), Avola and Blue River (Electoral Area “B”)
- **Community Halls:** The TNRD owns and operates three community halls in the North Thompson Valley, including the Little Fort Community Hall (Electoral Area “O”), the Vavenby Community Hall (Electoral Area “A”) and the Avola Schoolhouse (Electoral Area “B”)
- **Parks and Trails:** The TNRD owns and operates 10 Community Parks, operates two Regional Parks, and maintains the Blue River Trail System.
  - Electoral Area “A”: Birch Island Community Park, Ferry Road Park, Vavenby Community Park, Vavenby Riverside Park
  - Electoral Area “B”: Blue River Community Park, Diamond Drive Park, Herb Bilton Way Park, Little Hell’s Gate Regional Park
  - Electoral Area “L”: Keekwillie Park
  - Electoral Area “M”: Smith Pioneer Park
  - Electoral Area “O”: Latremouille Park, Barriere Forks Regional Park
- **Radio Rebroadcast:** The TNRD delivers Radio Rebroadcast services within Electoral Area “B”
- **River Buoys:** The TNRD operates the buoy navigation system in the South Thompson River, between the Chase Bridge and Kamloops Lake
- **Street Lighting:** The TNRD is responsible for street light maintenance in a number of neighbourhoods, including in Avola (Electoral Area “B”), Blackpool and Vavenby (Electoral Area “A”), Coldwater Road (Electoral Area “N”), Pritchard and Whitecroft (Electoral Area “P”)
- **Transit:** The TNRD partners with BC Transit to fund transit services in several rural areas, including the North Thompson Valley (Electoral Areas “A”, “B” and “O”), and in Lower Nicola (Electoral Area “M”)

Canada Day in Legacy Park,  
Ashcroft



## FIRE PROTECTION

The TNRD has 16 Fire Service Areas. Nine of these areas are serviced through TNRD owned and operated fire departments, and seven of these areas are contracted to member municipalities.

The goal of TNRD Fire Protection Services is to protect lives, property and the environment through preparedness, prevention, public education and emergency response, with an emphasis on quality services, efficiency, effectiveness and safety. For more information, visit: [tnrd.ca/ireprotection](http://tnrd.ca/ireprotection).

### Apply To Be a Paid On-Call Firefighter

Members of TNRD Fire Departments are vital to their communities, providing an invaluable service to protect lives and property. Serving as a firefighter is a rewarding opportunity and is a great way to learn a new skill and build camaraderie. Men and women of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to apply anytime.

To apply to be a Paid-On-Call Firefighter, contact your local TNRD Fire Chief or contact TNRD Fire Protection Services at 1-877-377-8673, or [fireprotectionservices@tnrd.ca](mailto:fireprotectionservices@tnrd.ca).





## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The TNRD Emergency Preparedness program provides direction and coordination to respond to, and recover from, major emergencies or disasters within TNRD Electoral Areas, including flooding, wildfires, and landslides.

This 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.

### Be Prepared

Voyent Alert!: During critical events such as wildfires or flooding, the TNRD uses Voyent Alert! to issue emergency alert notices, such as evacuation orders or alerts, or rescindments of evacuation orders or alerts. The TNRD also uses Voyent Alert! to communicate important message to its Community Water System customers when needed.

Registration for Voyent Alert! is free, simple and anonymous. You can receive notices via the Voyent Alert! app, or via text message, email or voicemail, and you can subscribe to receive alerts for as many TNRD properties as you would like. To learn more, visit: [tnrd.ca/voyent](https://tnrd.ca/voyent).

### FireSmart

By taking action and creating a FireSmart property, you will dramatically increase the resistance of your home and property to damage caused by wildfire. The best part is, it's surprisingly easy to do.

To learn more, visit: [tnrd.ca/iresmart](https://tnrd.ca/iresmart).



## GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

The TNRD operates 11 Eco-Depots, 16 Transfer Stations and two landfills, providing solid waste disposal for residents and a mandate to minimize waste and maximize resource recovery.

Through the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, the TNRD manages its solid waste in accordance with the pollution prevention hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycle, recovery and residuals management.

All 10 Electoral Areas and 10 Member Municipalities are provided TNRD solid waste and recycling services. The City

of Kamloops manages its own solid waste programs and facilities. In addition, the TNRD provides curbside waste collection in Avola and Blue River (Electoral Area "B"), and Cherry Creek, Tobiano and Savona (Electoral Area "J").

### Where Does It Go?

The TNRD's What Goes Where program is available to help you recycle or safely dispose of your materials. If you're not sure where it goes, you can find out by visiting: [tnrd.ca/what-goes-where](https://tnrd.ca/what-goes-where).







## UTILITIES

The TNRD supplies drinking water to 11 rural communities and oversees the operation of two wastewater systems.

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.

As programs become available, the TNRD continues to apply for federal and provincial grant funding that is needed to make utility infrastructure improvements.



### Saving Water and Wear and Tear.

Water metering on TNRD Community Water Systems has allowed leaks to be detected and fixed sooner, is expected to help prolong the lifespan of water infrastructure, saving on capital and operating costs, and ensures that customers are billed for only the water they use. Learn more at: [tnrd.ca/water-meters](http://tnrd.ca/water-meters).

### Call Before You Dig.

Did you know? The TNRD is a member of BC1Call. A quick phone call or email to access this free service can save you a lot of trouble for tasks such as excavating, or even planting trees, or installing fences or for sale signs. Call (or click) before you dig: 1-800-474-6886, or [bc1c.ca](http://bc1c.ca).



## MOSQUITO CONTROL

Nuisance Mosquito Reduction is provided in Electoral Areas "J", "L", "M", "N" (except the Coquihalla Recreation Area), "O" and "P", and a portion of Electoral Area "A". The program also covers the TNRD member municipalities of Barriere, Chase, Clearwater, Logan Lake, Kamloops and Sun Peaks.

This program targets species of mosquitos that pose a nuisance for humans, primarily, those known as floodwater and snowmelt mosquitoes. To learn more about this service, visit: [tnrd.ca/mosquitoes](http://tnrd.ca/mosquitoes).

### Did You Know?

The TNRD has conducted a mosquito reduction program since 1972. The main objective of this program is prevention and reduction of mosquito larval development sites.





# INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

The TNRD works towards protecting environmental, economic, and social values being impacted by invasive plants within the Thompson-Nicola region.

The TNRD offers a suite of Invasive Plant Program Services to TNRD residents and select member municipalities. Also, invasive plant disposal is free for TNRD residents at TNRD solid waste facilities.

The Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee, a TNRD advisory committee, takes action by coordinating regional invasive plant management efforts and preventing further invasive plant introduction and spread through a variety of regional education and outreach programs.



## We're Here to Help!

The TNRD Invasive Plant Program Services are available to residents within all 10 TNRD Electoral Areas and five Member Municipalities, including Clearwater, Clinton, Logan Lake, Merritt and Sun Peaks.

### Services include:

- Up to 100% coverage for treatment of select invasive plants
- Rebates for treatment of select invasive plants
- Free private land consultation
- Free loan-out of sprayers and seed and fertilizer spreaders
- Free biological control agents

To learn more, visit: [tnrd.ca/invasiveplants](https://tnrd.ca/invasiveplants).



## PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Thompson-Nicola Regional Library provides services across the TNRD, with 12 libraries, a Mobile Library, and Library Home Service. The TNRL has been dedicated to lifelong learning for TNRD residents for nearly 50 years.

Our libraries are more than just places to borrow books; the TNRL provides community spaces which spark creativity, engagement, and community connections. We strive to be a leader in celebrating literacy and transforming lives through knowledge and information. We value customer service, literacy, lifelong learning, intellectual freedom, inclusion, respect, and innovation.

For all of your library needs, visit your local library or the Mobile Library in-person, or go online to [tnrl.ca](https://tnrl.ca).

### Library Fast Facts

- Welcome new users! There were 5,901 patrons who registered for their free library card in 2022, increasing the library card base by 11%.
- The Mobile Library travelled 29,570 kilometres in 2022... that's like driving from Kamloops to Fredericton, New Brunswick and back six times!
- [tnrl.ca](https://tnrl.ca) reached 100,167 users in 2022, a 37% increase from 2021!

### Did You Know?



You can now register for a library card from school, work, or the comfort of your own home to instantly access digital services! Register online at: [tnrl.ca/register](https://tnrl.ca/register).



# FILM COMMISSION



The Thompson-Nicola Film Commission is a full-service film commission that markets the Thompson-Nicola's unique locations, services and amenities, crew, and talent worldwide. As well, it facilitates and supports productions filming in the region. Learn why the Region of BC's Best is the best place for film productions, by visiting: [ilmthompsonnicola.com](http://ilmthompsonnicola.com).

The TNFC also manages the newly-branded Live Music! Thompson-Nicola website. Live music performers, venues and events are listed for residents and tourists. [livemusicthompsonnicola.ca](http://livemusicthompsonnicola.ca).



Kamloopa Pow Wow



## LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The TNRD Legislative Services department administers core functions of the corporation, and the department provides administrative support to the Board of Directors and Statutory Committees. Legislative Services also maintains corporate records including meeting minutes, reports, policies and bylaws. Legislative Services also carry out public assent processes including elections and referendums.

The Legislative Services department is part of the larger Corporate and Legislative Services Division, which includes the Technology Services Department that is made up of Information Technology (IT) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

### About Technology Services

The TNRD GIS department maintains interactive maps, spatial data, and online applications to help residents and businesses learn more about land use and services the TNRD provides. GIS also makes property information available through web mapping applications and custom reports. Learn more about mapping options available to you: visit [tnrd.ca/maps](http://tnrd.ca/maps).

Further, GIS assigns and maintains house numbers and civic addresses for TNRD Electoral Area properties. 9-1-1 operators use civic addresses to locate homes and businesses. We maintain emergency-grade geospatial data to support emergency dispatching throughout the TNRD.

The IT department provides and maintains technology tools that staff use daily. Our IT team combines the functions of the software, hardware, cloud services, security, and networks to work smoothly and efficiently, allowing for operational success for the TNRD.





## Have You Seen Real to Reel?

Our digital campaign Real to Reel got a lot of attention in 2022 within the film production industry. Real to Reel compares actual shots of film locations in the Thompson-Nicola region with how they looked on the screen in productions. To take a look, head over to our Instagram page:

[@thompsonnicolafilmcommission](https://www.instagram.com/thompsonnicolafilmcommission).



# REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Planning Services administers land use and development applications and long-range planning for all 10 Electoral Areas. Long range planning is supported across jurisdictions through the Regional Growth Strategy, South Thompson Settlement Strategy and other broad planning initiatives, such as Official Community Plans.

Additionally, the Building department is responsible for Building Permits and Inspections for new construction, alterations additions or demolition of a structure in all TNRD Electoral Areas.

Learn more at [tnrd.ca/planning-development](https://tnrd.ca/planning-development).

## Busy Building Year

Construction activity remained high in the TNRD through much of 2022, with 360 building permits issued worth \$124.7 million. The 2022 value of construction was a record in the TNRD, eclipsing the construction value in 2021 of \$124.4 million. Residential construction was a primary driver in 2022 in many TNRD communities, and building permits for reconstruction following 2021 wildfires were issued on an expedited basis

*Construction in Tobiano  
Electoral Area "J"*





# 2022 PROGRESS



## STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS:



*Economic Sustainability  
& Resiliency*



*Livability, Connectivity  
& Infrastructure*



*Strategic Relationships  
& Partnerships*



*Dynamic Communication  
& Branding*



*Emergency Planning  
& Response*



*Climate Action &  
Environmental Stewardship*

Much of the work carried out by TNRD staff is guided by the Strategic Plan, which includes strategic priorities that are set by the Board.

The 2020-2022 Strategic Plan outlined six Strategic Focus Areas, which are listed on this page. The Strategic Plan is being updated in 2023 to meet current needs.

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to gain a common understanding of issues facing the Thompson-Nicola region and establish a thoughtful and prudent approach to addressing priorities.

In the pages ahead, you'll find information on key projects and initiatives undertaken by TNRD staff in 2022.

*Cache Creek Area Desert,  
Electoral Area "I"*





## BOSTON FLATS ECO-DEPOT OPEN

The Boston Flats Eco-Depot opened in November 2022 to replace the Cache Creek Transfer Station, improving service for area residents, and providing greater capacity. The new facility has a weigh scale for accurate billing, offers an expanded list of accepted materials, and expanded days of operation. It's also closer to Highway 1 and easier to access than the former Cache Creek Transfer Station.

## MANDATORY CARDBOARD RECYCLING

Enforcement came into effect in 2022 for the TNRD's Mandatory Recyclable Material Bylaw. This means that large commercial and municipal haulers now need to make sure their loads of garbage contain less than 10% corrugated cardboard, or these haulers risk being issued a penalty.

This bylaw was introduced to reduce the amount of materials being landfilled in large quantities which could easily be recycled. Before the Mandatory Recyclable Material Bylaw was introduced, the TNRD worked on the plan with stakeholders who would be most impacted.

The bylaw allows for other items to be included as mandatory to recycle; currently, the bylaw only applies to corrugated cardboard.



## NORTH THOMPSON ROAD RESCUE SERVICE

The Vavenby Fire Department and Blackpool Fire Rescue formally took over road rescue service within their response boundaries in the North Thompson Valley as of July 1, 2022. As part of this service, fire crews respond to accidents on the Yellowhead Highway within their response boundaries, and provide extrication and other emergency supports when needed.



## FIRE CONSULTANT REVIEW OF CHERRY CREEK

A feasibility study looked into the option of expanding fire protection into Cherry Creek. This study is published on the TNRD website, and findings of the study were explained to residents during public information meetings on July 27, 2022. This option was explored due to growth observed in the area and the community's proximity to Tobiano, which has an established Fire Protection Service in place. A public assent process would be required to add fire protection service in Cherry Creek in the future.



## LONGER SUMMERS AT SOLID WASTE SITES

A number of TNRD Eco-Depots and Transfer Stations now have summer hours in place for an additional month each year: through to October 31. After public consultation in 2021, hours of operation were extended in 2022 at Eco-Depots in 70 Mile, Heffley Creek, Logan Lake and Louis Creek, and at Transfer Stations in Loon Lake, Paul Lake and Savona. Additional hours will help meet service demand in these communities.





## FIRESMART COORDINATOR HIRED

In 2022, the TNRD hired Jeremy Denny as its first Fire Training Officer and FireSmart Coordinator. Jeremy has more than 20 years of emergency response experience and more than a decade in fire protection; he maintains a boots-on-the-ground position with the Shuswap Fire Department.

This position will ensure that there is staff capacity for improved FireSmart programming in future years. In 2023, Community Wildfire Protection Plans are being developed in Electoral Areas, which will enable the TNRD to access grant funding in the future for FireSmart initiatives.



## IMPROVING COMMUNITY PARKS

Several large-scale improvement projects took place in 2022 at TNRD community parks.

At **Smith Pioneer Park** located in Lower Nicola (Electoral Area "M"), new fall surfacing was added to the playground, a new picnic shelter was installed, pickleball lines were added to the tennis courts, and other minor improvements were made. Phase 2 of park improvements continues in 2023.

In Little Fort, residents can enjoy an improved public space at **Latremouille Park** (Electoral Area "O"). A new playground and picnic shelter were installed, and an outhouse was added to the park. Fencing was also adjusted on the park property.

In Vavenby, a major renovation was done at **Vavenby Community Park** (Electoral Area "A") to replace the outdoor ice rink. New boards were installed, and the hockey nets were also replaced.

In Blue River at **Herb Bilton Way Park** (Electoral Area "B"), construction was completed in late 2022 on a pedestrian suspension bridge over the Blue River itself! This bridge connects trails systems near the river, providing improved access to year-round recreation opportunities.



## AGATE BAY BOAT LAUNCH REPAIRS

Repairs were made in the spring of 2022 to the Agate Bay Boat Launch (Electoral Area "O"), which is owned and operated by the TNRD. Work was done to replace concrete slabs that had settled or slipped at the end of the boat launch. Work was carried out when Adams Lake was near its lowest level, and an environment assessment determined that there was no risk of fish spawning in the area.



## BLUE RIVER WATER SYSTEM UPGRADES

The Blue River Community Water System chlorination was launched in July of 2022, which protects drinking water quality by preventing growth of bacteria and inactivating viruses and microorganisms. To meet Interior Health drinking water standards, a disinfection process is required for water systems, and Blue River was the only TNRD Community Water System without a disinfection process. The project was funded by federal and provincial grants and funding from Trans Mountain.

## WEEDING OUT INVADERS

In 2022, more than \$970,000 was invested in invasive plant management by various land managers within the TNRD, resulting in more than 1,150 hectares of land being treated for invasive plants.

More than 1,370 people were reached in-person through education and outreach efforts, including delivery of the Earth Kids program, hosting and attending community workshops and events, and administering the Annual *Weed Pull Challenge*, which awards honorariums of \$200 and \$100 to first and second place, respectively, for groups that pull the most invasive plants. Congratulations to our 2022 *Weed Pull Challenge* winners: **Merritt Nature Kids**, and runner-up, **Kamloops Rotary Club**!



Douglas Lake Ranch,  
Electoral Area "L"





## EOC

The TNRD Emergency Operations Centre was active in the spring of 2022 due to a higher-than-normal snowpack and the prolonged risk of spring flooding. Sand and sandbags were deployed to 16 locations in 12 TNRD communities, with additional flood protection measures for one street in Savona. Fortunately, no evacuation orders or alerts were implemented due to flooding.

The EOC was active during parts of summer 2022 for two wildfires. In July, one evacuation order and one evacuation alert were issued in Electoral Area "I" near Lytton, due to the Nohomin Creek wildfire. In August, one evacuation alert was issued in Electoral Area "J" northwest of Kamloops due to the Watching Creek wildfire. All TNRD properties were downgraded to All Clear by August 9.



## FLOODING AND WILDFIRE RECOVERY

Recovery from natural disasters in 2021 continued for many property owners in the TNRD and continues for many into 2023.

The TNRD Wildfire Disaster Debris Removal program in 2022 allowed property owners who lost structures due to wildfires to be reimbursed for debris removal, with funding support from the Canadian Red Cross and the Province of BC. The Building Department also continues to expedite building permits for property owners rebuilding structures destroyed or damaged by wildfires, similar to 2017.

Following flooding, the TNRD opened Resiliency Centres in Merritt, Spences Bridge and Cache Creek. These Resiliency Centres helped residents access recovery funding, mental health supports, and gave guidance on insurance processes. The Interior Savings Internet to Go program also helped residents access online services with free loans of Chromebooks and hotspot devices. Further, disposal of flood debris for residents (excluding full structure demolition) was made free at the Lower Nicola Eco-Depot until June 30, 2022, with costs borne by Emergency Management BC. More than 9,900 tonnes of waste were disposed of at the Lower Nicola Eco-Depot as part of flood clean up.



## MONTE CREEK FIRE PROTECTION REFERENDUM

Through referendum on May 28, 2022, qualified electors within Electoral Areas "L" and "P" voted in favour of establishing the Monte Creek Fire Protection Service Area and borrowing to construct a new fire hall and purchase firefighting apparatus. There are 356 properties in the service area, in Monte Creek, Del Oro, Lafarge and East Barnhartvale, and the referendum saw 142 electors in favour and 54 opposed.

The TNRD was pleased to see an incredible response with new recruits who opted to join the Monte Creek Fire Department. Training of these recruits is expected to be complete in 2023, and work continues on plans to construct the Monte Creek Fire Hall. Fire protection service is now available to residents in the Monte Creek Fire Protection Service Area, temporarily provided by the Pritchard Fire Department.

The TNRD appreciates the Pritchard Fire Department members, new recruits of the Monte Creek Fire Department, and also Linda Herman and her late husband, Ed, who have generously offered to donate a parcel of vacant land for the Monte Creek Fire Hall.

## ELECTIONS 2022

The 2022 Local General Elections in British Columbia were held on October 15, 2022. Elections were held in six Electoral Areas of the TNRD: A, E, I, J, L and P. Directors were acclaimed in Electoral Areas with only one declared candidate, including in Electoral Areas B, M, N and O.

The TNRD strived to make voting opportunities as accessible as possible in Electoral Areas where elections were held. This included making mail ballot voting available, creating a convenient interactive map to match each property with their Electoral Area and voting opportunities, once again using the Mobile Library for advanced voting, and having 35 voting stations open on general election day. Due to a recent change in Provincial legislation, the TNRD was able to substantially increase mail ballot and advanced voting opportunities.

Member municipalities of the TNRD also appointed their representatives to the TNRD Board following General Local Elections.

In total, 19 out of 27 members are new to the TNRD Board. Staff held multiple orientation sessions following the election to familiarize the Board with the TNRD and local government processes. Learn about the Board of Directors on page 8. Welcome to the new Board!







## HISTORY MADE WITH NEW BOARD CHAIR/ VICE-CHAIR

At the TNRD's inaugural meeting following the General Local Elections, the Board made history by electing Village of Ashcroft director Barbara Roden as chair,

and District of Logan Lake director Robin Smith as vice-chair. This is the first time in the TNRD's 55-year history that the Board has elected a female chair and a female vice-chair at the same time.

Roden became the second female chair of TNRD; the first being former City of Kamloops director Pat Wallace who served in the role from 1983 to 1986. Smith is the second female vice-chair, following Roden who had been the first female vice-chair just a year earlier, serving in that capacity from 2021 to 2022.



## POLICY IMPROVEMENTS MADE

In 2022, the TNRD Legislative Services department led significant updates to a number of policies and the development of new policies, resulting in increased transparency and accountability to the public. In total, over 30 Board and Administrative policies were significantly updated or newly created, helping improve TNRD practices and procedures, address historical gaps in policies, and make the TNRD a leader among local governments for putting best practices into policy. In addition, public accessibility to TNRD policies has also been improved, through the TNRD website. A new Policy Framework has also been developed, to guide policy reviews and ensure consistency in how policies are developed.

## ALL ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY

The TNRD engaged BDO Canada LLP in early 2021 to conduct a forensic audit of TNRD expenses, financial controls and procurement and contracting practices.

The full report and all recommendations made were released to the public in early 2022. The TNRD committed to acting on all 65 recommendations made in the report. The TNRD has taken significant steps and made substantial progress towards increasing accountability and transparency and this has resulted in stronger oversight, greater efficiencies and improved operations.

By the end of 2022, the TNRD was more than 90% complete on recommendations made by BDO Canada. We continue to focus on the best interests of taxpayers and the general public with all actions taken and will strive to continue to earn trust and build relationships in our local communities. To learn more, visit: [tnrd.ca/accountability](https://tnrd.ca/accountability).



## NEW MYTNRD OPEN DATA PORTAL

In the fall of 2022, the GIS department launched the *myTNRD* online portal, as a new hub for providing open data for public and commercial use. *myTNRD* includes community-specific maps, custom maps and applications, geographic data that can be downloaded in various formats, and *myRegionView* for viewing property information. This portal continues to be expanded by adding open data, as part of the TNRD's multi-year Open Data Strategy. Be sure to check out (and bookmark) the *myTNRD* homepage: [maps.tnrd.ca/mytnrd](https://maps.tnrd.ca/mytnrd).

*River views near Ashcroft,  
Electoral Area "I"*





## ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY

The inaugural One Book, One Community (OBOC) initiative by the TNRL featured the book *Five Little Indians* by award-winning author Michelle Good. This region-wide initiative supports literacy, promotes Canadian authors and their stories, provokes discussion, and builds understanding. The TNRL hosted feature programming for OBOC throughout 2022, which helped make *Five Little Indians* the most-borrowed title last year.

*Five Little Indians* is the story of 1960's residential school survivors and their traumatic experiences, as they try to rebuild their lives in the Vancouver neighbourhood of East Hastings. The OBOC program and *Five Little Indians* received endorsement from Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Kúkpí7, Rosanne, Casimir, who was photographed for the TNRL's first READ poster outside of the Kamloops Indian Residential School. The READ poster has been distributed to 250 public libraries across B.C.

## LIGHTS... CAMERA... ACTION! IN THE THOMPSON-NICOLA REGION



Once again, demand for filming was sky-high in the Thompson-Nicola region in 2022, which has now been the case for a number of years.

In 2022, the motion picture industry's direct output in the Thompson-Nicola region (the "economic spinoff") was an estimated \$18 million. Last year, the Thompson-Nicola Film Commission (TNFC) fielded 82 inquiries for production crews looking to use locations within the TNRD; this is a 67% increase in inquiries year-over-year, after a 2021 calendar year which was a record year for filming in the TNRD in many ways.

The TNFC also welcomed Terri Hadwin as its new Film Commissioner! Hadwin was previously the TNRD's Grants and Research Assistant, and she has held key leadership roles for local and regional non-profits, where she has been an advocate for destination development and community growth in the TNRD. Hadwin took over following the retirement of Film Commissioner Victoria Weller, who was the first Film Commissioner from 2000 to 2022.



## ASHCROFT LIBRARY REFRESH

Renovations were completed at the Ashcroft Library in 2022, that launched TNRL's Service Extender – the first of its kind in B.C.

Ashcroft Library renovations included additional space for the public, a refreshed community meeting room, "bar seating" for patrons to study, work, read or play, high-quality children's installations and branded designs inspired by unique TNRD geography. The TNRL proudly welcomed area residents to its grand opening in December 2022. Local artist, 93-year-old Esther Darlington was the first to showcase her paintings in the Library's gallery space that will host rotational artwork.

Service Extender enables patrons access to the library beyond regularly-staffed hours, nearly doubling the availability of the Ashcroft Library from 26 hours to approximately 50 hours per week. Patrons can check out items, use Wi-Fi and public computers, study spaces and hold meetings after hours, as long as they are a library card holder in good standing. Plans are underway to replicate this service in other community libraries.



## MAKING MUSIC... ACCESSIBLE

For the Thompson-Nicola Regional Library and its patrons, 2022 was music to our ears, as we added musical instruments, programming and products free to all!

In partnership with an internationally-acclaimed Kamloops company, Riversong Guitars, the TNRL launched **guitar lending** and **ukulele lending**. Now, patrons can place a hold on a guitar or ukulele through all library locations and borrow these instruments for free, and get the support they need to learn with quality online content.

In fall of 2022, the TNRL also launched its first ever **Musician in Residence** program with talented local musicians Jeremy Kneeshaw, Margit Gossage and Tina Hebner. These artists hosted engaging programs and one-on-one consultations.



## PLANNING FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE

Through 2022, Planning Services continued to focus on timely responses to current planning applications and high volume of inquiries from the public, with an extremely active property sale and construction market. Planning staff implemented Board changes to Zoning Bylaw 2400, enabling more flexibility and opportunities for a second detached residence on lands over 4 hectares in area (10 acres); this has significantly increased the potential density of development in rural areas.

2021 Census information was also released throughout 2022, and Planning Services completed a fulsome Regional Growth Strategy Monitoring Report. You can read the Monitoring Report anytime by visiting: [tnrd.ca/regional-growth](https://tnrd.ca/regional-growth). Other long-range planning will be prioritized as directed by the Board.





## GRANT FUNDING FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

In 2022, the TNRD received approximately \$3.1 million in grant funding for a number of community projects.

For many grant funding opportunities, eligible projects involve new or improved infrastructure, energy efficiency, recreation, or other improvements that help create healthier communities.

Last year, money from the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) was allocated to many TNRD infrastructure projects:

- Planned construction of the Monte Creek Fire Hall (\$1 million)
- Renovations to the McLure Fire Hall (\$700,000)
- Smith Pioneer Park additions and improvements (\$336,500)
- Latremouille Park improvements (\$150,000)
- Vavenby Community Park outdoor ice rink renovations (\$100,000)
- Black Pines Transfer Station Road Improvements (\$93,500)
- Blue River Pedestrian Suspension Bridge completion (\$60,000)
- Lac Le Jeune Transfer Station Road Improvements (\$30,000)

## INFORMING AND ENGAGING RESIDENTS



With 125 services, 10 Electoral Areas, 11 Member Municipalities, several dozen communities and a land mass larger than many countries, the TNRD is always working to keep residents informed of services and to engage with residents on matters in their community. Many in-person or virtual public meetings were held in communities throughout the TNRD in 2022, and the TNRD issued more than 80 news releases, began circulating a mail-out Regional Newsletter to Electoral Areas, and much more.

In 2022, several projects were done to make information available and more accessible. Visit [tnrd.ca/communities](https://tnrd.ca/communities) to find new webpages for each Electoral Area and Municipality. Each page has details on geography and Census information, services provided, an interactive map, director contact information, and more.

New webpages have also been created for Community Services within Electoral Area communities. These include Parks and Trails, Community Halls, Cemeteries, and more. Other pages for services such as Fire Protection and Water service have also been redesigned, to make information easy to find that residents need to know. Learn more at: [tnrd.ca/services](https://tnrd.ca/services).



## A WELL-FUNCTIONING WORKPLACE

The IT Department is hard at work implementing a resilient infrastructure, embracing a work-from-anywhere model, that required redesigning and implementing new systems that enable productivity while keeping our information safe. We have deployed new and exciting collaboration tools that ensure staff can stay connected and collaborate from wherever they are.



## FOCUS ON PEOPLE

We have a continued focus on cultivating a safe and welcoming workplace and continue to find ways to support employee well-being, including an enhanced employee and family assistance program. During 2022, significant work was dedicated to policy review and training for all staff with the introduction of the Conflict of Interest Policy and revamped Code of Conduct Policy. The TNRD celebrates the people and teams working across the region and last year, we were fortunate to hold the first in-person employee recognition event since 2019. The TNRD is taking steps to retain and support staff, and is ensuring our recruitment strategies remain up-to-date to meet the needs of the current labour market.

*Views near Triple Decker Falls,  
Electoral Area "A"*







# 2022 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



*Helmcken Falls in Wells Gray Provincial Park  
Electoral Area "A"*





## ABOUT THE TNRD BUDGET

Each year, as required in the *Community Charter*, the TNRD Board of Directors adopts the Five-Year Financial Plan at its last Board Meeting before March 31.

Each of the 125 services in the TNRD requires its own individual budget (which is required for all regional districts in B.C.). Money cannot be shifted from one service to another, and any surplus in a budget must be spent the following year.

Properties in TNRD Electoral Areas and Member Municipalities **only pay taxes for the services that they receive**. As a result, the level of taxation for TNRD services varies between properties within Electoral Areas, and for properties in Member Municipalities compared to those in Electoral Areas. Generally speaking, the TNRD provides a greater number of services in Electoral Areas compared to Member Municipalities.

The TNRD, and all local governments, use assessed properties values provided by BC Assessment to help calculate the tax rate for each property. Regardless of whether BC Assessment values increase or decrease for a property in any year, assessed values do not impact how much taxation that local governments collect each year. Changes to assessed values may change how much of the overall tax requisition that a property owner must pay, but do not change the size of the total tax requisition. (Example: If your property's assessed value goes up by 20%, but the average assessed value across the entire regional district goes up by 12%, then you will pay a higher proportion of the overall tax requisition). In summary, assessed values, which are set by BC Assessment, are a significant factor to determine how much taxation each property will pay, but **assessed values do no impact how much tax the TNRD collects** in any given year.

### Find TNRD Financial Information Anytime:

Start your search at [tnrd.ca/finance](http://tnrd.ca/finance).

Here, you'll find Annual Financial Reports including Audited Financial Statements, Annual Budget Highlights, Frequently Asked Questions and much more.





# 2022 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The 2022 budget represented a 3.4% increase in the overall tax requisition compared to 2021. The tax requisition had been reduced in 2021 by 1.7% during the COVID-19 pandemic, in part to support property owners through financial uncertainty. As a result, the 2022 tax requisition was only 1.6% greater than it was in 2020.

## TNRD 2022 Operating Budget

General

**\$48,893,330**



Water

**\$ 1,535,228**



Sewer

**\$ 298,222**



Total

**\$ 50,726,780**

## 2022 Capital Budget



**\$ 24,200,521**

## Total TNRD Budget

**\$ 74,927,301**



## 2022 Hospital District Budget



**\$ 44,033,954**



# 2022 TAXATION REVENUES BY FUNCTIONS

(IN MILLIONS)

Following Legislation the TNRD 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 30, 2022.

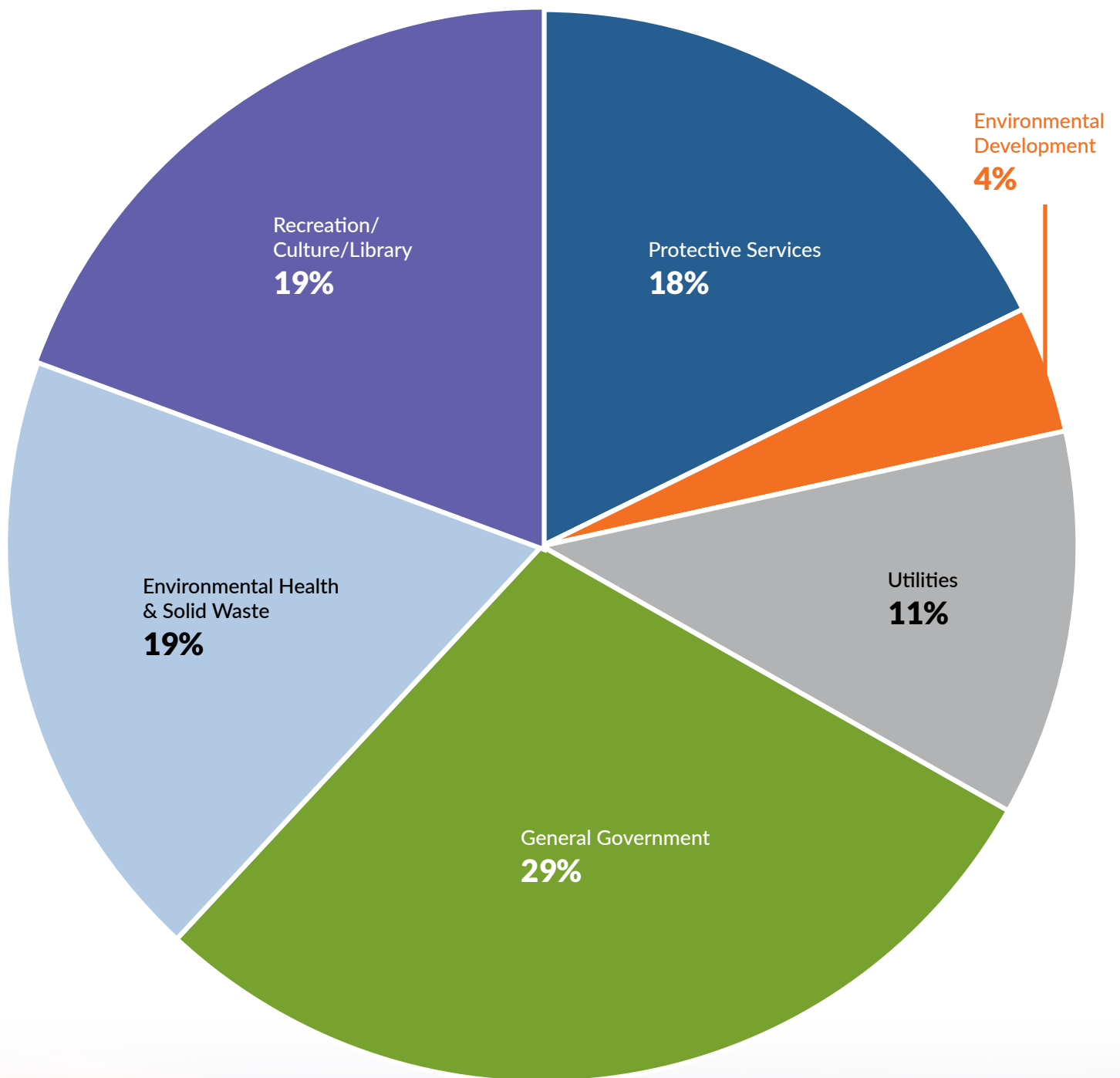
## 2022 BUDGET

REVENUE:	2022 Budget
Protective Services	\$13,558,763
Environmental Development	\$2,934,853
Utilities	\$8,922,519
General Government	\$21,964,899
Environmental Health & Solid Waste	\$14,317,367
Recreation/Culture/Library	\$14,825,901
	<b>\$76,524,302</b>

## 2022 BUDGET

EXPENDITURES:	2022 Budget
Protective Services	\$13,558,763
Environmental Development	\$2,934,853
Utilities	\$8,922,519
General Government	\$21,964,899
Environmental Health & Solid Waste	\$14,317,367
Recreation/Culture/Library	\$14,825,901
	<b>\$76,524,302</b>



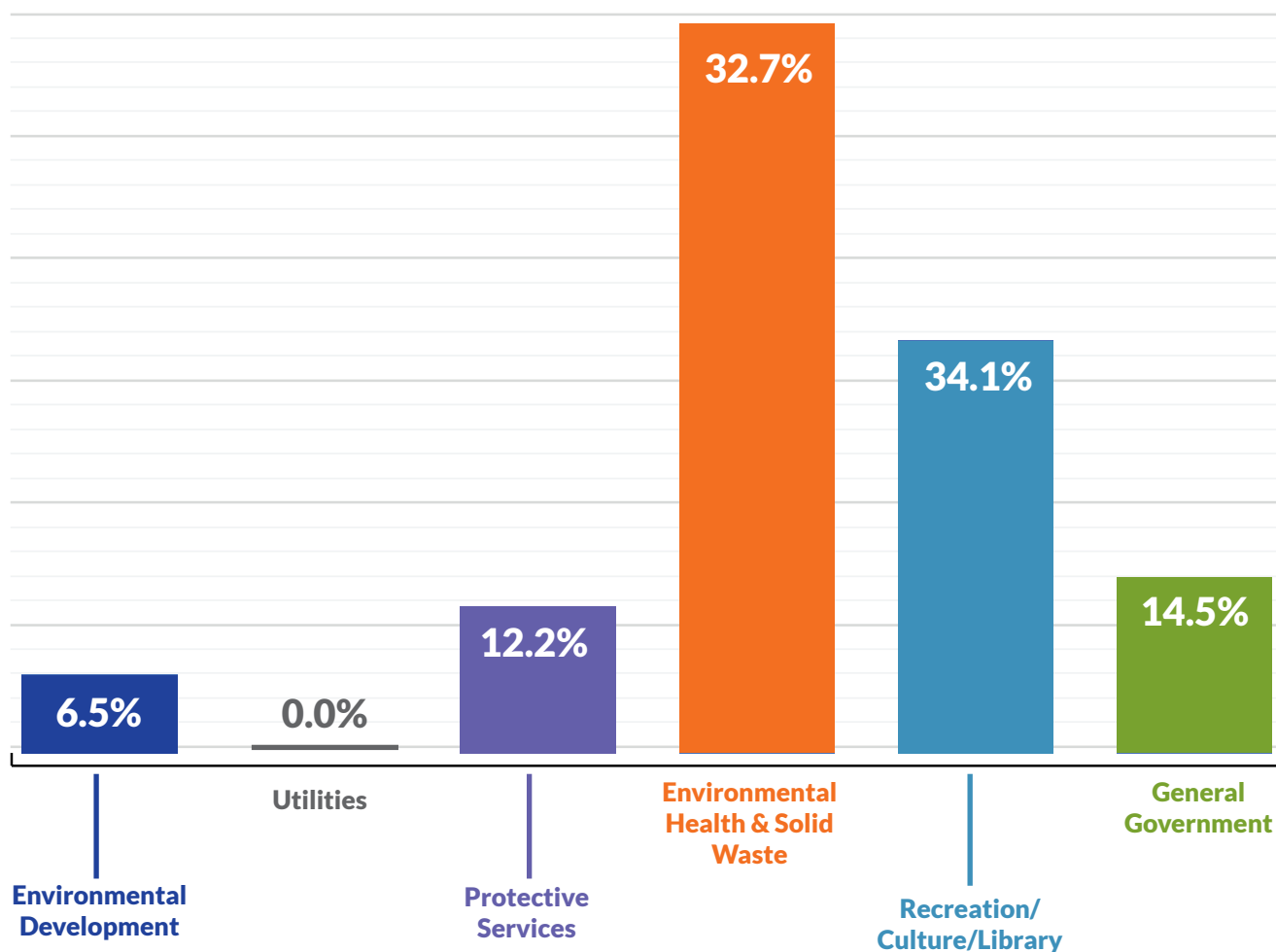




# TAXES BY SERVICE (IN MILLIONS)

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.

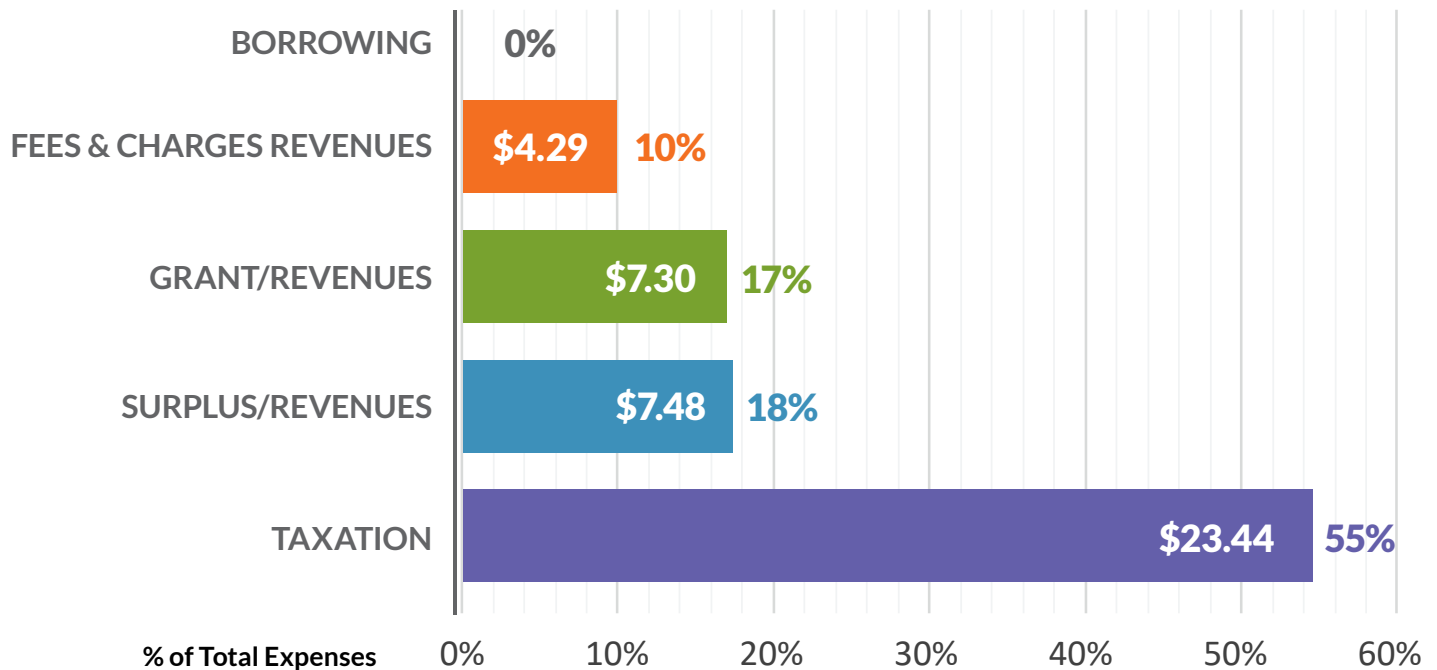
2022 Budget		
Environmental Development	6.5%	\$1,522,850
Utilities	0.0%	\$-
Protective Services	12.2%	\$2,852,232
Environmental Health & Solid Waste	32.7%	\$7,666,446
Recreation/Culture/Library	34.1%	\$7,997,465
General Government	14.5%	\$3,405,094
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$23,444,087</b> -1391





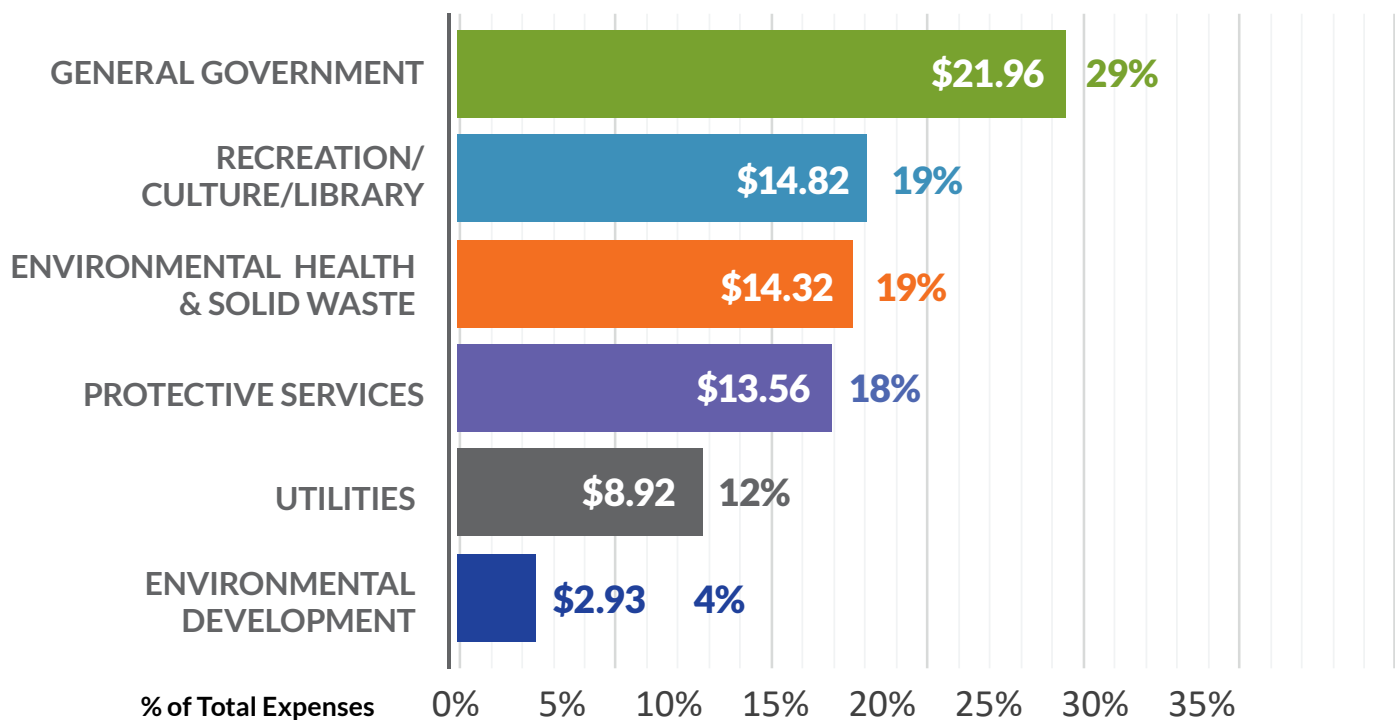
## 2022 BUDGETED TOTAL EXPENSES (IN MILLIONS)

# \$42,608,171



## 2022 BUDGETED EXPENSES (IN MILLIONS)

# \$76,524,302









## Want to Learn More?

Key information is at your fingertips! Visit [tnrd.ca](https://tnrd.ca) anytime to find information on services and TNRD communities, Board of Directors meeting agendas and schedules, staff and elected official contact information, news releases, budget and financial data, previous annual reports, and much more!



*TNRD Civic Building,  
Kamloops*



# THOMPSON-NICOLA

REGIONAL DISTRICT

The Region of BC's Best

Thompson-Nicola Regional District  
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