

2025 4th QUARTER COMMUNITY UPDATE

QUARTERLY UPDATE

Quarterly newsletters reflect work that has been completed since the last quarter. For printed copies please visit the following locations:

- Fraser Lake Public Library located at 228 Endako Avenue;
- Autumn Services, located at 111 Chowsunket Avenue; and
- Menshed, located at 80 Cougar Street

Virtual edition will be available on the municipal website at www.fraserlake.ca.

PROJECT UPDATES

Community Hall Phase 2 – The project had reached substantial completion by mid December 2025. With the final invoicing expected to be completed by the end of January with the handover of the project to follow suit. The remaining work will require staff to complete the Commercial Kitchen Rental policy and will aim to have a request for proposals to rent the facility out by the end of the 1st Quarter in 2026.

Water Tower Replacement – Work in October and November 2025 focused on completing the installation of the glass lined water tower. Cladding alignment on the new reservoir was corrected in December, and final close.out tasks for this phase were completed. Civil North is scheduled to return in the second quarter of 2026 to finish the remaining work.



Designated Water Line – The Reservoir Fill Line Project made steady progress during the

October–November inspection period. Crews completed several key tasks, including watermain tie.ins, new fire hydrant installations, residential service connections and replacements, and the decommissioning of old mains. Additional work included hydrant lead installations, thrust blocks, concrete caps, tracer.wire repairs, and responses to unexpected site conditions such as groundwater issues and damaged culverts.

Road gravelling, ditching, trench backfilling, and temporary drainage improvements were carried out on Tunasa Drive, Carrier Crescent, and Simon Fraser Avenue, along with smaller site repairs like fence work at the WTP. Despite weather and infrastructure challenges, the project continued to advance effectively. Dawson Civil is scheduled to return in early Q2 2026 to complete the remaining work.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The finance department in the 4th Quarter spend much of the time working on developing the 2026 budget. AS part of this budgeting process

the Village has been working on reducing the overall operating budget to reduce the strain of taxation on the residents in the Village of Fraser

Lake. Council has provided direction to staff at this time to coordinate the development of a Community Feedback Open House to engage with residents in the 1st Quarter of 2026. Presently the event will be held on Thursday February 19th, 2026 from 2:00PM to 6:00PM. The opportunity is intended to engage with Village residents and to

provide feedback of the level of service anticipated in being provided with the 2026 reduced operating budget. If members of the public feel they need to provide input on the level of service being provided it is asked that residents with feedback talk with the elected officials present at the event.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Public Works prepared all heavy equipment for winter operations, including servicing the sander and underbelly plow, treating the Henderson sander for rust, and ordering a replacement feed chain. Caterpillar completed a service and oil analysis on the CAT 140 grader with excellent results. Despite staffing shortages and several early snow events, roads were maintained to expected service levels. Total Power inspected the Village's backup generators and provided a quote for testing and servicing, which will be reviewed during budget discussions.

In underground utilities, one water saddle failure in November required replacement, and a tie-in at Civil North's Langley lot required excavation and installation of a restrainer after the line separated due to lack of restraint in the original installation. The water treatment plant continues to operate smoothly with no issues to report. At the arena, hockey began in October and curling in November, with strong community participation. A motor failure on Compressor #2 required inspection, and the motor was found to be beyond repair and in need of replacement.

EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Fraser Lake Fire Rescue responded to 117 emergency incidents between January 1 and December 31, 2025, across the Village, Stelat'en First Nation, and the Regional District. Calls included 37 fire-related incidents, 56 medical first-responder calls, and 24 motor-vehicle incidents within protection zones FRA101 (Fraser Lake), FRA102 (Endako Mine), FRA103 (Stelat'en First Nation), and the Highway Road Rescue area. Stelat'en First Nation accounted for 14 of these responses, including 13 fire-related calls and one motor-vehicle incident.

Work continues with Stelat'en to provide hydrant and water supply information required by insurance underwriters. This year, the Fire Chief completed updates to the Municipal Emergency Plan and responded to a frozen water-pipe break at TGP. Fire Rescue members also supported several community events, including the Emergency Services Food Drive, the annual Santa Claus Parade, and deliveries with Autumn Services. Commercial fire inspections were completed as part of ongoing fire-prevention efforts

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES UPDATE

The fourth quarter of 2025, running from October 1 to December 31, marked a period of year-end slowdown and reflection as the Village of Fraser Lake began preparing for the opportunities and challenges ahead in 2026.

Infrastructure work continued steadily throughout the quarter. The Designated Water Line Project advanced through October and November with multiple watermain tie-ins, the installation of new fire hydrants, and the replacement or connection of several residential water services. Crews also abandoned and

capped old mains, installed hydrant leads, placed thrust blocks and concrete caps, repaired tracer wire, and addressed unexpected issues such as groundwater infiltration, damaged culverts, exposed utilities, and residual flow in older lines. Road gravelling, ditching, trench backfilling, and temporary drainage improvements were completed on Tunasa Drive, Carrier Crescent, and Simon Fraser Avenue, along with miscellaneous repairs such as fence work at the Water Treatment Plant. Despite weather and infrastructure challenges, the project progressed effectively, with Dawson Civil

scheduled to return in early Q2 2026.

At Mouse Mountain, installation of the glass-lined water tower was completed in October and November. Additional adjustments were required to properly align the cladding, and these were finished in December. Final close-out activities for this phase were completed, and Civil North will return in the second quarter of 2026 to finish the remaining work.

The Village also updated its Water Conservation Plan, originally adopted in 2020. The refreshed plan incorporates current data and sets more practical, achievable goals that align with the Village's existing capacity, supporting long-term sustainability and strengthening future grant applications. Council further approved a \$10,500 expenditure from the Northwest Funding Reserve to complete a topographic and utility survey of Cougar Street and Simon Fraser Avenue, improving the Village's ability to plan future capital projects. In addition, senior staff attended an asset management workshop in Smithers on November 27, resulting in three employees enrolling in a subsidized Certificate in Asset Management Planning program.

Organizational health initiatives also moved forward this quarter. Community Services completed a full review of arena policies, repealing eight outdated documents and replacing them with a single, streamlined policy to improve consistency and ease of use. Staff have also been directed to review arena rental rates to ensure long-term operational sustainability. Council adopted the new Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw 868, 2025, which emphasizes economic diversification, increased

housing density, and infrastructure planning aligned with projected population growth. Several grant applications were submitted to support Community Services staffing needs, and the Village again applied to the Canada Summer Jobs program to fund six summer student positions for 2026, with recruitment beginning in February.

The Joint Health & Safety Committee met three times during the quarter. Public Works reported a notable reduction in monthly safety concerns, reflecting the positive impact of safety investments made throughout 2025. Facility inspections have now begun and will occur at least annually. The Village's WorkSafeBC safety rating improved significantly, dropping from 3.4 to 2.98, indicating fewer incidents and stronger adherence to safety procedures. This progress supports ongoing efforts to strengthen training, hazard reporting, and preventative maintenance in 2026.

In the area of sustainability and livability, the Village opened the new cross-country ski trails on the airport property, offering 10 kilometres of classic and skate-style tracks for residents to enjoy free of charge throughout the winter. Council also approved up to \$1,000 to support the design of a Mountain Bike Trail and Skills Park, reinforcing the Village's commitment to expanding outdoor recreation opportunities.

Finally, under the Beautification Program, Council endorsed the planting of 50 additional trees in 2026, supported through LGCAP and BC Hydro grants, continuing efforts to enhance the community's natural environment.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Grant Activity

Fourth quarter 2025 saw steady progress across a wide range of grant-funded initiatives. Several major approved projects advanced, including the PacifiCan Drone Transportation Initiative Phase II, which secured three-year funding with startup activities scheduled for April 2026. The Community Resiliency Initiative FireSmart program completed its Prescription Plan but experienced delays due to Ministry staffing.

Applications for several new grants were submitted, including Canada Summer Jobs, the Carrier Crescent Watermain Upgrade, NDI Capacity Building and Grant Writing Support,

UBCM Emergency Preparedness, and BC Hydro Regreening. Ongoing infrastructure projects such as the Water Reservoir continued regular reporting, and the NKDF Welcome Signs project was deferred to 2026. The Village also received confirmation that remaining funds from the Local Government Housing Initiative may be used for additional land-use bylaw work.

Planning

Work on the Sign Plan continued, with trail sign design, siting, and Professional Building signage underway, although some 2025 projects and funds were deferred. Park and wayfinding signage is scheduled for installation in spring and

summer 2026. The Rebranding Plan reached full completion earlier in the year, requiring no further action this quarter. Under the Tree Plan, the 2025 planting program was completed, and Council approved additional planting for 2026, with maintenance activities ongoing. The Waterfront Redevelopment Plan progressed to the procurement stage, with bids received for the building design; a contract award is anticipated in early 2026, followed by Council's selection of design options later in the spring or early summer. The Marine Infrastructure RFQ is planned for re-tendering in spring 2026. The Official Community Plan and accompanying Zoning Bylaw were finalized late in 2025, with a six-month review scheduled for June 2026. Finally, the Downtown Development Plan, tied to the OCP work, is expected to move into the tendering phase in early 2026.

Recreation Programming

Included Mouse Mountain Day, which drew approximately 600 attendees. The event was efficiently executed, reducing staff hours compared to the previous year. Other programs included kayak and paddleboard classes, a community scavenger hunt, and a foreshore cleanup. Planning is underway for winter events, cooking classes, and trail-related activities. The Visitor's Centre operated seven days a week during the summer, welcoming 757 visitors in July and August.

Transportation Services

The Fraser Lake community bus operated normally throughout the fourth quarter, completing 537 trips. This represents a substantial increase compared to earlier in the year—up from 345 trips in Q2 and 228 in Q3—and a 34% rise over the 401 trips recorded in Q4 2024. Service was interrupted only once, with a single full day cancelled due to driver unavailability.

Intergovernmental and Economic Development Relations

Local relations remained active throughout the quarter, with the Community Foundation closing its fall intake and awarding funds, while preparing to open the spring intake on March 15, 2026. Collaboration with Stellat'en First Nation continued through joint work on the Drone Transportation Initiative Phase II, the completion of the Southside Lots land transfer, and participation in the Resident Attraction Video. Nadleh Whut'en First Nation also remained a partner in advancing the Drone Transportation Initiative. Engagement with Saik'uz First Nation included participation in the Saik'uz Economic Development Strategy Regional Roundtable. Work with the Regional District of Bulkley.Nechako progressed as planning began for the RDBN Business Forum, which Fraser Lake will host in May 2026.

Economic development relations also advanced on several fronts. Efforts continued with the Northwest Hydrogen Hub, where economic developers across Northwest BC are collaborating to support fuel and power production along the corridor. The Village remained an active member of both the Destination Development Committee and the Northwest Regional Advisory Committee for the Northern BC Tourism Association (NBCTA), contributing to the development of a Destination Development tracker and the final review of NBCTA's Strategic Plan. Representation at the Northern BC Tourism Summit in Prince George further supported regional engagement. Regular communication was maintained with major project proponents, including BC Hydro, Innergex, BluEarth, Rio Tinto, Artemis Gold, Centerra, FPX Nickel, and Coastal GasLink. Additionally, participation in the Economic Development Leadership Learning Exchange in Prince George provided further opportunities for collaboration and professional development.

BYLAW UPDATES

The Village's bylaws in the 4th quarter saw the adoption of the following:

- Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 868, 2025
- Ammonia Ice Plant Reserve Bylaw No. 873, 2025
- Borrowing Anticipation Bylaw 874, 2025
- Zoning Bylaw No. 875, 2025

All of these bylaws can be found on the Village's website located here;

<https://www.fraserlake.ca/municipal-hall/bylaws-enforcement/bylaw-listing>

For more information on any of these bylaws, please visit the municipal website, stop by the Village Office, or contact:

- Ethan Fredeen, Chief Administrative Officer / Corporate Officer – efredeen@fraserlake.ca
- Jesse Gervais, Economic Development Officer / Deputy Corporate Officer – edo@fraserlake.ca

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS RECRUITEMENT

The Village is once again reaching out to community members who may be interested in joining the Volunteer Fire Department. A recommended minimum commitment of two hours per week is required for training sessions, which are held on Tuesday evenings starting at either 6:00PM or 7:00PM. Once training is complete, volunteers will be certified and able to respond to calls as needed.

It's important to note that certification for firefighting does not occur overnight—it requires time, dedication, and consistent participation in

training. Our Fire Chief, Joe Pacheco, is fully certified to deliver training in external structural firefighting and is prepared to support all interested residents through the process.

Residents interested in serving and helping protect our community are encouraged to reach out and get involved.

Any of those interested please swing by the Fire Hall to inquire about joining the Volunteer department or reach out to Fire Chief Pacheco at (250) 699-2859 or email him at fire@fraserlake.ca.

RESOURCE BENEFITS ALLIANCE

The Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA) represents all 21 local governments from Masset to Vanderhoof, working together to secure a long-term funding agreement with the Province of BC. Formed in 2014, the RBA's goal is to ensure Northwest communities receive a fair share of the benefits generated by major resource development projects in the region.

Despite more than \$13 billion in recent capital investment—and over \$65 billion more proposed—local communities have not seen matching gains. Much of the development occurs outside municipal boundaries, resulting in minimal local revenue but significant strain on community infrastructure, services, and planning capacity. This has made it harder for communities to attract and retain workers and maintain sustainable local services.

The RBA and the province share a vision of building strong, livable, and economically resilient communities. With provincial support already committed, the RBA aims to use future funding to:

- Strengthen physical infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, bridges)
- Enhance social infrastructure needed for workers and families
- Support existing businesses and promote new development
- Encourage long-term regional growth rather than reliance on temporary work camps

The RBA is seeking continued engagement from residents, businesses, First Nations, and stakeholders as negotiations advance, ensuring the region is prepared to take full advantage of coming economic opportunities.

Fraser Lake Contributions

The Village has received approximately \$6.7 million through the RBA funding agreement. This investment has supported several key initiatives, including the purchase of a new grader to replace aging equipment, survey and planning work for upcoming utility replacements in residential neighbourhoods, and

contributions toward a new water tower.

In the coming months, residents can expect to see project signage throughout the Village and across the Northwest Region, highlighting the role of RBA funding in strengthening our communities.

For more information on how the RBA continues to positively impact the Northwest, please visit: <https://www.nwresourcebenefits.ca/>.

