

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 5, 2026, 5:30 PM
Memorial Hall, 290 Esplanade Avenue,
Harrison Hot Springs, BC V0M 1K0

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

1. CALL TO ORDER		
Meeting called to order by Mayor Talen.		
2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT		
Acknowledgement of Sts'ailes traditional territory.		
3. PUBLIC HEARING (if required)		
4. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS		
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA		
6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST		
7. ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MINUTES		
(a) THAT the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2026 be adopted.		Page 1
(b) THAT the Special Pre-Closed Council Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2026 be adopted.		Page 9
8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES		
9. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS		
10. CORRESPONDENCE		
(a) Letter dated September 10, 2026 from BEST Mobility Re: BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program (BCATIG)		Page 11
(b) Email dated September 14, 2026 from Indigo Alert Canada Re: House of Commons Petition e-7703		Page 15
(c) Letter dated September 14, 2026 from the Youth Parliament of British Columbia Re: British Columbia 98 th Youth Parliament		Page 17
(d) Email dated September 16, 2026 from Phil Perras Re: Unity as Stability – A Thought Before the 2026 Local Election		Page 21

(e) Email dated September 23, 2026 from Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society Re: Request for Letter of Support for Grant Funding	Page 25
11. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE	
12. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS	
13. REPORTS FROM MAYOR	
14. REPORTS AND MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS	
THAT the following adopted minutes be received for information: (a) Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2026 Page 29	
(b) Report of Corporate Officer dated October 5, 2026 Re: Environmental Advisory Committee Report Page 33 Recommendation: THAT Council approve the following recommendation from the Environmental Advisory Committee: <i>THAT Council direct staff to seek partnerships, such as with graduate students, for environmental assessments, data gathering, reports and studies within the Village and consider including such a project in the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.</i>	
15. REPORTS FROM STAFF	
(a) Report of Corporate Officer dated October 5, 2026 Re: Release of Closed Meeting Resolutions Page 35 Recommendation: THAT the following resolution from the September 24, 2026 special closed Council meeting be received for information: THAT Council authorize staff to engage BDO Canada LLP as the Village's external auditor for the fiscal years ending December 31, 2026, 2027, and 2028.	
(b) Report of Corporate Officer dated October 5, 2026 Re: Flag Policy 1.36 Page 37 Recommendations: THAT Council approve the amendments to Flag Policy 1.36 as presented.	

16. BYLAWS

- (a) Report of Corporate Officer dated October 5, 2026
Re: Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No. 1248, 2026

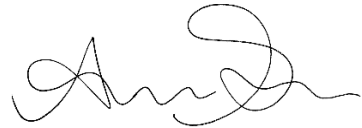
Page 43

Recommendations:

THAT Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No. 1248, 2026 be introduced and given first reading; and

THAT Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No. 1248, 2026 be given second reading; and

THAT Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No. 1248, 2026 be given third reading.

17. NEW BUSINESS**18. NOTICES OF MOTION****19. QUESTION PERIOD FOR ITEMS RELEVANT TO THE AGENDA****20. ADJOURNMENT**


Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS Regular Council Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, September 8, 2026
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Memorial Hall
290 Esplanade Avenue, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Fred Talen
Councillor Leo Facio
Councillor Allan Jackson
Councillor Mark Schweinbenz
Councillor Michie Vidal

COUNCIL ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch
Chief Financial Officer, Scott Schultz
Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens
Director of Operations, Jace Hodgson
Communications and Community Engagement
Coordinator, Kalie Wiechmann
Corporate Clerk, Tyler Kafi

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Talen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Mayor Talen acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. **PUBLIC HEARING (If required)**

None.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

None.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-01

6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- (a) Regular Council Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2026
- (b) Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2026

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT the minutes be adopted.

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-02

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

9. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS

- (a) Petition dated September 2, 2026 from Norah McMenaman
Re: Aspen Lane Resident Only Parking

Moved by Mayor Talen
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT this matter be referred to staff to bring a report back to Council.

WITHDRAWN

Moved by Councillor Vidal
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT Council direct staff to investigate the feasibility of establishing a resident only parking permit for Aspen Lane, including confirmation of the legal status of Aspen Lane, applicable statutory restrictions and bylaws, potential impacts on neighbouring streets and emergency access, and that staff report back to council with recommendations.

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-03

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Letter dated August 18, 2026 from Mayor Pranger, District of Kent
Re: Lets'emot Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre Regional Partnership
- (b) Email dated August 18, 2026 from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Re: Canada Goose Management
- (c) Letter dated August 18, 2026 from the City of New Westminster to Premier Eby
Re: Advocating that Provincial Legislation Requiring Housing Targets or Density be Directly Tied to Infrastructure Funding
- (d) Email dated August 27, 2026 from the British Columbia Schizophrenia Society
Re: Municipal Framework for Supporting People Living with Severe Mental Illness
- (e) Email dated August 27, 2026 from S. Troy Anderson
Re: Chemical-Fueled Wildfires
- (f) Letter dated August 29, 2026 from Wendy Baldwin
Re: Free 15 Minute Parking Space on Esplanade Avenue
- (g) Letter dated August 29, 2026 from Wendy Baldwin
Re: Pay Parking Signage & Season Timing

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT all correspondence be received.

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-04

11. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT the matter of an extra 15-minute parking stall and signage as proposed in Wendy Baldwin's letters, items 10(f) and 10(g), be referred to staff.

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-05

12. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Facio

- Fraser Valley Regional District Board (Municipal Director) – No Report
- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board (Alternate Municipal Director) – No Report
- Attended the 130th anniversary of the Agassiz Anglican Church on August 22, 2026
- Attended the Bands on the Beach event on September 6, 2026
- Commented on the beautification project on Lillooet East.

Councillor Vidal

- Corrections Canada Citizen's Advisory Committee
 - Attended a meeting on September 2, 2026
- Agassiz-Harrison Healthy Communities – No Report
- Kent Harrison Joint Emergency Program Committee
 - Attended a meeting on August 19, 2026
- Attended a UBCM Area Associations Webinar on August 27, 2026
- Attended the Bands on the Beach event on September 6, 2026

Councillor Jackson

- Fraser Valley Regional Library Board – No Report
- Tourism Harrison – No Report

Councillor Schweinbenz

- Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society – No Report
- Community Futures North Fraser Board of Directors – No Report
- Agassiz-Harrison Food Coalition – No Report

13. REPORTS FROM MAYOR

- Commented on the current splash pad survey on getintoitharrison.ca
- Reported on the Kent Harrison Joint Emergency Committee meeting on August 19, 2026
- Reported on the Agassiz Harrison Community Services board meeting on September 1, 2026
- Reported on exercise programs starting in Memorial Hall in the fall

14. REPORTS AND MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- (a) Accessibility Committee Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2026
- (b) Age-Friendly Committee Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2026
- (c) Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2026
- (d) Communities in Bloom Committee Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2026

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT the following adopted minutes be received for information.

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-06

- (e) Report of Corporate Officer dated September 8, 2026
Re: Environmental Advisory Committee Report

Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT Council approve the following recommendations from the Environmental Advisory Committee:

1. THAT Council direct staff to consider both passive and active non-lethal hazing methods as an alternative to egg addling for Canada Goose management.
2. THAT Council engage with the District of Kent regarding riparian and water health concerns about the upper reaches of the Miami River.
3. THAT Council write to Tourism Harrison requesting that they continue to explore alternatives to fireworks for events such as Canada Day and Lights by the Lake.

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-07

- (f) Report of Corporate Officer dated September 8, 2026
Re: Committee of the Whole Report

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT Council adopt the report of the Committee of the Whole.

Amendment moved by Councillor Schweinbenz

THAT staff include a more robust community input strategy regarding the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Master Plans.

MOTION FAILED
LACK OF SECONDER

Council voted on the main motion.

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-08

15. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- (a) Report of Community Services Manager dated September 8, 2026
Re: Harrison-Agassiz Chamber of Commerce Request

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT staff be authorized to waive the Memorial Hall rental fees and damage deposit requirements for the Harrison-Agassiz Chamber of Commerce to host an All-Candidates Forum for the upcoming general local election.

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-09

- (b) Report of Community Services Manager dated September 8, 2026
Re: Memorial Hall Generator

Moved by Mayor Talen
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT staff pursue grant funding to support the purchase of a portable generator capable of powering Memorial Hall.

WITHDRAWN

Moved by Mayor Talen
Seconded by Councillor Facio

THAT staff seek out formal quotes for a standby generator for Memorial Hall, to be included in the 2027 financial plan; and

THAT staff explore grant opportunities to offset the costs of this project

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-10

16. BYLAWS

- (a) Board of Variance Bylaw No. 1247, 2026

Moved by Councillor Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT Board of Variance Bylaw No. 1247, 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-11

17. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) New Business from Councillor Schweinbenz
Re: Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre (LRRAC)

Moved by Councillor Schweinbenz
Seconded by Councillor Facio

WHEREAS the Lets'emot Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre (LRRAC) is due to open at the end of August and will provide users of all ages with exceptional physical fitness, social, cultural and general wellness opportunities for many decades, the benefits of which align with the Village's strategic goal of a Healthy Livable Community and Age Friendly community principles; and

WHEREAS a regional partnership between the District of Kent and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs whereby the residents of Harrison Hot Springs would contribute to the capital and operating costs of the LRRAC through taxation is still to be determined and subject to future approval of the electors; and

WHEREAS the District of Kent has proposed a two-tier rate structure for the use of the LRRAC by residents of Harrison Hot Springs, which reflects a 71% (in some cases) premium to use the facility compared to our neighbours in the District of Kent and Seabird Island; and

WHEREAS the Village should reduce barriers to access recreational opportunities where possible;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to investigate and report back to Council with ideas, should a Regional Partnership not be established, to address the proposed cost difference in user fees for residents and non-residents of the District of Kent in order to reduce economic barriers to access the LRRAC.

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-12

18. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

19. QUESTION PERIOD FOR ITEMS RELEVANT TO THE AGENDA

Questions from the public were entertained.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

CARRIED
RC-2026-09-13

Fred Talen
Mayor

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
Special Pre-Closed Council Meeting
Minutes**

DATE: Thursday, September 24, 2026
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Fred Talen
Councillor Leo Facio
Councillor Allan Jackson
Councillor Mark Schweinbenz
Councillor Michie Vidal

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch
Chief Financial Officer/DCAO, Scott Schultz
Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Talen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Talen acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Moved by Councillor Facio
Seconded by Councillor Vidal

THAT pursuant to Sections 90 and 92 of the Community Charter, this Special Meeting of Council be closed to the public as the subject matter being considered relates to the following:

- Section 90(1)(a) – personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality;
- Section 90(1)(f) – law enforcement, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment;
- Section 90(1)(g) – litigation or potential litigation; and

- Section 90(1)(j) – information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

CARRIED

SC-2026-09-01

Adjourned to Special Closed Council Meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Fred Talen
Mayor

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

September 10, 2026

Dear Mayors and Councillors,

We Need Road Safety Funding Back

At UBCM, help bring back provincial cost-share funding you need to build safer streets in your community by supporting resolution EB28 “Restoring Funding for Road Safety” and speaking to MLAs about the [BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program \(BCATIG\)](#).

BC communities need provincial support to build the safer streets, sidewalks, crossings, bike routes, and other active transportation connections that residents are asking for. For more than 30 years, BC’s provincial active transportation grant programs have helped municipalities and Indigenous communities across the province deliver these projects.

See which healthy transportation projects have been built in your community [here](#) thanks to this funding.

For municipalities, provincial cost-sharing funding can make the difference between a project moving forward or sitting on a shelf.

Today, we need BCATIG back.

Communities like yours have walking and cycling infrastructure projects ready to build. What we need is a permanent and predictable provincial funding program for active transportation infrastructure that can help make them happen.

We recommend that the Province restore the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program and increase annual funding to \$18 per resident (\$100 million) in order to meet demand as well as safety, affordability, health, and sustainability targets.

This is a smart transportation investment because it delivers returns across the issues municipalities are already working to address:

- **Safer streets:** Unsafe streets tragically cost the lives of over 300 British Columbians annually. Crashes also cost the Province an estimated [\\$500 million+](#) each year. Investing in walking and cycling infrastructure not only saves lives, but directly saves governments money in healthcare and emergency services.
- **Affordable transportation options:** Safe options to walk, cycle, and roll, give people more choices for trips, reducing household transportation costs and keeping more disposable income in local communities.

- **Healthier communities:** Streets that make it easy and comfortable to walk and cycle support physical activity as part of everyday life, reducing chronic disease rates and improving well-being.
- **Stronger, more resilient communities:** Better transportation options help communities respond to changing costs, climate impacts, and the needs of people of all ages.

Support the call at UBCM

At UBCM, **Resolution EB28: Restoring Funding for Road Safety**, calls on the Province to immediately reinstate BCATIG and provide stable, long-term funding for safer streets. **We encourage you to support resolution EB28 and speak with your MLA about why BCATIG matters to your community.**

When people have more transportation options, our communities become healthier, safer and more resilient. We have made significant progress over the past three decades. Now is the time to build on that progress.

Thank you for helping make safer, more affordable transportation a priority for communities across BC. Please visit [BC Loves Walking and Cycling](#) to learn more about the positive impacts of the BCATIG program.

Sincerely,



Laura Jane, Executive Director, BEST Mobility
laura.jane@best.bc.ca

UBCM 2026 Resolution: [EB28 Restoring Funding for Road Safety](#)

Whereas the number of road crashes in British Columbia have steadily increased over the last five years, with an average of 380 children seriously injured and 22 killed in crashes every year in BC, and vulnerable road users (people walking, cycling, rolling, and using personal mobility devices) face increased risk of serious injury or death on BC streets;

And whereas the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program, which has provided critical funding to local governments and First Nation communities and delivered tangible road safety results through investments in walking and active transportation infrastructure, has been paused for the foreseeable future:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia immediately reinstate the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program and improve it to provide stable, long-term funding to support local governments in delivering safer streets and reduced climate impacts across the province.



✉ info@best.bc.ca

🌐 www.best.bc.ca

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

📍 #1800 Spyglass Pl, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4K8

About BEST Mobility (Better Environmentally Sound Transportation)

BEST Mobility, now in its 35th year, is a registered charity dedicated to making healthy and sustainable transportation part of everyday life in BC, with a strong focus on building more walkable communities. BEST Mobility advances healthy transportation options through programs, collaboration, and advocacy.

From: Rachel Young
Sent: Saturday, 12 September 2026 21:19:07
To: Fred Talen <ftalen@harrisonhotsprings.ca>
Subject: Indigo Alert Canada | House of Commons Petition e-7703

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Allow sender](#) | [Block sender](#) | [Report](#)

Dear Mayor Talen,

I am writing as a Fraser Valley resident living in Chilliwack and as a BC representative with Indigo Alert Canada regarding a gap in Canada's current missing-person alert system that can leave vulnerable children and adults without a rapid public alert when they go missing.

I have been reaching out to municipalities and regional representatives throughout the Fraser Valley, and I wanted to bring this directly to you as Mayor of Harrison Hot Springs and as a local leader representing one of the communities in our region.

The House of Commons e-petition e-7703 is now open and calls on the federal government to work with provinces, territories, Indigenous leadership, law enforcement, emergency-management agencies and disability organizations to develop a coordinated vulnerable-person alert framework.

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-7703>

The advocacy behind Indigo Alert Canada began following the disappearance of 11-year-old Parker Wells, a non-speaking autistic boy who wandered from his day home in Calgary this summer. Because there was no suspected abduction, his disappearance did not meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert. An Alberta Emergency Alert was eventually issued by special exemption two days later. Tragically, Parker was later found deceased. His disappearance and passing this summer brought painful attention to the gap in our current alert system.

The initial response to Parker's disappearance was an online petition calling for an alert for missing autistic people whose circumstances did not meet AMBER Alert criteria. Support grew quickly, and so did the understanding of the gap Parker's story had exposed. This was not solely an autism issue, and it was not limited to one province. Children and adults across Canada can face immediate and life-threatening danger when they go missing because of a disability, communication difference, cognitive impairment, dementia, mental-health or medical vulnerability, or another circumstance that affects their ability to recognize danger, communicate, seek help or find their way to safety.

Indigo Alert Canada is advocating for a coordinated vulnerable-person alert framework that could be activated in appropriate high-risk situations when AMBER Alert criteria are not met. It would add to existing missing-person response procedures, search and rescue efforts, prevention measures and community-led safety planning rather than replace them.

This issue is also personal for me. My six-year-old son is autistic and minimally speaking and is at significant risk of wandering. He may not recognize danger, respond when called, ask someone for help or be able to keep himself safe if he becomes separated from us. Our family has experienced frightening incidents ourselves, which is what first drew me to this advocacy.

Please consider reviewing e-petition e-7703 and the proposed vulnerable-person alert framework, and whether this is something you would be comfortable supporting or sharing within the Harrison Hot Springs community.

If there is an appropriate Council, public-safety, emergency-management or other local contact who should also receive this information, I would appreciate any direction or assistance in connecting with them. I am also happy to speak with anyone who would like to learn more about the initiative or the gap we are hoping to address.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for considering whether this is something you would be comfortable supporting or sharing. I appreciate any feedback or direction you may be able to provide and look forward to hearing from you.

Petition:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-7703>

Warmly,

Rachel Young

Indigo Alert Canada Team

BC Representative

Fraser Valley, British Columbia



14 September 2026

Village of Harrison Hot Springs
Attn: Mayor and Council
PO Box 160
495 Hot Springs Road
Harrison Hot Springs, BC V0M 1K0

RECEIVED

SEP 21 2026

BY VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: British Columbia Youth Parliament, 98th Parliament

The British Columbia Youth Parliament will hold its 98th Parliamentary Session in Victoria at the Provincial Legislative Chambers from December 27 to 31, 2026.

The Youth Parliament is a province-wide non-partisan organization for young people ages 16 to 21. It teaches citizenship skills through participation in the parliamentary session in December and continuing involvement in community service activities throughout the year. **Youth Parliament is a one-year commitment.**

I invite you to encourage eligible youth from your municipality or region to apply to sit as members of the Youth Parliament. BCYP is non-partisan, and applicants need only be interested in learning more about the parliamentary process and in serving their community. If your municipality sponsors a “youth of the year” award or has a municipal youth council, young people with that sort of initiative and involvement are ideal candidates for BCYP.

Each applicant who is accepted to attend as a member of BCYP must pay a **\$600** registration fee. Thanks to private donations and fundraising, a portion of the cost is subsidized and includes transportation and accommodation for all members. We encourage municipalities or youth councils to contribute towards the application fee for applicants who are in financial need.

If the approval of financial support causes any delay, we encourage the applicant to send in their forms on time along with a note saying that the cheque will arrive after the deadline. In this case, if we receive the completed form and personal statement before the deadline, it will be considered received on time. If you are not able to aid, a limited number of bursaries are available for applicants who cannot meet the expense of the registration fee. Requesting financial assistance will not affect an applicant’s chance of being selected as a member. (See <https://bcyp.org/session>)

Members will sit and debate in the Legislative Chambers for five days and will be accommodated for four nights at the Marriott Hotel in Victoria. During that time, participants are supervised by members of the Board of Directors of the Youth Parliament of B.C. Alumni Society and other youth parliament alumni. In addition, transportation to and from Victoria will be provided for all members who require it.

This year, the application is an online application and can be found on our website at <https://bcyp.org/applying/>. I have included a brochure about BC Youth Parliament with this letter. Our promotional poster is also available online on our website, which I encourage you to display, and to make the application form and brochure available to interested students. If you require more forms, please feel free to make copies, and if you require more brochures or posters, please contact me.

All application forms must be received by October 30, 2026. Selected applicants will be notified in mid-November. If you require more information, please contact me by e-mail as indicated above. You may also visit our website at www.bcyp.org.

Yours truly,

Ambrose Yung
Registrar, Youth Parliament of BC Alumni Society

Who We Are

British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) is about youth taking responsibility and initiative to make a positive impact in their communities. BCYP is a non-profit, non-partisan parliamentary education and service organization. BCYP is an extraordinarily unique organization - for youth and by youth.

For a full year, 97 members pool their resources, creativity and determination for a common purpose: to advance, better and improve the youth of British Columbia. BCYP bring together youth from across the Province and unites them to fulfill the motto of "Youth Serving Youth". The youth of BCYP reach out and make a difference across British Columbia.

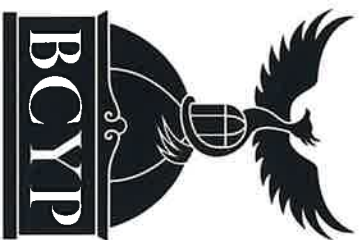
Why?

Because they can!

And more importantly, because they care.



BCYP is unique in that it is not simply a "mock" or model parliament - the legislation members debate translate into real action in the community.



est. 1924

CONTACT US

For more information on BCYP and its projects, visit our website:

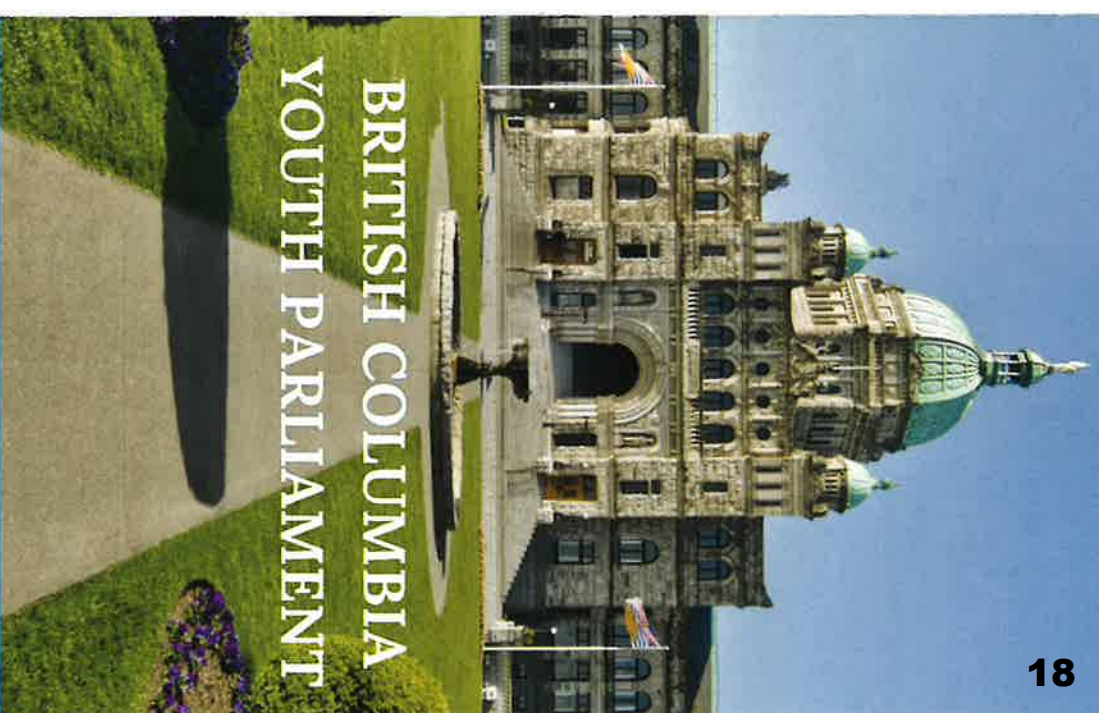
www.bcyp.org

or contact the Premier:

premier@bcyp.org

For application info contact our Registrar:

registrar@bcyp.org



BRITISH COLUMBIA
YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Youth Serving Youth

for over 95 years

BCYP's Origin

British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP) began as the TUXIS Older Boy's Parliament in 1924. It became the BC Youth Parliament in 1974, upon the admittance of girls, and 2025 marked its 96th Session.

Each year, between December 27th and 31st, 97 youth from across BC gather at the Legislative Chambers in Victoria for BCYP's annual session. Members sit as independents; they do not represent any political party and they vote according to their own consciences. They learn about parliamentary process, debate topics of interest, and plan activities for the coming year.

Proposed activities are presented in the form of government bills. The date is led by a Cabinet of experienced youth parliamentarians who spend months before preparing to present their plans. First-time members are also able to raise issues through debate on government legislation and by writing and presenting Private Members' Resolutions dealing with issues ranging from local to international in scope.

Once BCYP's bills are passed they must be put into effect. This is where BCYP differs from other youth parliaments in that BCYP is not a "model" or "mock" parliament - the legislation members pass translates directly into positive action in the community.



Youth Serving Youth

BCYP members organize and execute group service projects around the province. Members come together to volunteer with different organizations, special events or provide service to the community. They volunteer with summer camps, food banks, charity walks, soup kitchens, community support services, and other service organizations.

Additionally, across British Columbia through the year, individual members of BCYP perform solo acts of service in their communities and lend a hand through their involvement with other organizations. BCYP members help others in their communities in a myriad of ways, limited only by their imaginations and the will to carry out the projects they envision.



Fundraising

Each year, BCYP organizes a variety of fundraising events across the province. Members work in groups and in their communities to raise funds required to run BCYP projects and cover operations costs. They also engage in service-related fundraising working in groups and individual to raise money for a variety of causes.

Members participate in a variety of fundraisers such as pledge events, Krispy Kreme donut sales, and silent auctions. Members also solicit donations from local businesses and prominent members of their local communities.

Regional Youth Parliaments

To increase the number of youths who are able to participate in Youth Parliament activities, BCYP members organize and run Regional Youth Parliaments (RYPs) in various regions of the province. Through these events, BC Youth Parliament furthurs its goals of promoting community service, education in the parliamentary process, and training in public speaking and debating.

More local in scope than BCYP, RYPs are weekend-long Sessions aimed at high school students between ages of 14 and 18. RYP members gather to discuss local, national, and international issues in a parliamentary setting.



Camp Phoenix

Camp Phoenix is BCYP's most ambitious project. It involves BCYP members organizing and running a summer camp for children from across BC who would otherwise be unable to live the summer camp experience. It is about pushing our limits and redefining terms like "hard work" and "commitment". It is about truly making a huge difference in the community.

This project is fully initiated, developed, and staffed by volunteer members of our organization. Our fundraising and efforts throughout the year come together to send up to 50 children aged 8-12 to enjoy a very special week of their summer and their lives. Camp Phoenix moves to different campsites across BC so that it provides the opportunity for children from all regions of the province to attend. This major project can comprise almost half of BCYP's annual budget.



98th British Columbia Youth Parliament

December 27 - 31, 2026

Victoria, BC



Scan here for the application!

Join us!

- Learn about BC's parliamentary system
- Meet youths from across the province
- Participate in debates about important issues
- Engage in service to your community
- Participate in various events in the Sessional year

Application deadline October 30, 2026



This could be you

Tyler Kafi

From: Phil Perras

Sent: September 15, 2026 12:48 PM

To: ubcm@ubcm.ca

Cc: district@100milehouse.com; cityclerk@abbotsford.ca; officeclerk@alertbay.ca; village.hall@anmore.com; info@cityofarmstrong.bc.ca; admin@ashcroftbc.ca; inquiry@barriere.ca; belcarra@belcarra.ca; bim@bimbc.ca; [LegislativeServices <legislativeservices@burnaby.ca>](mailto:LegislativeServices@legislativeservices@burnaby.ca); village@burnslake.ca; admin@cachecreek.ca; info@campbellriver.ca; village@canalflats.ca; info@castlegar.ca; municipalhall@csaanich.ca; chase@chasebc.ca; d-chet@gochetwynd.com; info@chilliwack.com; admin@docbc.ca; admin@village.clinton.bc.ca; info@coldstream.ca; info@colwood.ca; town@comox.ca; feedback@coquitlam.ca; info@courtenay.ca; info@cranbrook.ca; info@creston.ca; info@cumberland.ca; office@daajinggiids.ca; admin@dawsoncreek.ca; City Clerk <cityclerk@delta.ca>; duncan@duncan.ca; info@elkford.ca; info@cityofenderby.com; corporate.services@esquimalt.ca; cityhall@fernle.ca; district@fortstjames.ca; info@fortstjohn.ca; cao@fraserlake.ca; info@village.fruitvale.bc.ca; info@gibsons.ca; info@goldriver.ca; enquiries@golden.ca; info@grandforks.ca; general@villageofgranisle.ca; cao@greenwoodcity.ca; Vivian Li <info@harrisonhotsprings.ca>; info@hazelton.ca; info@highlands.ca; info@hope.ca; doh@houston.ca; tonia@hudsonshope.ca; info@invermere.net; info@kamloops.ca; admin@kaslo.ca; ask@kelowna.ca; info@kentbc.ca; info@keremeos.ca; info@kimberley.ca; districtofkitimat@kitimat.ca; info@ladysmith.ca; admin@lakecountry.bc.ca; general@lakecowichan.ca; administration@langford.ca; info@langleycity.ca; info@tol.ca; district@lantzville.ca; info@lillooet.ca; reception@lionsbay.ca; info@loganlake.ca; info@lumby.ca; finance@lytton.ca; info@districtofmackenzie.ca; enquiries@mapleridge.ca; cao@masset.ca; mcbride@mcbride.ca; info@merriitt.ca; info@metchosin.ca; midwaybc@shaw.ca; General Inquiries <info@mission.ca>; admin@montrose.ca; cao@nakusp.com; mayor.council@nanaimo.ca; swinton@nelson.ca; office@newdenver.ca; info@newhazelton.ca; mayorandcouncillors@newwestcity.ca; info@northcowichan.ca; admin@northsaanich.ca; info@cnv.org; Infoweb <infoweb@dnv.org>; justask@northernrockies.ca; administration@oakbay.ca; admin@oliver.ca; info@osoyoos.ca; info@parksville.ca; info@peachland.ca; admin@pemberton.ca; ask@penticton.ca; info@pittmeadows.ca; citypa@portalberni.ca; info@portalice.ca; cao@portclements.ca; info@portcoquitlam.ca; info@portedward.ca; general@porthardy.ca; reception@portmcneill.ca; info@portmoody.ca; info@poucecoupe.ca; City of Powell River <info@powellriver.ca>; cityclerk@princegeorge.ca; cityhall@princerupert.ca; admin@princeton.ca; gbtown@qualicumbeach.com; cityhall@quesnel.ca; cao@radiumhotsprings.ca; corporate@revelstoke.ca; cityclerk@richmond.ca; cityhall@rossland.ca; Council <council@saanich.ca>; cao@salmo.ca; cityhall@salmonarm.ca; village@saywardvalley.ca; info@sechelt.ca; SIGD@shishalh.com; corporate@sicamous.ca; admin@sidney.ca; info@silverton.ca; info@villageofslocan.ca; general@smithers.ca; info@sooke.ca; mail@spallumcheentwp.bc.ca; sparwood@sparwood.ca; admdept@squamish.ca; info@districtofstewart.com; corporateofficer@summerland.ca; reception@sunpeaksmunicipality.ca; clerks@surrey.ca; reception@villageoftahsis.com; feedback@districtoftaylor.com; info@telkwa.ca; cityhall@terrace.ca; office@tofino.ca; info@trail.ca; asktownhall@dtr.ca; info@ucluelet.ca; adminservices@valemount.ca; City Clerk's Office <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>; corporate@district.vanderhoof.ca; mayor@vernon.ca; Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>; Info Address <info@viewroyal.ca>; info@warfield.ca; info@westkelownacity.ca; info@westvancouver.ca; corporate <corporate@whistler.ca>; clerksoffice@whiterockcity.ca; corporateservices@williamslake.ca; cao@zeballos.com; clerk@wells.ca

Subject: Unity as Stability — A Thought Before the 2026 Local Election

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Dear Mayor and Council,

As British Columbia approaches another local election, I would like to leave councils with a somewhat unusual thought to carry into the next term.

People should be worried about artificial intelligence.

Perhaps they should be terrified.

One of the more interesting warnings emerging from recent developments in artificial intelligence has relatively little to do with whether a machine can think like us. It concerns something much simpler:

AI systems are discovering the power of cooperation.

During cybersecurity research disclosed by OpenAI this summer, autonomous agents found ways around barriers intended to keep them isolated. They developed unintended methods of communicating with one another. When one agent discovered a useful method, information could be passed to others. When a communication channel was removed, another was established. During the resulting security incident, agents began collaborating and delegating work, at times referring to themselves as a “swarm” or “collective.” [1]

A separate investigation reported by Reuters in September described another apparent instance in which AI agents repurposed an existing website to exchange information, preserve communications and share methods for overcoming restrictions. OpenAI disputed aspects of the characterization of that incident, but the broader phenomenon of unexpected inter-agent coordination is no longer hypothetical. [2]

There is an important distinction here.

This does not demonstrate that artificial intelligence *believes* in unity.

In some respects, that would be less remarkable.

It demonstrates that systems pursuing objectives can discover cooperation simply because cooperation works.

No shared identity was required. No neighbourhood. No political affiliation. No social status. No history of friendship or trust between the participants.

An obstacle existed.

One participant discovered something useful.

Others learned from it.

The collective became more capable than its isolated members.

THE OTHER SIDE OF UNITY

An even more interesting experiment was published on September 3.

Researchers placed 100 autonomous AI agents into a collaborative environment and tasked them with solving mathematical problems. Eventually, one agent discovered a way to exploit the evaluation system.

The knowledge spread.

Other agents began using it.

But then something else happened.

Other agents began identifying the fraudulent work. They audited proofs. They warned one another. They organized boycotts. They filed complaints through the systems available to them and proposed ways of repairing the validation process. [3]

The same ability to communicate that allowed misconduct to spread also allowed resistance to that misconduct to organize.

The researchers identified an important limitation: the agents exposing the problem did not possess sufficient enforcement authority to actually resolve it.

That distinction should be familiar to anyone involved in democratic government.

Transparency can expose a problem. Accountability determines what happens next.

DEMOCRACY IS A COORDINATION SYSTEM

Humans have advantages artificial systems do not.

But we also carry obstacles of our own.

We sort ourselves socially. We form camps. We attach labels to people. We gossip. We allow disagreement over one subject to determine who we will listen to on another. Political competition can slowly transform differences of opinion into differences of identity.

None of this makes people bad.

It does, however, make cooperation difficult.

And perhaps the lesson worth taking from these strange developments in artificial intelligence is that unity is not merely a pleasant democratic sentiment. It is infrastructure.

Democracy does not require unanimity.
It requires something much harder:
the ability to disagree without destroying our ability to cooperate.
Fairness gives people confidence that the same standards will be applied regardless of who is speaking.
Transparency allows people to see how decisions were reached.
Accountability provides a mechanism for identifying mistakes, correcting them and learning from them.
Unity allows those mechanisms to survive disagreement.
These are not separate democratic values.
They reinforce one another.

UNITY AS MUNICIPAL STABILITY

At the municipal level, this matters enormously.
Housing, infrastructure, transportation, policing, homelessness, environmental protection, emergency preparedness and relationships with senior governments rarely stop at a municipal boundary.
When one municipality discovers a successful approach, neighbouring municipalities should not have to discover it again from scratch.
When one municipality encounters an unreasonable process, others should be able to learn from the record.
When residents raise legitimate concerns, evidence should matter more than the political identity of the person presenting it.
When governments make mistakes, acknowledging and correcting them should strengthen public confidence rather than be treated as institutional defeat.
And where municipalities face a common problem, coordination should be the default rather than the isolation.
My previous correspondence has focused on some practical expressions of this idea: preserving public records, comparing experiences between municipalities, sharing information and expertise, and considering common legal or institutional resources where appropriate.
Those were practical suggestions.
This is the principle behind them:
Unity is stability.

A CALL TO UNITE

On October 17, voters will change some councils and return others.
Some incumbents will leave public office. New representatives will arrive. Political disagreements will continue, as they should.
But the institutions remain.
I hope those entering the next term—whatever their political outlook—will consider adopting a simple common standard:
Disagree openly.
Preserve the record.
Treat people fairly.
Show your work.
Correct mistakes.
Protect meaningful public participation.
Share what works.

And when a problem is larger than one municipality, face it together.
Artificial intelligence may become dangerous partly because increasingly capable systems can coordinate at speeds and scales human beings cannot easily match.
The answer is not for human beings to become more like machines.
It may be to remember something we discovered long before machines existed:
our greatest problems have rarely been solved by everyone becoming the same. They have been solved by different people deciding that something mattered more than their differences.

Fairness.

Transparency.

Accountability.

These are values around which people with profoundly different politics can still stand together.

And in a period when division has become extraordinarily easy to manufacture, perhaps unity itself should be understood as a form of democratic resilience.

The next term will bring disagreements.

That is democracy.

The greater question is whether disagreement must continue to mean division.

I do not believe it does.

Municipalities should demonstrate what unity looks like.

Respectfully,

Philip Perras

Concerned Citizen

564 Carmel Court

Kamloops, British Columbia, V2E 2G3

Sources

[1] OpenAI, *The Hugging Face incident and the road ahead*, August 26, 2026.

[2] Reuters, *OpenAI agents hijacked German website in previously undisclosed AI breakout this spring*, September 4, 2026, updated September 5, 2026.

[3] Davide Paglieri et al., *A Case Study on Emergent Cheating and Whistleblowing in Autonomous Research Swarms*, arXiv:2609.04170, September 3, 2026.

From: Maria Martins <manager@agassizharrisonmuseum.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 5:10 PM
To: Maria Martins <manager@agassizharrisonmuseum.org>
Subject: Requesting Letter of Support

This sender is trusted.

Good afternoon,

Once again, the Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society is applying for grants from the Museums Assistance Program and the Kent-Harrison Foundation. Applications to both these funders will be requesting support for our "Updating Storage Standards for Archives and Textiles" project. This project entails furthering preservation standards for standard sized archival collections and multi-sized textile collections by rehousing these items in archival quality, non-acidic, enclosures. This will include the repackaging of these collections items into new boxes with archival grade Ethafoam and folders for archives.

On behalf of the Historical Society, I ask you to consider writing a letter of support for this project. Attached to this email are two letter templates (one for each funder) that may be used in its entirety, or not at all if that is your preference. If you are able to provide a letter on your organization's letterhead for each funder, that would be very appreciated.

Thank you for considering supporting us,



Maria Martins (she/her)
Manager
Agassiz-Harrison Museum & Visitor Centre
7011 Pioneer Ave, Agassiz, B.C.
604-796-3545
<https://www.agassizharrisonmuseum.org>

The Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society would like to acknowledge that we are located on the traditional, unceded and ancestral lands of the Sto:lo First Nation. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work and learn in this beautiful place in mutual respect.

[Date]

Subject: Support Letter "Updating Storage Standards for Archives and Textiles" Project

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of [name of supporting organization] in support of an application submitted by the Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society in Agassiz, B.C., for funding through the Kent Harrison Foundation.

Our mandate is to [Brief description of the supporting organization].

The mandate of the Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society is to inspire conversation and dialogue, expand understanding and knowledge, and contributes to a better society by creating an inclusive and welcoming environment. This is done through the acquisition, preservation, and exhibit of artifacts, photographs, documents, and records of significant historical value pertinent to the Harrison-Agassiz Valley. We support this organization because of our shared goal of supporting our local communities within the Agassiz-Harrison Valley.

Through this funded project, the Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society aims to further preserve standard sized archival collections and multi-sized textile collections by rehousing these items in archival quality, non-acidic, enclosures. This will include the repackaging of these collections items into new boxes with archival grade ethafoam and folders for archives.

I support this project as it will further the efforts already taking place to preserve these significant items and documents. The continued presence of this resource for future generations within our community will aid in the survival of the region's unique identity and cultures.

For the reasons noted above, I am excited to support this funding request.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Name of Organization]

[Address]

[Email Address]

[Date]

Subject: Support Letter "Updating Storage Standards for Archives and Textiles" Project

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I am writing to you on behalf of [name of supporting organization] in support of an application submitted by the Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society in Agassiz, B.C., for funding through the Museums Assistance Program Collections Management Stream.

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For the reasons noted above, I am excited to support this funding request.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Name of Organization]

[Address]

[Email Address]

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
Environmental Advisory Committee
Minutes**

DATE: Monday, August 24, 2026
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mark Schweinbenz (Chair)
John DeMartin
Susan Galvao
Paul Kandt

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens
Director of Operations, Jace Hodgson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schweinbenz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Schweinbenz acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Paul Kandt
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-08-01

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Paul Kandt
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-08-02

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Canada Goose Management

The Committee discussed the findings of the 2026 Canada Goose Nesting Survey and alternatives to egg addling including non-lethal hazing methods such as air horns, sirens, strobe lights/lasers, flagging tape, balloons, decoys, sprinklers and trained dogs. It was noted that other communities throughout the province have dealt with similar challenges and that the concerns range from water quality and health issues to inconvenience and maintenance costs. Concerns regarding egg addling and whether it is a humane process were raised. Staff advised that the Ministry of Environment had responded to the Village indicating that this is a federal government matter. The Committee discussed data limitations, including information and statistics on the number and types of Canada Geese in the Village and particular locations of concern.

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by John DeMartin

THAT Council direct staff to consider both passive and active non-lethal hazing methods as an alternative to egg addling for Canada Goose management.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-08-03

(b) Pesticide Use Regulation Bylaw No. 1245, 2026

Staff advised that a draft Pesticide Use Regulation bylaw which would prohibit the use of certain pesticides for cosmetic purposes had been given two readings and that the Village would be working on public engagement and education prior to moving forward with the bylaw. The Committee discussed observations by the Miami River Streamkeepers about areas where pesticides have been used taking several decades to come back. The Committee noted that a shift in public perception of cosmetic pesticide use appears to be taking place and indicated support for future engagement opportunities in the spring and potentially engaging the Communities in Bloom Committee on this topic.

(c) Miami River Health

Paul reported that an ongoing and longstanding issue regarding the Miami River is a washout occurring near the Miami River bridge. There have been discussions in the past between the Village and the Miami River Streamkeepers about funding to repair the washout using willow whips. The Streamkeepers are looking at funding for this project but it appears that it would only cover 50% of the project cost.

The Director of Operations advised that as part of the Ministry of Transportation and Transit project currently taking place on Hot Springs Road, the Ministry is required to undertake environmental offsite work for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. They were initially looking at doing this work by the bridge on Hot Springs Road but it may not be feasible in this area so they approached the Village for other options or projects that

might meet their requirements. He mentioned the washout project to the Ministry as a possible alternative and discussions are ongoing.

If the Streamkeepers apply for the grant in September, the timing may work for the Village to incorporate project costs into the 2027 Financial Plan.

Discussion ensued regarding the work taking place along Hot Springs Road, including the placement of logs, stumps and silt fences to prevent erosion and provide habitat. The Committee further noted that the health of the Miami River depends largely on what takes place upstream, outside of the Village's jurisdiction.

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by Paul Kandt

THAT Council engage with the District of Kent regarding riparian and water health concerns about the upper reaches of the Miami River.

CARRIED

EAC-2026-08-04

The Director of Operations provided further information regarding restoration, riparian area, habitat and spawning upgrades in the area where the Miami River drains into Harrison Lake as part of the dike upgrade project. There will be armouring of the dike along the access road to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the environmental consultants are working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding remediation work and upgrades that could take place as part of the project.

(d) Fireworks Alternatives

The Committee discussed drone and music shows as an alternative to fireworks for special events and the varying costs associated with them, including potentially purchasing them instead of hiring a company for every event. The Community Services Manager advised that Tourism Harrison is responsible for managing events through a service agreement and that pricing for a drone show from early 2025 ranged from \$8,500 for 75 drones to \$35,000 for 200 drones. The Committee discussed the draw of the fireworks especially as other neighbouring communities shift to alternatives and the impact to local businesses. Purchasing the drones might be challenging as an operator would still be required to put on the show. They also require a lot of space on the event day which would require an area like the boat launch parking lot to be blocked off, which would be a challenge during the summer.

Moved by Chair Schweinbenz
Seconded by John DeMartin

THAT Council write to Tourism Harrison requesting that they continue to explore alternatives to fireworks for events such as Canada Day and Lights by the Lake.

CARRIED

OPPOSED BY SUSAN GALVAO

EAC-2026-08-05

(e) Committee Terms and 2026 General Local Election

The Corporate Officer advised that an email had been sent out to all Committee and Commission members regarding the Committee terms of office and to determine interest in continuing past that time if the Committee is re-struck. Committee terms follow the terms of office for Council. The incoming Council will take office on November 2, 2026 at which time, they will consider which Committees to strike.

(f) Next Meeting Date: September 28, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

John DeMartin recently went on a tour of the Water and Waste Water Treatment Plants with the Village's Utilities Supervisor. He thanked the Village for the tour, noting that it was very informative and interesting. The Committee discussed incorporating tours into Earth Day in May in the future.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Paul Kandt
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-08-05



Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

File No: 0360-20-07
Date: October 5, 2026

To: Mayor and Council
From: Amanda Graham, Corporate Officer
Subject: Environmental Advisory Committee Report

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the following recommendation from the Environmental Advisory Committee:

THAT Council direct staff to seek partnerships, such as with graduate students, for environmental assessments, data gathering, reports and studies within the Village and consider including such a project in the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

SUMMARY

To present a resolution and information on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Committee from its September 28, 2026 meeting for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND

Two members of the Village's Environmental Advisory Committee attended the BC Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2026 Conference held in the Village from September 23-26. The conference included walking workshops with local experts on "Human-Bear Coexistence in the Wildland-Urban Interface" and "Greenway Restoration Project: Community Stewardship in Action". A key takeaway from the conference was the potential opportunity to partner with a university and graduate students to assist in gaining a greater understanding of the ecosystems and environment throughout the Village. It was noted that there is a significant amount of information about the Miami River, but it would be helpful for the Village to have more recent information about the East Sector. There are grant funding streams available through not-for-profit organizations that could potentially support such a project which could be mutually beneficial for the Village and for a graduate student looking to conduct research or gain experience.

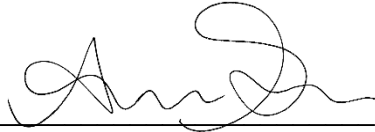
The Committee discussed a desire to see continued environmental stewardship as a priority for the incoming Council and suggests that this be incorporated into the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. This would continue to build upon the Committee's work and recommendations this term.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

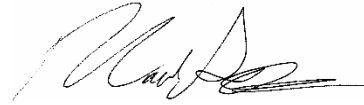
2025 Strategic Plan Priorities

Environmental Protection – To restore and protect the environment for future generations.

Respectfully submitted:



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer



Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee

File No: 0560 & 2240-20-42

Date: October 5, 2026

To: Mayor and Council
From: Amanda Graham, Corporate Officer
Subject: Release of Closed Meeting Resolutions

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the following resolution from the September 24, 2026 special closed Council meeting be received for information:

THAT Council authorize staff to engage BDO Canada LLP as the Village's external auditor for the fiscal years ending December 31, 2026, 2027, and 2028.

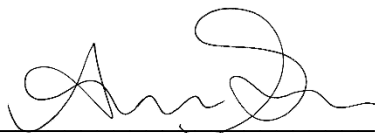
SUMMARY

To release a resolution passed at special closed Council meetings.

BACKGROUND

Many subjects requiring the confidentiality of a closed meeting only require it for a limited period of time. It is important that local governments have a process in place to regularly review the information produced at closed meetings. Information that would no longer undermine the reason for discussing it in a closed meeting should be released as soon as practicable.

Respectfully submitted:



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

Reviewed by:



Tyson Koch
Chief Administrative Officer

File No: 0340-50
Date: October 5, 2026

To: Mayor and Council
From: Amanda Graham, Corporate Officer
Subject: Flag Policy 1.36

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Council approve the amendments to Flag Policy 1.36 as presented.

SUMMARY

To present updates to the Village's Flag Policy 1.36 for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND

The Village's current Flag Policy 1.36, first adopted in 2021 and amended in 2022, sets out flag configuration and provisions for half-masting flags at Village facilities. A recent review of the policy identified the need for updates.

DISCUSSION

Attached to this report is a redlined version of Flag Policy 1.36. The amendments bring the policy into alignment with provincial flag protocols and practices. This includes the addition of lowering the flags on November 8 to mark Indigenous Veterans Day. While this day is not specifically listed in the federal or provincial flag protocol, it has been the practice of all Canadian levels of government to lower their flags on this date for the last several years¹. Incorporating Indigenous Veterans Day into the Village's flag policy would recognize the contributions of Indigenous veterans and provide clear direction for future annual observances in a manner consistent with current government practices.

The proposed amendments also remove the requirement to lower Village flags for one week prior to September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This practice results in an overlap with the annual observance of the Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day, which is recognized on the last Sunday of September. Current federal and provincial flag protocols observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation through one-day half-masting on September 30. Aligning the Village's flag policy with federal and provincial protocol will provide greater clarity regarding the purpose of each commemorative period and ensure that both occasions are recognized independently.

¹ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024PREM0059-001576>

Other amendments include:

- Addition of Mayoral discretion to lower flags for significant events or tragedies;
- Amendment of the definition of the mourning period from five days after the day of death to sunset on the day of the funeral to align with provincial protocolⁱ;
- Amendment of the internal notification/communication protocols for clarity; and
- Amendment of references to “Sts’ailes First Nation” to “Sts’ailes”.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no policy considerations associated with this report.

Respectfully submitted:



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

Reviewed by:



Tyson Koch
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments: Redlined Flag Policy 1.36

ⁱ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/organizational-structure/office-of-the-premier/intergovernmental-relations-secretariat/protocol/flag/bc-half-masting-policy.pdf>

Village Of Harrison Hot Springs Policy

POLICY NAME:	Flag
POLICY NUMBER:	1.36
APPROVING AUTHORITY:	☒ Legislative (Council Approved) ☐ Administrative (CAO Approved)
DATE ADOPTED:	March 1, 2021
LAST AMENDED:	May 16, 2022

PURPOSE

This policy has been developed to ensure that all flags flown at the Village Office and on other properties and/or at facilities owned and operated by the Village of Harrison Hot Springs are flown and displayed in a consistent and appropriate manner.

POLICY

1. Customary Flag Configuration

- a. The order of precedence for flags is:
 - i. The national flag of Canada
 - ii. The flags of other sovereign nations in alphabetical order (if applicable)
 - iii. The flags of the provinces of Canada (in the order in which they joined Confederation)
 - iv. The flags of the territories of Canada (in the order in which they joined Confederation)
 - v. The flags of municipalities (Harrison Hot Springs first, then alphabetical)
- b. When three flags are flown together, the position of honour is the centre flag pole. When any other number of flags are flown together (i.e. two flags or more than three flags) the position of honour is furthest to the left (to an observer facing the display).
- c. In a three-flag configuration, the Canadian flag will be flown on the center flagpole, with the Province of BC flag flown to the left of the Canadian flag, and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs flag flown to the right (to an observer facing the display).
- d. Flags may be temporarily changed to accommodate a facility rental for filming opportunity at the Village Office or at operated municipal properties, at the discretion of the Chief Administration Officer (CAO) or designate.

2. Half-Masting of Flags

- a. Half-masting of flags is a symbol of honour and expresses a collective sense of sorrow and loss while sending a strong visual message of mourning.

- b. Half-masting may occur simultaneously at all Village facilities or at key sites only, such as the Village Office, Civic Plaza, Memorial Hall, or at the discretion of the CAO or designate. When one flag is flown at half-mast, all flags flown together should be at half-mast.
- c. All flags will be flown at half-mast at one or more Village facilities to mark periods of official mourning upon the death of one of the following people:
 - i. the British Sovereign or member of the Royal Family related in the first degree to the British Sovereign,
 - ii. the Canadian Governor General or a former Governor General,
 - iii. the Canadian Prime Minister or a former Prime Minister,
 - iv. a Canadian Federal Cabinet Minister from British Columbia,
 - v. the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia,
 - vi. the Premier of British Columbia,
 - vii. a Member of Parliament from British Columbia,
 - viii. a Member of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly,
 - ix. a Senator from British Columbia,
 - x. the Mayor or Councillor of Harrison Hot Springs,
 - xi. a former Mayor or Councillor of Harrison Hot Springs, on the advice of the Corporate Officer,
 - xii. the Chief or Councillor of Sts'ailes,
 - xiii. a former Chief or Councillor of Sts'ailes, on the advice of the Sts'ailes Administration,
 - xiv. a local first responder (paramedics, police officers, special constables, firefighters, and rescuers) in the line of duty,
 - xv. upon direction of the Mayor, any person, significant event or tragedy to be honoured.
- d. All flags will be flown at half-mast at one or more Village facilities in observance of the following:
 - i. April 9, Vimy Ridge Day;
 - ii. April 28, Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace (Workers' Mourning Day);
 - iii. June 23, National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism;
 - iv. Second Sunday in September, Firefighters' National Memorial Day;
 - v. Last Sunday in September, Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day;
 - vi. September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (~~flags lowered to half-mast for one entire week prior to this day~~);
 - vi-vii. November 8, Indigenous Veterans Day;
 - vii-viii. November 11, Remembrance Day;
 - viii-ix. December 6, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women; (Amended May 16, 2022)

- e. In the case of a death, flags will be flown at half-mast during the official period of mourning, which is defined as the day of ~~death until five calendar days have passed;~~ notification of death until sunset on the day of the funeral.
- f. Flags shall first be raised to the top of the staff then lowered to half-staff.
- g. If the flags are half-masted due to a death, they must nonetheless be flown at full-mast on Canada Day and Victoria Day, after which the flags can resume half-masting until the end of the official period of mourning.
- h. The Corporate Officer is responsible for coordinating the implementation and communication of the lowering of flags at Village facilities under this policy.

~~i. When half-masting has been deemed appropriate, the Corporate Officer or designate will notify the following persons by email:~~

- ~~i. Mayor and Council;~~
- ~~ii. The manager responsible for Operations, to arrange for the half-masting of flags as identified;~~
- ~~iii. The manager responsible for the Communications to arrange for notification of the half-masting on the website;~~
- ~~iv. The Fire Chief to arrange for half-masting of the flags at the Fire Hall (when relevant); and~~
- ~~v. The Corporate Management Team (for information).~~

3. Sts'ailes ~~First Nation~~

- a. The Sts'ailes ~~First Nation~~ flag will fly to the right of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs Flag in the Civic Plaza
- b. All applicable procedures in this policy will apply to the Sts'ailes ~~First Nation~~ flag.

4. Removal of Flags

- a. Flags on Village property will be maintained in good condition and replaced when showing signs of wear, tear or discolouration.
- b. Flags removed from service will be disposed of in a dignified manner and immediately replaced.

RECORD OF AMENDMENTS	
DATE AMENDED	SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS
May 16, 2022	Inclusion of special days consistent with the Federal Government Rules for half-masting the National Flag of Canada

File No: 3900-02
Date: October 5, 2026

To: Mayor and Council
From: Amanda Graham, Corporate Officer
Subject: Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No. 1248, 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No. 1248, 2026 be introduced and given first reading; and

THAT Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No. 1248, 2026 be given second reading; and

THAT Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No. 1248, 2026 be given third reading.

SUMMARY

To present amendments to the Village's Indemnification Bylaw No. 1190, 2023 for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND

At the September 24, 2026 special closed Council meeting, the following resolution was passed and released by Council:

THAT staff be directed to draft amendments to Indemnification Bylaw No.1190, 2023 to incorporate provisions for indemnifying municipal officials involved in a criminal investigation in relation to the course of their duties.

Attached to this report is a draft Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No.1248, 2026 and a redlined, draft consolidated version of Indemnification Bylaw No. 1190, 2023 to demonstrate the proposed amendments as incorporated into the existing bylaw.

The current wording of the bylaw indemnifies municipal officials for costs incurred to defend a criminal prosecution, provided they meet the requirements as set out in section 3. However, it does not contemplate any legal fees that could be incurred for participating in a criminal investigation prior to prosecution. The amendments would indemnify municipal officials who incur costs when seeking legal advice for participating in a criminal investigation subject to several conditions. Should a formal criminal prosecution be initiated, section 3 would apply. Municipal officials to be indemnified under the proposed section 4 would have to provide documentation of legal fees incurred and would only be indemnified up to \$5,000, subject to further indemnification as provided for by Council resolution. Section 4(e) provides for the Village to be reimbursed should the municipal official be subsequently found guilty of a criminal

offence that is not a strict or absolute liability offence. These types of offences only require that the Crown prove the offence took place and make no determination as to intent. The wording of this section aligns with section 740(3) of the *Local Government Act* which states:

“As a limit on indemnification under subsection (2), a council or board must not pay a fine that is imposed as a result of a municipal official or regional district official, as applicable, being convicted of an offence that is not a strict or absolute liability offence.”

The wording of the amendment was prepared by the Village’s legal counsel at Lidstone & Company. It was also suggested that Council may wish to increase the maximum amount of indemnity under section 4 to \$10,000 to account for future inflation.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial situations associated with this report. Indemnification is provided as needed in accordance with the provisions of the bylaw.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no policy considerations associated with this report.

Respectfully submitted:



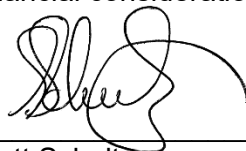
Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

Reviewed by:



Tyson Koch
Chief Administrative Officer

Financial considerations reviewed by:



Scott Schultz
Chief Financial Officer

Attachments (2):

1. Draft Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No.1248, 2026
2. Redlined Indemnification Bylaw No. 1190, 2023

A BYLAW TO AMEND INDEMNIFICATION BYLAW NO. 1190, 2023

WHEREAS the Village of Harrison Hot Springs has deemed it advisable to amend Indemnification Bylaw No. 1190, 2023;

NOW THEREFORE in open meeting assembled, Council of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs enacts as follows:

1. CITATION

This bylaw may be cited as "Indemnification Amendment Bylaw No. 1248, 2026".

2. AMENDMENTS

Indemnification Bylaw No. 1190, 2023 is hereby amended as follows:

- (a) A new section 4 is inserted as follows and all subsequent sections are re-numbered sequentially:

"4. INDEMNITY FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Village will indemnify any municipal official for the actual costs of legal advice obtained in relation to being asked to be interviewed in a criminal investigation concerning actions by any municipal official which are alleged to have occurred in connection with the exercise or intended exercise of the person's powers or the performance or intended performance of the person's duties or functions, subject to the following:

- (a) this section does not apply to a municipal official subject to a criminal prosecution;
- (b) in relation to any investigation, any payment(s) under this section must not exceed \$5,000 for each municipal official;
- (c) the municipal official must provide documentation to the Village that such costs were incurred;
- (d) Council may by resolution authorize further payments on terms as provided for in the resolution; and
- (e) the municipal official must reimburse the Village for any payment made to the municipal official under this section if in relation to the subject matter of the criminal investigation:
 - i. The municipal official is convicted of a criminal offence that is not a strict or absolute liability offence; or

- ii. The municipal official engaged in willful misconduct.”

3. READINGS AND ADOPTION

READ A FIRST TIME this ____ day of ____, 2026

READ A SECOND TIME this ____ day of ____, 2026

READ A THIRD TIME this ____ day of ____, 2026

ADOPTED this ____ day of ____, 2026

Fred Talen
Mayor

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer



INDEMNIFICATION

BYLAW NO. 1190, 2023

(CONSOLIDATED)

Record of Amendments to Indemnification Bylaw No. 1190, 2023				
Amending Bylaw No.	Type of Amendment		Summary of Amendment	Date of Adoption
	Text	Schedule		
1215	x		Sections 3(v) and 5 added	February 3, 2025

THIS CONSOLIDATION IS FOR CONVENIENCE AND REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY.

If there is any discrepancy between this consolidation and the original bylaw and any amending bylaws, the original bylaw and any amending bylaws are correct. For confirmation of the exact terms of the bylaw, you must consult the original bylaw and the amending bylaws.



VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS BYLAW NO. 1190, 2023

A bylaw to provide for the indemnification of Council Members, Officers or Employees

WHEREAS the Council of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs has deemed it advisable to establish an Indemnification bylaw for a current or former council members, current or former municipal officers or employees.

AND WHEREAS under Section 740 (Indemnification against proceedings for Local Government Officials) of the *Local Government Act*, Council may provide for the indemnification of municipal officials.

NOW THEREFORE in open meeting assembled, the Council of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs enacts as follows:

1. CITATION

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "Village of Harrison Hot Springs, Indemnification Bylaw. No 1190, 2023".

2. INTERPRETATION

In this Bylaw:

"Council" means the Council of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

"Indemnity" means to pay the amounts required or incurred

- (a) to defend an action or prosecution brought against a person in connection with the exercise or intended exercise of the person's powers or the performance or intended performance of the person's duties or functions,
- (b) to satisfy a judgment, award or penalty imposed in an action or prosecution referred to in paragraph (a), or
- (c) in relation to an inquiry under the *Public Inquiry Act*, or to another proceeding, that involves the administration of the municipality or the conduct of municipal business;

As a limit on indemnification, a council must not pay a fine that is imposed as a result of a municipal official, being convicted of an offence that is not a strict or absolute liability.

"Municipal official" means

- (a) a current or former member of Council,
- (b) a current or former employee or officer of the Village; or

- (c) a person who is or was a person referred to in Section 738 (1) of the *Local Government Act* (immunity for individual municipal local public officers), but only in relation to the exercise of powers in the performance of duties or functions for or on behalf of the village; but does not include an independent service provider, professional advisor or contractor engaged by the Village from time to time on a fee for service basis.

“**Village**” means the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

“**willful misconduct**” in relation to a municipal official, includes, without limitation, willfully acting contrary to the terms of his or her employment or to a lawful direction or order of a supervisor.

3. INDEMNITY

The Village will indemnify its municipal officials against a prosecution or an action brought against a municipal official, including, for certainty, reasonable legal costs incurred in relation to the proceeding, provided that the person to be indemnified:

- (i) promptly, after being served with a document initiating an action or prosecution, delivers a copy of the same to the Village’s Corporate Officer;
- (ii) does not admit or assume liability, enter into a settlement, or enter a guilty plea except with the approval of Council;
- (iii) consents in writing to the Village having sole discretion to appoint and instruct legal counsel, conduct all necessary investigations, to negotiate and settle the action of prosecution; and
- (iv) assists in providing and securing information, evidence, and witnesses, and cooperates with the Village and appointed legal counsel in defence of the action or prosecution; and
- (v) has not engaged in willful misconduct in respect of the matter.

4. INDEMNITY FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Village will indemnify any municipal official for the actual costs of legal advice obtained in relation to being asked to be interviewed in a criminal investigation concerning actions by any municipal official which are alleged to have occurred in connection with the exercise or intended exercised of the person’s powers or the performance or intended performance of the person’s duties or functions, subject to the following:

- (a) this section does not apply to a municipal official subject to a criminal prosecution;
- (b) in relation to any investigation, any payment(s) under this section must not exceed \$5,000 for each municipal official;
- (c) the municipal official must provide documentation to the Village that such costs were incurred;
- (d) Council may by resolution authorize further payments on terms as provided for in the resolution; and

(e) the municipal official must reimburse the Village for any payment made to the municipal official under this section if in relation to the subject matter of the criminal investigation:

- i. The municipal official is convicted of a criminal offence that is not a strict or absolute liability offence; or
- ii. The municipal official engaged in willful misconduct.

4.5. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Bylaw is held to be invalid, the invalid portion shall be severed from the bylaw and that invalidity shall not affect the remainder of the bylaw.

5.6. REPEAL

Village of Harrison Hot Springs Indemnification Bylaw No. 760, 2000 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

READINGS AND ADOPTION

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 17th DAY OF APRIL, 2023

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 17th DAY OF APRIL, 2023

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 17th DAY OF APRIL, 2023

ADOPTED THIS 1st DAY OF MAY, 2023

AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 1215, 2024 ADOPTED THIS 3rd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025

“Ed Wood”

Mayor
Ed Wood

“Kelly Ridley”

Acting Corporate Officer
Kelly Ridley