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For Immediate Release

City of Nelson to receive 100% funding (up to \$6 Million) for Water Master Plan Supplementary Sources Project; Project made possible thanks to Federal Gas Tax Fund

Nelson, BC - The City of Nelson ***Water Master Plan Supplementary Sources*** project was identified as a high priority in the City's recently updated Water Master Plan. This project will allow the City to funnel all of its existing water sources to the Mountain Station Reservoir where all residential water will receive ultra violet (UV) treatment. In addition to providing UV treatment to all of the city's water, this project will act as a building block towards securing back-up water sources in the near future.

The City completed the first Water Master Plan back in 2006. The recent update of the plan highlights the significant progress the City has made to upgrading and improving all facets of its water infrastructure including source, treatment, and distribution. This has not only resulted in improved water quality, but has led to a dramatic reduction in the amount of water that we are using, even with population growth.

Highlights of the updated Water Master Plan include:

- The City has replaced 24.2 km or 34% of its old water mains (including all of the galvanized) over the past 10+ years.
- By using its own forces and doing its own engineering, the City has delivered these projects at up to 50% less than was estimated – which is a savings of over \$10,000,000.
- Water usage has dropped dramatically from a winter maximum flow of 8.7 mega litres per day in 1996 to a winter maximum flow of 6.8 mega litres per day in 2017.
- It reaffirms that Five Mile Creek should remain the City's primary source and identified other options for secondary/backup sources.
- As a medium-term solution to long-term water supply, the plan identified that the City should complete its emergency source project of pumping water out of Kootenay Lake as this option could also act as a secondary water source when required.

The City of Nelson Water Master Plan Supplementary Sources project is a \$6,000,000 project and is 100% funded by the Federal Gas Tax Fund.

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

Quotes:

Mayor Deb Kozak, City of Nelson

“Councils, past and present, continue to make infrastructure renewal a high priority. Our investment in sound planning played a major role in obtaining this substantial federal grant which will keep us on track with upgrades to our water infrastructure.” says Mayor Kozak. “In addition, this Council has committed additional funding toward road repair and facilities renewal.”

Michelle Mungall, MLA for Nelson-Creston and B.C. Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

“With the threat of drought, wildfires and climate change, protecting our drinking water is essential,” said Michelle Mungall, MLA for Nelson-Creston and B.C. Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. “This project will go a long way to addressing these issues of our time. Thank you to the City of Nelson for prioritizing our drinking water and securing funding for this project through a partnership with all levels of government.”

Director Wendy Booth, President, Union of BC Municipalities

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

Links

To see all the projects funded under this current intake, visit <https://news.gov.bc.ca/16553>

To learn more about the federal Gas Tax Fund visit: <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/gtf-fte-eng.html>.

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