



Press Release

Automated, Self-Cleaning Public Washrooms Arrived in Valemount

The Village of Valemount is excited to provide a cleaner, safer public washroom experience in Centennial Park using smart, automatic technology.

Village of Valemount, November 5, 2021— On Wednesday, October 27, the new automated, self-cleaning public washrooms were delivered to Valemount by RECTEC Industries and Urbenblu. The self-cleaning and sanitation cycles have been tested and are fully functional. The new self-cleaning washroom facility will be open for residents and visitors in the spring of 2022 after the connection to the power grid is completed, the landscaping around the building finished, and the wheelchair ramps are installed.

Built with public safety and resource management in mind, the new washroom facility boasts automatic water and sanitation features that control water consumption and disinfect the space between uses. These features limit the risk of contamination while also reducing operating and maintenance costs. Open to the public year-round, the new washrooms are centrally located and wheelchair accessible.

“The COVID-19 pandemic shows the importance of having automated, self-cleaning public toilets with easy access to serve residents as well as travellers on Highway 5 who utilize our parks and recreation facilities and outdoor spaces,” says Mayor Owen Torgerson.

In addition to advanced function and technology in comparison with traditional public washroom facilities, the Canadian-made washrooms by Quebec company Urben Blu are built for extreme weather and follow the guidelines of the OCP, mountain community style with steep roof, rock base and natural colors. The facility features vandal resistant materials and construction both inside and out with a modern and enhanced programmable safety features ensuring a robust amenity for years to come.

To fund the progressive project, the Village of Valemount was approved for a \$327,860 grant through the *Tourism Dependent Community Fund*, delivered by the *Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport*. The grant covers 80 percent of the costs to purchase and install the new self-cleaning public washrooms. Contributions to this project were also made by the Columbia Basin Trust and the Northern Development Trust.

Valemount worked closely with British Columbia’s RECTEC Industries, a park amenity supplier, to plan, deliver and install the smart washrooms, with local contractors providing the demolition of the previous washrooms, as well as site preparation, water, sewer and power connections.

Located on 4th Avenue and Dogwood Street, the new washroom facility is close to the electrical vehicle charging station and downtown retail area. With easy access to local attractions and restaurants, the self-cleaning, smart washrooms are a perfect complement to Valemount's vibrant and active community of locals and visitors alike.

For more information, please contact Silvio Gislimberti, Economic Development Officer, at the Village of Valemount 250.566.4435.

<https://valemount.ca/>

About RECTEC:

RECTEC is fanatical about creating amazing public spaces! Since 1987 RECTEC has helped Western Canada bring thousands of community spaces to life with exceptional park brands. Supplying the world's best playground equipment, site furnishings, outdoor fitness equipment, sport recreation amenities, shade and shelters, and safety surfacing — our team of experts is ready to take on any project. Learn more: <https://www.rectecindustries.com/>

About Urben Blu:

Urben Blu is a manufacturer of automatic, self-cleaning smart public toilets. Reinventing the public washroom experience, Urben Blu toilets are customizable, delivered ready-to-install, and feature advanced technology that improves overall sanitation and conserves water and electrical resources. Available in a wide variety of modern and traditional styles, in single or double toilet format, the washrooms use the highest quality vandal-resistant materials and finishes and feature programmable technology proven to keep communities safe. Learn more: <http://www.urbenblu.com/>