

Valemount Council Strategic Priorities 2023 - 2027

March 2023

Village of Valemount



VILLAGE OF
VALEMOUNT

Let the mountains move you

Valemount Strategic Planning

Overview

On February 1st and 2nd of 2023, the Village of Valemount Municipal Council and Senior Staff participated in a Strategic Planning exercise held in the municipal offices of Valemount with the assistance of Doug Fleming, as facilitator.

The exercise began with a look back at the invaluable community strategic planning initiatives that had been held in the past, including: the 2013 Integrated Community Sustainability Plan; the 2013 - 2017 Corporate Strategic Plan; and Council's Strategic Priorities Plan for 2019 - 2022.

Issues of greatest importance, or those viewed as most imperative, were discussed and prioritized by the members present and divided into categories. Specific Goals and Objectives were broken down into High (Immediate); Medium (2 - 3 years); and Long Term (3 - 4 years or longer) completion targets. Actions to advance these goals, objectives and tasks were developed and this work will be ongoing at the staff level in line with Councils defined goal timelines.

"The 2023 - 2027 Strategic Priorities Plan will serve to guide Council towards completion of those matters of most importance to the community."

The 2022 Municipal Election was unprecedented. The mayor and two (2) council members were chosen by acclamation, a first in our community's history. Subsequently, two (2) additional community members were appointed to serve on the Valemount Council. The normal process of electioneering, public forums and voter input into community issues did not take place in the same fashion as past elections.

However, with historic understanding and knowledge of issues pressing to the community, Council and Staff were able to construct a Strategic Priorities Plan for the balance of the term of the current Council. Along with the multitude of current issues facing the community of Valemount, the 2023 - 2027 Strategic Priorities Plan will serve to guide Council towards completion of those matters of most importance to the community. These goals and objectives will be balanced with the many other ongoing services the Village provides, as well as those opportunities that are yet to arise.

Council is pleased to share with you our vision for the next few years. We need you to share your feedback to make sure we have this right for today and tomorrow. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Valemount Council Strategic Priorities: 2023-2027

COMMUNICATION

Communication is critical to the success of all activities and remains a strategic priority of Council. The Village will enhance communication with the community and beyond.

- Continue to enhance the Villages external and internal communications to deliver timely, accurate and engaging information on multiple platforms and mediums.
- Increase communication between the Village and our wide array of partners to increase collaboration and further develop relationships.
- Monitor and follow through on opportunities for advocacy to other orders of government around local issues.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Fiscal responsibility requires prudent planning and policies to enhance community health and achieve the organizations full potential. The Village aims to ensure it has the ability to take advantage of grant opportunities when they arise and endeavors to adopt technologies that reduce its operating costs and improve residents' health through a cleaner environment.

- Build reserves and plan for the full life cycle of Village assets.
- Take advantage of grant opportunities that align with Council's strategic priorities.
- Support periodic organizational review to ensure that the resources available and desired services are well aligned.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Village recognizes that the health of the Community and its residents is of utmost importance and is affected by many different factors. The Village seeks to enhance community health by addressing current issues, and planning for future foreseeable situations.

- Continue to address health concerns related to level of services and our ability to respond to environmental concerns such as natural disasters and poor air quality.
- Proactive Bylaw enforcement and public education to address bylaw infractions that negatively affect the enjoyment of community life.
- Build redundancy and capacity in the infrastructure that supports daily life and is available during emergencies.

DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSIFICATION

The Village recognizes that proper planning is critical to the health of the community. While recognizing the needs of individuals change throughout life, the Village endeavors to apply legislation consistently and promote good planning principles for the benefit of the community.

- Continue to strengthen Village bylaws and policies to meet current and future needs.
- Promote a diverse economy and the organizations and business that make up our local networks; including our municipal corporations.
- Promote Valemount as a unique, ready to support, partner, and regulate routine and significant developments.

Valemount Council Strategic Priorities: 2023-2027



Item	Priority	Action Plan
COMMUNICATIONS		
<p>Explore tools to help Council quantify information and enhance decision making considerations.</p>	<p>High (1-2 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and consider implementing Cost Benefit Tools to help enhance decision making at the Council table and promote additional thorough review during the report writing process.
<p>Strive for excellence in external communications.</p>	<p>High (1-2 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the ways in which Council and the Village communicate with the community. Continue to improve media products and take advantage of opportunities to report on items being undertaken by the Village.
<p>Explore ways to enhance community engagement in the democratic process and give opportunities to youth for civic engagement.</p>	<p>High (1-2 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the School District and local teachers to establish a Student Council and work to identify and share opportunities for local youth to learn more about the orders of government and their functions.
<p>Enhance the community's ability to engage in the democratic process by modernizing council chambers.</p>	<p>Medium (2-3 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the addition of information technologies and audio-visual equipment that would allow for greater remote viewing, enhanced quality of transmission and provide observers the ability to better engage with the business of Council.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

<p>Protect and advance community health.</p>	<p>High (1-2 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to move forward on community health initiatives. • Maintain support for the Village of Valemount Clean Air Task Force. • Support organizations working on food security and seek out new partnerships in this area. • Promote the use of local recreation opportunities as a facet of community health and enhance the Villages active transportation infrastructure to make the community more walkable, age-friendly and accessible. • Remain active on health-related matters through committees of Council and external appointments, including appointing a Northern Health local liaison, Northern Medical Programs Trust Member and continuing the Clean Air Task Force as a standing Committee of Council.
<p>Promote active transportation paths.</p>	<p>High (1-2 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review processes to ensure developments are taking on their fair share of construction costs for these communal works. • Investigate and consider implementing a set of standards for different areas / types of pathways within the community to guide this construction.
<p>Develop well thought out sidewalks and trails.</p>	<p>High (1-2 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider investing in sidewalks that contribute to active transportation and make the community more accessible while using trails and other means as appropriate.
<p>Promote community health by addressing aged critical infrastructure.</p>	<p>High (1-2 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the replacement, upgrade and decommissioning of various parts of the Village’s sewage infrastructure, specifically, the lift stations at Dogwood Street, Ash Street and 17th Avenue.

Enhance community safety.	High (1-2 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an active Bylaw enforcement presence and build capacity in this department. • Continue the strong working relationship between the Village, RCMP, and other regulators to address areas of mutual responsibility and interest.
Enhance emergency preparedness and ability to respond to emergencies.	High (1-2 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek out partnerships with local agencies to work toward a Fire Smart, or similar, designation for the Village of Valemount, as an independently verified measure of the community's success in preparing for potential emergencies.
Build redundancy in the communities' water supply.	Medium (2-3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support an exploration program to determine the feasibility of ground water wells as a supplement to the current municipal water system.
Advance trail developments that connect neighborhoods.	Medium (2-3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to advance trail systems that connect the community and provide access to attractions and commerce.
Enhanced medical services and facilities.	Medium (2-3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to promote Valemount and attract those considering development that would support greater community health / synergies with the medical system. • Enhance communication with Northern Health to better understand needs / remain informed on latest developments and share opportunities. • Promote the leveraging of current services to attract satellite options, such as office sharing, to bring in specialists and other services not currently found in the community. • Maintain and demonstrate support for the possible expansion of the current clinic.
Take steps to address common impacts on community health.	Medium (2-3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to address poor air quality through the work of the Clean Air Task Force. • Step up enforcement, incentives and education around campaigns related to air quality including anti-idling and wood stove exchange.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

<p>Adopt climate adaptation considerations into the Villages financial planning.</p>	<p>High (1-2 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing budgets through the lens of climate adaptation asking how we anticipate those amounts to be affected in the coming years.
<p>Trans Mountain Expansion Project community legacy.</p>	<p>High (1-2 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the companies who make up the Trans Mountain Expansion Project to create a positive and lasting legacy through projects within the community.
<p>Consider the asset management strategy and future redevelopment of ageing municipal buildings.</p>	<p>Medium (2-3 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review planning for the future purposes of the public buildings and lands along Gorse Street including the previous Municipal Office, Community Hall and Public Works Yard. Investigate grant options and pursue public input to determine the communities' vision for these spaces.
<p>Continue to build reserves.</p>	<p>Long (3+ years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and consider modifying planned expenses to more expediently build reserves to existing targets. Review tax and utility rates to ensure an appropriate balance is being struck between the immediate needs of the community and the long-term costs of managing the community. Continue advocacy to other orders of government on the need to support local government in recognition of increasing regulatory pressure and downloading of responsibilities.

DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSIFICATION

Facilitate housing development.	High (1-2 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help facilitate connections that increase the likelihood of housing starts. • Take on a leadership role in advocating to other orders of government and promoting Valemount as a place to live, work, play and build.
Advance economic diversification and services.	Medium (2-3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to attract additional community services and businesses while supporting those already here.
Enhance Village Office front desk service and infrastructure through physical improvements.	Medium (2-3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore a purpose-built service counter and accessibility review for the Village Office's public spaces to ensure all residents are able to receive high quality, accessible services.
Determine location for future cemetery.	Medium (2-3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for the commissioning of a new cemetery as the current space will eventually reach capacity.
Explore opportunities for Airport expansion.	Medium (2-3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to seek grant funding to expand the utility of the municipal airport for current and anticipated uses.
Support place making by enhancing public spaces.	Medium (2-3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform potential partners about the Villages interest in creating a serviced space for vendors, artists and the broader community to gather.
Pursue partnership opportunities with the region's First Nations.	Medium (2-3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance reconciliation efforts with First Nations who have made claim to the area. • Explore partnership around geothermal, service expansions, recreation enhancements, and civic infrastructure projects, as well as new opportunities arising.
Explore the potential for geothermal opportunities.	Long (3+ years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue seeking opportunities to diversify the community's economic streams and energy infrastructure especially in relation to geothermal.

<p>Support and remain active in the Resort Municipality Initiative.</p>	<p>Long (3+ years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain support for, and participation in, the Resort Municipality Initiative. • Continue to support local organizations through the economic tools provided within the Resort Municipality Initiative.
<p>Explore bringing core infrastructure to un-serviced and underserviced private lands within the municipality.</p>	<p>Long (3+ years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas and conduct studies to plan for future infill and growth within the municipal boundaries.
<p>Explore bringing core infrastructure to un-serviced and underserviced public lands within the municipality and preparing these spaces for further development.</p>	<p>Long (3+ years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas and conduct studies to plan for future infill and growth within the municipal boundaries.

Signed by Village of Valemount Council:

Mayor, Owen Torgerson

Date:

Councillor, Hollie Blanchette

Date:

Councillor, Hugo Mulyk

Date:

Councillor, Donnie MacLean

Date:

Councillor, Pete Pearson

Date: