

**VILLAGE OF  
VALEMOUNT  
Annual Report  
2022**

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**Prepared June 2023**

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**Village of Valemount**



**VILLAGE OF  
VALEMOUNT**

*Let the mountains move you*

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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# MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TORGERSON

I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report on behalf of the Village of Valemount.

Over the last year the strategic priorities of Land Use Planning & Development Support, Community Health, Fiscal Responsibility and Communication have guided the Village.

The Village recognizes that the health of the Community and its residents is of the utmost importance and is affected by many different factors. The Village strives to enhance community health by addressing current issues, and planning for the future. The Clean Air Taskforce, in collaboration with the province, continues to advance mitigative actions around unnecessary idling. As well, planning for a geothermal future continues. Work to establish a community-wide geothermal district heating project is on-going and the first phase of this work, delineation of the resource (to determine the resource and arrive at a go or no-go decision) continues to mature. This phase includes non-invasive studies and drilling test wells to determine resources at depth. If successful, the future connection to municipal and regional facilities to lessen the reliance of propane, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through services to the commercial sector (hotels/motels, etc.) and eventually the opportunity to add geothermal heat exchange to our Wood Smoke Reduction Program may all exist. This is a future that the Village is invested in creating.

Fiscal responsibility requires prudent planning and is vital to achieving your local government's full potential. The Village worked hard to ensure it had the ability to take advantage of grant opportunities when they arose and endeavors to adopt technologies that reduce operating costs and improve resident's health. Water and sewer financial reserves (Council may only use these funds for this purpose) have had healthy increases due to Trans Mountain utilizing both the sewage receiving and bulk water supply stations. Council has approved the installation of two new lift stations to assist with the construction of the new seniors independent-living facility in the East Ash area as well as full

decommissioning and replacement of the Dogwood lift station: Dogwood being the one "red-blip" highlighted in the Asset Management Plan as a priority for replacement.

The Village continues to recognize that proper planning is critical to the health of the community. We are proud to say that robust professional development opportunities are in place for both members of council and the entire staff team. This helps with succession planning and works to ensure that top quality professionals are available to residents for a high level of service delivery. While recognizing the needs of individuals change throughout their life, the Village endeavors to apply legislation consistently and promote good planning principles for the benefit of the community. We partnered with BC Access to conduct accessibility assessments from curbside issues, to doorways, to parkland and trails. Local non-government organizations continue to play a key role in ensuring active transportation and community services options remain top-of-mind and the Village will remain diligent in enhancing those relationships. The Valemount Community Forest and Industrial Park continue to diversify within the local resource based economy (forestry) and are successfully promoting non-extractive and other sectors as well. This is being done while improving education and recreation options within the region. The Village has also partnered with Simpcw First Nation to discuss what a partnership to expand the Valemount Airport (CAH4) could look like. The thought is for CAH4 to act as a regional transportation hub for visitors to Jasper National Park as well as residents while providing increased medivac and emergency opportunities.

Communications is critical to the success of all operations, thus the publication of this Annual Report. The Village has sought other ways to enhance communications with the community we serve; to engage, to collaborate and to work towards reconciliation with our First Nation partners; as well great effort has gone into liaison with organizations and

senior governments on initiatives that will improve relations and better the community. For emergencies, Voyent Alert remains the go-to cellular or desktop application right alongside your 72-hour emergency kit. Effective communication flowing from the Village is even more crucial during a disaster. Stay in the know, and subscribe to our Voyent notifications to stay current.

In 2022, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention was hosted by the Resort Municipality of Whistler. It was the first time this set of meetings returned to an in-person format since the start of the pandemic. Members of Council attended four days of workshops, learning sessions, networking and met with provincial Cabinet Ministers regarding several topics related to the strategic priorities mentioned herein. Collaboration with our neighbours is a key part of this Council's thinking, so in a historical move, at least the first time that I can remember, several communities met with a single Minister at the same time to lobby together for action.

The 2022 Local Government Elections provided some unknowns. From the existing council of five, only three sought re-election and no further nominations were received by the Village during the nomination period. The nomination period was then extended by four days, and still, no further nomination packages were received. This immediately triggered Section 100 of the Local Government Act: appointment of individuals for the vacant seats on council, this process by the language of the Act included the restriction of appointments to within the municipal boundaries. Not getting a great deal of self-nominators, the Village worked with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and their governance team to temporarily extend the boundaries for this purpose. In the end, the Minister approved all of Area H of the Regional District Fraser-Fort George. The three acclaimed members formed a quorum of Council and voted on a ballot of 13 individuals for the remaining two seats. I am grateful to everyone who put their names forward and encourage those folks to consider committee appointments as a step toward deeper involvement and professional development in anticipation for the general election in 2026. Your time, talents, energy and ideas are needed to continue moving Valemount into the future.

In closing, and in support of all that has already been said, Council and staff uphold our vision ***to strive for a healthy and vibrant community*** and it is our mission ***to serve our community through responsible governance***. We look forward to continuing this important work through accountability, good conduct and open representation.



In your service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Owen Torgerson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a white rectangular box.

Owen Torgerson, Mayor

# ANNUAL REPORT

## What is the annual report?

Every local government must prepare an annual report and make it available for public inspection 14 days before it is received and adopted by Council in an open meeting.

Although this can take place in any open Council meeting, this meeting is considered the Annual General Meeting of the municipality. During this meeting the public is invited to make comments and ask questions based on the report.

## What Must An Annual Report Include?

- the municipality's audited annual financial statements for the previous year;
- a list of the permissive tax exemptions provided by Council and for each exemption, the amount of property tax that would have been imposed during the previous year if the exemption had not been granted;
- a report on the municipality's services and operations for the previous year;
- a progress report on the performance of the municipality with respect to established objectives and measures;
- a statement of objectives and measures that will be used as the basis for determining the municipality performance during the current year; and
- the details of any declarations of disqualification made against individual Council members during the previous year.



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**This report is a legislated requirement under S. 98 of the *Community Charter*, and is due June 30th of each year.**

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# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

**Vision**

**Striving for a Healthy Vibrant Community**

**Mission**

**To Serve the Community through Responsible Governance**



# VILLAGE COUNCIL

Elected during the 2022 General Municipal Election and serving a term of 4 years, Valemount's Council is made up of a mayor and four councillors and is a continuing body. Council exercises its powers through resolutions and bylaws passed in meetings open to the public. Each member of Council has one vote when decisions are made, this means that all decisions of Council are a collective of the majority, despite any differing views of individual members.

Council's broad duties include:

- **set strategic direction;**
- **adopt the local government's financial plan;**
- **broadly allocate resources to services, capital projects, programs and other priorities;**
- **represent citizens;**
- **engage with the community; and,**
- **set policies and bylaws.**



*Council (l to r): Councillor Hugo Mulyk, Councillor Hollie Blanchette, Mayor Owen Torgerson, Councillor Donnie MacLean, Councillor Pete Pearson.*

# VILLAGE COUNCIL

## APPOINTMENTS

Members of Council participate in committees, which is over and above their regular duties, while representing their constituents.

There are different types of committees for council members to participate in:

### **Standing Committees**

Appointed by the Mayor, 50% of the membership are members of Council.

### **Select Committees**

Appointed by Council and must contain one member of Council.

### **External Boards, Committees, and Agencies**

Council members are appointed upon request by the external organization.





# VILLAGE COUNCIL

## APPOINTMENTS

### Mayor, Owen Torgerson

- Regional District Fraser Fort George Board of Directors
- Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA) Board of Directors
- Robson Valley Region Marketing Initiative Steering Committee
- Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) Board of Directors
- Municipal Insurance Association of BC
- Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee
- Simpcw First Nation Liaison
- Signing Officer



### Councillor, Hollie Blanchette

- Clean Air Task Force
- Valemount and District Fire and Rescue Community Consultation Committee
- Local Health Liaison (Northern Health)
- Signing Officer

# VILLAGE COUNCIL

## APPOINTMENTS

### **Councillor, Hugo Mulyk**

- Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Program Committee
- Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel
- Tourism Valemount Destination Marketing Organization (DMO)
- Valemount Entertainment Society



### **Councillor, Donnie MacLean**

- Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee
- Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee
- Clean Air Task Force
- Housing Committee

# VILLAGE COUNCIL

## APPOINTMENTS

### Councillor, Pete Pearson

- Tourism Valemount
- Valemount Historic Society Liaison
- Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway Association Council Representative
- Southeastern BC Regional Connectivity Committee
- Northern Health Liaison



Village Council appoints staff and outside professionals to certain statutory and non-statutory roles:

<b>Statutory Officers:</b>	Chief Administrative Officer/Corporate Officer, Eric Depenau Director of Finance, Lori McNee
<b>Signing Officers:</b>	Director of Finance, Lori McNee Chief Administrative Officer/Corporate Officer, Eric Depenau
<b>Consulting Engineers:</b>	Urban Systems Ltd.
<b>Subdivision Approving Officers:</b>	Lidstone and Company; Planner, Krista Etty
<b>Auditors:</b>	KPMG LLP.

# VILLAGE COUNCIL

## 2022 REMUNERATION

Council is provided a nominal amount of compensation for the time they allocate representing their constituents interests. This is referred to as *remuneration* and is governed under a bylaw that dictates what the amount of remuneration will be for each Councillor or the Mayor. Council must also report on their expenses they are reimbursed for each year.

<u>Elected Officials</u>	<u>Remuneration</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>
Torgerson, Owen	\$ 21,090.61	\$ 5,819.61	\$ 26,910.22
Blanchette, Hollie	\$ 10,810.77	\$ 3,332.90	\$ 14,143.67
Gee, Sheri	\$ 9,225.41	\$ 73.00	\$ 9,298.41
MacLean, Donnie	\$ 10,226.69	\$ 126.00	\$ 10,352.69
Pearson, Pete	\$ 10,810.77	\$ 9,359.78	\$ 20,170.55
Mulyk, Hugo	\$ 1,001.28	\$ -	\$ 1,001.28
<b>Sub-Totals</b>	<b>\$ 63,165.53</b>	<b>\$ 18,711.29</b>	<b>\$ 81,876.82</b>

## VILLAGE COUNCIL DISQUALIFICATIONS

The *Community Charter* requires that the Annual Report contain information relating to any members of Council that have been disqualified pursuant to Section 111.

No members of Council were disqualified in 2022 pursuant to [Section 111 of the Community Charter](#).



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## PROFILE

**Valemount** is a rural community of approximately 1,052 (2021 census) residents over approximately 5 km<sup>2</sup>. Valemount is the commercial centre for another 700 people who live in the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (Area H), from Albreda to Small River. Home of Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies, the Village is at the top of the watersheds of the Fraser and Columbia basins.

Three mountain ranges surround the community, the *Cariboos*, *Monashees* and *Canadian Rockies*, nestled within the expansive Rocky Mountain Trench. The result is a broad valley that offers remarkable views regardless of the direction you look. The geology primarily consists of Paleozoic and Proterozoic sedimentary rock and minor igneous formations. It is an area of glacial drift and colluviums with sandy deposits being the main glacial features. However, being located along a major fault, Valemount holds great promise in the development of geothermal heat and power – perhaps one of the most promising locations in all of Canada.



Valemount is strategically situated along Hwy 5 and in close proximity to Hwy 16. The village is a critical service provider for transportation of goods and people across the country. It is located near the northern tip of Kinbasket Lake (reservoir), 300 km south of Prince George, 320 km north of Kamloops, and 120 km west of Jasper. The village is the gateway to BC, coming from Alberta, the beginning of northern BC and the end of the southern portion of the Province; it is said to be, “in the middle of everywhere”. Valemount is a member municipality of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George



Today, Valemount’s economy is largely based on tourism and joining the likes of Whistler and Revelstoke, is the most northern designated Resort Municipality in BC. Although most attractions are located outside the village’s municipal boundaries, the community serves as the accommodation and service hub for the area’s visitors. For outdoor enthusiasts, Valemount is a premiere location to recreate because of its natural beauty, quiet solitude, and fresh mountain air.

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## PROFILE - Notable tourist attractions

- Cranberry Marsh (R.W. Starratt Wildlife Sanctuary), a designated Wildlife Management Area and sanctuary for wild birds;
- Mount Robson Provincial Park;
- Fraser River/Swift Creek Salmon spawning areas;
- Spectacular snowmobiling areas offered through Valemount and Area Recreation Association (VARDA);
- World Class Mountain Bike Park (VARDA);
- Groomed cross country skiing trails at Camp Creek maintained by Yellowhead Outdoor Recreation Association (YORA) and at Jackman Flats Provincial Park;
- Ski-touring in various locations within the surrounding mountain ranges;
- Mechanized assisted skiing (Helicopter, Snowcat, and Snowmobile);
- Day hiking and multi day hiking adventures;
- Maintained back country cabins and camping;
- Horseback riding;
- Water sports including: canoeing, kayaking and white-water rafting;
- Power boating on Kinbasket Reservoir (10 km south of the Village) accessed from the marina operated by the Valemount Marina Association; and,
- Wildlife watching, fishing and hunting opportunities are available throughout the year.



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## PROFILE - Businesses

Valemount has more to offer than just tourism; the local economy includes many home based businesses as well as larger commercial entities that are employing multiple area residents. There is plenty of business opportunities for entrepreneurs as well as land to develop.

<b>Business License Statistics</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Home Based Businesses	25	30	30
Standard Businesses	155	146	154
Short Term Vacation Rentals	20	19	20
Not-for-profit	12	7	7
Street Vendor	7	4	8
<b>Total:</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>219</b>



The Village is the majority shareholder of the Valemount Community Forest and Valemount Industrial Park which are located south of the community. These municipally owned businesses provide regional employment, funding for local programs and offers suitable space for industrial ventures to operate from.

Valemount offers several transportation advantages for industry and business. The Village is located on Hwy 5 in close proximity to the Hwy 16 junction and has a CN Rail line and VIA Rail passenger service.

The Village operates the Valemount Airport, which lies five kilometers to the west of town, that is complete with a modern fueling station and runway lighting and a precision approach path indicator. The runway is 3800 x 70 feet in size.



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## PROFILE - Services

Valemount and area is served by many different organizations that include service groups, societies, not-for-profits, Regional District and Provincial services. The list below is not exhaustive but provides a snapshot of what can be found in the Village to support residents and visitors alike:



- Valemount RCMP Detachment
- Valemount Volunteer Fire Department
- BC Ambulance Service
- Valemount Community Health Centre
- Valemount Children's Activity Society (Daycare)
- Valemount Elementary School
- Valemount Secondary School
- Canoe Valley Recreation Centre
- Valemount Learning Centre
- Robson Valley Community Services
- Violence Counselling
- Valemount Senior Citizen Housing Society
- Valemount Lions Club
- Valemount Public Library
- Valemount Museum and Archive
- Service BC
- Provincial Court of BC



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## PROFILE - 2022 Building Permit Statistics

Valemount is a community with considerable growth potential. Over half of the Village area has not yet been developed, including significant highway commercial opportunities.

The table below shows the value in building permits that were issued in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Building Permits	2022	2021	2020
Decks	\$ 18,000	\$14,000	\$0
Additions	\$ 393,000	\$296,000	\$72,000
New Construction	\$ 9,897,000	\$1,928,000	\$5,172,000
Woodstove Inspections	\$ 30,000	\$42,000	\$84,000
Sheds & Garages	\$ 366,000	\$45,000	\$42,000
Roofs	\$ 0	\$0	\$0
Other (minor renovations)	\$ 1,047,000	\$1,074,000	\$94,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 11,751,000</b>	<b>\$3,357,000</b>	<b>\$5,464,000</b>



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Services Provided by the Village

The Village provides a wide array of services throughout the community that most people will recognize as a matter of routine. However, these services are critical to the function of the community and maintaining its health and safety. These services are funded through property taxes, fees for service, and grants.

- Water treatment and distribution
- Sewage collection and treatment
- Garbage collection
- Snow removal, road maintenance, transportation
- Parks and trail maintenance
- Community beautification
- Administration, Governance and Legal matters
- Municipal museum
- Taxation, service fee collection and financial services
- Grant writing services
- Bylaw enforcement and compliance
- Animal Control
- Inspections of buildings for safety
- Planning and engineering
- Issuing permits
- Emergency management
- Communications
- Economic development

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Projects of Note in 2022

Over and above the daily operations of the Village and ongoing maintenance, staff began a variety of projects that were completed or carried through into 2023. Some of the projects of note are listed below:

### 2022 list below

- New Village Air Quality website (ongoing)
- Robson Valley Community Services, 1451 5th Ave., housing and child care centre (under construction)
- Valemount Seniors' Affordable Housing Society (site selected, surveyed, and funding approved)
- Swift Creek Restoration (complete)
- Water Supply Master Plan (in progress)
- Lift station project, Dogwood, 17th Ave and East Area (in progress)
- Purchase of new garbage truck
- Upgraded accessible doors at Courthouse and Community Services Building
- New generator install at Community Hall (in progress)
- Healthy Communities Seniors Fair
- Staff housing (in progress)
- Geothermal District Heating project (in progress)

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities



### Council's Strategic Priorities: 2019-2022

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Communications is critical to the success of all of its operations. The Village will: seek ways to enhance communications with the public; engage, collaborate and work towards reconciliation with its First Nation partners; and, liaise with organizations and senior governments on initiatives that will improve relations and better the community.

- Improve the Village website.
- Increase collaboration and communication with Simpcw First Nation.
- Explore methods to enhance communications during emergency situations.
- Explore additional ways to collaborate with senior governments to solve community 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 resident's health through a cleaner environment.

- Build reserve funds.
- Take advantage of grant opportunities as they arise.
- Encourage the adoption of 'green technologies' to reduce operating costs and environmental impacts.
- Review staff time allocation and enhance staff retention through professional development.

#### COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Village recognizes that the health of the Community and its residents is of upmost 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.

- Conduct a review of assets and develop a comprehensive asset management plan.
- Address the reality of poor air quality and take steps to remedy the situation.
- Fully develop an Emergency Management Plan for the initial 72 hours of an emergency.
- Proactive Bylaw enforcement and public education to address bylaw infractions that negatively affect the enjoyment of community life.

#### LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

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.

- Review and update Village bylaws and policies.
- Support community organizations and local businesses.
- Support affordable, age friendly living.
- Promote a diverse economy.
- Explore the expansion of the airport and municipal boundaries when appropriate.



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

Strategic Priority	<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH</b>
<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	Conduct a review of assets and develop a comprehensive asset management plan.
<b>Context</b>	Asset Management is the ongoing maintenance of assets as they age and setting aside sufficient funds to be able to replace those assets that have reached the end of their useful lifespan. This ensures the public does not experience interruptions to services they rely on. Examples of assets include: roads, water treatment and distribution system, garbage truck and so on.
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<p>Following purchases or enhancements were completed in 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centennial Park self cleaning washrooms (completed)</li> <li>• Started new daycare facility construction</li> <li>• Purchased new garbage truck</li> <li>• Partnered with CN to complete Arm Crossing project</li> <li>• Completed Swift Creek Restoration Project</li> </ul>

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	Address the reality of poor air quality and take steps to remedy the situation.
<b>Context</b>	After receiving confirmation in 2019 that the Village was subject to some of the worst recorded air quality in BC, Village Council, staff, and the Clean Air Taskforce (a Committee of Council) took action to begin to address this issue and create opportunities to reduce negative impacts on the local airshed.
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue with Wood Stove Exchange Program</li> <li>• Dust control within the Village</li> <li>• Clean Air Task Force continued to work on Airshed Planning strategies and developed a list of action items. Funding left from the Resource Ministry Grant will be used to assist in these action items.</li> <li>• Completed the Air Quality Management Plan (Ministry of Environment was the lead on this project)</li> <li>• Creation of a webpage dedicated to Clean Air Initiatives</li> <li>• Researched the cost and other particulars of a Firewood Seasoning/Shelter Program</li> <li>• Met with the BC Wildfire Services to discuss firesmart initiatives for structures/residences in the valley, Firesmart education , emergency planning, vegetation management and funding opportunities</li> <li>• Funding Agreement with Ministry of Environment for Air Quality management Initiatives.</li> </ul>

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	<p>Fully develop an Emergency Management Plan for the initial 72 hours of an emergency.</p>
<b>Context</b>	<p>The Village's Emergency Management Plan (EMP) continues to be updated and revised as new information is gathered and revisions are required. This is a Living document and as such will never truly be finished.</p>
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Preparedness information is shared with the public on an ongoing basis through the following channels:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Village Website and Facebook page, The Rocky Mountain Goat (newspaper), Village Newsletter</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Set-up an information booth at Valemountain Days to share information with the public - provided a full 72-Emergency Kit as a door prize and as an example of what one would contain;</li> <li>• Ongoing training in emergency management. A variety of learning techniques are used: training provided by Emergency Management BC staff, online training, tabletop exercise, fire drills;</li> <li>• Foster contacts with External agencies;</li> <li>• Staff continue to research and work with the Regional District on the implementation of a remote, secure server that can be accessed if the Village Office was evacuated;</li> <li>• Village staff supports and leads the community's Emergency Support Services program;</li> <li>• Hired a combination position of Bylaw Officer/ Emergency Management Services Coordinator to continue work on the Emergency Plan</li> </ul>

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	Proactive bylaw enforcement and public education to address bylaw infractions that negatively affect the enjoyment of community life.
<b>Context</b>	Proactive Bylaw Enforcement was rolled out in 2021, when a full-time Bylaw Enforcement Officer was hired in July of 2021.
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proactive enforcement was based on timely communication pieces to address seasonal bylaw issues.</li> <li>• Partnered with Northwest Invasive Plant Council for invasive weed control within the community.</li> <li>• Ensuring the compliance for RV use within the municipality after the bylaw was adopted in July.</li> <li>• Regular patrols by vehicle and on foot to show a presence in the community.</li> <li>• Made an effort to deal with bylaw issues more frequently in person before resorting to letter writing or ticket issuing.</li> <li>• Engaged with community members to educate them about bylaw matters before they become complaints.</li> <li>• Increased education opportunities for the BEO/ACO.</li> <li>• Proactive enforcement and education on Karas Drive for parking/traffic control issues, including a pilot program for a more comprehensive written warning system.</li> <li>• Increased use of social media for education and information exchange.</li> </ul>

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

Strategic Priority	COMMUNICATIONS
<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	Improve Village public exposure
<b>Context</b>	Facebook, website, newsletters, newspaper
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Village continues to enhance communication by being proactive in sharing important news and events through a variety of mediums.</li> <li>• Village products over the last year have strived to include more QR codes and embedded links to help direct visitors to additional information.</li> <li>• Efforts have been made to have tables at community events (farmers markets as example) for more in person conversation on programming.</li> <li>• Platforms like LinkedIn have seen greater usage over 2022.</li> </ul>



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	Increased Collaboration and Communications with Simpcw First Nation.
<b>Context</b>	Simpcw First Nation have demonstrated a strength of claim for the area including the Village as their traditional territory. Council recognizes that a close relationship is of mutual benefit between both the Village and its First Nation neighbors, and has pursued measures to help strengthen that relationship.
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village engaged Simpcw First Nation throughout the consultation phase of the drafting of the new Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw.</li> <li>• Village invited Simpcw First Nation to participate in the Valemount Tourism Strategy planning process and nominate a Simpcw representative for this purpose.</li> <li>• Simpcw provided support, assistance and land based knowledge for VARDA's strategies and plans for trails and mountain bike recreation in the Robson Valley (which is supported by Tourism Valemount).</li> <li>• Village provided letter of support for the Simpcw Resources Limited Liability Partnership Molecular Recycling Project.</li> </ul>



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	Explore Methods to Enhance Communications During Emergency Situations.
<b>Context</b>	Council recognized that effective communications in the event of an emergency are critical to protecting the lives of community members. This was particularly important during the ongoing COVID-29 pandemic.
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Village used a wide array of digital platforms to allow for public input and participation during Council meetings and community engagement:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- YouTube live streaming of meetings</li> <li>- Zoom</li> <li>- Microsoft Team for within the office</li> <li>- Information shared through the Village Website, Face book, Newsletter and The Goat newspaper</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continued the use of procedures adopted to allow for public hearings during the pandemic;</li> <li>• The use of <u>Voyent Alert!</u> was expanded and further developed and advertised</li> </ul>



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	Collaboration with Senior Governments to Solve Community Issues.
<b>Context</b>	Senior governments, their ministries, and officials can have a very positive effect on a community. Relations between them and local elected officials is very important.
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<p>Regular contact with the following Ministries, Crown Corporations, and Trusts to further the best interest of the Village and associated projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of the Environment (Clean Air, Cranberry Marsh)</li> <li>• Ministry of Children and Family Development (New Child Care Spaces)</li> <li>• Ministry of Municipal Affairs (ongoing COVID response and various topics)</li> <li>• Northern Health (COVID)</li> <li>• Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (Tourism initiatives)</li> <li>• BC Housing (three potential housing affordable developments)</li> <li>• Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (routine referrals and OCP/Zoning Bylaw review)</li> <li>• RDFFG (regular collaboration on regional issues)</li> <li>• TNRD (mutual aid agreement for Public Works staff sharing during COVID 19)</li> <li>• Columbia Basin Trust (Grants and Programs)</li> <li>• Northern Development Initiative Trust (Grants).</li> </ul>

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

Strategic Priority	<b>FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY</b>
<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	Build reserve funds.
<b>Context</b>	Appropriate reserve levels are required to ensure the services residents rely on are funded for repairs and replacement so that services are not interrupted.
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, council continued to keep utility rates lower than the suggested increases provided by consultants.</li> <li>• Water filling and sewage dumping fees were received from the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, which has helped with water and sewer reserves.</li> <li>• Council continues to work on asset management strategies.</li> </ul>



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	Take advantage of grant opportunities as they arise.
<b>Context</b>	Most village revenue comes from property taxes, service fees (water, sewer, garbage, permits) and grants. Grants make up more than half of the Village's municipal budget. Without grants, the Village would not be able to maintain the levels of service that our community enjoys and has come to expect.
	The nature of grants make it challenging to share a full and timely report on the opportunities being pursued as different grants may be at the submission, review, and pre announcement stage—however we are still proud to show this snapshot of opportunities pursued in 2022.
<b><u>APPROVED</u></b>	
2022 Visitor Information Centre Summer Staff	Government of Canada \$ 4,698
2022 Love Valemount	Northern Development Initiative Trust \$ 1,200
Seniors Fair and Wellness Outreach	BC Healthy Communities \$ 15,000
Dogwood Lift Station	Union of BC Municipalities \$ 3,308,182
2022 Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program	Ministry of Environment \$ 3,904
2022 Business Façade Improvement	Northern Development Initiative Trust \$ 10,000
2022 Canada Day	Government of Canada \$ 3,500
2022 Grant Writer Support	Valemount Community Forest \$ 8,000
<b><u>DENIED</u></b>	
Fuel Tank Upgrade - Valemount Airport	Province of British Columbia \$ 129,353
Valemount Geothermal Residential Heating System	Natural Resources Canada \$ 75,000



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	<p>Encourage the adoption of 'Green Technology' to reduce operating costs and environmental impact.</p>
<b>Context</b>	<p>Village Council recognizes the real challenges and threats facing local governments due to climate change. Adopting green technologies not only helps reduce the Village's carbon foot print, which must be offset and reported on through the annual CARIP report, but results in budget savings through a decreased use in electricity, propane, and fuel.</p>
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided funding towards the Woodstove Exchange Program.</li> <li>• Public works continues to look for new and innovative ideas when renovating older municipal buildings (heat pumps, lighting).</li> <li>• Exploration of hybrid and electric fleet vehicles is ongoing as these existing assets approach replacement.</li> </ul>



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	<p>Review staff time allocation and enhance staff retention through professional development.</p>
<b>Context</b>	<p>Long term, well trained staff is a community's greatest asset. Proper planning is necessary to ensure that staff who retire, or otherwise leave the organization, have someone trained and qualified to fill the role. This ensures that service levels are not negatively impacted. The Village has benefited from periodic review of roles, responsibilities, and assigned tasks in order to evaluate budget expenses and improve service levels.</p>
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff continue to be enrolled in professional development to strengthen their ability to serve the community.</li> <li>• A focus on ethics training is championed among municipal staff.</li> <li>• Cross training of staff remains a priority to ensure uninterrupted service delivery.</li> <li>• A complete review and overhaul of Bylaw Enforcement and Animal Control has been completed.</li> <li>• Succession planning is being developed for when staff members retire.</li> <li>• A focus on supporting existing staff to take on greater responsibility, and intern, opening entry level positions for local applicants is being made.</li> </ul>

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Strategic Priority</b>	<b>LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT</b>
<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	Review and update Village bylaws and policies.
<b>Context</b>	Bylaws and policies can remain in force for years without any review. This leads to instances where bylaws and policies do not align with ever changing circumstances. It is important that these documents be reviewed and potentially amended, or repealed on a regular basis.
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<p>Bylaw Amendments and Adoptions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoning Bylaw Amendment 856, 858, &amp; 861, 2022</li> <li>• Fees and Charges Bylaw 855 &amp; 866, 2022</li> <li>• Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw 862, 2022</li> <li>• Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 857 &amp; 863, 2022</li> <li>• Tax Rate Bylaw No 859, 2022</li> <li>• Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No 864, 2022</li> <li>• Municipal and Regional District Tax Bylaw No 852, 2022</li> <li>• Council Remuneration Bylaw No 865, 2022</li> <li>• Elections and Voting Bylaw No 860, 2022</li> </ul> <p>Policy updates and developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driveway Access Permit Application Policy 87, 2022</li> <li>• Credit Card/Fuel Card Program Policy 88, 2022</li> <li>• Updates to Temporary Residential Structures Policy No 83, 2021</li> </ul>

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Supporting Initiatives</b>	Support community organizations and local businesses & Promote a diverse economy.
<b>Context</b>	The Village endeavors to support local community organizations and local business to improve the health and wellness of the entire community.
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<p>Community Organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership with Robson Valley Community Services for Childcare/Affordable Housing Project.</li> <li>• Expansion of affordable lease space for Robson Valley Community Services.</li> <li>• Financial, land infrastructure and in-house support for Valemount Cares Seniors Affordable Housing Project.</li> <li>• Administration of the Love Valemount Program which supports and promotes local businesses.</li> <li>• Provision of space for consignment artisans in the Visitor Information Centre.</li> <li>• Elimination of Visitor Information Centre Racking Fees for Local Non-Profit Organizations.</li> <li>• Provision of grant-in-aid funding to the Valemount Community Sports Day Association, as well as assistance from Public Works for event preparation/road closures.</li> <li>• Tent set up and use to the Valemount Public Library for annual children's event.</li> <li>• Provision of funds from the Community Use Fund to the Valemount Bear Cubs Soccer Club for their insurance fees.</li> <li>• Waiving Community Hall fees for Valemount and Area Chamber of Commerce for Canada Day festivities.</li> <li>• Grant Management of BC Healthy Communities Grant Funding to support aging populations and implementing plants that enable seniors to age-in-place and live active, socially engaged, independent lives.</li> <li>• Supported RVCS in their grant application to the New Horizons for Seniors Program for Robson Valley Men's Sheds.</li> </ul>

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	Support affordable and age friendly living.
<b>Context</b>	Affordable, age friendly living ensures that people in all stages of their lives are able to live and thrive within their community. Affordable housing and childcare is a significant barrier.
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnered with Valemount Seniors Citizens Housing Society (VSCHS) to secure grant funding from the Age-friendly Communities grant stream in order to deliver the following programs locally:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with personal health records</li> <li>• Vision and Audiology clinics</li> <li>• Diabetes awareness clinic</li> <li>• Seniors Fair</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Partnered with the VSCHS to advance a new Seniors facility in Valemount.</li> </ul>





# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Council's Strategic Priorities Progress Report

<b>Supporting Initiative</b>	Explore the expansion of the airport and municipal boundaries.
<b>Context</b>	The time was not right to expand municipal boundaries, but there were some new developments with the regional airport. This supporting initiative is a long term initiative and see limited tangible progress in the short term.
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing work to explore alternative ownership models and stake holder involvement in the Valemount Airport.</li> </ul>



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## A Resort Municipality

Valemount is one of 14 designated Resort Municipalities in British Columbia, geographically speaking, it is the most northerly of them all.

Valemount is able to utilize two funding programs to help further its ability to build attractions/tourism amenities and conduct destination advertising. Tourism Valemount is a function of the Village through a Select Committee of Council that make recommendations to Council on how Tourism should be promoted. This is funded through the Municipal Regional District Tax (MRDT), which is a 2% fee added to the cost of hotel rooms. The second funding source, Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI), is based on a formulae determined by the province. This funding is used for building tourism infrastructure, such as trails, and other visitor amenities. Much of this funding has been directed to local recreation organizations like VARDA and YORA for the development of recreation opportunities for locals and visitors.

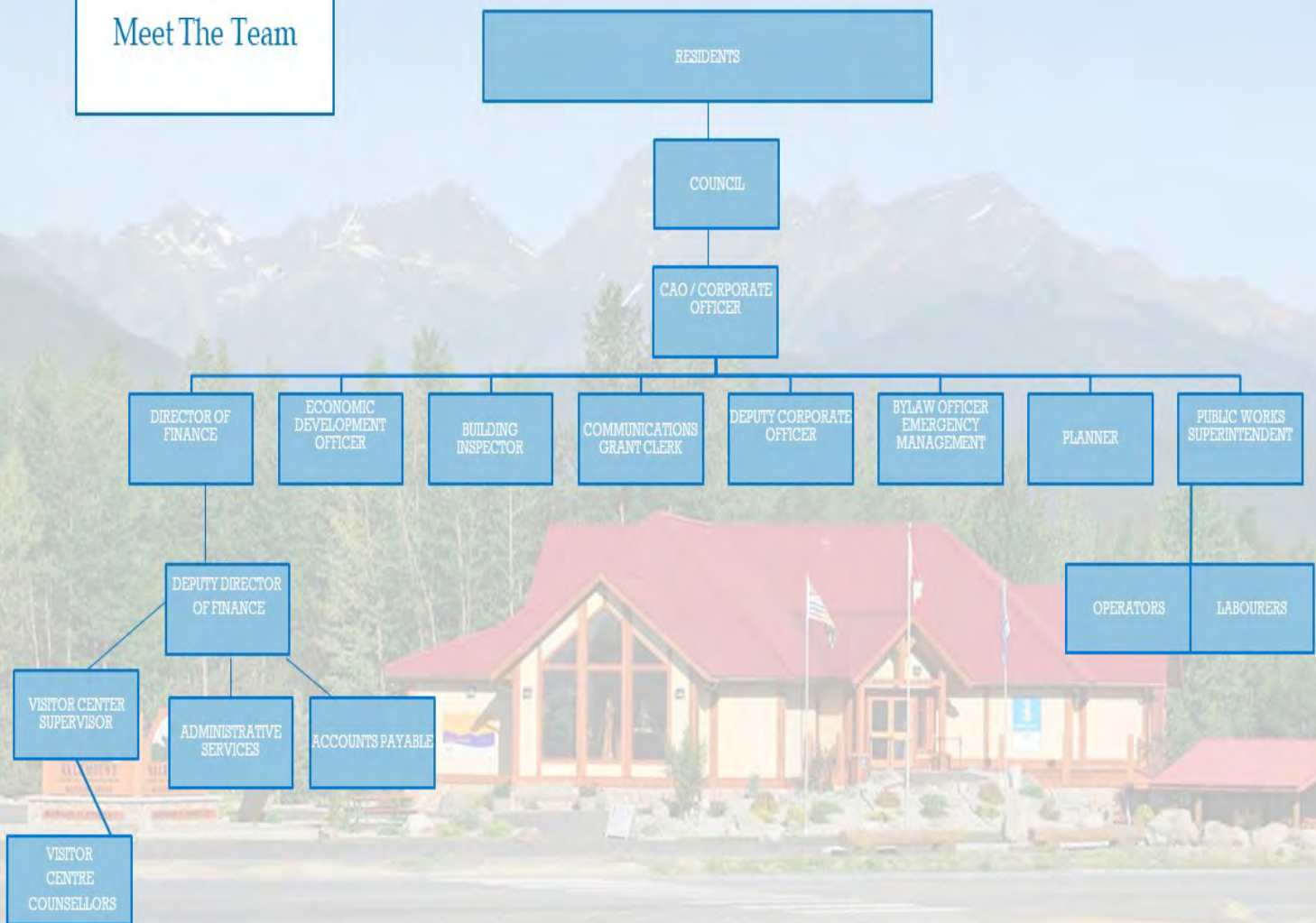




# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## 2022 Village Organization Chart

Meet The Team



# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## 2022 Village Staff Listing

The Village of Valemount employs a full compliment of staff to ensure that the Village is able to perform routine operations and respond to new initiatives and emergencies as they arise. Below is a list of staff member and their positions:

Bloodoff, Suzanne	Deputy Director of Finance & Emergency Management Co-ordinator
Bustin, Robert	Public Works - Labourer
Chalupa, Kevin	Public Works - Labourer
Dennis, Tracey	Grant Writer/Communications Clerk & Emergency Ops Co-ordinator
Depenau, Eric	Chief Administrative Officer & Corporate Officer
Etty, Krista	Planner
Gee, Clayton	Bylaw Enforcement Officer & Animal Control
Gislimberti, Silvio	Economic Development Officer & Information Technologist
Goodell, Orlanda	Visitor Information Center - Supervisor
Han, Stefanie	Administration Services Coordinator
Hystad, Melanie	Public Works - Operator
Janum, Sandy	Public Works - Operator - Lead Hand
Kwasnycia, Darcie	Accounts Payable & Administration Services Coordinator
McMaster, Alan	Public Works - Grounds Keeper
McNee, Lori	Director of Finance
McRae, Dave	Public Works - Operator
Orpen, Alison	Public Works - Labourer

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## 2022 Village Staff Listing Continued...

Pelletier, Trevor	Superintendent of Public Works
Romanow, Ernie	Visitor Information Centre - Counsellor
Schneider, Dean	Building Inspector
Schnell, Daniel	Public Works - Operator
Shaw, Madelyn	Visitor Information Centre - Counsellor
Shepherd, Carleena	Deputy Corporate Officer
Smith, Evan	Bylaw Enforcement Officer





# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## 2022 Permissive Tax Exemptions

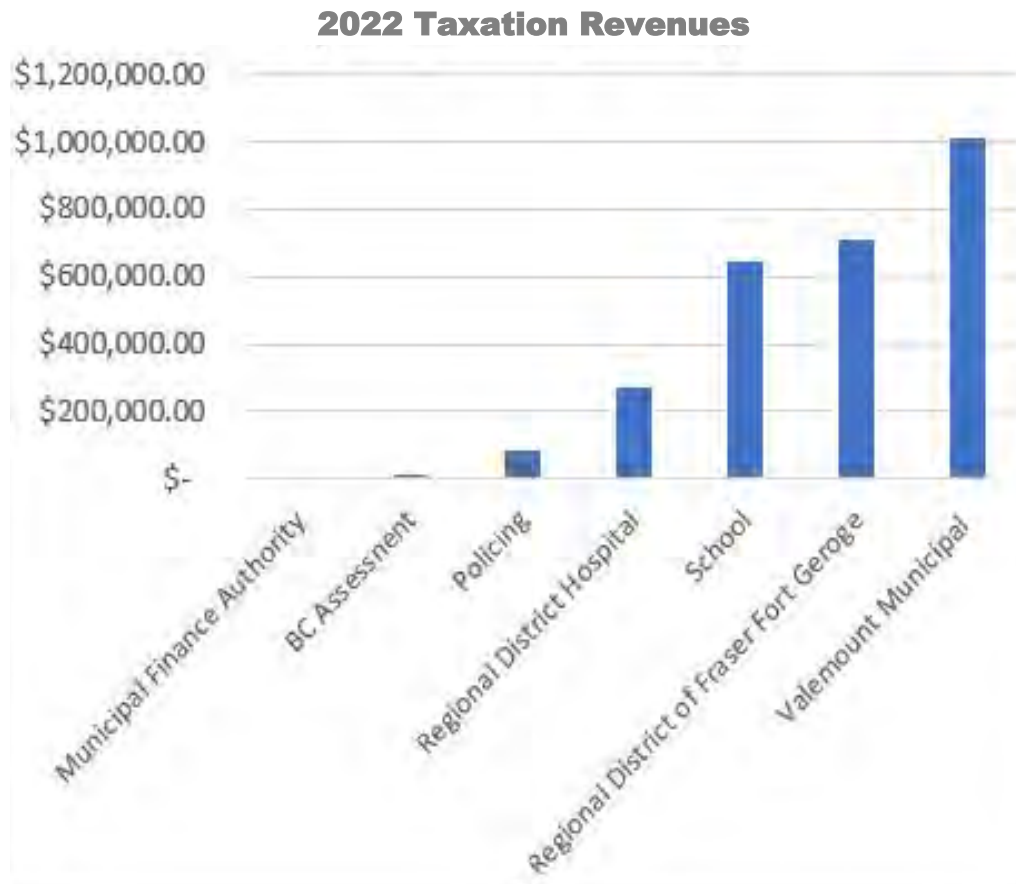
Permissive Tax Exemptions are granted at Council's discretion upon written application prior to the adoption of the Permissive Tax Bylaw. This is decided in the calendar year, prior to the year the exemptions will be provided, pursuant to [Sections 224 & 225 of the Community Charter](#).

For 2022, Village Council adopted the Tax Exempt Property Bylaw No. 851, 2021 which provided permissive tax exemptions for the properties listed below. This includes the value of the property taxes that would have been imposed on the properties in 2022 if the properties were not provided exemptions.

Organization	Value of Tax Exemption
Valemount Curling Rink	\$ 846.18
Valemount Lions Club	\$ 283.37
Royal Canadian Legion	\$ 997.98
Valemount Affordable Rental Society	\$ 755.06
Valemount Senior's (Golden Years Lodge)	\$ 8,047.72
Valemount Senior's (Provincial Rental Housing)	\$ 2,507.02
United Church of Canada	\$ 1,541.70
Roman Catholic Bishop	\$ 1,173.38
Valemount New Life Centre	\$1,745.38
<b>Total Value of Exemptions</b>	<b>\$ 17,897.79</b>

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## 2022 Property Tax Breakdown

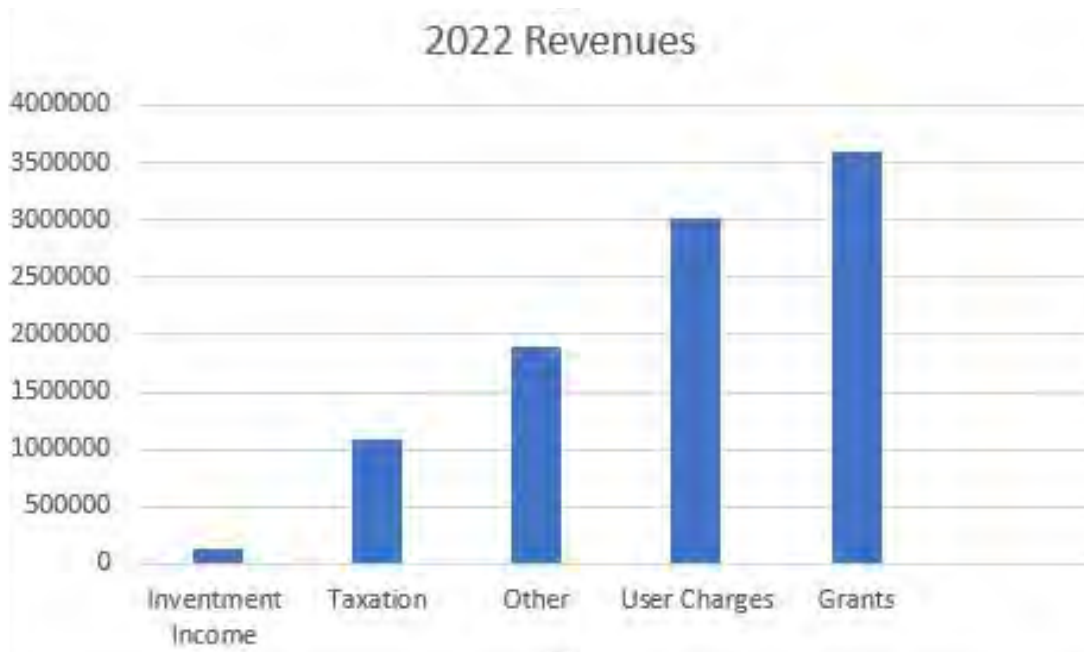


Property owner's annual property tax bill includes taxes collected by the Village on behalf of other tax authorities. The Village only retained 37% of the property tax notice.

The remaining 63% must be transferred to the associated tax authority and is outside the control of the Village. Should any or all of the other above tax authorities raise their tax rate, property owners can experience an increase in their property taxes without the Village receiving a net increase to its budget.

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

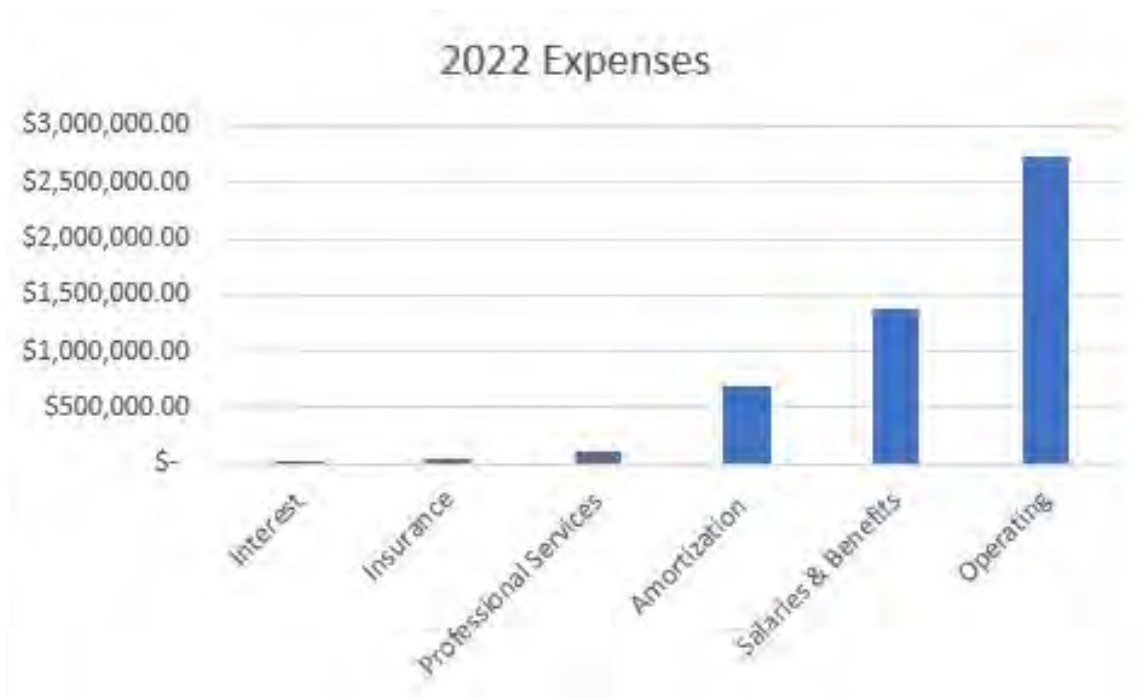
## 2022 Village Revenues



<b>Grants</b>	Transfers and funding from other levels of government and agencies for specific projects and staff wages. Examples include: Federal Gas Tax, NDIT’s Façade Improvement Program, CBT programs.
<b>Taxation</b>	Property taxes collected each year. This funds operations, including roads, administration, parks, debt payments, etc.
<b>User Fees</b>	Fees collected to operate services like garbage disposal, water treatment/distribution, and sewer/sewage treatment. Permit fees and licenses are included in this category.
<b>Investment Income</b>	Village Finance Department invests funds located in reserves to create an additional revenue source.
<b>Other</b>	These funds come from Village owned building rentals, Valemount Community Forest, Visitor Information Centre sales, TMEP commitments, and collection of the Hotel/Resort tax.

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## 2022 Village Expenses



<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>	This includes wages, benefits, training for staff, as well as remuneration and expenses for Council.
<b>Operations</b>	This includes electricity, fuel, phone, internet, equipment purchase, supplies, and the cost of contractors working on behalf of the Village.
<b>Debt Interest</b>	The Village carries debt for the building of the Water Treatment Plant.
<b>Insurance</b>	The Village carries a variety of insurance coverage to protect the Village taxpayers.
<b>Professional Services</b>	The Village contracts the service of Lawyers and Engineers that could not be justified as regular staff on the payroll.
<b>Amortization</b>	This is a 'non-cash' transaction that is directly tied to the depreciation of assets as time goes by. This is reflected in article 10 of the 2022 Audited Financial Statements.

# VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

## Appendix A: 2022 Audited Financial Statements

The 2022 Audited Financial Statements document was prepared by the Village's appointed auditors, KPMG LLP.

The Statements were received and approved by Council during the May 9 & 23, 2023 Regular Meetings of Council.

The Audited Financial Statements follow this page and make up the remainder of the 2022 Annual Report document.