



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Village of Valemount Electrifies Fleet with New Fully Electric Ford Lightning Vehicle

Valemount, 22 August 2023 - The Village of Valemount is proud to announce the acquisition of a cutting-edge addition to its municipal fleet: a brand-new, fully electric Ford Lightning. This forward-thinking purchase marks a significant step in ongoing efforts to create a sustainable and eco-conscious operation. The purchase of this electric vehicle has been made possible through generous grant funding from Columbia Basin Trust and funds from the Province of BC's Local Government Climate Action Program, underscoring the Village's commitment to innovation, environmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility.

The Village of Valemount recognizes the importance of adopting greener technologies to reduce its carbon footprint and contribute to the fight against climate change. By investing in an all-electric fleet vehicle, the Village continues to take tangible action to promote a cleaner and more sustainable municipality. By securing funding for this electric vehicle, a much-needed replacement has been completed without imposing the cost on taxpayers. The retirement of a 1990's fleet vehicle (that has served for many years) and its replacement with this alternative reduces greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality and contributing to a healthier environment for everyone in the Village. This modernization not only enhances the efficiency and reliability of the Village's fleet but also emphasizes Valemount's role as a progressive leader in adopting the latest solutions.

“The transition to an eventual alternative-fuel fleet enhances our environmental stewardship by significantly reducing our overall carbon footprint. EVs produce zero tailpipe emissions while also promoting cleaner air quality. This proactive approach to environmental responsibility not only demonstrates our commitment to combating climate change, the financial benefits of adopting electric vehicles in a fleet are very compelling. EVs offer substantial cost savings over the long term due to reduced maintenance and lower operating expenses. With fewer moving parts, EVs experience less wear and tear, leading to decreased maintenance and downtime. Additionally, the significantly lower fueling costs of electricity compared to conventional fuels translate into substantial savings, particularly for our Public Works fleet that accrues high mileage” – Mayor Owen Torgerson.

The Village of Valemount extends its gratitude to the funding partners who have made this acquisition possible.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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About:**The Village of Valemount**

The Village of Valemount is a vibrant and forward-looking community with a strong focus on sustainability and innovation, the Village is dedicated to improving the quality of life for its residents while preserving the natural beauty of the area for generations to come. The acquisition of the fully electric Ford Lightning vehicle is a testament to Valemount's ongoing commitment to embracing cutting-edge technologies that make a positive impact on the environment.

The Province of British Columbia - Local Government Climate Action Program

The Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) provides local governments and Modern Treaty Nations with predictable and stable funding. This funding supports local climate action that reduces emissions and prepares communities for the impacts of a changing climate.

The Columbia Basin Trust – Basin Charge Up Program

The Basin Charge Up program provided one-time support to local governments and First Nations to support their efforts to become more energy efficient. The one-time Program (announced in 2022) helped local governments and First Nations' efforts to become more energy efficient by supporting: solar arrays to generate renewable energy; electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle (EV) purchases & public use charging stations; and for communities with populations 2,000 and under – energy retrofits to local government and First Nation owned buildings.

Contribution Details:

Vehicle Purchase: \$97,046.40 (without GST).

CBT Basin Charge Up Program: \$66,530.00.

BC Local Government Climate Action Program: \$30,516.40.