



AMENDED FINANCIAL BUDGET 2026 – 2030

The public consultation period is from September 17 - October 1, 2026.

Comments are to be received by the Director of Finance at dof@valemount.ca

prior to October 2, 2026, at noon.

All comments received will be provided to the Village Council for consideration in advance of final reading, expected to be on the October 13, 2026, Council Meeting

Director of Finance, Lori McNee

Tel: 250-566-4435 | Email: dof@valemount.ca

Address: 735 Cranberry Lake Road, Valemount



Section One Overview

VILLAGE COUNCIL



Valemount Council from left to right: Councillor Hugo Mulyk, Councillor Hollie Blanchette, Mayor Owen Torgerson, Councillor Donalda MacLean, Councillor Pete Pearson.

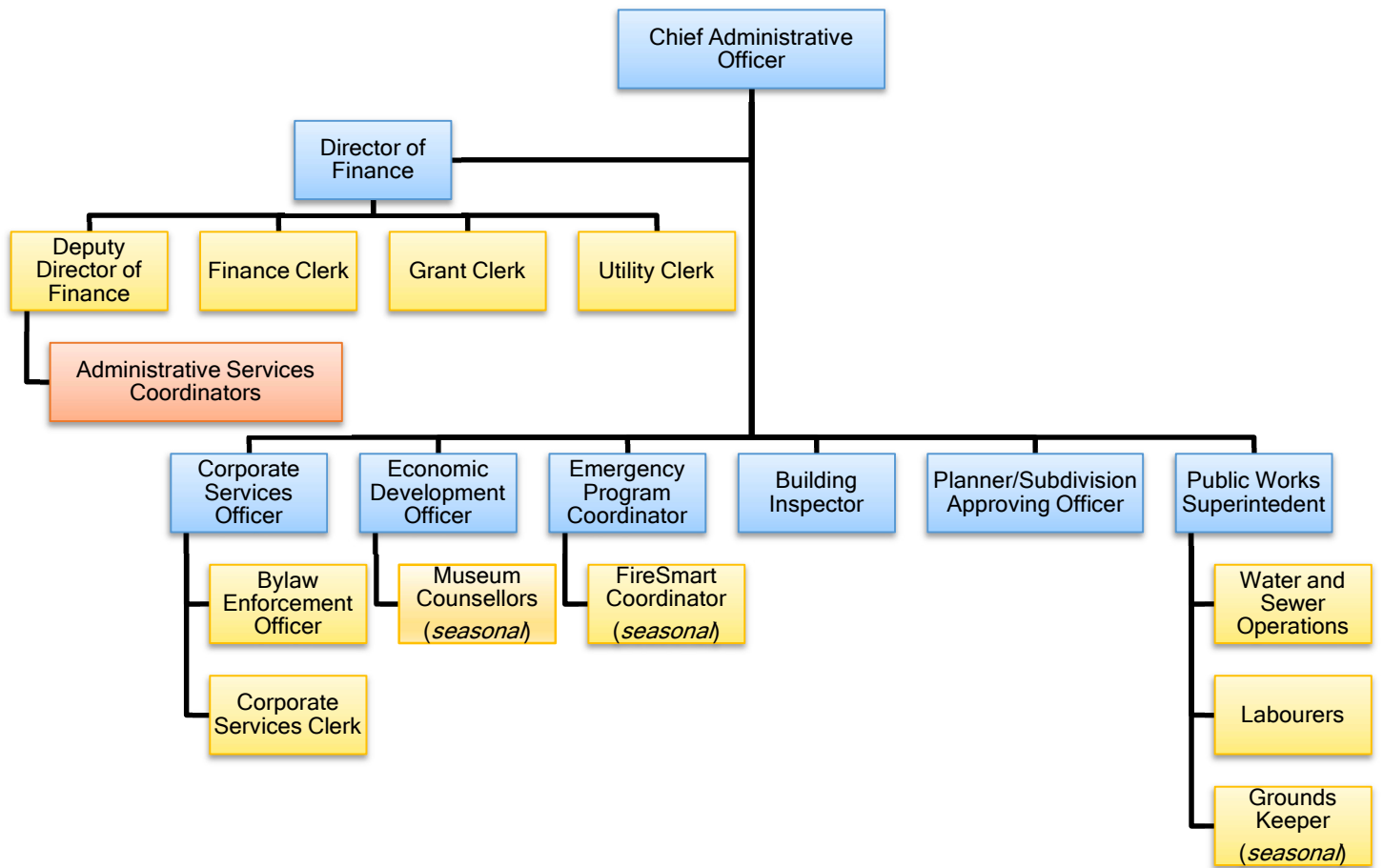
VISION STATEMENT

Striving for a Healthy Vibrant Community

MISSION STATEMENT

To Serve the Community through
Responsible Governance

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2023 – 2027

Strategic planning enables the council to identify priorities that ensure the delivery of services meets current and future needs. This document will provide staff with the foundation to monitor progress toward the council's desired outcomes and adjust the budget accordingly. Developed by Village Council, the 2023–2027 Strategic Plan guides investment and development over a four-year period, prioritizing decisive leadership and innovative approaches to transform Valemount into a more affordable, safe and inclusive village by 2027. The Plan focuses on four strategic priorities: Communication, Health & Safety, Fiscal Responsibility, and Development & Diversification. For more information, visit [Village of Valemount | Let the mountains move you](#)

Communication

Health & Safety

**Fiscal
Responsibility**

**Development &
Diversification**

FINANCIAL PLAN

The Valemount Council officially adopted its 2023–2027 Strategic Plan in 2023. This strategic plan provides the framework for setting priorities and making decisions. It will guide council and village staff over the next five years as they develop policies and deliver services to the community. Council and staff will focus on the four strategic priorities. Like other communities, the Village of Valemount is governed by provincial legislation called the Community Charter and the Local Government Act. This legislation directs councils to provide services, enact laws, and address other matters for the community's benefit and requires them to promote the community's economic, social, and environmental well-being. Our financial plan, commonly referred to as “the budget,” estimates the resources (funds, labour, materials, supplies, and contractors) required to implement the Business Plan within a specified year over a five-year planning horizon.





Section Two

Financial Planning Process

BALANCED FIVE-YEAR BUDGET

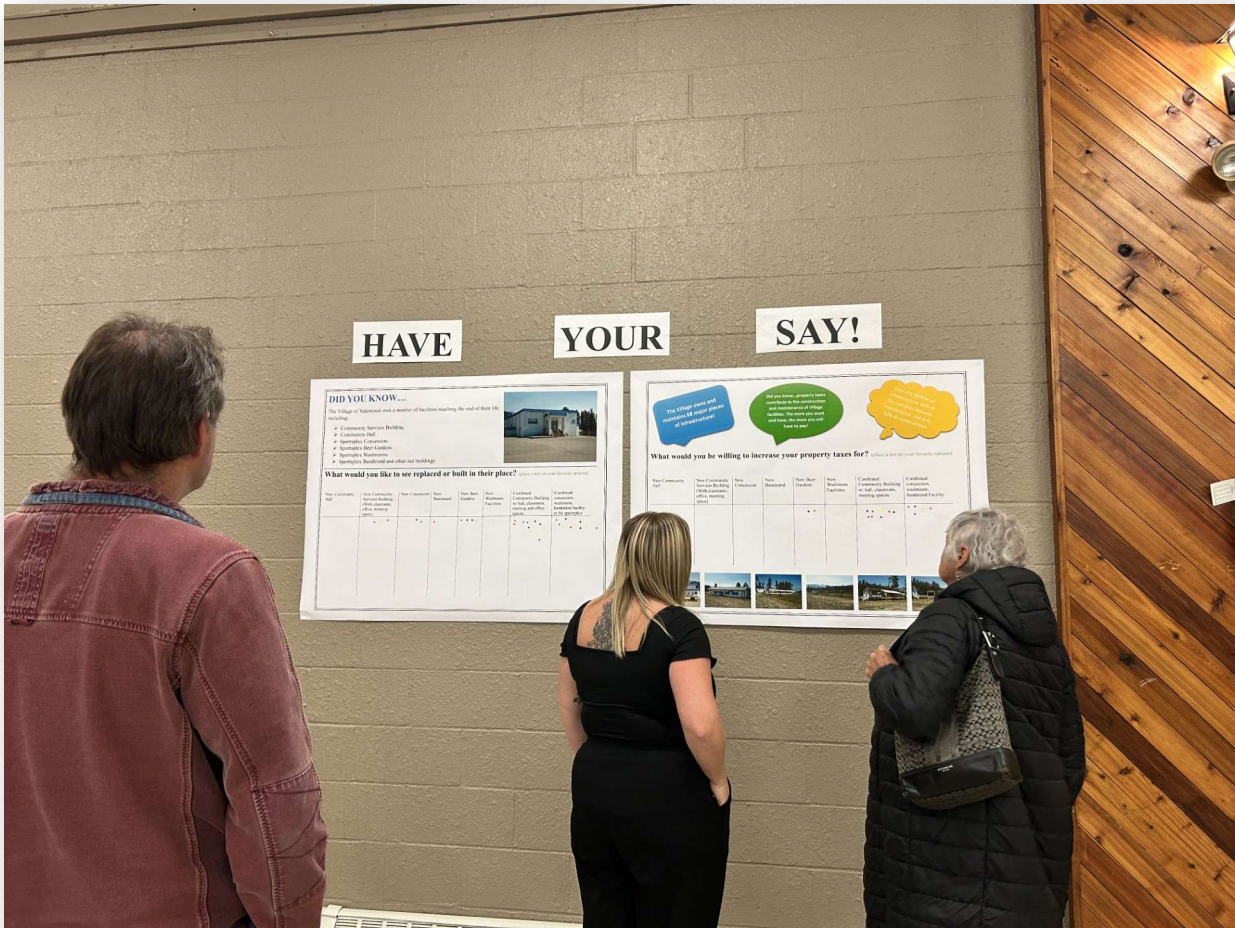
In compliance with Section 165 of the Community Charter, the Village's Five-Year Financial Plan must be balanced. The total of proposed expenditures and transfers to other funds for a year must not exceed the total of proposed funding sources and transfers from other funds. Village budgets carry the force of law and are critical components of compliance in the public sector. Budget comparisons must be presented in conjunction with the Village's financial statements, and authority to spend is provided exclusively through the council's adopted budget. The budget aligns spending with council and community priorities to offer valued services and programs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL BUDGETING

Financial budgeting is a planning tool that enhances local governments' accountability and service delivery and sets out their legal expenditure authority. Legislation establishes requirements and deadlines for adopting financial plans, and local governments may amend their plans during the year for unexpected expenditures.

The budget is organized by type of operation, such as general and utility funds, with each operation treated as a separate budgeting and accounting entity. Funds are budgeted and reported by department, with accountability and authority for budgetary approval and amendments resting with the Village Council. Council delegates the authority for actual disbursement and implementation of the Five-Year Financial Plan to the chief administrative officer.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION



Before adopting a financial plan, local governments must conduct public consultation. The consultation is not defined and may include opportunities for citizens to review, comment on, and ask questions about the financial plan at a local government meeting.

Image: Open House, April 2025

LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Local governments are required to adopt an annual financial plan in accordance with the Local Government Act and the Community Charter. The planning period for the financial plan should cover the current fiscal year and the next four fiscal years, resulting in a 5-year plan. At a minimum, the plan must include:

Proposed expenditures (operating, capital, interest, and principal debt payment), funding sources (taxes, fees, grants, new borrowing, and debenture debt), and transfers to and from reserve funds and surplus.

Objectives and policies for the fiscal year regarding the distribution of funding sources, the distribution of property taxes amongst various property classes, and the use of any permissive tax exemptions.

A local government must not budget for a deficit (planned expenditures and transfers to funds cannot exceed planned revenues, transfers from funds, and other cash contributions). However, suppose actual expenditures and net transfers from the previous year exceed that year's revenues and contributions; in that case, the resulting deficiency must be carried forward to the current year's financial plan as an expenditure. Municipalities must adopt their financial plans before their annual tax rate bylaws, which must be adopted by May 15 each year.

APPROVED EXPENSES

Firesmart Community Funding grant

Strategic Priorities: Health and Safety, Fiscal Responsibility

APPROVED BY: RES NO 13/26

Reason: Continued implementation of the program into its second year, ensuring ongoing delivery of project objectives, services, and anticipated community benefits.

Source of funds:	UBCM Grant	\$200,000
Expenses:	Staffing/Events	\$200,000

Water Treatment Plant clarified media

Strategic Priorities: Fiscal Responsibility

APPROVED BY: RES NO 63/26

Reason: Approval was required as the product was purchased in the United States, and the currency exchange rate increased the total cost beyond the Village's procurement threshold.

Source of funds:	General Water Surplus	\$84,000
Expenses:	Material	\$84,000

John Osadchuk Park irrigation

Strategic Priorities: Fiscal Responsibility

APPROVED BY: RES NO 2/26

Reason: The expenditure was approved by Council during financial discussions; however, it was inadvertently omitted from the original budget bylaw and is now being included.

Source of funds:	General Surplus	\$30,000
Expenses:	Contractor	\$30,000

UNFORESEEN EXPENSES

Additional costs for 2005 PW fleet repairs

Strategic Priorities: Fiscal Responsibility

Reason: Unfortunately, this vehicle is the oldest unit in the Village's fleet and has required increasing levels of repair and maintenance to remain in service.

Alternatives: none

None. A reliable vehicle is essential for maintaining municipal infrastructure, responding to service requests, conducting inspections, and supporting emergency operations.

Source of funds:	General Sewer Surplus	\$10,000
-------------------------	-----------------------	----------

Expenses:	Mechanic	\$10,000
------------------	----------	----------

Sewer cleaning increased fees

Strategic Priorities: Fiscal Responsibility

Reason: To reduce mobilization and demobilization costs, Public Works took advantage of the contractor's presence on site and had six additional sewer lift stations cleaned while sewer line maintenance was being completed. Completing this work concurrently resulted in cost savings and improved the overall efficiency of the maintenance program.

Alternatives: Defer the cleaning of the lift stations until next year. However, postponing this work could increase the risk of operational issues, emergency maintenance requirements, and higher costs in the future.

Source of funds:	General Sewer Surplus	\$4,500
-------------------------	-----------------------	---------

Expenses:	Contractor/Material	\$4,500
------------------	---------------------	---------

PROJECTED EXPENSES

Effluent flow meter

Strategic Priorities: Health and Safety, Fiscal Responsibility

Reason: The Village of Valemount currently operates under the Municipal Wastewater Regulation (MWR) with authorization to discharge treated effluent to Cranberry Marsh. To support this process, Quarmby Environmental submitted a preliminary MWR reclaimed water use application on November 21, 2024.

As part of the registration review, the Ministry requested that the Village develop an implementation plan for effluent flow monitoring. To support this requirement, Urban Systems assessed several monitoring options. The findings have assisted the Village in determining the most feasible and cost-effective approach to meeting the Municipal Wastewater Regulation (MWR) monitoring requirements and provided costs for implementing an effluent flow meter.

Alternatives: none

The Ministry has identified effluent flow monitoring as a requirement of the Village's reclaimed water use registration under the Municipal Wastewater Regulation (MWR). To comply with the registration requirements and maintain regulatory compliance, the Village must implement a suitable effluent flow monitoring system.

Source of funds:	General Sewer Surplus	\$80,000
Expenses:	Contractor/Material	\$80,000

Public Works hybrid fleet vehicle replacement

Strategic Priorities: Fiscal Responsibility

Reason: The current vehicle is the oldest in the Village's fleet and is no longer a cost-effective asset. Repair and maintenance costs continue to increase and are exceeding the vehicle's practical value. Frequent breakdowns and extended downtime reduce the efficiency of Public Works operations and impact the crew's ability to complete daily tasks in a timely manner.

The proposed replacement is a hybrid vehicle, which will provide improved fuel efficiency compared to a conventional gasoline-powered vehicle. This will reduce annual fuel consumption and operating costs while supporting the Village's environmental sustainability objectives and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A reliable vehicle is essential for maintaining municipal infrastructure, responding to service requests, conducting inspections, and supporting emergency operations. Failure to replace the vehicle will likely result in continued maintenance expenditures, increased operational disruptions, and decreased staff productivity.

Alternatives:

Leasing a Vehicle

- Leasing would provide a replacement vehicle; however, grant funding cannot be applied to leased assets, making this option less financially beneficial.

Sharing Existing Vehicles

- Public Works staff are currently sharing vehicles when necessary. While this serves as a temporary solution, it reduces operational efficiency and requires staff to travel together rather than work independently on assigned tasks.

Using the Existing Fully Electric Vehicle

- The Village's electric vehicle has been utilized when available; however, it is not suitable for all operational requirements and may not provide the reliability, range, or winter performance necessary to support Public Works activities year-round.

Source of funds:	Local Government Climate	
	Action Program Grant	\$100,000
Expenses:	Hybrid Pick Up	\$100,000

Public Works shop door replacement

Strategic Priorities: Fiscal Responsibility

Reason: The existing shop door has deteriorated beyond repair and is no longer functioning as intended. The inability to properly open, close, or secure the door creates operational challenges for Public Works staff and may affect the safety of vehicles and equipment stored in the shop.

Replacing the door will:

- Ensure safe and reliable access to the Public Works Shop.
- Improve the security of municipal equipment, tools, and assets stored within the facility.
- Reduce the risk of further damage to the building resulting from exposure to weather and environmental conditions.
- Improve energy efficiency by maintaining the building and reducing heat loss.
- Minimize operational disruptions and delays associated with equipment access and facility use.
- Eliminate the ongoing costs and inefficiencies associated with attempting temporary repairs to a door that has reached the end of its useful life.

Failure to replace the door could result in increased maintenance costs, security concerns, operational delays, and potential health and safety risks for staff.

Alternatives:

No practical alternatives have been identified. The existing door is damaged beyond repair and replacement is the only viable option to restore the functionality, security, and operational effectiveness of the Public Works facility.

Source of funds:	General Surplus	\$10,000
Expenses:	Contractor/material	\$10,000

Public Works rough-cut tractor replacement

Strategic Priorities: Fiscal Responsibility

Reason: The existing rough-cut tractor has become increasingly unreliable and can no longer be effectively maintained. Replacement parts are difficult or impossible to source, resulting in extended downtime and limiting the Village's ability to perform required maintenance activities. Due to the age and condition of the equipment, further repairs are no longer considered practical or cost-effective.

Replacing the rough-cut tractor will:

- Ensure continued delivery of vegetation management and grounds maintenance services.
- Improve the efficiency and productivity of Public Works operations.
- Reduce equipment downtime and maintenance costs associated with aging equipment.
- Improve the maintenance of municipal properties, trails, rights-of-way, drainage areas, and other public spaces.
- Support wildfire mitigation and fuel management efforts through the removal and control of overgrown vegetation.
- Increase reliability and operational readiness during peak maintenance periods.
- Enhance staff safety through the use of modern equipment designed for rough terrain and vegetation management.
- Reduce reliance on contracted services and provide greater flexibility in scheduled maintenance activities.

Failure to replace the tractor may result in increased service disruptions, higher maintenance and contractor costs, delayed vegetation control, and reduced service levels throughout the municipality. As the existing tractor is no longer repairable, the Village would need to increasingly rely on contracted services to complete mowing activities. Outsourcing this work typically results in additional costs related to contractor mobilization, equipment charges, labour rates, scheduling constraints, and administrative oversight. Continued reliance on contractors may also reduce the Village's ability to promptly respond to operational priorities and changing maintenance requirements.

Source of funds:	General Capital Reserves	\$200,000
Expenses:	Rough-cut Tractor	\$200,000

Municipal building window replacement

Strategic Priorities: Health and Safety, Fiscal Responsibility

Reason: The existing front windows have reached the end of their useful life and no longer provide adequate energy efficiency. In addition, the outdated decals applied to the windows are faded, cracked, and detract from the overall appearance of the Municipal Building and Visitor Information Centre.

The office space located behind these windows experiences significant temperature fluctuations, resulting in uncomfortable working conditions, including excessive heat during the summer months and cold drafts during the winter. Replacing the windows will improve thermal performance, reduce energy consumption, and create a more comfortable and efficient workspace for staff and visitors.

A contractor was previously engaged to remove the existing decals; however, the work has not been completed. Window replacement provides a comprehensive solution that addresses both the aesthetic and energy-efficiency concerns of the building.

Alternatives: Leave existing windows in place. This option would avoid the immediate capital expenditure; however, the building would continue to experience energy inefficiencies, occupant discomfort, and a deteriorating exterior appearance. Ongoing heating and cooling costs may also remain higher than necessary.

Source of funds:	Local Government Climate	
	Action Program Grant	\$50,000
Expenses:	Contractor/windows	\$50,000

Council orientation

Strategic Priorities: Communications, Fiscal Responsibility

Reason: A comprehensive training and orientation program is one of the best tools for effective governance. It provides the new Council with the knowledge, basic skills and supports to perform their roles well on behalf of the community.

As Christina Benty says, *“Good governance is like infrastructure: ignore maintenance long enough and it will fail—loudly, publicly, and miserably.”*

Consequences of not doing this:

A Council not equipped with good governance and legal information puts their community at risk of poorly made decisions, legal consequences, loss of organizational skills and knowledge, erosion of public trust and high financial costs.

Alternatives: Do nothing.

Source of funds:	General Surplus	\$18,500
Expenses:	Contractor	\$18,500

Branded apparel and promotional items

Strategic Priorities: Communications, Fiscal Responsibility

Reason: Council members regularly attend conferences, regional meetings, community events, and advocacy sessions where they represent the interests of the Village of Valemount and its residents. Providing Council members with branded jackets, hoodies, and bags promotes a professional and consistent appearance while representing the municipality.

Branded apparel and accessories help strengthen the Village's identity, create visibility for the community, and foster a sense of unity and professionalism among Council members when attending official functions. Similar practices have been adopted by previous Councils and are common among municipalities whose elected officials regularly participate in meetings and events outside their communities.

The proposed purchase would provide Council members with appropriate attire and materials that reflect the Village of Valemount and support their role as ambassadors for the community.

Alternative: Nothing

Council members would continue to attend meetings and events without standardized Village-branded apparel or accessories. While this option would avoid the associated expenditure, it would not provide the same opportunity to promote the Village's identity, enhance professional representation, or foster a unified presence among Council members at external events and meetings.

Source of funds:	General Surplus	\$2,500
Expenses:	Apparel	\$2,500

Airport fuel tank

Strategic Priorities: Health and Safety, Development & Diversification, Fiscal Responsibility

Reason: The airport's current fuel storage capacity is becoming increasingly constrained due to growing fuel demand and heightened operational requirements. During periods of increased activity, fuel supplies can be depleted quickly, creating operational challenges and increasing the risk of fuel shortages.

Recent wildfire activity in the region has significantly increased fuel consumption, particularly by BC Wildfire Service aircraft operating from or through the airport. As a result, the airport has had to closely monitor fuel availability and may be required to issue NOTAMs when fuel supplies become limited.

Maintaining an adequate aviation fuel supply is critical for supporting emergency response operations, including wildfire suppression efforts and medical evacuation (medivac) flights. A fuel shortage could impact the airport's ability to support these essential services and reduce its operational reliability during emergency situations.

The addition of a second fuel storage tank will provide greater fuel security, improve operational resilience, reduce the risk of supply disruptions, and ensure the airport remains capable of supporting emergency and community needs.

Alternatives: Maintain Existing Single-Tank Capacity

This option would avoid the immediate capital expenditure; however, the airport would continue to face an increased risk of fuel shortages during periods of high demand, including wildfire response events and emergency medical operations. Operational disruptions and fuel-related NOTAMs may become more frequent, potentially impacting airport users and emergency service providers.

Source of funds:	BC Air Access Program Grant	\$180,000
	Northern Capital Planning Grant	\$20,000
Expenses:	Contractor/Supplies	\$200,000

CBT gather grant

Strategic Priorities: Development & Diversification, Fiscal Responsibility

Reason: On August 11, 2026, Council authorized staff to apply for a \$25,000 Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) Gather Grant on behalf of the Valemount Farmers' Market. The original intent of the application was to enhance public spaces, specifically the property utilized for the Farmers' Market.

Following discussions with Ms. Marshall, Manager of the Valemount Farmers' Market, it was determined that the grant funding could be more effectively utilized to improve amenities and facilities at the Valemount Sports Plex. As a result, the proposed project focus has shifted to enhancements at the Sports Plex while continuing to support community gathering spaces and recreational opportunities.

At the time Council approved the grant application, it was understood that the CBT Gather Grant would provide funding for 100% of eligible project costs. During the application process, staff confirmed that the grant funds only 90% of project costs, requiring a 10% contribution from the applicant. As a result, the Village will be responsible for providing a contribution of \$2,500 toward the project.

Alternatives: Note- Council already approved the application of the grant.

Source of funds:	Columbia Basin Trust	
	(CBT) Gather Grant	\$22,500
	Legacy Tourism Reserve	
	Fund	\$2,500
Expenses:	Contractor	\$25,000

CBT shoreline outdoor revitalization and enhancement (SHORE)

Strategic Priorities: Development & Diversification, Fiscal Responsibility

Reason: The SHORE Grants program supports the enhancement of public access and recreation in waterfront areas in the Columbia Basin through projects that improve accessibility, safety and climate resilience. The Cranberry Marsh Boardwalk is a heavily utilized recreational and tourist amenity providing access to the wetland area. The two access points of the boardwalk section of the trail on municipal land are in need of upgrades to facilitate accessible use. Furthermore, sections of the boardwalk have deteriorated to the point of hindering accessibility in general.

Alternatives: Not apply for the grant

Source of funds:	CBT Shoreline Outdoor	
	Revitalization and	
	Enhancement (SHORE)	\$45,000
	Legacy Tourism Reserve Fund	\$5,000
Expenses:	Contractor	\$50,000