

March 23, 2026

Special Budget Meeting

Kerri Borne, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation of the 2026 Water, Sewer and Garbage rates. A copy of the presentation, and a recording of the presentation are available on our [Let's Chat Mackenzie](#) page.

Petitions and Delegations – Outdoor Community Centre

Residents Korina and Ryan Lucas presented to Mayor and Council their proposal of developing a covered outdoor community centre. Their proposal focused on enhancing the existing outdoor rink by constructing a permanent cover, which would improve accessibility and usability throughout the year. The proposed improvement would also expand opportunities for additional user groups and activities beyond the winter season, supporting broader year-round community use.

Requests for Support – Mackenzie Community Services

Council received three requests for support from Mackenzie Community Services for their Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder awareness event taking place on September 9, 2026:

1. Council voted to provide a letter of support for their application to the McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest Community Benefits Stream.
2. Council voted in favour of the use of the Recreation Centre front entrance area as well as Spirit Square for a community barbeque.
3. Council voted in favour of illuminating the Recreation Centre red for September 8th and September 9th, 2026, in recognition of International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Day.

Council also received a request for a letter of support from Mackenzie Community Services for their application to the RBC Barrier Buster program, presented by the Rick Hansen Foundation, to help create a more accessible environment in their new office space. Council approved the request.

Request for Support – Mackenzie Minor Hockey Association

Council approved a request from the Mackenzie Minor Hockey Association for the waiver of rental fees for the Community Hall for their annual awards banquet on April 18, 2026.

Union of BC Municipalities 2026 Membership Dues

Council moved to pay the 2026 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) dues in the amount of \$2815.02.

Request for Support – Mackenzie Outdoor Route and Trail Association

Council approved a request from Mackenzie Outdoor Route and Trail Association (MORATA) for a letter of support for their application to the South Peace Mackenzie Trust (SPMT) for the Morfee Mountain Phase 3 Expansion.

North Central Local Government Association Resolution Co – Sponsor

Council voted in favour of co-sponsoring a resolution submitted by the City of Dawson Creek, for Improved Access to Publicly Funded Mental Health Services, to be submitted at the 2026 North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Annual General Meeting. A copy of the resolution can be found [here](#).

Council also voted to support Resolutions to Strengthen Rural Health Care - Expansion of Support for Medical Professional Services, from the District of 100 Mile House. A copy of the resolution can be found [here](#).

Northern Angel Summit 2026

Council motioned for staff to share information to the District's website and social media on the 2026 Northern Angel Summit for any residents it may benefit.

2026 North Central Local Government Association Resolutions

Council voted to submit the following resolution to the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Annual General Meeting:

WHEREAS effective January 1, 2027, the BC Government will repeal the \$200 Northern and Rural Homeowner Benefit that helps offset the additional costs associated with living in rural BC;

AND WHEREAS in the last decade, northern and rural communities have been disproportionately challenged with the rising cost of living due to the economic downturn in the forestry industry resulting from the loss of appurtenancy, amongst other factors, downsizing and closure of post-secondary campuses, inflationary prices of groceries, heating, and travel for routine and specialist healthcare, the impacts of natural disasters such as forest fires and flooding, in addition to other distinctly rural and northern challenges;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of BC to reverse its recent decision to repeal the Northern and Rural Homeowner Benefit starting in tax year 2027 to recognize the ongoing and unique economic challenges BC rural and northern communities are facing.

Council also voted to amend their resolution advocating for the reclassification of high-energy digital infrastructure as follows:

WHEREAS British Columbia’s existing property tax classifications under the Assessment Act do not include a specific class for large-scale artificial intelligence (AI) compute centres, AI data centres, or Bitcoin and cryptocurrency mining operations;

AND WHEREAS these facilities impose unique demands on municipalities that are not reflected in their current tax classification, including significant electrical infrastructure requirements, community planning impacts, emergency response considerations, lower employment levels relative to other industrial uses, and long-term land-use implications;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia and BC Assessment include high-energy digital infrastructure, including but not limited to AI compute centres, high-performance computing (HPC) data centres, and Bitcoin and cryptocurrency mining facilities, in Utilities or Class 5 Light Industry.

2026 Utilities Provisional Capital and Operating Budget

Council directed staff to proceed with the following scenarios for their preferred bylaw rate increases for the 2026 Utilities Operating Budget. The table below explains the impact on the average assessed single-family residential property tax notice:

Rate Increase	2026	2025	Revenue Increase
Property Tax (8%)	1,434.44	1,318.84	115.60
Water (11%)	568.28	511.96	46.08
Sewer (11%)	354.74	319.59	35.15
Garbage (1.5%)	215.92	212.73	3.19
Total	\$2,573.38	\$2,363.12	\$200.02

Concession Lease Agreement

Council awarded the concession lease agreement to Fry Daddy’s for a period of three years from June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2029, with the option of a two-year extension if mutually agreed.

Evan Bichon Recognition

Council voted in favor renaming the Little Mac Ski Hill Chalet to honour Mackenzie athlete Evan Bichon, celebrating his 2026 Olympic debut for Team Canada in snowboard cross.

2026 Public Notification and Emergency Route Planning Grant

Council voted in support of the District's application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Public Notification and Emergency Route Planning grant for up to \$40,000.

2026 Community Resiliency Investment Grant

Council voted in support of the District's application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Local Government Development Approvals grant for up to \$200,00 for the Modernizing Mackenzie's Development Services project which will include a digitization component to align with the BC Building Hub and an update of the District's Subdivision Bylaw 780, 1993.

Short Term Rentals

Council received an information update on the development of short-term rental regulations, including recent provincial changes and local considerations for Mackenzie. Public engagement will begin in April/May 2026 to gather community feedback that will inform the draft regulations.

Property Sale and Price Approvals

Council approved the minimum sale price of \$140,000 for 4850 Coquiwaldie Road and \$25,000 for 1 Hunter Road.

2026 – 2030 RCMP Detachment Occupancy Renewal Agreement

Council approved the RCMP Detachment Occupancy Renewal Agreement for a term of five (5) years commencing on January 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2030.

AI Data Centre Water Usage Information

Council directed staff to reach out to Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Director Grace McGregor to obtain information and insight on how other communities manage data processing centres, particularly in the absence of a dedicated water policy or bylaw. This outreach is intended to support staff's ongoing research and ensure Council has a clear understanding of potential considerations before any future discussions.

Letter to Honourable Ravi Parmar – FireSmart Funding

Council approved Mayor Atkinson's request to send a letter to Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests, regarding recent reductions to FireSmart program funding. The letter will outline the importance of ongoing FireSmart work in Mackenzie and will include an invitation for the Minister to visit the community to view completed wildfire mitigation projects.

Dedication of District Properties Policy

Council directed staff to prepare a report outlining a proposed policy framework for the naming and dedication of District facilities, rooms, and other municipal assets. This work will support consistent, transparent, and well-defined processes for future naming considerations.

Progressive Intercultural Community Services

Council approved Councillor Jesse Wright's request to represent the District of Mackenzie in an upcoming meeting with Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) to discuss matters of mutual interest and gather information relevant to the community.

Non-Profit use of Recreation Centre Policy

Council directed staff to prepare a proposed policy for non-profit use of District community spaces. The policy will help create a consistent, transparent process for evaluating requests and support both the District and non-profit groups in planning and budgeting.

Coming Events

Northern Edge Banked Slalom

Where: Powder King Mountain Resort

When: Saturday March 28, 2026

Registration closes 11:59pm March 26.