



**CAO REPORT – February 13, 2023**

With Family Day quickly approaching, we have been working closely with the Chamber of Commerce this year to produce an extra-special family day weekend. There is a host of options right here in Summerland with free activities happening all weekend with everything from a free family photo scavenger hunt and free public swims and skating, including free skate rentals. From facepainting to family entertainment and music, an artisan market and even foods trucks, there are many options to choose from. Check out our website or the Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Association Website for more information.

Changing tracks here, I wanted to let Council know that we are still on schedule to roll out the BC Hydro credits this quarter. Just as a reminder, that will involve \$100 credit applied to the electricity bill of each qualifying residential account holder, with commercial ratepayers receiving a one-time credit based on their prior year electricity consumption. In addition, in part given the removal of the 10% discount this year, Council has directed us to match the BC hydro credit meaning that those same residential customers will see a \$200 credit on their bill. All the credits require manual processing and right now we are targeting having the credits processed before the end of the month of February.

Unfortunately, on February 6th, pre-ambled messaging attached to the monthly e-bill statements contained an antiquated reference to the 10% discount. This messaging was built into our finance system many years ago and during the transition away from the discount it was, unfortunately, overlooked. Upon realizing our error, we quickly sent a correction notice to those customers so they are aware of the incorrect messaging. We sincerely regret if this caused confusion for any residents.

I would like to acknowledge the good work of staff in running the 2023 Budget Open House February 2nd at the Summerland Arena Banquet Room. Staff from a host of departments volunteered their time to showcase hot topics such as roads, parks, recreation and more. Many members of the public stopped by to interact with staff and Council, and of course to hear the presentation by our Finance Director. Next year plan to augment this 'trade show' format with additional staff including the RCMP and bylaw, and additional opportunities for the public to volunteer, sign up for programs, learn about the District and to engage in open discussions. More to come on that in the months ahead.

Finally, as noted in our news release late Friday afternoon, I am pleased to relay that we have been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, administered by the UBCM for the design and construction of the Isintok Dam Spillway Upgrade project. These funds will support our work including survey, geotechnical and environmental assessments, permits and approvals and consultation. The detailed design portion of the project will cover the design and planning of the new spillway structure, channel protection, and the bridge crossing the Isintok Creek conveyance channel on the primary access road.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer