

VILLAGE OF TELKWA STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 -2026



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INTRODUCTION

This Strategic Priority Plan has been created with the intent to help guide and direct Council decisions and staff priorities as work is undertaken within the Village of Telkwa (the Village). By determining strategic priorities, the collective goal is to ensure that staff time, money and physical resources are allocated in such a way as to benefit the community in an efficient and productive manner.

The Strategic Plan guides all planning processes within the Village based on three fundamental elements: our Vision, our Mission and our Values.

Built on input from Council, staff, citizens, and other stakeholders, the Strategic Plan is a living document that will change as goals are achieved and the needs of the community evolve.

Progress on the Strategic Plan initiatives is reported on publicly in the Village of Telkwa Annual Report.

Plans and goals are reviewed and updated at the beginning of each term of office of our local elected officials.

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WHERE ARE WE NOW?

With a population of roughly 1500 people, Telkwa is a small and vibrant community nestled on the banks of the world-renowned Bulkley and Telkwa River. Our picturesque, historical village borders Tyhee Lake Provincial Park. Surrounded by snow-capped mountain ranges and a myriad of lakes and streams, Telkwa's spectacular natural setting offers extensive outdoor adventure and recreational opportunities.

Much of Telkwa's infrastructure is aging and is in need of repair and/or replacement in the foreseeable future. The Strategic Priorities outlined in this Plan will address many of these important updates that are necessary to ensure that Telkwa remains a safe, healthy and enjoyable place to live, work and play.

To date, efforts have been made towards laying plans for foundational groundwork through studies and information collection and compilation of Village infrastructure. Coupled with the Strategic Priorities outlined in this report, pursuit and receipt of grant funding is expected to drive the development of work plans to ensure that Council's goals and priorities are met efficiently and effectively.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

Vision

"Known for its sense of community and continual movement towards a sustainable economy, Telkwa is a great place to raise a family, open a business and/or age in place."

Mission

"The Corporation of the Village of Telkwa's mission is to serve the community through smart growth, community involvement and the creation of partnerships to realize the vision of a healthy, friendly, diverse, and thriving community."

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Strategic Priorities and Goals

Strategic priorities and goals were developed through the evaluation of input gathered from residents, stakeholders, Council and staff. Feedback collected from participants was compiled and utilized in the process of determining the top priorities to be the focus of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THERE?

SETTING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Advocacy (Strategic Priority #1)

Council recognizes that the needs of a small town in northwestern BC, such as the Village of Telkwa, is often not at the forefront in terms of priorities for the provincial and/or federal governments. Council is dedicated to ensuring that issues important to the Village of Telkwa are brought forward and continue to be advocated for at all levels of government.

Water/Sewer Infrastructure (Strategic Priority #2)

The Village of Telkwa water and sewer systems require major updates in order to better serve the needs of our community and to ensure long-term sustainability. Great strides were made during the 2018-2022 term of Council in this regard; however, continued and ongoing efforts are required to address this infrastructure deficit. During the 2023-2026 term, Council will direct staff to seek and pursue grant funding for water and sewer upgrades and improvements. The Village of Telkwa Water and Sewer Asset Management System Strategy report completed during the last Council term will be utilized as a guiding document to assist in highlighting critical areas to be addressed.

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Community Management (Strategic Priority #3)

Input from Council, staff, citizens, and other stakeholders have flagged community engagement, recreation, and festivals and events as important areas of focus during this Council term. Projects in each of these areas will be developed and undertaken as Strategic Priority #3 of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

Economic Development (Strategic Priority #4)

COVID-19 had a major impact on Economic Development over the past number of years. During this term, the Village of Telkwa plans to focus on tourism, business attraction and retention, and the need for increased child care spaces in order to successfully move forward from this unprecedented event and support strong economic recovery, while continuing to foster resident attraction and retention.

Asset Management (Strategic Priority #5)

Proper management of community assets is essential for planning, evidence-based decision making, and long-term sustainability of the Village of Telkwa. The Village has been developing components of an Asset Management Plan over the past number of years, including for water and sewer infrastructure as well as for the municipal office building. The 2023-2026 phase will expand upon the work already done as well as undertake a full Asset Management Policy, Risk Assessment & Lifecycle Planning project.

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GETTING THERE

Advocacy (Strategic Priority 1)

Goal: Council and Staff to Advocate for the Needs of Telkwa

Objectives

- Upgrades and Replacement of the Bulkley Valley Bridge
- Affordable Housing
- Health Care Spaces/Services
- Child Care Spaces

Strategies

- Council and staff to advocate the provincial and federal governments for upgrades and replacement of the Bulkley Valley Bridge;
- Development of potential partnerships in relationship to upgrades and replacement of the Bulkley Valley Bridge.
- Council and staff to advocate the provincial and federal governments for Affordable Housing and increased funding for affordable housing projects;
- Seek and develop potential partnerships in relation to Affordable Housing opportunities.
- Council and staff to advocate the provincial government and Northern Health for increased Health Care spaces/services;
- Council & staff to advocate for recruitment of doctors for Telkwa through Northern Health & the Northwest Regional Hospital Board.
- Council and staff to advocate the provincial and federal governments for increased Child Care Spaces as well as for increased funding for same.

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- New Accessibility Plan Legislation
 - Council to advocate the provincial government for funding to meet requirements of new provincial Accessibility Plan legislation.
- Emergency Management
 - Council and staff to advocate the provincial and federal governments for increased funding to meet additional and new legislative requirements regarding Emergency Management and Climate Readiness;
 - Council and staff to advocate the provincial and federal governments for increased consultation with northwestern communities regarding Emergency Management and Climate Readiness legislation with northwestern communities.
- North West Resource Benefits Alliance
 - Council and staff continue to advocate the provincial government to enter into the North West Resource Benefits Alliance fair share agreement with northwestern BC municipalities and regional districts.

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Water/Sewer Infrastructure (Strategic Priority 2)

Goal: To Maintain/Repair/Upgrade Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Objectives

- To obtain funding to maintain, repair, and/or upgrade water infrastructure
- To obtain funding to maintain, repair and/or upgrade sewer infrastructure

Strategies

- Research provincial and federal funding streams for potential grant opportunities
- Actively pursue relevant grant opportunities by preparation and submission of applicable grant applications
- Plan for expansion of the water system to accommodate future growth
- Research provincial and federal funding streams for potential grant opportunities
- Actively pursue relevant grant opportunities by preparation and submission of applicable grant applications
- Plan for expansion of the sewer system to accommodate future growth

Community Management (Strategic Priority 3)

Goal: Increase Opportunities for Community Involvement

Objectives

- Community Engagement

Strategies

- Support increased opportunities for Community Engagement through social media, etc.;
- Keep the community engaged and informed with regular updates on projects and activities.

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- Recreation
 - Seek funding for recreational capital projects;
 - Collaborate with external organizations (i.e. non-profit organizations and charities) to seek funding for recreational activities;
 - Develop increased/various recreational opportunities within the community, including accessible opportunities.
- Festivals and Events
 - Liaise with outside organizations to seek funding for festival and event opportunities (i.e. non-profit organizations and charities);
 - Investigate partnership opportunities for more festivals and events for the community.

Economic Development (Strategic Priority 4)

Goal: Increase Economic Development Activities in Telkwa

Objectives

- Business Attraction/Retention
- Tourism

Strategies

- Undertake promotional activities for Telkwa business attraction and retention;
- Provide support to local businesses through the Business Attraction and Expansion Program;
- Host 2023 Regional Business Forum;
- Continue with annual "Business Walk".
- Promote Village of Telkwa tourism opportunities;

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- Child Care Spaces
- Explore funding for tourism opportunities and products.
- Liaise with agencies regarding development of potential additional spaces for child care within the Village of Telkwa.

Asset Management (Strategic Priority 5)

Goal: Expansion of the Telkwa Asset Management Program

Objective

- Work with consultant to expand Telkwa Asset Management Program
- Development of an Asset Management Plan
- Buildings
- Facilities

Strategies

- Hire a consultant to expand the Telkwa Asset Management Program;
- Procure Asset Management Software.
- Compile relevant data and utilize Asset Management Software towards creation of an Asset Management Policy;
- Development of an Asset Management Plan;
- Development of a phased-in Financial Strategic Plan for Asset Management.
- Expansion of the Asset Management Program in relation to community buildings;
- Accessibility improvements to community buildings.
- Expansion of the Asset Management Program in relation to community facilities;
- Accessibility improvements to community facilities.

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- Equipment
- Expansion of the Asset Management Program in relation to Village-owned vehicles and equipment.

ARE WE GETTING THERE?

Monitoring and Performance Measurement

Many of the strategies outlined in this Plan are dependant on funding. Therefore, a number of strategies will entail research of funding opportunities and preparation and submission of grant applications where feasible. Following the grant-approval process and upon grant approval notifications, implementation of detailed plans will commence. Monitoring and performance management will assist to ensure that projects are completed on time and remain within the allotted budget parameters. Priorities will be reviewed throughout the 2023-2026 term, reports prepared, and the formulation of further strategies for each priority will be developed.

Evaluation

The Village of Telkwa Strategic Plan is intended to be viewed as a “living document”. Therefore, as work is undertaken and action items are completed, evaluations will occur and new initiatives may be added or adjusted to continue to ensure that the overall priorities are being met, as circumstances develop and conditions evolve.

THANK YOU!

Contributions

We would like to thank residents, stakeholders, Council, and staff for their input into the preparation of the Village of Telkwa Strategic Plan 2023-2026. Your contribution is a valuable component of the Strategic Planning process.