

City of Rossland

Press release for AGLG part 2 report

The Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) has just released Part 2 of the City of Rossland's audit, which focused on Capital Procurement Projects and Asset Management. The report concluded that the City needs to build on the asset management work it has already started and to move forward with creating an Asset Management Plan. The plan involves building a comprehensive list of everything the city owns, from roads and pipes to buildings and equipment, The next step is to assign a current value to each one and then to create and implement a lifecycle plan for replacement, renewal or disposal.

In 2011, consultants began this work by developing an inventory and a five-year Infrastructure Management and Improvement Plan; however, the AGLG observed, that this work wasn't continued or built upon by the City. Due to limited resources, a comprehensive plan detailing how projects would be financed fell behind and a number of the projects outlined in the infrastructure plan didn't move forward.

"I am proud of the work that the City undertook in 2011 to begin to address the issues of asset management", said Mayor Kathy Moore. "We got off to a strong start with the consultants' work but were hampered by lack of resources to keep going. This is a challenge faced by all municipalities but little ones, like Rossland, are hit particularly hard. We have a small number of staff, a big workload and very limited financial resources".

Another recommendation from the report is that the City needs to implement a more systematic approach to project decision making. More information to justify the project should be provided to the city council to ensure that each project represents the highest priority and the best value for taxpayers.

Mayor Moore said, "The City of Rossland has benefited from the observations and recommendations that have come out of the audit process. While it is never easy to be put under the microscope, the end result was worth the time and effort. Our staff did an amazing job working with the auditors." She adds, "We have learned a lot and have been able to incorporate many of the suggestions into our priorities and goals for this term. A number of the observations have been identified as critical and we are making significant progress towards their achievement. We have adopted new procedures for reviewing capital project decisions and now council gets more information. We are committed to furthering the work started in 2011."

According to Moore, city council has a strong focus on ensuring proper fiscal management and a firm commitment to providing good value for taxpayers' money. Developing a systematic approach to asset and capital project management are key components. The Perspective Series produced by the AGLG is an excellent resource, not only for the City of Rossland but for all Canadian municipalities. This council is optimistic that the changes being made, based on the audit and the suggestions

outlined in the Perspective Series, will have a significant impact on the fiscal health of the organization. Moore states, “we intend to transform ourselves into a model of good fiscal and asset management.”

“The City of Rossland appreciates the opportunity to get significant help with the thorny problems of procurement, asset and project management”, said Mayor Moore. “We hope that other municipalities will also benefit from the observations and suggestions made by the AGLG. Rossland’s city council appreciates the time and effort contributed by both the Auditor General’s staff and of their own municipal employees.”