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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) Completes First Audit of the City of Rossland**

The newly formed Office of the Auditor General for Local Government has just released Part 1 of its performance audit for the City of Rossland on Capital Procurement Projects.

As stated on the AGLG website the purpose of the Office is: "to conduct performance audits of the operations of local governments in order to provide local governments with objective information and relevant advice that will assist them in their accountability to their communities for the stewardship of public assets and the achievement of value for money in the operations". The City of Rossland acknowledged the seriousness of past events that lead to issues Council and Staff did not want to repeat. Therefore, the City of Rossland invited the AGLG to assist in identifying system improvements and to provide the City with recommendations regarding implementation. The City of Rossland has now incorporated the few recommendations made by the AGLG into its Action Plan.

The City of Rossland was aware the Office of the AGLG is a new organization and was aware there would be a learning curve for all during the audit process. What the City did not expect was a huge drain on resources to complete the first phase of this audit, which took more than six months, and an end result that was predetermined from the outset.

The AGLG call their performance audits "value for money audits". In order to ensure that municipalities and taxpayers receive value for money, the City of Rossland feels that BC citizens be informed of the costs associated with the AGLG audit process in all municipalities so that the costs involved can be compared with the benefits received.

The City of Rossland's Summary and Action Plan can be found starting on page 50 of the AGLG report on Capital Procurement Projects. The City of Rossland is currently working on completing the second part of the AGLG audit process on Asset Management Programs. This report is expected to be released at the end of August 2014.

"The City hopes the AGLG completes a self-evaluation to ensure going forward they meet their own objectives," Mayor Greg Granstrom said. "The City of Rossland will appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback from a small municipality perspective to the Board of the AGLG, as well as, to the Province of British Columbia and our fellow municipalities."

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