

Regional District of Central Kootenay

ILC – October 2020 FINAL

In 1965, the B.C. government amended the *Municipal Act* to enable the creation of regional districts. There are now 27 regional districts across the province of British Columbia. The Town of Creston belongs to the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) which serves an estimated population of approximately 60,000 residents and is comprised of nine municipalities and 11 Electoral Areas with the three in the Creston Valley being Electoral Areas 'A', 'B', and 'C'. The nine municipalities are the City of Nelson, City of Castlegar, Town of Creston, and the Villages of Kaslo, Nakusp, New Denver, Salmo, Silverton and Slocan.

The creation of regional districts arose out of a need for greater regional cooperation and cost-sharing between municipal areas and rural areas. The RDCK provides over 160 services and the Town of Creston participates in 15 of these services including economic development, emergency management, cemetery operations, refuse disposal including recycling, the Creston Museum, the Creston Library, regional parks, recreation, transit, regional airport funding and water services.

Essentially, regional districts have three basic roles. Firstly, they provide a political and an administrative framework to provide region-wide services such as regional parks, and emergency telephone service such as 911. Secondly, they provide inter-municipal or sub-regional services, such as recreation facilities. And thirdly, they act as the general local government for electoral areas and provide local services such as building inspection, water works and fire protection to unincorporated communities within the electoral areas.

The Creston Valley Services Committee (CVSC) is comprised of the Electoral Directors for Areas 'A', 'B' and 'C' along with the Town of Creston and meets on a monthly basis to discuss our shared services – generally on the first Thursday of each month. With the current pandemic, the meetings are still open to the public however, as of right now, the public can only participate electronically. You can find the agenda for the next meeting on the RDCK's website - <https://rdck.ca/EN/meta/events/events-list/meetings.html>.

I have served as the Town of Creston RDCK Director for 12 years, with one of those years being Vice Chair. In 2019, I attended 56 meetings related to my RDCK duties with meetings in Nelson, Richmond, Victoria and Creston! I have appreciated the opportunity to learn, contribute and represent the Town of Creston on the RDCK Board and I would like to share this invaluable experience. As such, I will be removing my name for the 2021-2022 RDCK Director position. This means that a new Town Councillor will be appointed as the RDCK Board Director

for the Town of Creston in November 2020. The Regional District Director representing municipalities is appointed by Council on an annual basis and at the 2019 RDCK Board table, four of the nine municipalities are Councillor appointees.

Being part of the RDCK allows the Town of Creston to share services such as our recreation complex, refuse disposal (landfill), the public library, economic development and emergency management (to name just a few). This is known as “economies of scale”, where some services can be delivered at a lower cost if they are delivered at a large scale by larger units of government. The sharing of services allows our entire Creston Valley to benefit from amenities that we would not be able to afford to provide on our own and is therefore, mutually beneficial for all!

Do not hesitate to contact me by:

Visiting me at my office in Town Hall

Email me at ron.toyota@creston.ca

Call me at 250 428 2214 (extension 111)

Word Count: 589