

Building the Local Economy

Improvements to our infrastructure is necessary to ensure that we maximize the opportunities to build our economy. This budget makes key investments that will help to stimulate growth in our community.

Internet Connectivity Strategy

- The District is creating an Internet Connectivity Strategy. It will consist of creating a long-term plan to address the needs of the community.
- In conjunction with the long-term strategy development, the District is working on two projects:
 - Sweetland is a pilot project being funded in partnership with the provincial government. The province is providing \$75,000 and the District will contribute \$60,000 for the construction of two towers that will deliver high-speed internet up to 288 homes.
 - The second project has been submitted to the federal Connect to Innovate Program, in partnership with EastLink. Council has approved \$246,800 for this project.

Rural roads

- Roads are a major priority in our municipality. Well-maintained, good quality roads are essential for our communities. The District recognizes the importance of roads to our citizens, and is examining an initiative that would allow the District to target road improvements and leverage provincial investment.

Investment Attraction

- The District has adopted a strategy to draw investment into our region. As part of the Strategy, 2017/18 will see the first year of an advertising and social media campaign. Other actions to attract business and residents to our region will include a campaign to convert website visitors to visitors to the area, marketing our Agriculture sector, and producing a promotional video for the District.

Agriculture

- The District will continue to promote our agriculture industry with a focus on value-added agriculture and the berry sector. The 2017/18 budget includes funding to:
 - Host the Agriculture Day event;
 - Develop an agritourism map; and
 - developing an Agri-Innovation park.

