



UPFRONT

YOUR CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT NEWS
FALL/ WINTER 2025



Pay your CRD Utility Bill in Full Prior to December 31st.

REMINDER



All utility bill accounts must be paid in full by December 31, 2025. Any unpaid balance after that date will be considered in arrears and transferred to property taxes for collection through the Province of British Columbia's debt recovery process.

Once transferred, the outstanding balance and any daily interest will accrue to the Province of British Columbia until the amount is paid in full. If your utility bill remains unpaid after December 31, you will receive a notice from the Ministry of Finance advising that your outstanding balance has been transferred to your provincial property tax account.

Utility users can make payments through most financial institutions and Credit Unions in British Columbia, or in person at any Cariboo Regional District office. Please note that online or electronic payments can take up to three business days to process, so be sure to make your payment well before December 31 to ensure it is received on time.

To avoid your account being in arrears and entering the provincial debt recovery process, please ensure your utility payment is completed before year end.

Moving to a New Home?

If you've recently moved — or are planning to move — into a home that receives water, sewer, or curbside pickup from the Cariboo Regional District, please remember to contact us.

Keeping your contact details up to date ensures you continue to receive your bills and service notices on time and helps avoid missed payments or delays. Please note that BC Assessment cannot update utility account addresses or ownership information. If you've moved or purchased a new property, please contact the Cariboo Regional District directly to update your account.



Building a Strong, Resilient, Connected Region

This fall, economic development leaders from across the Cariboo gathered in Barkerville for the semiannual Regional Economic Development Roundtable. This collaborative forum, hosted by the Cariboo Regional District, rotates to different locations across the region each season. This intentional rotation ensures all areas have access and provides a platform to spotlight the diverse projects and opportunities happening in every corner of the Cariboo. The roundtable brings together staff from Community Futures, Northern Development Initiative Trust, First Nations communities, municipalities, and other key organizations.

With 19 participants in attendance, the meeting was a powerful display of regional unity. The roundtable format allows each representative to share their latest projects, challenges, and successes, fostering in-depth discussions and mutual support.

The day concluded with an immersive private tour of Barkerville Historic Town. This hands-on experience highlighted how our region's unique heritage is a vital asset for economic development through tourism. The event continues a tradition of on-site learning, with past sessions including explorations of the 108 Heritage Site, Williams Lake First Nation's Osprey's Nest Restaurant and Unity Cannabis farm-to-table operation, and the Sprout Kitchen Food Hub, as well as workshops on leveraging AI tools for economic development.

These roundtables are more than just meetings; they are a foundation of our region's economic strategy. By connecting, sharing resources, and lifting each other up, we are building a stronger, more resilient, and interconnected Cariboo economy for everyone.

CRD Accessibility Questions?



CRD Accessibility Committee
Suite D, 180 North Third Avenue
Williams Lake, BC V2G 2A4
Voicemail 1-888-507-6009
CRDAAC@cariboord.ca

YOUR VFD IS RECRUITING NOW



Members Needed

Did you know that your local VFD needs to hit minimum membership requirements in order to continue providing fire protection services? Many of our VFD member numbers are getting dangerously low. Will YOU step up and answer the call?

**WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING
COMMUNITY SPIRITED, MOTIVATED
INDIVIDUALS TO JOIN OUR TEAMS.**



**Learn more.
Apply today.**

SCAN THE QR CODE

www.cariboord.ca/vfd

**You provide the time,
we provide the training.**

Ignite Connections: Connect with fellow community members who share your passion for service and teamwork.

Join the Fight: Learn essential firefighting skills while working alongside dedicated heroes who are always ready to lend a hand.

Be the Spark: Become an integral part of your community; your involvement helps protect homes and save lives.

cariboord.ca/vfd

Solid Waste Management - Lets All Do Our Part

The CRD's updated Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) was approved by the Ministry of Environment and Parks in March of 2025. The SWMP spans the next 10 years and provides strategies and actions to reduce the amount of waste being landfilled in the Region. Implementation of the SWMP will occur over the next several years, but everyone can do their part in the short term to reduce waste.

With the holiday season approaching, consider purchasing experiences for your loved ones rather than items that will ultimately end up in the landfill.

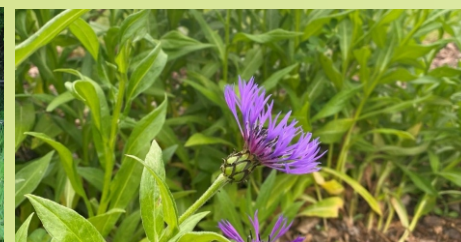
Food waste composting is available for residents in the Central Cariboo area, visit

www.cariboord.ca/compost to learn more. Household recycling drop off is available throughout the Region, check out www.cariboord.ca/recycling for depot locations.

If all CRD residents composted their food waste and recycled their household packaging and paper, we'd be well on our way to meeting our SWMP goals.



Sign Up in January for Invasive Plant Services



Do you have invasive weeds taking over your property and are unsure of the next steps? The CRD's invasive plant management program offers free property assessments under our Landowner Assistance program. These take place during our field season from May-September. Funding is on a first-come, first-served basis.

This service is offered to provide tools and knowledge to local landowners in an effort to help protect our ecosystems from invasive plants that threaten the biodiversity of the Cariboo.

Assessments can include: plant identification, information on severity of infestation, integrated pest management strategies (managing pests in an effective, economical and environmentally sound way), best management practices to prevent spread, and time to answer any questions you may have.

Applications open January 2nd, 2026. Apply online and see our other treatment services for Landowners at www.cariboord.ca/lap



cariboord.ca/lap



Funding Available to Business/Property Owners in the CRD Business Façade Improvement Program (BFIP) Deadline Dec 31st

Funding is available to business and commercial property owners in the rural areas of the CRD who want to give their building façade a facelift! Program guidelines, eligibility requirements and application forms are available at www.cariboord.ca/bfi

Eligible businesses may receive a 50% reimbursement to a maximum of \$5,000 for

exterior renovations and improvements. Funding is on a first-come, first-served basis. Deadline for 2025 is December 31st. Stay tuned for information on the 2026 Business Façade Program in the new year!

This program is made possible through a \$20,000 grant from the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT).

Avoid Project Delays & Uncertainty – Build to the Bylaw

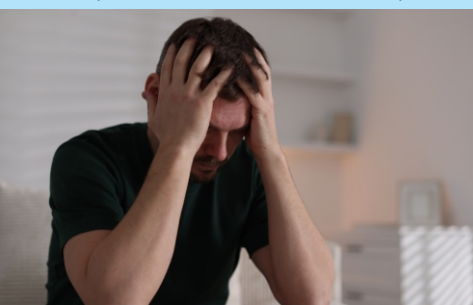
Zoning Bylaws are in place to ensure uniform development that minimizes impacts on neighbours and maintains the rural character of the Cariboo that we all cherish. Ensure your proposed project meets zoning bylaw requirements before spending time and money on designs and building plans. Proposing projects that do not meet zoning bylaw regulations adds cost and increases permit processing times, and could be rejected by the Board!

Common zoning issues that are increasing building permit processing times include:

- Floor areas for decks, garages, and shops exceed limits
- Detached shops exceed height limits
- Proposed buildings are located in water setback elevations (1.5 m or 3.0 m elevations)
- Lake accesses (even undeveloped ones) have increased setbacks
- Floor area for carriage houses and secondary dwellings exceed limits

Riparian Protection and Aquatic Habitat Development Permit Areas:

Did you know, many of the Region's lakes and streams have protected buffer areas usually ranging from 15 m to 30 m from the boundary of a lake or stream. These areas protect the riparian (waterfront) habitat for



animals and creatures that use the shoreline and the lakes. Building in these areas requires both a Building Permit and Development Permit. The Development Permit application will usually require a site visit and assessment report by a biologist to ensure the habitat is not negatively impacted during and after construction of your project. You can save significant time and cost (usually 6 months and thousands of dollars), by building outside this protected area. Placing your buildings back from lakes and streams helps to protect important habitat, can allow for improved lake views, and reduces your flood risk in the future.

A quick email to our Planning staff before you start designing your project can save you months of permitting time and redesign costs. We try to respond to these inquiries within a few business days. Winter is a good time to check regulations before designing your project and breaking ground in the spring.



Avoid Delays – Submit a Complete Building Permit Application

Building Permits are typically processed within four weeks from the date all required information is received. If information is missing or submitted later, the review timeline restarts once the application is complete.

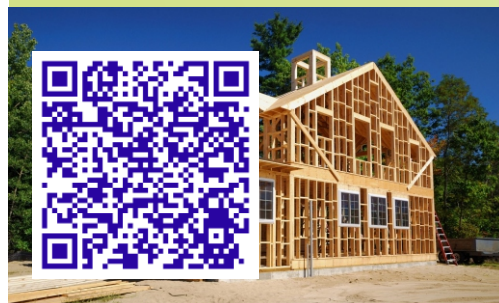
Common items that slow down or hold up permits:

- Missing or incomplete construction drawings
- Incomplete or missing engineering
- Missing or incomplete floor system designs (joist layout, spans, or loads)
- Missing truss designs and point load information
- Pads or footings not designed in line with truss or column point loads
- Missing braced wall panel designs or details
- Missing or unclear site plan
- Incomplete energy compliance documentation (Step Code / NECB)

Submitting a complete and accurate package helps your permit move faster and prevents costly redesigns and delays.

Plan ahead. Build smarter.

Check the Building Permit Checklist on our website or contact Building Services before you apply. We can help ensure your submission is complete and ready to move forward.

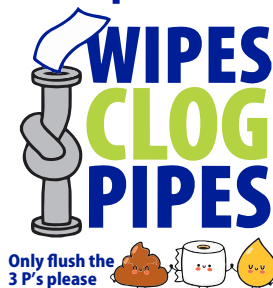


Important Reminder from our CRD Utilities Department

Protect your plumbing and your pocketbook - seriously though...

Many household cleaning products are labeled both disposable and flushable. They are not! While these products are convenient, they can lead to costly sewer blockages in homes, businesses, and our wastewater systems. Unlike toilet paper, these products don't break down when flushed. This can lead to issues and very costly repairs.

Protect your plumbing, pocket book and the environment by only flushing the 3 Ps: pee, poo, and paper.



Winter Holiday Safety Tips

Brought to you by your CRD Volunteer Fire Departments



Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together; but, that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Turn off all light strings, tree lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Facts



More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles.



More than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Program Renewals & Incentive Applications Open Now

Are you interested in working together to make sure your neighbourhood is more resilient to the risk of wildfire?

The FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Program Renewals and Incentive Applications are now open.

FireSmart is most effective when communities come together, and this program officially recognizes the communities that are taking action to reduce wildfire risks. Plus, eligible applicants can receive up to \$1,000 in funding to support their mitigation efforts. Visit the CRD FireSmart page on our website for the link to apply.

FireSmart Tips

Before the snow flies is the perfect time to start preparing for next year's fire season. Cleaning up your yard now will reduce the available fuels in spring. It's also a great time to cut the grass before the snow falls.

- Start by cleaning up any leaves or dead and dying plant material within 1.5 metres of any structure (the Immediate Zone).
- Cut your grass! Ensuring your grass is 10 centimetres or less will help slow down any potential wildland fires and ultimately



FireSmart™



www.cariboord.ca/firesmart

reduce the risk of it carrying into nearby fuels.

- Clean under your deck. Dispose of unwanted items or materials and put toys into storage.
- Prune all trees to a height of 2 metres from the ground. Remove all branches that touch, or are close to, your home or other structures.

Simple actions, starting at the Immediate Zone and extending outwards, will reduce the likelihood of your home being damaged or destroyed by wildland fire.



Warm Holiday Wishes

Reminder: CRD Holiday Office Closure Dec 25-Jan 1

The CRD offices in Williams Lake, 100 Mile and Quesnel will be closed for the holidays Thursday, December 25th through to Thursday, January 1st. Our offices will re-open on Friday, January 2nd, 2026. Contact your community library for their holiday hours.

Budget 2026 Consultation

let's

TALK

budget

Keep your eyes peeled in January for information on how you can provide us with your thoughts about Budget 2026!

As required by law, the CRD consults residents about its budget before it can be adopted, usually in March of each year. While each service budget has separate taxation proposals, the overall changes will result in a total proposed increase in the amount of funding required from property taxes. This varies by area depending on which services the property

participates in, and can be impacted by different recreation services, fire departments, and other services.

Further review of the budget will be conducted in January following the release of the 2025 Assessment Roll, which informs the required requisition rates to fund services. Business Plans, Finance-Budget Committee Agendas, and other information about the budget proposals can be found online at www.cariboord.ca/budget2026



Reminder: CRD Transfer Station Winter Hours Now In Effect - cariboord.ca/transferstationhours



cariboord.ca

building communities together

1-800-665-1636