

Community Excellence Awards 2018 Application Form

Please complete and return the application form by Friday, May 25, 2018. All questions are required to be answered by typing directly in this form. If you have any questions, contact awards@ubcm.ca or (250) 356-5193.

SECTION 1: Applicant Information

Local Government: Thompson-Nicola
Regional District

Complete Mailing Address: 300-465 Victoria
Street, Kamloops, BC V2C 2A9

Contact Person: Regina Sadilkova

Position: Director of Development Services

Phone: 250-377-8673

E-mail: rsadilkova@tnrd.ca

SECTION 2: Category

- Excellence in Governance.** *Governance processes or policies that are outcomes-based and consensus oriented; support and encourage citizen participation in civic decision-making; are efficient, equitable and inclusive, open and transparent; and exemplify best practices in accountability, effectiveness, and long term thinking.*
- Excellence in Service Delivery.** *Projects/programs that provide effective services in a proactive manner, demonstrate benefit to the community, and utilize performance measures, benchmarks and standards to ensure sustainable service delivery.*
- Excellence in Asset Management.** *Projects/programs that demonstrate a comprehensive system of asset management policies and practices, meeting and/or exceeding accepted best practices.*
- Excellence in Sustainability.** *Projects/programs that incorporate a long-term sustainability lens by considering cultural, social, economic and environmental issues in planning, policy and practice.*

SECTION 3: Project/Program Details

1. Name of the Project/Program:

Thompson-Nicola Regional District Regional Growth Strategy: Monitoring Urban and Country Indicators Across our Communities and Ranges

2. Project/Program Summary. Please provide a summary of your project/program in 150 words or less.

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) covers over 45,000 km, and as such applying regional growth monitoring indicators that are suitable for urban communities, small towns, rural ranges and farmland is a challenge.

Regardless, the TNRD Board of Directors endorsed the implementation of a monitoring strategy of 10 key indicators in 2013. The first Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) monitoring report was released in 2015 for our 10 electoral areas and 11 member municipalities. The 2017 Monitoring Report was the second report and is submitted for Community Excellence Award consideration.

Even though our RGS may not be as politically charged as those of Metro Vancouver or the Capital Regional District, it shares the ambitious desire of setting a course to a sustainable future on the four pillars of culture, civil society, economy, and the environment.

3. Demonstrating Excellence. Please describe how your project/program demonstrates excellence in meeting the purposes of local government in BC and provides promising practices for others to follow.

Our RGS is one of the foundation services that binds the 11 municipalities and 10 electoral areas of our region. It underlies the cooperation between rural and urban areas and provides the direction to guide land use and major decision making, long term thinking and sustainable service delivery to the benefit of all stakeholders.

The TNRD was the second regional district in the Province to adopt an RGS, and we continued to be leaders by being one of the first predominantly rural regional districts to establish a monitoring strategy. The report paints the picture of growth as well as decline and goes beyond just reporting the numbers by considering the reasons behind these changes.

Collected data and a collaborative and consultative approach with our member municipalities and Provincial agencies, like Ministry of Agriculture and the Interior Health Authority, establish a platform for developing effective, realistic and relevant long term planning strategies.

4. Category Criteria.

A. Please describe how your project/program meets the objectives of the category you have applied under. Refer to S. 3 of the Program & Application Guide.

We are submitting this application under the Excellence in Sustainability category.

In terms of sustainability, we evaluate all projects/plans and applications against the sustainability and resiliency principles set out in the RGS. We then parallel this through monitoring to establish a track record of how, or if, we are moving in the direction of assuring the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

As a fairly new initiative, the data sets for our indicators are not currently longterm, but will become so with each passing year. Even with the data we have thus far, we are already bringing about change and more informed decision making to the benefit of current residents and the needs of future generations.

Collected data regarding age demographics, housing starts/types, economy and employment, environment, health, agricultural land values and production all reflect cultural, social, economic and environmental impacts in achieving long term sustainable strategies, policies and practices.

The monitoring report takes an in depth approach and highlights the inherent complexities in long term planning that must be considered with every decision to ensure opportunities for growth and development are not lost.

B. In many cases projects may meet the criteria of more than one category. If applicable, please describe how your project meets the criteria of one or more other categories.

The monitoring report is an example of Excellence in Governance as it provides data based outcomes which will be used to develop governance processes and policies.

This report is available to all residents who are interested in knowing what's happening in their region. We hope that this can be a conversation starter.

This project also reflects Excellence in Service Delivery. The TNRD provides regional planning and/or building services for its 10 electoral areas, and the majority of its member municipalities. All municipalities, including Kamloops, benefit from collaborative fringe area planning. Monitoring report data will contribute to future policy development.

SECTION 4: Program Criteria

- 5. Leadership.** Describe the extent to which your local government acted as a local or regional leader in the development or implementation of the project/program.

As a regional district the TNRD demonstrates leadership by collaborating with member municipalities in the development of planning practices and strategies. As such, the RGS and monitoring indicators are unlikely to be a basis for discord or cross jurisdiction litigation.

By way of striving to be a leader all of our municipalities have cooperated and participated in the regional planning service for decades.

- 6. Partnerships and collaboration.** Describe the breadth and depth of community and/or regional partnerships that supported the project/program and the extent to which internal and/or external collaboration was evident.

Establishing the indicators was a yearlong and involved process whereby we needed to secure buy-in from all who would be directly represented in the report. Consultation took place with other partners such as the 22 First Nation bands located within the TNRD and various agencies and Provincial ministries. We undertook a RGS 'roadshow' to explain the purpose and to get buy-in and commitment to participate and feed into monitoring data, and then the RGS as a whole.

In developing the monitoring report, we worked closely with the Ministry of Agriculture to validate facts and to get a clear understanding of what larger factors may be in play, i.e. trends in types of farming.

We also consulted with the Interior Health Authority to obtain health data, such as air quality. This information is incorporated in the planning decision making process.

The TNRD provides solid waste management services for the entire regional district including First Nations, with the exception of the City of Kamloops. Having said this, the TNRD works closely with the City of Kamloops to ensure a global outlook is in place and considered when implementing solid waste management practices, and addressing challenges within the region.

- 7. Innovation and promising practices.** Describe the degree to which the project/program demonstrated creativity and innovation, and contributed to increased efficiency or effectiveness.

Undertaking this report with in-house staff working off the corner of our desks was a challenge, given we have no designated RGS staff and our time can be fully occupied with current applications.

While local governments typically contract-out research and long range planning work, completing this work in-house can be interesting and rewarding for our staff. With the support of our Board and CAO, we can focus staff time on these such sustainability aligned projects.

- 8. Public engagement and communications.** Describe the extent to which public engagement was foundational to the success of the project/program, including the use of communication tools such as social media.

The creation of the RGS and the selection of the 10 indicators was completed via an extensive public process.

The sharing of indicators is likewise an involved process. Once published, our monitoring reports are shared via press releases, media interviews and distribution to all stakeholders including First Nations, member municipalities, Provincial ministries, Advisory Planning Commissions, Advisory Agriculture Commission, ALR, etc. We also undertake public presentations on the report contents before many of these stakeholders.

- 9. Transferability.** Describe the degree to which the process or outcomes of the project, or other learnings, could be conveyed to other UBCM members.

The 27 regional districts within the Province vary in size and ratio of municipalities to electoral areas; however, the consultation development, collaboration and positive relationship building involved in developing this monitoring report is transferable to other regional districts. This may be of particular benefit to other predominantly rural regional districts.

SECTION 5: Additional Information

10. Please share any other information you think may help support your submission.

Attached are copies of 5 pages from the 2017 Monitoring Report. The entire Report can be viewed at <https://tnrd.civicweb.net/document/141369>.

As additional supporting information, the 2015 Monitoring Report can be viewed at <https://tnrd.civicweb.net/document/102815>.

SECTION 6: Signature

Applications are required to be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant.

Name: Sukh Gill

Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Signature:



Date: May 14, 2018

All applicants are required to submit:

- Signed application form. Applications should be submitted as Word or PDF files.
- Five representatives photos of the project. Photos should be submitted as JPEG files.

If you choose to submit your application by e-mail, hard copies do not need to follow.

Submit applications to Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities

E-mail: awards@ubcm.ca

Mail: 525 Government Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 0A8