



# THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NELSON

## *Committee of the Whole* AGENDA

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 4:30 PM  
in Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 310 Ward Street, Nelson, BC  
(Mayor takes the Chair)

CITY OF NELSON

Page

- 1 Call to Order**
- 2 Land Acknowledgement**

We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa, the Syilx, and the Sinixt peoples and is home to the Métis and many diverse Aboriginal persons. We honour their connection to the land and rivers and respect the importance of the environment to our strength as a community.
- 3 Introduction of Late Items**
- 4 Adoption of Agenda**
- 5 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings**
  - (a) Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2026 April 28, 2026 3 - 9
- 6 Workshop/Educational Session**
  - (a) Climate Report Card 10 - 32
  - (b) Traffic Bylaw 33 - 42
- 7 City Manager's Verbal Report**
- 8 Council Reports**

Addenda (a) Mayor's Executive Summary 43 - 44
- 9 Recess (6pm - 7pm)**
- 10 Cultural Presentation**
  - (a) Cultural Presentation - Song Bella Ciao 45
- 11 Public Participation**

Mayor permits comments or questions from the public

(Maximum 15 minutes)

**12 Delegations**

(a) Nelson & Area Community Transportation Group 46 - 58

(b) Nelson Museum & Archives Gallery 59 - 105

**13 Late Items**

**14 Resolution to Adjourn**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NELSON**  
(Minutes of Committee of the Whole)

Nelson, British Columbia  
March 17, 2026

**THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING** of the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of Nelson, elected for the years 2022 - 2026, was held in Nelson, on March 17, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

**PRESENT**     Elected Officials:  
Mayor Janice Morrison  
Councillor Rik Logtenberg  
Councillor Leslie Payne  
Councillor Jesse Pineiro  
Councillor Keith Page  
Councillor Kate Tait  
Councillor Jesse Woodward

Appointed Personnel:  
Mr. Kevin Cormack, City Manager  
Mr. Chris Jury, Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. Sonya Martineau, Deputy Corporate Officer  
Mr. Chris Johnson, General Manager of Community Planning, Climate & Infrastructure

**Call to Order**     The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

**Adopt Agenda**     Moved by Councillor Tait, seconded by Councillor Woodward  
And Resolved:  
                  **THAT** Council adopt the agenda as amended, removing the Nelson Museum Archives & Gallery presentation.

CARRIED

**Adopt Minutes**     Moved by Councillor Woodward, seconded by Councillor Logtenberg  
And Resolved:  
                  **THAT** Council adopt the February 17, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.

CARRIED

**Business Licence Bylaw Review**     Staff presented an overview of the Business Licence Bylaw Review as follows:

- Proposed updates to simplify and modernize the bylaw, including consolidating the fee structure, clarifying regulations and inspection requirements, and adding provisions for mobile businesses and exemptions;
- Removal of outdated sections and administrative updates to improve clarity;

- Public engagement results indicated low participation but generally positive feedback; annual licence fees remain the preferred model;
- Feedback identified need for improved clarity of business categories, modernization of requirements, and streamlined processes;
- Bylaw updates intended to better reflect current business practices prior to finalization and Council consideration; and
- Council asked for more streamlining to the fee schedule.

Motion No. 2026/050

Moved by Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Logtenberg  
And Resolved:

THAT Council direct staff to remove the "Change of Ownership", "Change of Business", and "Change of Location" from the fee structure.

DEFEATED

Motion No. 2026/051

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Woodward  
And Resolved:

THAT Council direct staff to set "Change of Ownership", "Change of Business", and "Late Fees" at \$40.00.

CARRIED

**City  
Manager's  
Verbal Report**

Human Resource updates provided by the City Manager and Chief Financial Officer include:

- Purchasing Manager posting has gone out, current staff member is retiring - transition will happen in early July;
- Deputy Chief Financial Officer will be on maternity leave as of August;
- Hydro General Manager position has been posted; current General Manager is retiring in summer 2026;
- Chief Librarian retirement announced - current Deputy Chief Librarian was successful in the job competition. The Deputy Chief Librarian position is posted; and
- IT/GIS manager position to be posted imminently.

General Manager of Community Planning, Climate (GM) and Infrastructure provide an update that included:

- Ministry of Forests is working on a new forest landscape plan, this will be a broader approach in geographic scope and is primarily a project between the Province and First Nations - there is opportunity for local governments to collaborate (GM and Fire Chief are on the advisory board);
- Committed to the Chamber of Commerce to be ready to go for patio season on May 1;
- Finished water reservoir at the water treatment plant is nearing completion; and
- Baker Street water main extension (Railtown) contracted out and plan to start in April.

The City Manager provided an additional update:

- Draft IT assessment plan in place - records management, software training and utilization, cyber security, etc.; and
- The work the City has done allows options to obtain Cyber security insurance and this is being explored.

**Recess**

Moved by Councillor Page seconded by Councillor Woodward  
And Resolved:

THAT Council recess the meeting at 6:00 pm.

CARRIED

**West  
Kootenay  
Regional Arts  
Council**

The West Kootenay Regional Arts Council provided an update on its grant programs as follows:

- Overview of organization role supporting arts, culture and heritage through funding, promotion and sector development;
- Noted growth in grant disbursements from approximately \$500,000 in 2024–25 to \$1.25 million projected for 2026–27;
- Reviewed grant programs supporting individuals, non-profits and arts groups, including community grants, capital funding, touring, mentoring and major project funding;
- Highlighted Basin Festival Grants Program supporting festivals facing rising costs and funding pressures; and
- Introduced Columbia River Public Art program supporting community-led public art projects, with grants in the \$50,000–\$70,000 range.

**Public  
Participation**

There was no public participation.

**Dementia  
Friendly City**

Representatives from the Alzheimer Society of BC and the local Dementia-Friendly Initiative provided an overview of dementia-friendly communities as follows:

- Overview of dementia, including types, progression, and impacts on individuals and care partners;
- Noted increasing prevalence of dementia as the population ages;
- Identified social barriers including stigma, isolation, and reduced confidence;
- Highlighted importance of dementia-friendly communities to support inclusion and accessibility; and
- Encouraged municipal actions including establishing a subcommittee, making a proclamation, and providing staff education.

**Nelson Izu-  
Shi  
Friendship  
Society**

Representatives from the Izu-Shi Friendship Society provided an update on the sister city relationship as follows:

- Overview of the Nelson–Izu-Shi sister city partnership established in 1987 and ongoing cultural exchange activities;
- Highlighted community initiatives including exchanges, cultural events, and stewardship of the Friendship Garden;

- Noted the upcoming 40th anniversary in 2027 and plans to commemorate the milestone; and
- Requested Council feedback on opportunities to support and celebrate the anniversary within the community.

**Adjournment** Moved by Councillor Logtenberg, seconded by Councillor Woodward  
And Resolved:  
    **THAT** Council adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:09 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NELSON**  
(Minutes of Committee of the Whole)

Nelson, British Columbia  
April 28, 2026

**THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING** of the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of Nelson, elected for the years 2022 - 2026, was held in Nelson, on April 28, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT     Elected Officials:  
Mayor Janice Morrison  
Councillor Rik Logtenberg  
Councillor Leslie Payne (joined at 4:06 pm)  
Councillor Jesse Pineiro  
Councillor Keith Page  
Councillor Kate Tait  
Councillor Jesse Woodward  
Appointed Personnel:  
Mr. Kevin Cormack, City Manager  
Mr. Chris Jury, Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. Sonya Martineau, Deputy Corporate Officer  
Mr. Chris Johnson, General Manager of Community Planning, Climate & Infrastructure

**Call to Order**     The Mayor called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.

The Mayor recognized National Day of Mourning for Workers killed or injured on the job.

Staff introduced new Deputy Fire Chief, Tristan Fehst, to Council.

**Adopt Agenda**     Moved by Councillor Woodward, seconded by Councillor Logtenberg  
And Resolved:  
                  THAT Council adopt the April 28th Committee of the Whole agenda as presented.

CARRIED

**Resolution to go In-Camera**     That it is the opinion of the Council that the public interest requires that persons, other than members of Council and staff (and any approved audiences) be excluded from this meeting and that the Special Closed meeting of Council continue under Section 90 (1)(a) and (l) of the Community Charter to deal with matters relating to the following:

- *personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality; and*

- *discussions with municipal officers and employees respecting municipal objectives, measures and progress reports for the purposes of preparing an annual report under section 98 [annual municipal report].*

**Recess**

Council recessed the meeting at 6:00pm

Moved by Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Woodward

And Resolved:

THAT Council recess the meeting at 6:00 pm.

CARRIED

**City  
Manager's  
Verbal Report**

The City Manager reported to Council on the continued work on the FIFA World Cup event in conjunction with Nelson Soccer Association and the Nelson Arts Council; an event coordinator has been hired to oversee the event.

The General Manager of Community Planning provided an update on work in the downtown core.

**Council  
Reports**

Council Reports included:

- Councillor Payne attended the Nelson Community Food Center annual general meeting, the Community Food Council meeting, spoke about Earth Week events, including a film event on April 29th the Nelson Youth Centre and Nelson at its Best reconvening their "Together Nelson Table" (poverty reduction initiative);
- Councillor Page attended AKBLG: resolutions put forward by Nelson Council were passed and will go on to UBMC, attended UBMC Advocacy days in Victoria (priorities include: recognizing local governments as an order of government, advocating for emergency management funds for capacity building to adhere to new legislation, and renewing long term funding for FireSmart);
- Councillor Woodward attended the joint resource committee, discussion included: legacy landfill closures, illegal dumping in the back country, re-configuring Ootischenia to handle more capacity, and Whitewater Ski Resort fire protection (RDCK report indicates it is not feasible due to response times and access ability);
- Councillor Pineiro attended a screening of Oscar nominated film at the Rod and Gun Club, The Voice of Hind Rajab. Spoke of an upcoming lecture on May 14 at the Mir Centre for Peace: Omar El Akkad "One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This";
- Councillor Tait: reported out on the last Rec Commission meeting: work continues toward a cost recovery model to maintain the NDCC asset and reported the Terry Walgren Memorial soccer tournament is coming up on May 8,9, and 10.

**Cultural  
Presentation**

The May cultural presentation included local Author, Jane Byers, who provided poetry readings from her Anthology, "Coming Home from the Candy Factory" in recognition of National Poetry Month.

**Public  
Participation**

There was no public participation.

**NIL**

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Tait, seconded by Councillor Page  
And Resolved:

THAT Council adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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Corporate Officer

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Mayor

# THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NELSON EDUCATION/WORKSHOP

**DATE:** June 23, 2026 Committee of the Whole  
**TOPIC:** Climate Report Card  
**PRESENTED BY:** Staff

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**SUMMARY:**

Staff from the City's Climate and Energy team will provide Council with an update on progress since the adoption of the Nelson Next Climate Plan in 2020. The Climate Report Card highlights key achievements in emissions reduction, energy efficiency, transportation, waste diversion, climate resilience, and community engagement, while also identifying areas where continued effort will be needed to achieve our 2030 goals. The report demonstrates that climate action is now embedded across City operations and community programs, providing Council and residents with a clear snapshot of progress and priorities as we continue implementing Nelson Next.

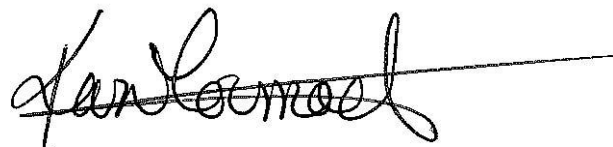
**BACKGROUND:**

The Nelson Next Climate Plan was unanimously adopted by Council in December 2020 and established a comprehensive framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen community resilience, and support a healthier, more sustainable future for Nelson. The Plan is guided by seven aspirational goals that address transportation, buildings and infrastructure, community collaboration, ecosystem health, renewable energy, waste reduction, and corporate leadership. Since its adoption, the City has established a dedicated Climate & Energy Team to coordinate implementation, support community programs, build partnerships, and track progress toward the Plan's objectives.

The Nelson Next Climate Report Card provides the first high-level summary of implementation progress and outcomes achieved between 2021 and 2025. The report highlights significant accomplishments including the expansion of active transportation and e-bike financing programs, implementation of higher-efficiency building standards, launch of the HomeSave retrofit program, growth in organics diversion initiatives, wildfire risk reduction work, renewable energy investments, and ongoing reductions in corporate emissions. The report also identifies opportunities for continued action as the City enters the next phase of implementation and works toward its 2030 targets of reducing community greenhouse gas emissions by 75%, achieving net-zero municipal operations, and strengthening community resilience to climate impacts.

**AUTHOR:**

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DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER**REVIEWED BY:**

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CITY MANAGER

# Nelson Next: Climate Report Card

A snapshot of our accomplishments and what's next

June 2026



## Territorial Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa, the Syilx, and the Sinixt peoples and is home to the Métis and many diverse Aboriginal persons. We honour their connection to the land and rivers and respect the importance of the environment to our strength as a community.

## Staff Contributions

Our Community Report Card was developed by the Climate & Energy Team, with contributions from staff across every City department. Building on the extensive community engagement that shaped the Nelson Next Climate Plan, this document reflects a collective effort.



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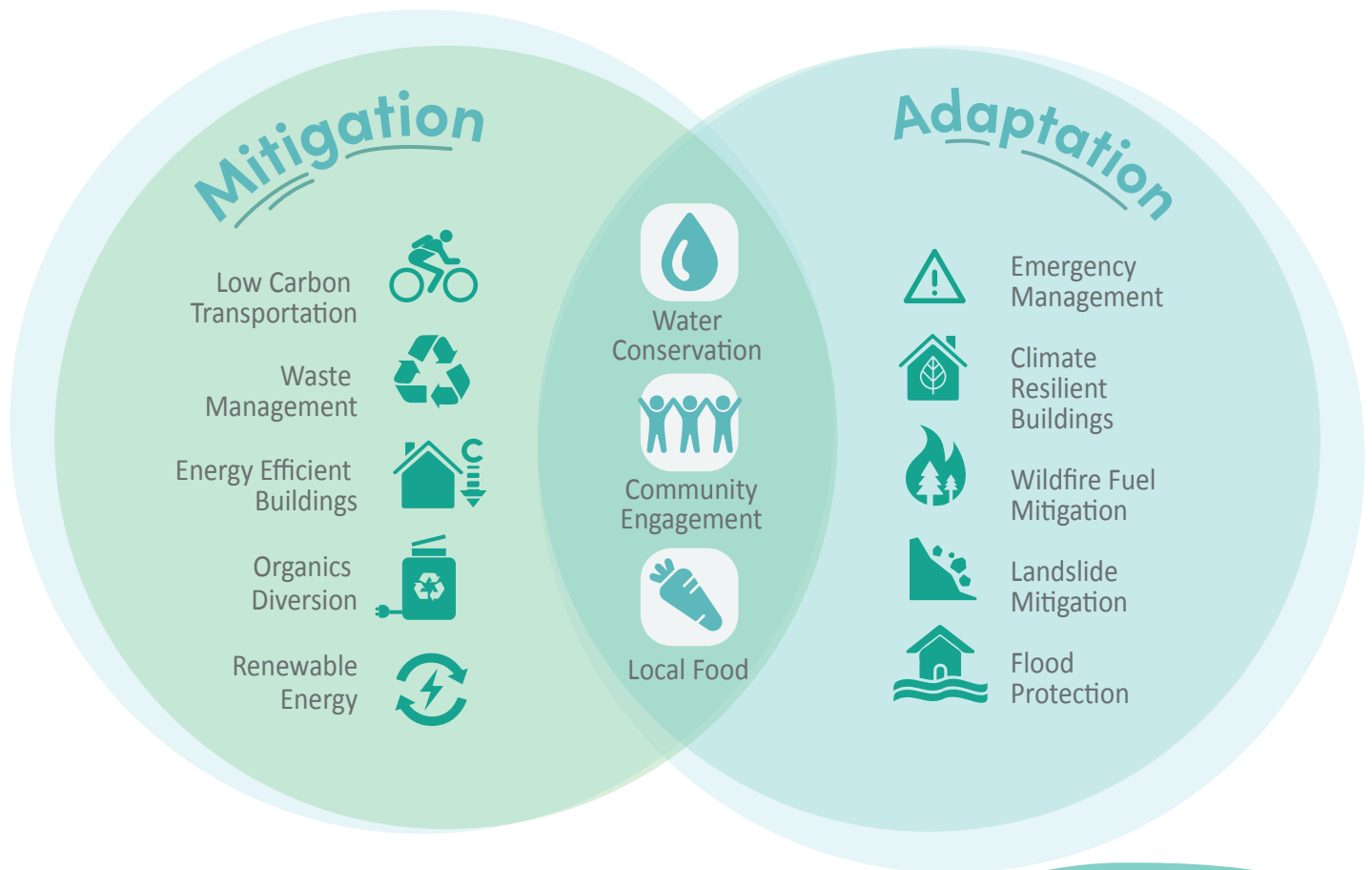
# Introduction

Caring for our natural environment has been at the heart of Nelson’s identity for over 125 years. Today, that legacy continues through a culture of stewardship embedded in every City department and service.

In December 2020, the Nelson Next Climate Plan was unanimously approved by Mayor and Council – reaffirming our long-standing commitment to sustainability and setting bold goals for climate action. Since then, the City has taken concrete steps to turn ambition into progress.

What sets Nelson Next apart is its bold vision: acting on climate change in ways that also make our community healthier, safer, and more connected. The plan focuses on cutting pollution (Low Carbon) and preparing for climate impacts (Resilient) – all while creating new opportunities to support well-being and resilience for today and future generations.

## Low Carbon Resilience



# Working Together for a Healthier, Greener Nelson

Tackling climate change takes all of us and Nelson is on the move. Every City department is playing its part to deliver on the bold goals set out in Nelson Next. Together, we're building a culture where care for our environment is part of everyday decisions.

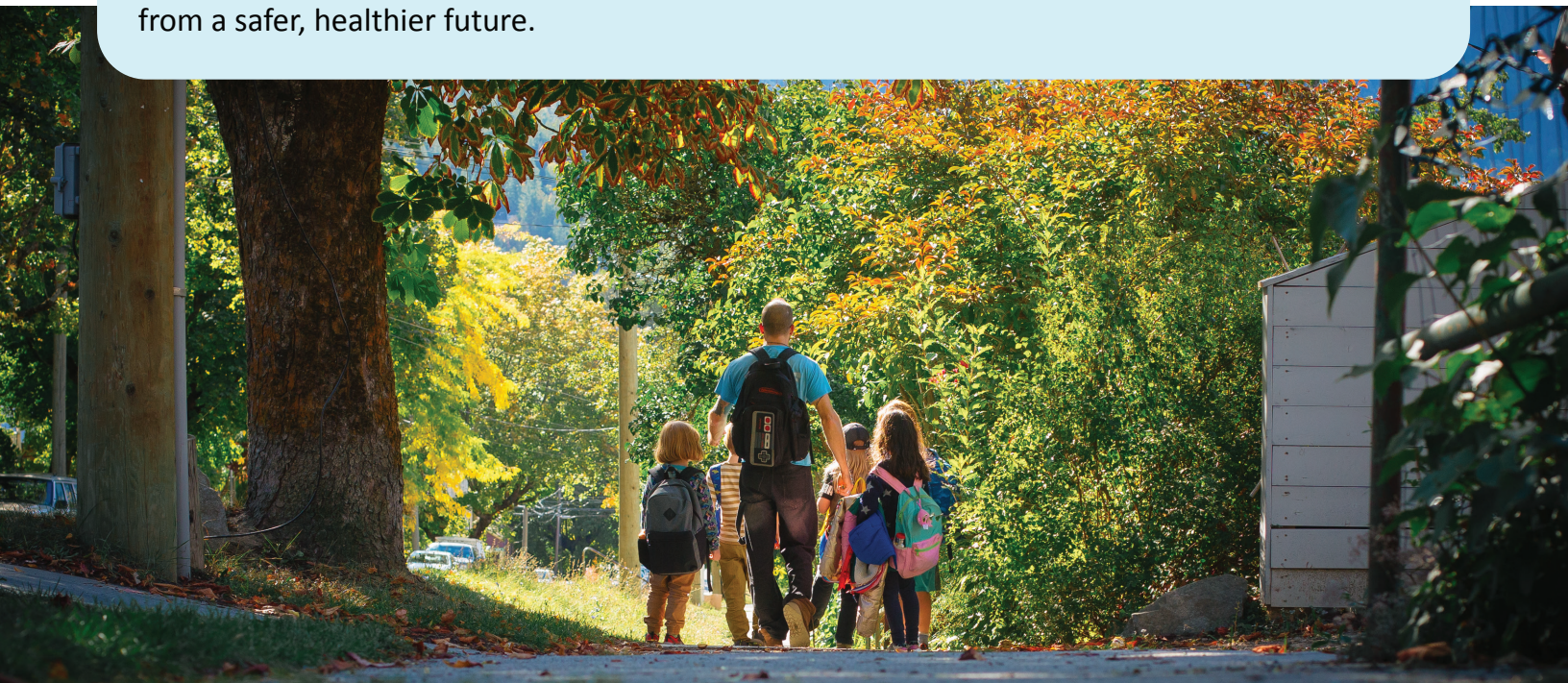
Everyone in our community – residents, businesses, organizations, institutions, and all levels of government – has a role to play in supporting clean energy, preparing for extreme weather, and creating a healthier, more resilient Nelson for everyone.

To help lead and coordinate this effort, the City formed a Climate & Energy Team in 2021. Their role is to guide implementation of the Plan – by tracking progress, supporting departments across the City, building partnerships, and connecting with the community. They also run key initiatives like the Regional Energy Efficiency Program, E-Bike Financing, Organics Diversion, and the Low-Carbon Homes Pilot.

This is a truly shared journey. Whether you're riding your bike more often, switching to an electric heat pump, or finding ways to reduce waste, you are part of the climate solution – and part of what makes Nelson a community leader. While climate change presents significant challenges, individual efforts combined with City initiatives are continually enhancing Nelson's resilience.

## Climate Equity Commitment

Nelson Next is a climate plan committed to protecting those most impacted by climate change – especially from heat, wildfire smoke, flooding, and rising energy costs. Our plan prioritizes actions that support all residents, build community resilience, and ensure everyone benefits from a safer, healthier future.



The Youth Centre's walking bus helps 20–40 kids from five schools get to their facility —supporting families and building community.

# Nelson Next Aspirational Goals

Nelson Next contains seven aspirational goals that guide the City's work on climate change. These goals include many important aspects of community life including how we move around the City, how we build and maintain our infrastructure, and how we can work together to ensure we are prepared for the future.

## 1 Public, Active, & Electric Transportation

Nelson's residents and tourists conveniently navigate the city and region using the highest per capita rates of public, active, or electric transportation in the country.



## 2 Zero Carbon & Resilient Infrastructure

Infrastructure and buildings in Nelson are zero carbon and resilient.



## 3 Nelson Residents Work Collaboratively

Nelson is a connected community, where all residents are prepared to work collaboratively to prevent or reduce climate change impacts.



## 4 Natural Ecosystems are Healthy & Diverse

Nelson's natural ecosystems and the services they provide us are healthy, abundant, and diverse.

## 5 Sustainable Economy & Renewable Energy

Nelson is a sustainable economy and renewable energy leader.



## 6 Committed to Reducing Waste

Nelson has a thriving circular economy and generates the lowest waste per capita in Canada.



## 7 Corporate & Community Leadership

We are a model city for integrated climate action and leadership, ensuring all municipal operations are low carbon and resilient, and our priority climate change actions are funded and monitored.



## Why This Climate Report Card Matters

This report card helps make Nelson Next tangible. It offers a big-picture view of how far we've come – and where additional effort is still needed.

Across our community, people are working hard to make real progress: finding smart, integrated solutions that improve everyday life while also tackling the climate crisis. We're proud to highlight those successes and acknowledge the challenges we're still facing.

By sharing this update, we're keeping ourselves accountable, adaptable, and focused on what matters most: making Nelson a safe, healthy, and thriving place for everyone, now and into the future.

# Where Are We Now?

## Progress So Far on Nelson Next

Since launching Nelson Next in 2021, we've laid a strong foundation and made real progress across our climate plan. Our city has stayed flexible, taking advantage of opportunities as they arise and staying focused on the priorities outlined in our Aspirational Goals. From clean energy and emissions reduction to wildfire preparedness and extreme-weather response, our work focuses on both reducing climate pollution and preparing our community for the impacts of a changing climate. Below are some key projects that reflect this progress. While many involve collaboration with partners, all of the projects listed are led by the City and represent areas where we've driven meaningful climate action.

### Key highlights from our first phases include:

#### Phase 1

2021-2025

- Launch
- Planning
- Pilot programs

- Assembled the Climate & Energy Team to steward the implementation of Nelson Next
- Published the Material Carbon Emissions Guide & Benchmarking Report (Low Carbon Homes Pilot)
- Increased access to affordable e-bike loans by expanding the program to \$1 million available in low-interest loans for commuting
- Implemented the Zero Carbon Step Code and Step Code
- Partnered with Simon Fraser University and Selkirk College on a Nature-Based Solutions project
- Developed the Extreme Weather Response Plan and updated the Community Wildfire Response Plan
- Implemented Canada's first Pre-treated Organics Diversion Pilot Program
- Strengthened our understanding of steep creek and flooding
- Launched the Nelson Next Youth Ambassador Program
- Created and implemented the City's Sustainable Procurement Tool
- Developed an Interim Urban Forestry Plan
- Completed energy studies of City Hall and Public Works
- Piloted and measured SmartDriver driver-training outcomes
- Created the Municipal Energy & Emissions Plan — our pathway to corporate net-zero
- Launched the HomeSave energy retrofits program

We are here!

### Phase 2

2023-2026

Scaling up, embedding, assessing progress

## Looking Ahead

We are now scaling up many of these efforts and embedding climate thinking across all areas of city life. This phase is about growing impact, building community resilience, and applying what we've learned so far. The purpose of this Report Card is to review progress, understand where we are on track, and get a big-picture view of where more work is needed – while celebrating the work already completed. Climate action is dynamic, and we are committed to evolving in response to real outcomes and community input.

### Phase 3

2026-2028

Ongoing assessment, modification

From **Phase 3 onwards (2026+)**, we'll deepen that work with ongoing assessment, making space to adapt as we learn what works. Climate action is a dynamic journey – and we're committed to evolving in response to real outcomes and community input.

### Phase 4

2029-2030

Deepening action, final sprint to 2030 targets

## 2030 GOALS

75% reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions

Net zero operations for the City of Nelson

To protect our community from climate impacts.



# Climate Report Card Update: Outcomes at a Glance

## How to read this page

Our Climate Plan sets long term outcomes – such as lower emissions, safer streets, healthy ecosystems, and a more resilient community. The plan includes seven aspirations, 23 strategies, and a range of short-, medium-, and long-term tactics. These tactics are tools we can draw from, rather than a fixed list of actions. As technology and best practices evolve, new and effective approaches will emerge that help us achieve our goals beyond those originally identified in the plan. The table below shows the total number of tactics associated with each aspiration, as well as how many have been actioned to date. This information will continue to evolve as new projects emerge and as we learn what works best from a climate, economic and social lens.

## 2021-2025 Outcomes at a Glance:

*\*See Nelson Next Climate Plan for full description of Aspirations, Strategies and Tactics*

Aspiration	Total Tactics	Actioned Tactics	Key Projects	Signals of Success
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	E-bike Program	210 E-bike loans (total)
			Active Transportation	2.34 km of bike lanes 63.4 km sidewalks (total)
			Fleet Decarbonization	5 Corporate EVs (total)
			Community Transportation	6 Public EV Chargers (total) 137 EVs registered in Nelson
<b>Buildings</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP)	192 REEP registrations (2025) Low-carbon retrofits completed
			BC Energy StepCode	21 new homes built to higher efficiency standards 14 homes designed with low-carbon heating, cooling and hot water systems
			Low Carbon Homes Pilot	108.4m3 of low carbon concrete used on local projects (2024)
			Corporate Asset Management and Capital Planning	44.1 tonnes of carbon emissions prevented through corporate energy upgrades in 2025
<b>Collaboration (Nelson Works Together)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	Partnerships	14 Active Partnerships
			Emergency Management	11,245 registered Voyent Alert users (total)
			Community Engagement	23,732 conversations related to climate action with the Climate and Energy Team in 2024 and 2025

Aspiration	Total Tactics	Actioned Tactics	Key Projects	Signals of Success
<b>Ecosystems are Healthy</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	Urban & Forest Greenspace	3.6% of Nelson's land area is public Greenspace (total) 31% of the city is covered by tree canopy
			Water Conservation	414 Liters of water per person per day (2025)
			FireSmart	10.91 hectares (2024) and 3.4 hectares (2025) of public land treated to reduce wildfire risk
			Invasive Species Management	\$143,663 invested in invasive species management between 2021 and 2024
<b>Economy &amp; Renewable Energy</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	Renewable Energy	73 Net Meter Connections (total)  69,332 kWh produced through community solar gardens (2025)  81.5 million kWh of renewable hydroelectric power generated locally (2025)
			Residential Organics Program	~2,400 Organics program participants (2025)
			Community Recycling Depot	~100 tonnes of e-waste and batteries 9.7 million refundable containers recycled (2025)
<b>Waste &amp; Circular Economy</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	Curbside Recycling Program	~300 tonnes of recyclables diverted (2025)
			Commercial Organics Diversion	2 Commercial organics diversion participants (total)
			Wildlife-Safe Waste Management	105 bear-resistant public waste bins installed (total)
			Building and Facility Upgrades	44.1 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e saved through corporate energy upgrade (2025) Corporate energy use reduced by 20% in 2025 from 2009 baseline
<b>Corporate Leadership</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	Climate Project Funding	\$4.28 million in grant funding secured for local climate action (2022–2024)

# 1

## Public, Active, & Electric Transportation

We're helping expand the ways people and goods can move around Nelson by improving safe, reliable, and accessible options like walking, cycling, and other low-carbon transportation choices.

### More People on Bikes

- Nelson has loaned more than **\$1 million** to **210 residents** through their E-Bike Financing program. Residents can access a low-interest loan and repay it on their Nelson Hydro Utility Bill. 15 residents have used the loan to purchase more than one bike!
- **2.34 km of bike lanes** in Fairview/on Lakeside Drive. Our next step is to expand to include the Rosemont neighbourhood.

### Walkability

- Walking is one of the simplest, lowest-carbon ways to get around. Sidewalks connect people to everyday amenities.
- The City is home to **63.4 km of sidewalk**.

### Electrifying Our Ride

- **5 new EVs** added to the City's fleet and five charging heads are now in place to serve the current fleet, with additional capacity available for future expansion.
- **6 public EV chargers** installed.
- **9,437 hours** of public charging delivered (2024).
- **137 EVs** registered in Nelson and counting.

### Expanding Transit Access

- Ridership is up across nearly all routes – a strong sign that residents are choosing low carbon ways to get around. Boardings rose **14% year-over-year**, with Routes 2, 3, and 10 carrying the most daily riders.
- Nelson's Transit Exchange continues to serve as the city's central transit hub. In 2025, the City invested in upgrades to improve reliability and comfort – including accessible washrooms, safer sidewalks, clearer wayfinding, better lighting, and protected shelters.
- These improvements support growing ridership and a smooth experience for city and rural commuters who rely on Nelson as their regional connection point.

### Community Highlight

In November 2023, more than 200 residents braved the cold for the Winter Cycling Workshop, focused on practical tips for safe year round riding. The event was co hosted by the City and the Doctors and Nurses for Planetary Health. \$17,000 of free winter cycling gear was distributed including winter tires, lights, and maintenance workshops to help more people choose low carbon travel through all seasons.

### Why It Matters

When more people walk, bike, or take transit, there are fewer cars on the road. This means traffic moves more smoothly, with fewer stops and sudden slowdowns—creating calmer, more predictable, and safer streets.

### What You Can Do

Choose low-carbon travel when you can – walk, cycle, take transit, or explore an e-bike. Already driving an EV? Share your experience with a neighbour.



City of Nelson Staff participate in Go-By-Bike week!

## 2

# Zero Carbon & Resilient Infrastructure

We're building the future today – creating homes, facilities, and public spaces that are climate-resilient and aligned with a net-zero vision. Here's how we're tracking:

## Improving Our Buildings for an Affordable and Sustainable Future

**Existing Homes:** The Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP), now [HomeSave](#), helped residents make upgrades to improve the comfort and efficiency of their homes. Among participants who registered with REEP in 2024 and 2025, and reported outcomes back to us, we saw:

- **57 new heat pumps** installed
- **23 homes** with improved insulation
- **23 homes** with upgraded windows and doors
- **2/3** of REEP participants are residents from Nelson and Areas E/F

**New Builds:** As part of our shift to higher building-performance standards, all newly built homes in Nelson now need to meet stronger energy-efficiency and low-carbon requirements, creating homes that are less costly to operate.

- **21 new homes** were designed to meet higher-efficiency Energy Step Code levels (Steps 3–5) (6 of these homes are now complete)
- **14 new homes** were designed to meet low-carbon Zero Carbon Step Code levels (EL-3 to EL-5) (5 have been completed so far)

## Sustainable Materials, Local Impact

Low carbon concrete mixes reduce concrete's carbon emissions by 10-15%. In 2024, City staff supported the adoption of lower-carbon concrete across the local sector:

- **32.5m<sup>3</sup>** of low carbon concrete was used by the City in road and sidewalk upgrades
- **75.9m<sup>3</sup>** of low carbon concrete was used by local industry

In 2025, community use of the alternative local mix fell sharply, highlighting the need for ongoing support to encourage wider uptake of low carbon concrete.

## Why This Matters

From energy-efficient homes to low-carbon sidewalks, the infrastructure we build today must be future-ready. These upgrades reduce emissions, save energy costs, and help make our community more resilient in a changing climate.

## What You Can Do

If you are planning a new build or renovation, ask your contractor about energy saving, cost effective options. These options can reduce your month to month energy bills and save you money over time. Renovating an existing home? Register for [HomeSave](#) to access support for rebates, financing and best practices.

## Embodied Carbon Leadership

The Low Carbon Homes Pilot began as a way to better understand building practices. It has since evolved into the Embodied Carbon Leadership Initiative. Embodied carbon is the emissions created by building materials—from extracting raw materials and manufacturing products to transporting, installing, and eventually disposing of them. This work focuses on:

- Reducing emissions from building materials by improving how buildings are designed and constructed
- Supporting builders, designers, and homeowners with practical tools and guidance for choosing lower-carbon materials
- Sharing what we're learning to help drive broader climate action across communities

Further information, including access to the updated Material Impact Guide, is available [here](#).



# 3

## Nelson Residents Work Collaboratively

Climate action in Nelson isn't just happening in City Hall – it's happening across the community. Through partnerships, conversations, and shared effort, we're building a strong foundation for collective climate leadership.

### Community Engagement and Collaboration

- **14 active climate partnerships** with community organizations, businesses, institutions, and other governments.
- Our team supported **23,732 resident conversations** about climate solutions in 2024–2025, with engagement peaking during the launch of Nelson's new organics program.
- **528 residents** are registered in more than one of our climate programs.
- In 2024–2025, the Nelson Public Library's Climate Action Week programs engaged **141 residents** through workshops, presentations, community booths, and youth activities that built awareness and encouraged hands-on climate action.
- In 2025, the City of Nelson joined forces with the West Kootenay Climate Hub, Doctors and Nurses for Planetary Health, Seniors for Climate and other partners to host the inaugural Earth Days event. The collaboration brought the community together through celebrations, educational experiences, and interactive activities, all designed to inspire residents to enjoy themselves while taking part in meaningful climate action within their area.
- Voyent Alert now has **11,245 registered users**, with **215 people signing up** in 2025 to receive City of Nelson emergency notifications.

### Why This Matters

Real change happens when people feel heard, connected, and empowered. These conversations and collaborations are building a shared vision for a sustainable and strong Nelson – and showing that everyone has a role to play.

### What You Can Do

Host a "climate conversation" gathering – at work, at school, or with friends. Or join one of the City's climate events or partnerships and bring your voice to the table.

### Engagement Highlight

Our collaboration with Wildsight's Youth Climate Corp began in 2022 with the goal of engaging the community around the city's Climate Plan and providing local youth with valuable hands-on job experience. During the first season, the ambassadors had over 215 meaningful conversations with residents that resulted in tangible increases in participation in the City's E-Bike Financing Program, the Regional Energy Efficiency Program, and the early adopters' list for the City's Pre-treated Organics Diversion Program.



Wildsight's Youth Climate Corp, 2023

# 4

## Natural Ecosystems are Healthy & Diverse

Nature is at the heart of life in Nelson – from forested hillsides to local parks and creeks. Through restoration, stewardship, and risk reduction, we’re working to protect people, wildlife, and the planet.

### Protecting Forests & Reducing Wildfire Risk

- Crews remove dry branches, dead trees, and excess forest debris around neighbourhoods. This work reduces how quickly a wildfire can spread and lowers the intensity of any fire that does reach our community, giving firefighters more time and safer conditions to respond. Wildfire mitigation helps protect homes and the people when wildfire risk is high.
- **10.91 hectares** (2024) and **3.4 hectares** (2025) of wildfire fuel mitigation work completed on public lands.

### Protecting Native Ecosystems

- Invasive species management helps protect native plants and wildlife, maintain biodiversity, and support healthy, climate-resilient ecosystems.
  - **\$143,663** invested from 2021-2024
  - 41 of 94 priority invasive species sites received treatment in 2024

### Greenspace and Urban Forestry

- Public parks, trails, and natural areas cover **42.9 hectares** or **3.6%** of the city.
- With **31%** tree canopy coverage across the city, our community benefits from cooler temperatures, increased biodiversity, and enhanced public spaces for everyone to enjoy. We are growing our canopy cover, to learn more about the City's Urban Forestry work, see below.

### Water Conservation

- Water Use: Nelson residents consumed an average of **414 L** per person per day in 2025, with demand peaking during the hot, dry summer months.

### Why This Matters

Healthy ecosystems help keep our air and water clean, reduce pollution, and create places where people and nature can thrive. These efforts are helping Nelson become not just sustainable, but nature-positive.

### What You Can Do

Start a block-level [FireSmart](#) project or remove invasive species from your garden, volunteer for a local habitat restoration, or simply spend time in nature.

### Did You Know?

Climate and equity solutions often go hand in hand. For example, investing in trees can help reduce energy use, improve air quality, and create more accessible green spaces that support health, recreation, and community connection.

### Climate-Equity Highlight



The City of Nelson is working with Simon Fraser University and Selkirk College to strengthen and better understand our urban forest. This work explores nature-based solutions—using trees and natural spaces to help address urban heat, support biodiversity, and improve community wellbeing. In 2024, a graduate student reviewed urban forest strategies across B.C. and identified ways to ensure the benefits of Nelson’s urban forest are shared fairly across the community. Their recommendations are now helping guide future planning and investment. In 2025, the City continued this partnership with Selkirk College by beginning work to map Nelson’s urban forest and related natural assets. Together, these projects are helping us protect and grow the natural spaces that support community health, climate resilience, and quality of life.

# 5

## Sustainable Economy & Renewable Energy

Nelson is investing in a future where the economy works with nature – not against it. By supporting clean energy, local innovation, and green jobs, we’re creating new opportunities while reducing emissions and building energy resilience.

### Building a Green Economy

- Since approving Nelson Next, City-led climate initiatives have helped build local skills, create green employment opportunities, and strengthen the community’s capacity to deliver low-carbon projects.
- The City has strengthened its sustainable procurement practices, helping staff make purchasing decisions that support environmental goals and long-term community sustainability.

### Expanding Renewable Energy

#### Hydro-electric

- **87.5** million kWh in 2024 and **81.5** million kWh in 2025 of renewable hydroelectric energy produced by the Nelson Hydro generation facility
- **98%** of the electricity we use is from a renewable source
- **73** local net-metering projects are now connected – helping residents and businesses generate their own solar electricity and offset a portion of the power they buy from the grid.

#### Solar

- Our community solar garden produced **61,104 kWh in 2024** and **69,332 kWh in 2025**.



### Why This Matters

Clean energy and climate solutions benefit both the planet and our local economy – keeping energy dollars in the community, supporting jobs, and strengthening energy independence.

### What You Can Do

By installing solar panels, you can benefit from [Nelson Hydro’s net-metering program](#) and start producing your own affordable renewable energy. Solar is eligible for the rebate through the HomeSave Program, helping make your investment cost-effective.

### Did You Know?

Nelson Hydro is the only municipality in BC that owns and operates its own hydro plant, providing the city with stable, locally generated renewable power. The Bonnington Falls facility produces about 55% of Nelson’s electricity from clean hydropower. And the rest is also mostly clean, since over 97% of BC’s electricity comes from renewable sources like hydro – meaning Nelson’s entire electricity supply is overwhelmingly low-carbon.



# 6

## Committed to Reducing Waste

From food scraps to wildlife savvy bins, we're helping Nelson households send less to landfill and more back into the circular economy. Together, we're building a cleaner future one diversion program at a time.

### Cutting Food Waste

- In 2025, staff directly measured food waste diversion. Households using the FoodCycler diverted an average of **165 kg of food waste per year** – equal to keeping more than **400 meals out of the landfill**.
- **~2,400 FoodCyclers** have been distributed to households participating in the Pre-treated Organics Pilot Program.



### Reducing Waste and Recycling Together, we've made a big impact:

- Our curbside program collected **~300 tonnes** of recyclables in 2025, which are now being reused rather than landfilled. Thanks to our residents, the recycling program continues to grow year after year.
- At the Nelson Leaf's Recycling Centre, residents dropped off **9.7 million refundable** containers and over **100 tonnes of e-waste and batteries**, keeping valuable materials in circulation and toxic waste out of the environment in 2024.

### Making Waste Wildlife-Safe

- We've installed **105** bear resistant bins (**35** in 2025 alone!) across the city to keep both people and wildlife safe.

#### Why This Matters

Cutting down on waste leads to lower greenhouse gas emissions, eases costs faced by landfills, and supports healthier land and water. The process begins at home – through your food habits, the way you handle your waste, and each thoughtful decision you make.

#### What You Can Do

- Separate your food scraps, reduce plastics, and help keep waste out of the landfill by carefully considering what you buy and need. This could include going to the Nelson Leafs Centre to explore what all they accept at this facility (including electronics, paint cans, light bulbs, batteries, tetrapacks and more). Not sure where to start? Join the City's Organics Program today.

# 7

## Corporate & Community Leadership



Nelson is putting climate leadership into action – reducing our own emissions, securing major funding, and supporting community solutions.

### Investing in Climate Action

- **\$4.28 million in grant funding** secured for local climate action (2022–2024)!
  - External grants help us do more, faster, while keeping costs down for residents.

### Municipal Facilities Taking the Lead

- **44.1 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e** has been saved through corporate energy upgrades by 2025.

### Reducing the City’s Carbon Footprint

- By the end of 2025, the City had **reduced its corporate emissions by 20%** compared to 2009 levels. This reflects steady progress toward our net-zero operations goal, though continued action is needed to meet the 2030 target.

### Climate Lens on Day-to-Day Operations

- The Climate and Energy team works with all City departments to ensure long-term climate goals are integrated into everyday planning and decision-making.
- Climate action is now integrated into all City departments, and as a result our impact will continue to grow as climate programming deepens across all areas of operations.



With approximately 320 staff, the City’s workforce is a visible part of our community – working every day to build local climate solutions.

### Why This Matters

The City manages more than 70 buildings and many public spaces, so lowering emissions in our own operations has a big community impact. Making corporate improvements – from efficient buildings to cleaner fleet choices – reduces emissions, saves money over time, and sets an example for climate leadership that benefits everyone.

### What You Can Do

Celebrate local leadership and join in: apply for climate funding for a community project, share your success story, or champion sustainability in your workplace or school. Click [here](#) for a full list of City Climate Programs.

# Corporate Emissions Snapshot: 2009–2024

## What's the story?

As a municipality, we're leading by example. Since 2009, the City of Nelson has reduced its corporate emissions by 20% – even as our services and infrastructure demands have grown.

### Overall Emissions Trend (2009–2025)

- Total Corporate emissions in 2009: 1,367 tCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Total Corporate emissions in 2025: 1,043 tCO<sub>2</sub>e

Emissions are calculated based on the consumption of stationary fuels (natural gas and propane), mobile fuels (gasoline and diesel), and electricity.



### What We're Doing About It:

In 2024, we completed an in-depth energy study of City Hall to identify opportunities for system upgrades that are cleaner and cost less money to operate.

In 2025 we completed 5 major decarbonization projects. The most significant being the installation of five EV chargers at our Public Works office to support fleet electrification. This installation allows the City fleet to efficiently scale the amount of EVs we operate over the next few years. We also made strategic investments in building heating upgrades and added another electric vehicle to the City fleet, further reducing corporate emissions.

### Our Goal:

Build on our legacy of climate leadership by fueling our buildings and fleet through clean energy and showing what's possible here in Nelson.



# Community Emissions Snapshot: 2007–2022

Understanding our emissions helps us track progress, set priorities, and target the solutions that matter most to our community. This data is from the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) provided by the B.C. provincial government that estimates how much energy is consumed and emissions are produced by communities across British Columbia.

## What's the story?

Nelson's community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have grown by about 21% since 2007. Some of this increase is linked to population growth, but the biggest changes have come from **transportation** and **residential energy use**.

Even with this growth, Nelson's per-person emissions remain well below provincial and national levels – 34% lower than the B.C. average and over 50% lower than the Canadian average. This means our community is starting from a strong place, with real opportunities to deepen our progress.

### Overall Emissions Trend (2007–2022)

- **Total emissions in 2007:** 73,044 tCO<sub>2</sub>e
- **Total emissions in 2022:** 88,620 tCO<sub>2</sub>e
- **Largest spike:** 2020–2021, with a **15.2%** increase – mostly from transportation
- **Population in 2007:** 9,452
- **Population in 2022:** 11,198
- **Per capita emissions (2022):** 7.92 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/person

### Compare

- **Nelson:** 7.92 t/person
- **BC average:** 12 t/person
- **Canada average:** 18.2 t/person

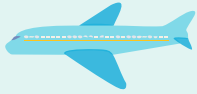
### Did You Know?

Transportation is still our largest source of emissions, so improvements here can make the biggest difference.



Our residential retrofit program helps people access funding to upgrade their homes with clean, efficient energy.

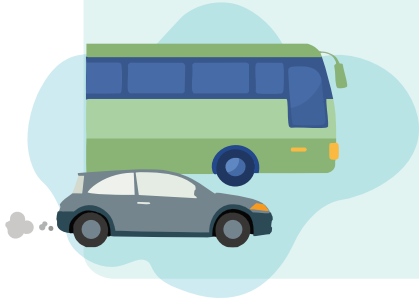
# Emissions by Sector: What's Driving the Change?



## Transportation

- **+29.5%** increase since 2007.
- Emissions have fluctuated in transportation more than any other sector.
- As travel rebounded after the pandemic and more people moved to the area, transportation emissions increased.

**Why it matters:** Tourism, regional travel, and car dependency make this a major challenge – but also a key area for impact through electrification, transit, and active travel.



## Residential Buildings

- **+11%** increase since 2007.
- Steady rise in emissions post-2015.
- Home heating remains the biggest contributor of residential emissions, with building energy performance playing a key role.

**What we're doing:** Programs like HomeSave and the Embodied Carbon Leadership are helping residents take practical steps toward healthier, more energy-efficient homes



## Commercial & Institutional

- **+5.5%** increase from 2007.
- Emissions have increased as business activity and building energy use have grown.
- Opportunities exist to lower emissions through energy-efficient equipment, cleaner energy sources, and building upgrades.

**Next step:** Speak with the Business & Climate Advisor at the Chamber of Commerce about embedding low-carbon upgrades to your business.



## Waste

- Generally stable.
- Our in-house data show that participation in recycling programs is increasing.
- Continued community action can help reduce waste even further by choosing durable, reusable, and lower-waste products.
- **Good news:** Since 2021, waste diversion has improved – with new organics programs and strong community participation.



# Where Do We Go From Here?

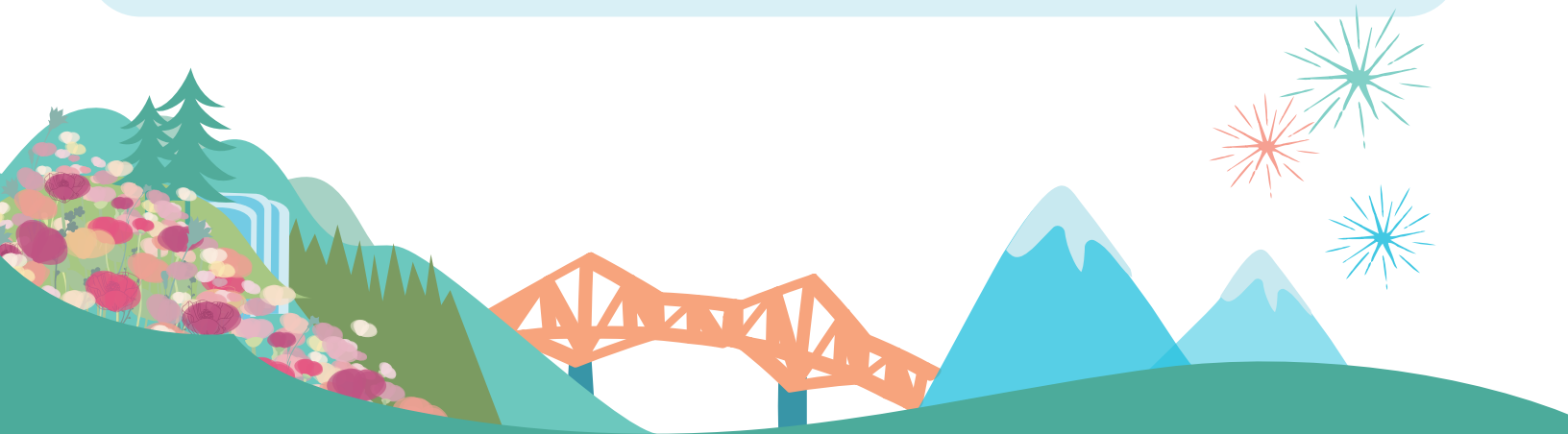
These achievements reflect a community that's committed to a healthier, safer, and sustainable future. But there's still work to do – and we're doing it together. Whether it's through your daily choices, your voice, or your participation in local programs, every action counts. Let's keep the momentum going.

## Looking Forward

The City will report regularly on our climate goals to keep targets on track and the community informed. In the next 1–2 years, we're focused on:

- **Expanding the organics program**
- **Updating building codes for energy efficiency**
- **Electrifying the City fleet**
- **Strengthening emergency preparedness**

You'll also see new active transportation investments, wildfire fuel mitigation work, and more opportunities to get involved.



## Your Participation Matters

Nelson Next is underway. As we steward the ongoing implementation of our climate plan, we invite everyone to get involved. You can start by exploring the various climate programs offered today at [nelson.ca/programs](https://nelson.ca/programs).

**E-Bike Loan:** Up to \$8,000 for e-bikes

**HomeSave:** Rebates and support for home upgrades

**Organics:** Turn food waste into compost

**FireSmart:** Reduce wildfire risk around your home



# THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NELSON EDUCATION/WORKSHOP

**DATE:** June 23, 2026 Committee of the Whole  
**TOPIC:** Traffic, Streets & Parking Bylaw  
**PRESENTED BY:** Staff

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## **SUMMARY:**

Staff will provide Council with an overview of the proposed Traffic, Streets & Parking Bylaw, which modernizes and consolidates the City's traffic, parking, boulevard, and public space regulations. The bylaw update improves clarity, supports current operational practices, and implements recommendations from the Downtown Parking Strategy. Council feedback and direction will be sought prior to finalizing the bylaw for consideration of first three readings.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City's current Traffic Bylaw is more than 16 years old and has been amended incrementally over time. As a result, portions of the bylaw no longer reflect current operational practices, transportation technologies, accessibility standards, or parking management objectives. The proposed Traffic, Streets & Parking Bylaw consolidates traffic, parking, boulevard, and public space regulations into a single document and modernizes the City's regulatory framework.

The proposed bylaw includes updates to parking permit programs, parking enforcement and operational procedures, accessibility standards, and electric vehicle charging regulations. It also implements recommendations from the Downtown Parking Strategy and supports broader City objectives related to accessibility, sustainability, and administrative efficiency.

Staff will provide Council with an overview of the proposed changes and seek feedback and direction prior to finalizing the bylaw for consideration of first three readings.

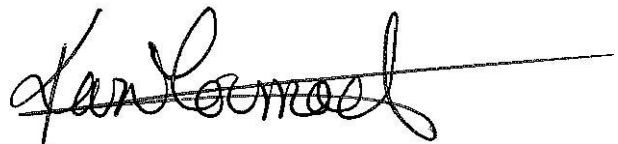
**AUTHOR:**



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DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER

**REVIEWED BY:**



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CITY MANAGER

# Traffic Bylaw Revision

June 23, 2026



# 2026 Traffic, Streets & Parking Bylaw

- Comprehensive modernization of the City's 16-year-old Traffic Bylaw
- Improves clarity, consistency, accessibility, and enforceability
- Aligns regulations with modern transportation practices and technologies
- Implements recommendations from the Downtown Parking Strategy

# Key Objectives

- Consolidate traffic, parking, boulevard, and public space regulations into one bylaw
- Use plain language and clearer definitions
- Improve operational efficiency and enforcement consistency
- Support sustainability goals including EV charging and carshare
- Enhance accessibility and public understanding

# Key Parking Changes

- Clarify that 2-hour parking zones are non-renewable daily limits
- Introduce clearer residential parking permit eligibility criteria
- Allow second residential permits for motorcycles/scooters (\$20/year)
- Formalize guest permit rules and introduce \$2/day fee
- Provide free parking for veterans with veterans license plates
- Expand permit flexibility for carshare users

# Operational & Enforcement Improvements

- Authorize temporary parking bans for snow clearing and operations
- Clarify towing and impoundment procedures
- Formalize Street Works Permit process and cost recovery fees
- Explicitly authorize parking enforcement chalking practices
- Strengthen provisions related to counterfeit permits and unpaid fines

# Accessibility & Sustainability

- Introduce best-practice standards for accessible parking dimensions
- Allow loading-zone access for accessible permit holders during passenger loading
- Create EV-only charging regulations and enforcement provisions
- Support carshare vehicle parking and reduced vehicle ownership
- Align with Nelson Next and Downtown Parking Strategy goals

# Administration & Financial Impacts

- Repeals and consolidates three existing parking policies
- Introduces Street Works Permit fees to support cost recovery
- Increases towing administration fee from \$50 to \$100
- Expected to improve staff efficiency and reduce enforcement ambiguity
- Minimal revenue impact from veterans parking exemption

# Council Direction Requested

- Review draft Traffic, Streets & Parking Bylaw
- Provide feedback and direction to staff
- Authorize staff to finalize bylaw amendments for first three readings



Thank you.

*City of*  
**NELSON**

### **Implications for Municipalities**

The conference reinforced several emerging trends:

- Municipal governments are increasingly expected to address complex national challenges, particularly housing and climate adaptation.
- Long-term, predictable funding remains essential for municipalities to meet infrastructure and service demands.
- Collaboration among municipal, provincial, indigenous, and federal governments is critical to achieving community outcomes.
- Municipalities continue to seek greater influence in policy discussions that directly affect local service delivery and community growth.

### **Relevance for the City of Nelson**

Conference themes aligned closely with current priorities in Nelson, including housing affordability, climate resilience and adaptation funding, infrastructure renewal, regional governance effectiveness, economic development, and community well-being. Discussions regarding sustainable funding models, local government capacity, and equitable representation in decision-making processes may provide useful context for future advocacy efforts with provincial and federal partners.

Overall, the 2026 FCM Conference reinforced the message that municipalities are at the forefront of addressing Canada's most pressing challenges and require stronger partnerships, greater flexibility, and sustainable investment to continue building resilient and prosperous communities.

## **Selection of Activities Included:**

**June 3, 2026** -Thinking Beyond the Market: A film about genuinely Affordable Housing. Post showing there was a Q and A with Dr Brian Douncet the film maker

**June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026** – The following that were by invitation and held before the official opening of the 2026 FCM proceedings:

- Energy for a Secure Future (ESF) Municipal Energy Dialogue.
- Elbows Up for Climate Change – keynote by John Vaillant, author of Fire Weather. Followed by a panel Q and A
- Canadian Wildfire Roundtable sponsored by Intact Financial Corporation. Thirteen mayors from across Canada invited to gather and discuss wildfire related issues in our communities.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026** – Workshops

- Addressing anti-government hate and harassment in times of global crisis.
- Leading our way out of incivility: Tools and advice for effective local governance.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026** - Workshops

- Immigration restrictions: The ripple effect on local communities and economies.
- How to pay for growth: Alternatives to property taxes and development charges.

# THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NELSON REQUEST TO APPEAR AS A DELEGATION

**DATE:** June 23, 2026 Committee of the Whole  
**TOPIC:** Cultural Presentation  
**PROPOSAL:** Receive Cultural Presentation  
**PROPOSED BY:** Staff

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## **SUMMARY:**

This month's cultural presentation is in recognition of Italian Heritage Month, which is celebrated annually across Canada throughout June. The month honours the significant cultural, economic, and historical contributions of more than 1.5 million Canadians of Italian descent and recognizes their lasting impact on Canadian society.

Presenting on behalf of Italian Heritage Month are Xochilt Ramirez, Bruno Bosio, and Kateryna Melnyk.

Xochilt is a poet and activist who was born in Nicaragua and raised in Italy. She has lived in Nelson since 2013. The history of social and political struggle in Italy, together with her family's unique connection to that culture, has shaped her identity and informed her work as an artist and activist.

Bruno Bosio and Kateryna Melnyk will perform *Bella Ciao*, a song that originated during the Italian resistance against fascism and has since become an international symbol of resistance, freedom, and the fight against injustice.

## **BACKGROUND:**

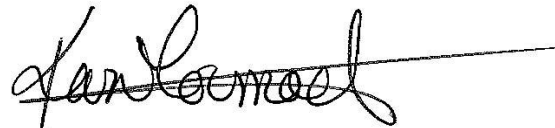
**AUTHOR:**



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DEPUTY COPORATE OFFICER

**REVIEWED BY:**



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CITY MANAGER

# THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NELSON REQUEST TO APPEAR AS A DELEGATION

**DATE:** June 2026 Committee of the Whole  
**TOPIC:** Nelson & Area Community Transportation (NACT) Cycling Education Strategy  
**PROPOSAL:** Receive Presentation  
**PROPOSED BY:** Staff

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## **ANALYSIS SUMMARY:**

Representatives from Nelson & Area Community Transportation (NACT), including Selena Davis, Andrew Murray, and Project Manager Brooke Jones, will present to Council regarding the development of a Nelson & Area Cycling Education Strategy and Implementation Plan and provide Council with the opportunity to ask questions.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Nelson & Area Community Transportation (NACT) is a community-based transportation advisory group whose purpose is to provide thought leadership and act as a conduit between the public, local governments, the Ministry of Transportation and Transit, and other organizations to advance active transportation initiatives in Nelson and the surrounding area. NACT supports collaboration, communication, and community input related to walking, cycling, transit, and transportation planning.

In 2025, NACT successfully obtained an RDCK ReDi Grant to develop a Nelson & Area Cycling Education Strategy and Implementation Plan. The project involved reviewing cycling education programs from across British Columbia and Canada and creating a practical framework for implementing inclusive, safe, and age-appropriate cycling education programs. The initiative aligns with the objectives of the City of Nelson's Active Transportation Plan and received Council support during the grant application process.

The strategy recognizes that active transportation uptake is influenced not only by infrastructure but also by knowledge, skills, confidence, and community culture. The framework organizes cycling education around three core themes: knowledge, skills, and culture. It includes age-based learning progressions, implementation considerations such as e-bike education and road safety, and opportunities for partnerships with schools, public health organizations, cycling groups, and local governments.

NACT has subsequently secured funding through a 2026–2027 ReDi Grant to support implementation of the strategy and is pursuing additional initiatives, including School Streets programming aimed at improving safety and encouraging active transportation around schools.

## **BENEFITS OR DISADVANTAGES AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS:**

The presentation is for Council and the public's information.

## **LEGISLATIVE IMPACTS, PRECEDENTS, POLICIES:**

It is within Council's mandate to receive the presentation.

The initiative supports the goals and objectives of the City of Nelson's Active Transportation Plan and broader transportation, public health, and sustainability objectives.

**COSTS AND BUDGET IMPACT - REVENUE GENERATION:**

There are no costs associated with hearing the presentation. Future opportunities for collaboration or implementation support may be brought forward to Council through separate reports and budget processes if required.

**IMPACT ON SUSTAINABILITY, COUNCIL PRIORITIES AND STAFF RESOURCES:**

The Cycling Education Strategy supports the City's sustainability objectives by encouraging active transportation, reducing reliance on personal vehicles, improving public health outcomes, enhancing transportation safety, and supporting climate action goals. Increased participation in cycling and other active transportation modes can contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, healthier lifestyles, and more connected communities.

The presentation itself has no direct impact on staff resources. Any future partnership or implementation activities would be evaluated through separate reports and work planning processes.

**COMMUNICATION:**

The presentation provides Council and the public with information regarding the development of the Nelson & Area Cycling Education Strategy, implementation opportunities, and potential partnerships that support active transportation within the community.

**OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Receive and thank the presenter

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Power Point Presentation

**RECOMMENDATION:**

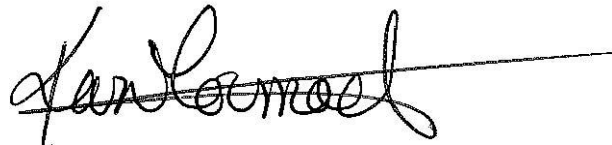
That Council hears from Selena Davis, Andrew Murray, and Brooke Jones regarding the Nelson & Area Cycling Education Strategy and Implementation Plan and thanks them for their presentation.

**AUTHOR:**



DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER

**REVIEWED BY:**



CITY MANAGER

Nelson & Area Community Transportation (NACT)

# *Nelson & Area Cycling Education*



Supported by CBT, City of Nelson,  
RDCK ReDi grant



# *Nelson & Area Community Transportation (NACT)*



PURPOSE: To provide thought leadership and act as a conduit between the Public and the City of Nelson, RDCK, MoTT, and other organizations (e.g. SD8, Police, Chambers of Commerce) to create a forum for input, decision-making, and communication to further Active Transportation in Nelson & Area.





# *RDCK* *ReDi Grant*



## 2025 REDI GRANT

To employ a project manager for the development of a Nelson & Area cycling education curriculum; including an assessment of the current state of cycling education programs available in British Columbia and across Canada.

## CITY COUNCIL SUPPORT

The grant has direct connections to the City of Nelson's "2020 - 2025 Active Transportation Plan" and city council supported the grant application.

# *Cycling Education Strategy & Plan for Implementation*



## PROBLEM

Active transportation in Nelson is limited by infrastructure challenges and slow progress, highlighting need for complementary approaches, like education and skills to help more people walk, bike, and use transit.

## SOLUTION

Develop practical framework for implementing inclusive, safe, and developmentally appropriate cycling education for all ages.

## APPROACH

The scan and analysis grouped research into cycling knowledge, skills, and culture to create a flexible, age - based education framework that guides practical, community - aligned implementation.

# PROGRAM OF LEARNING

Detailed outline of the age - appropriate learning program for cycling.

Three categories formed the foundation of a framework and organized cycling education across the age groups.

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Culture

Curricular connections and cross - curricular opportunities are provided for school age groups.

## 3.3 Grade 3-5 Program of Learning

<b>Cycling Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic bike check ("ABCs" - air, breaks, chain)</li> <li>• Adjust bike helmet to fit properly</li> <li>• Basic hand signalling (right/left turn, stop)</li> <li>• Identify safe places to ride a bike</li> <li>• Identify the meaning of simple traffic signs (e.g., crossing, yield, stop, etc.)</li> <li>• Plan simple bike trips with adult guidance in familiar areas (i.e., route to school)</li> <li>• Understand the importance of being visible when riding a bike (i.e., clothing, bike lights, reflectors, ...)</li> <li>• Learn to secure bike to prevent theft</li> </ul>
<b>Cycling Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride a pedal bike</li> <li>• Follow a leader with a group</li> <li>• Ride over small obstacles (i.e., wood planks, small ramps...)</li> <li>• Make turns in smaller spaces</li> <li>• Change gears</li> <li>• Ride on traffic-calmed roads surrounding school</li> <li>• Brake with progressively less time/space</li> <li>• Practice riding with one hand to progress to signalling</li> </ul>
<b>Cycling Culture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify physical and mental benefits of cycling</li> <li>• Acknowledge cycling as transportation and not just a fun activity</li> <li>• Participate in "Bike to School Week" or similar events with adult guidance</li> <li>• Apply basic and positive bike manners (i.e., storing bikes, slowing for pedestrians, saying thank you, respectful behaviour towards all road users...)</li> <li>• Understand fairness and shared responsibility on multi-use paths</li> <li>• Reflect on personal responsibility when riding in groups</li> </ul>

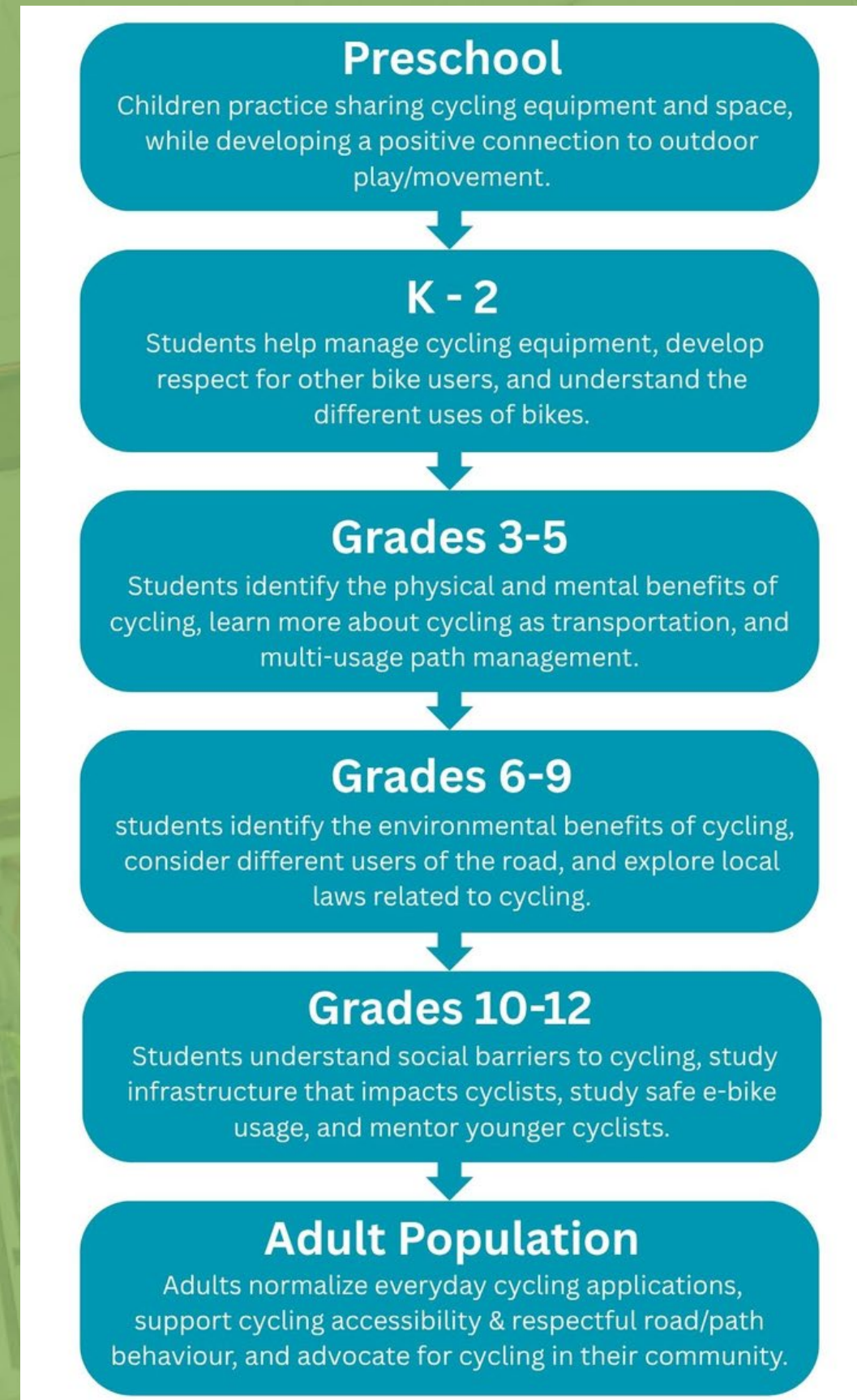
## ***LEARNING PROGRESSIONS***

Graphics summarize the development of cycling skills, knowledge and culture from pre - school through adult population to foster a community of safe and proud cyclists.

### Example: Cycling Culture

Through age - appropriate experiences, people gradually learn to value cycling as a form of recreation, transportation, and sustainable practice, while building positive habits, etiquette, and civic awareness.

## Example: Cycling Culture Visual Progression



# ***IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS***

Information on and how to integrate key aspects into cycling education programming.

- E- Bikes
- Rules of the Road
- Equity & Inclusion

Example: E - Bike Regulations Table

	<b>Standard E-Bike</b>	<b>Light E-Bike</b>
<b>Minimum Rider Age</b>	16	14
<b>Maximum Motor-Assisted Speed</b>	32 km/hr	25 km/hr
<b>Maximum Continuous Power Output</b>	500W	250W
<b>Throttle Assist</b>	Yes or No	No

\* Maximum continuous power (nominal power) is the power output that a motor can sustain for long periods of time without overheating. Reference: [The Government of British Columbia](#)

# ***COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES***

Dedicated section to outline potential, local partnerships, which would further support the strategy and its implementation:

- Local government
- Schools & school districts
- Bike shops
- Public health
- Cycling organizations
- Law enforcement

Example: Municipal Government

## **Municipal Government**

*(e.g., City of Nelson)*

Municipal partners play a key role in creating environments where cycling education can be practiced safely.

- Role: Infrastructure support, policy alignment, and public safety
- Responsibilities may include:
  - Supporting access to safe cycling spaces (multi-use paths, traffic-calmed streets)
  - Sharing information on local bylaws and road rules
  - Supporting safe, school routes and active transportation initiatives
  - Collaborating on events such as Bike to School Week
  - Aligning education efforts with infrastructure planning and improvements



## *Next Steps*



### 2026 - 2027 REDI GRANT

NACT has re - applied for a ReDi grant to hire a project manager for implementation and has been successful.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

Share the developed cycling education strategy and plan widely and implement it across Nelson & area.

### SCHOOL STREETS \$10,000 GRANT

NACT is seeking to collaborate with School District 8 and the City of Nelson to utilize funding to encourage active transportation, increase street safety and improve air quality around schools.

# City of Nelson Support Request



## ● *PROVIDE IN - PERSON SUPPORT AT EVENTS*

Representation from the City of Nelson council, staff and police would be impactful and appreciated.

## ● *SUPPORT BIKE - TO - SCHOOL EVENTS*

HUB Cycling's "Bike to School" week takes place annually in June.

## ● *REVIEW & IMPROVE BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE*

Focus on infrastructure that is surrounding local schools to enable active transportation.

## ● *SUPPORT FUTURE REDI GRANT APPLICATIONS*

Expenses may include equipment purchases, professional development, external service providers.

*Thank you!*



*CONTACT  
INFORMATION*

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NACT Member

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Project Manager

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# THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NELSON REQUEST TO APPEAR AS A DELEGATION

**DATE:** June 23, 2026 Committee of the Whole  
**TOPIC:** Nelson Museum Archives & Gallery Service Agreement Reporting  
**PRESENTED BY:** Nelson Museum Archives & Gallery

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## **SUMMARY:**

Nelson Museum Archives & Gallery Interim Executive Director Kalika Bowes and Bookkeeper Susan Bernhardt will present highlights from NMAG's 2024 and 2025 operations, including community impact and service agreement performance measures.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery (NMAG) is an important cultural institution that preserves and shares Nelson's history, presents Canadian art, delivers educational programming, and stewards key heritage assets on behalf of the community.

Operating from the historic City-owned building at 502 Vernon Street, NMAG provides cultural, educational, heritage, and tourism benefits to residents and visitors. Through its service agreement with the City, NMAG receives operational funding to support museum, archives, gallery, and heritage services while leveraging significant funding from provincial, federal, and foundation sources.

NMAG's service agreement with the City requires regular reporting to Council on its operations, programming, community engagement, financial performance, and partnerships, ensuring accountability and the effective use of public funds.

In 2025, NMAG welcomed 12,753 visitors, delivered 68 public programs, engaged 1,136 students and youth, answered 228 archival inquiries, and recorded 5,460 volunteer hours. The organization also continued stewardship of the City-owned heritage building and Cold War Bunker, expanded access to archival resources, and strengthened partnerships with Indigenous communities, educational institutions, and local organizations.

The City's annual operational funding provides a foundation for NMAG's work and helps leverage additional investment from other sources. In 2025, NMAG secured more than \$600,000 in grant funding and generated approximately \$199,000 in earned revenue through admissions, memberships, gift shop sales, and other activities.

NMAG serves as a cultural hub for education, heritage preservation, reconciliation, creative programming, and community connection across Nelson and the wider West Kootenay region. Representatives of the organization will provide Council with an overview of their 2024 and 2025 activities, community impact, financial performance, and service agreement outcomes.

## **BENEFITS OR DISADVANTAGES AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS:**

The presentation provides Council and the public with an update on NMAG's activities and performance under its service agreement with the City. The reporting demonstrates how municipal funding supports museum, archives, gallery, educational, heritage preservation, and community programming services while leveraging additional

provincial and federal funding. There are no identified negative impacts associated with receiving the presentation.

**LEGISLATIVE IMPACTS, PRECEDENTS, POLICIES:**

The presentation supports the City's service agreement reporting requirements and Council's oversight responsibilities regarding organizations receiving municipal funding. It is within Council's mandate to receive the presentation.

**COSTS AND BUDGET IMPACT - REVENUE GENERATION:**

There are no direct costs associated with receiving the presentation. The City provides annual operational funding to NMAG through its service agreement. As outlined in the attached materials, this funding supports the delivery of museum, archives, gallery, heritage preservation, and educational services while helping leverage additional funding from provincial, federal, and other sources.

**IMPACT ON SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND STAFF RESOURCES:**

NMAG contributes to Nelson's social, cultural, and economic sustainability by preserving local history, providing public access to arts and culture, supporting lifelong learning opportunities, and stewarding significant heritage assets. Through partnerships with Indigenous communities, educational institutions, local organizations, and tourism stakeholders, NMAG helps strengthen community connections and contributes to Nelson's cultural vitality and visitor economy.

There are no significant impacts on City staff resources associated with receiving the presentation.

**COMMUNICATION:**

The presentation provides an opportunity for Council and the public to learn about NMAG's operations, community impact, financial performance, and achievements under its service agreement with the City.

**OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Receive the presentation and thank the presenters.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- PowerPoint Presentation
- Budget Overview
- 2025 Annual Report

**RECOMMENDATION:**

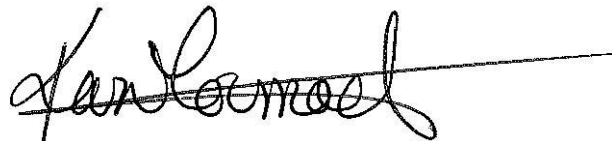
That Council hear from the Nelson Museum Archives & Gallery and thank them for their presentation.

**AUTHOR:**



DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER

**REVIEWED BY:**



CITY MANAGER

**NM  
AG**  
NELSON  
MUSEUM  
ARCHIVES  
& GALLERY

*City of*  
**NELSON**

## Service Agreement Performance Review



## How We Serve: Service, Reach, & Community Impact

### 2025

12,753 — Total Visitors  
68 — Public Programs  
1,136 — Students & Youth Served  
1,576 — Cold War Bunker Visitors  
5,460 — Volunteer Hours  
584 — Memberships Sold  
228 — Archives Inquiries  
2,400 — Newsletter Subscribers

### 2024

12,948 — Total Visitors  
116 — Public Programs  
1,721 — Students & Youth Served  
1,277 — Cold War Bunker Visitors  
3,638 — Volunteer Hours  
402 — Memberships Sold  
135 — Archives Inquiries  
2,110 — Newsletter Subscribers



## How We Serve: Education and Access

**School Programs** — 42 guided tours for students from preschool to post-secondary with pre- and post-visit teacher resources. SD8 youth pride event collaboration.

**Inclusive Public Programs** — Community events, Art Lab, 'Art Curious' dialogue series, workshops facilitated by local artists, film screenings, book launches.

**Learning & Practicum Placements** — Summer students, practicum students from the Kutenai Art Therapy Institute (KATI) and the West Kootenay Teacher Education Program (WKTEP), student volunteers and youth Board representative.

**Free & Subsidized Access** — FREE child & youth admission, exhibition openings and Thursday evenings throughout the year. Community memberships.



## How We Serve: Public Art Gallery

**Dark Chapters** — David Garneau | Mar–Jun 2025

Book and cross-Canada touring exhibition. One of Quill & Quire's Notable Books of 2025.

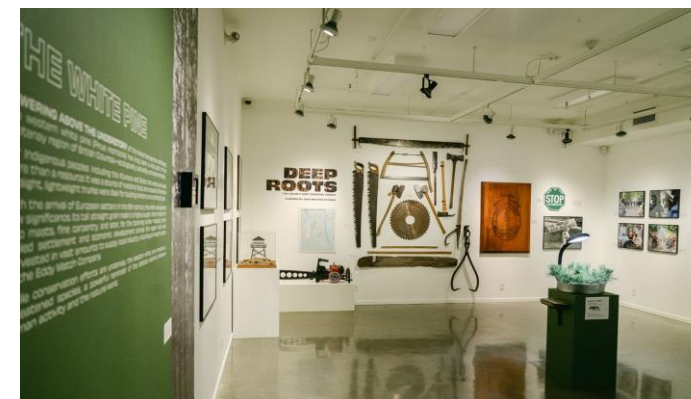
**Vessels** — Amelia Ford | Feb–May 2025

**WOOD** — Group Exhibition | Jul–Oct 2025

**Deep Roots** — Art & History Convergence | Jun–Sep 2025

**Móðurmál / Mother Tongue** — local artist Hildur Jónasson | Sep 2025–Jan 2026

**Boat Without a Boat** — local artist Deborah Thompson | Nov 2025–Feb 2026



Inspiring Nelson and its visitors with exceptional Canadian Art that encourages critical dialogue through the convergence of art and history.

## How We Serve: Shawn Lamb Archives

The safe keeping over a century of archival records. Decolonizing and providing equitable access.

147 — Research Requests Answered

346 — Videos Added to YouTube — 23,500+ Views

61 — New Artifact & Archival Entries Donated

20,000+ — Obituary Entries — Growing Family History Resource

900 — Fairbank Architects Plans Now in Online Database

Became repository for Sinixt Nation's Arrow Lakes archaeological finds; displayed at National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Microfilm reader + full newspaper archive transferred from Nelson Public Library

Museum Mondays and Throwback Thursdays

Nelson Sports Museum — 9 updated cases



## How We Serve: Caring for a City-Owned Landmark

[502 Vernon Street](#) — Historic 1902 former post office. Ensuring the ongoing care, maintenance, and revitalization of one of Nelson's most important built heritage assets.

Cold War Bunker maintained as a heritage site; extended tour schedule in 2025 to meet tourist demand.

### Sustainability Upgrades

Sensor lighting installed in gallery spaces.

Electric heat pump for 3<sup>rd</sup> floor offices, boardroom and workshop space.



## How We Serve: Partnerships Rooted in Community

### Indigenous Partners:

- Sinixt Confederacy
- Yaqan Nukiy (Lower Kootenay Band)
- Ktunaxa Nation Council
- West Kootenay Métis Association
- Sinixt Canoe Journey (2025)

### Community Outreach & Collaborations:

- City of Nelson
- School District 8
- Selkirk College
- Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism
- Capitol Theatre
- Kutenai Art Therapy Institute
- UBC
- Nelson & District Arts Council

- Kootenay Kids
- Nelson Community Food Centre
- Elephant Mountain Literary Festival
- Lalin & Corazon Choirs
- Ankors Recovery House
- Bigby Place
- McKimm Cottage
- Interior Health Clubhouse
- Intercultural Kootenays
- Kalesnikoff
- Nelson Soccer Association
- Nelson Skating Club
- Learning in Retirement
- CBAL
- Grans to Grans
- Chako Mika Mall
- Tiny Lights Music Festival
- West Kootenay Fibreshed

## Financial Overview: Grant & Earned Revenue

City of Nelson partial operational support is used to leverage significant regional, provincial and federal funding for the benefit of the Nelson community.

### Total grants by year:

2023: \$667,450

2024: \$673,660

2025: \$601,765

### 2025 Grants Breakdown:

City of Nelson: \$272,155

Canada Council: \$108,858

Province of BC: \$47,359

BC Arts Council: \$40,000

BC Gaming: \$25,651

Young Canada Works: \$12,600

Other grants: \$31,146

*Note: 2025 total grants were lower, reflecting a sector-wide competitive granting landscape. City of Nelson funding represents approximately 50% of total grants.*

### Earned revenue by year:

2023: \$156,369

2024: \$190,118

2025: \$199,028

### 2025 Earned Revenue:

Gift Shop Sales: \$95,534 (supporting local artists)

Interest & Other: \$40,523

Admissions: \$39,248

Memberships: \$17,080

Fundraising & Facility: \$6,643

*Earned revenue has grown 27% since 2023.*

*This is evidence of deepening community engagement and sound operational decisions.*

# Financial Context: Navigating a Challenging Fiscal Environment

## Operating Deficit Trend:

2023: \$91,455

2024: \$128,415

2025: \$142,849

## Sector-Wide Pressures:

Insufficient operational income in a more competitive granting landscape

Increased costs due to inflation (staffing, building operations, programs)

Reduced staff capacity during executive director medical leave

## Our Response:

Substantially reduced 2026 operating budget

Developing a comprehensive fundraising strategy & endowment goals

Exploring innovative and new grant sources

Pricing refresh for admissions, memberships & gift shop

Strategic planning session scheduled in the coming months



## Service Agreement: Accountability & Schedule B Performance

- BC Societies Act & CRA Status ✓ — Current and in good standing
- Multi-source Funding ✓ — Federal, provincial, municipal, foundations, earned revenue, donations
- Physical Visits Tracked ✓ — 12,753 total visitors; 1,576 Cold War Bunker; 1,136 students & youth
- Program Participation ✓ — 68 public programs; 42 guided school tours; workshops, talks, films
- Archival Requests ✓ — 228 inquiries; 147 research requests answered; 16 from outside Canada
- Archival & Artefact Donations ✓ — 61 new entries; Sinixt Nation Arrow Lakes archaeological collection
- Social Media / Newsletter ✓ — 2,400 newsletter subscribers; active Museum Monday & Throwback Thursday
- Indigenous Community Engagement ✓ — Sinixt, Ktunaxa, Métis partnerships embedded across operations
- Community Collaboration ✓ — SD8, Selkirk College, UBC, NDAC, Capitol Theatre, NDCU, and more
- Bunker Preservation ✓ — Record attendance; maintained as Cold War heritage site and tourism destination



# Nelson Museum Archives & Gallery

## Budget Overview: Budget\_FY26\_P&L - FY26 P&L

January - December 2026

	TOTAL
<b>Income</b>	
4100 Grants	
4110 City of Nelson - Operational	265,000.00
4120 Government	
4122 Government - Operating	70,000.00
4125 Government - Project	104,000.00
<b>Total 4120 Government</b>	<b>174,000.00</b>
4130 Non-Government	80,000.00
<b>Total 4100 Grants</b>	<b>519,000.00</b>
4200 Earned Revenue	
4210 Admissions	26,000.00
4220 Archival Fees	6,000.00
4230 Facility Rentals	3,000.00
4240 Fundraising	20,000.00
4250 Gift Shop Sales	
4251 Taxable Sales	80,000.00
<b>Total 4250 Gift Shop Sales</b>	<b>80,000.00</b>
4260 Interest	1,000.00
4270 Membership	12,000.00
4280 Program Fees	
4282 School Tours	3,000.00
4285 Public Programming	9,000.00
<b>Total 4280 Program Fees</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>
4290 Other Earned Revenue	24,000.00
<b>Total 4200 Earned Revenue</b>	<b>184,000.00</b>
4300 Donations	
4310 Individual Donations - Unrestricted	10,000.00
4340 Corporate Donations & Sponsorships	10,000.00
<b>Total 4300 Donations</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$723,000.00</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$723,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
5100 Administration	
5110 Accounting	19,500.00
5120 Bank charges	1,250.00
5140 Equipment & Furnishings	300.00
5150 Insurance	28,000.00
5160 IT Support & Software	15,000.00
5180 Office expenses	3,000.00
5190 Professional Dues & Memberships	2,000.00
<b>Total 5100 Administration</b>	<b>69,050.00</b>
5200 Building Operations	
5210 Building & Site Maintenance	25,000.00
5220 Custodial	9,500.00
5230 Gas	6,000.00
5240 Lease Amortization	35,055.00
5250 Power	21,000.00

	TOTAL
5260 Security	2,000.00
5270 Water, Sewer & Garbage	9,800.00
<b>Total 5200 Building Operations</b>	<b>108,355.00</b>
5300 Events & Programs	
5310 Archives	15,000.00
5320 Artist Fees	20,000.00
5340 Gallery/Exhibitions	50,000.00
5350 Museum/Collection	8,000.00
5360 Programs	10,000.00
5370 Fundraising Events	1,000.00
5375 Facility Rental Expenses	1,500.00
5380 Volunteers, Members & Donors	1,500.00
5390 Marketing & Communications	2,000.00
<b>Total 5300 Events &amp; Programs</b>	<b>109,000.00</b>
5400 Gift Shop	
5410 Inventory Purchases - Taxable	40,000.00
5430 Other Gift Shop Expenses	7,000.00
<b>Total 5400 Gift Shop</b>	<b>47,000.00</b>
5500 Human Resources	
5510 Salaries	
5512 Administrative Salaries	145,465.00
5514 Programming Salaries	50,000.00
5516 Curatorial & Archives Salaries	145,317.00
<b>Total 5510 Salaries</b>	<b>340,782.00</b>
5530 Health Benefits	23,000.00
5540 RRSP Matching	900.00
5550 Contract Salaries	5,000.00
5560 HR Expenses & Professional Development	1,500.00
<b>Total 5500 Human Resources</b>	<b>371,182.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$704,587.00</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$18,413.00</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$18,413.00</b>

Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery 2025  
**Annual Report**



3	2025 YEAR IN REVIEW
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*The Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery acknowledges that the Museum resides on the traditional unceded territory of the Sinixt and Ktunaxa Peoples. We would like to thank and acknowledge the Sinixt Confederacy, Yaqan Nukiy Ktunaxa Band, and the West Kootenay Métis Association for the opportunity to live, learn and share in cultural experiences in this beautiful place.*



photograph by Bobbi Barbarich

## **Year in Review 2025**

**12,753 TOTAL VISITORS**  
**1,576 COLD WAR BUNKER VISITORS**  
**1,136 STUDENTS, CHILDREN & YOUTH**  
**36 SCHOOL TOURS**  
**584 MEMBERSHIPS SOLD**  
**5,460 VOLUNTEER HOURS**  
**2,400 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS**  
**228 ARCHIVES INQUIRIES**  
**68 PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

# From the Chair of the Board

This past year was one of significant challenge and transition, and I am proud of how the Museum met both.

I must acknowledge directly that NMAG closed 2025 with a deficit. This reflects the difficult fiscal environment facing arts and culture organizations across the country, driven by insufficient operational income, increased expenses, and a more competitive granting landscape. The Board has responded by substantially reducing the 2026 budget and making fundraising a central organizational priority. Our December silent auction was a bright spot, and that energy will carry forward.

Most recently, the Museum navigated a significant leadership transition. Following the sudden medical leave of our Executive Director, Jennifer Dunkerson. The Board moved quickly to appoint Board member Rhiannon Barbour as Acting Executive Director while a hiring process was conducted. We then welcomed Kalika Bowlby — our Education Coordinator — as Interim Executive Director. Kalika brings leadership experience and a significant familiarity with this organization.

The Board had engaged a consultant to guide the development of a new strategic plan, but given the sudden departure of our ED, that process was paused. A strategic planning session is going to be scheduled for after this AGM, with priorities centred on fundraising, securing stable sources of operational income, and continuing our policy drafting work.

I am sad to say that this is my final year as the Board Chair. I am stepping down following the arrival of my new baby. It has been a privilege to serve NMAG and the overall Museum community. I leave with confidence in the team and the Board.

My thanks to our Board members, to Jennifer, to Rhiannon, to Kalika, to our staff, and to the volunteers who are the backbone of this organization.

With gratitude,

Peter Beug  
Chair of the Board



photograph by Bobbi Barbarich

# From the Executive Director



As we reflect on 2025, we recognize a year shaped by a shared commitment to learning at the intersection of art and history. It is an honour to be one thread within Nelson's rich cultural fabric, work that is only possible through the interdependence of artists, staff, volunteers, members, community partners, and funders who sustain it.

We extend our sincere thanks to Jennifer Dunkerson for her leadership and contributions throughout 2025, and we wish her well during her six-month medical leave. Having recently stepped into the role of Interim Executive Director after serving as Education Coordinator and Environmental Lead, I am honoured to support the organization at this time. My work here has always been grounded in relationship-building and a deep respect for the interconnected nature of people, place, and practice. I bring this same approach to leadership, with a focus on sustainability, not only ecologically, but also organizational and relational.

Like many organizations in the arts and culture sector, we are navigating a challenging fiscal environment. In response, we are taking thoughtful steps in 2026 to strengthen our financial sustainability, including tightening our budget and expanding donor support. This is a great time to support the work we do through donations, sponsorships, memberships, or contributions to our endowment to ensure the continued delivery of our programs. Throughout 2025, despite reduced staffing and funding, our team demonstrated incredible resilience, adaptability, and care. Their dedication, openness to learning, and ongoing reflection enabled us to continue delivering meaningful programming and stewarding our collections. I would not have stepped into this role without their support, knowledge, and inspiration. Their work is the foundation upon which this organization stands.

Under the thoughtful curatorial leadership of Arin Fay, the gallery presented exhibitions that invited critical dialogue and deep engagement. *Dark Chapters*, a powerful and multifaceted project, opened in our gallery and continues to tour nationally. We also celebrated the diversity of local artistic talent through exhibitions such as *Within This Earthen Vessel*, *Mother Tongue*, and *Boat Without a Boat*, each contributing to the cultural conversation in unique ways.

# From the Executive Director...

Our Archivist and Collections Manager, JP Stienne, curated Deep Roots, an exhibition exploring our community's evolving relationship with forests. With the support of Archive Assistant Tressa Ford and a dedicated volunteer team, the archives continued its essential work of caring for and expanding the collection while prioritizing inclusive and democratic access. This year also saw a record number of visits to the Cold War Bunker, reflecting growing community engagement with our shared history. Tressa has also become the star of our popular Museum Monday series, which brings artifacts to life for a wider audience.

Cindy Fillion, our Visitor Services Manager, ensures that every visitor is welcomed with warmth and care. Her work supporting local and regional artists through the gift shop, alongside her management of volunteers and membership, is integral to the organization's sustainability and sense of community.

Public Programming Coordinator Stephanie Meyers continues to create accessible, engaging programming for all ages, often in direct dialogue with our exhibitions. By inviting artists and community members to share knowledge and skills, her work fosters spaces of reciprocal learning where we learn with and from one another.

We also extend our gratitude to Stephanie Delnea for her contributions before transitioning to her role with the City of Nelson. We are grateful to continue working with her on a contract basis, particularly through her thoughtful exhibition catalogue design.

To our staff and Board of Directors, thank you for your care and commitment during a year of change. To our volunteers, whose generosity of time and energy sustains so much of what we do, we offer our deepest thanks. And to our members, donors, partners, and participants, your support makes this work possible.

As we look ahead, we remain grounded in the understanding that sustainability is collective work. Building on the momentum of 2025, we move forward with intention, guided by creativity and community.

Kalika Bowlby  
Interim Executive Director



Still Life class with Amelie Ford (Feb)  
photo by Stephanie Myers



Tiny Art @ Tiny Lights Music Festival (May)  
photo by Stephanie Myers

# Programming 2025

## JANUARY

Rangoli Workshop with artist Surya Sameera  
Artist Trading Cards Workshop  
Après Ski FREE Thursdays

## FEBRUARY

'Vessels' Exhibition Opening  
Still Life workshop w/ Amelia Ford Part 1 & 2  
Artist Trading Cards Workshop  
'The Nettle Dress' film screening  
Lost Buildings with Greg Nesteroff  
Après Ski FREE Thursdays

## MARCH

Corazon performances  
Museum Mash!  
Debert Bunker: By Invitation Only film screening  
Photo Embroidery Workshop  
'Dark Chapters' opening reception  
Artist Trading Cards Workshop  
Après Ski FREE Thursdays

## APRIL

Lalin performances  
Art & Ecology course  
Book Launch: 'The Distance' by Judy Pollard  
Black Bear Review magazine launch  
Spring Fling FREE Thursdays  
Book Launch - "I Had Visitors Last Night" Rita Moir

## MAY

Art & Ecology course  
REDress ceremony  
Mother's Day Pop-up Card workshop  
Tiny Art @ Tiny Lights Music Festival  
NMAG Annual General Meeting  
Community Appreciation Day at Chahko Mika Mall  
Spring Fling FREE Thursdays

## JUNE

Still Life w/ Cath McIntosh Part 1 & 2  
'Deep Roots' opening reception  
Open Dialogue in the Gallery Art Conversations  
ArtWalk First opening  
Sinixt Canoe Journey  
Art Curious? Open Dialogue  
'Deep Roots' closing party  
Summer Lovin' FREE Thursdays



Canada Day Button Making (July)  
photo by Stephanie Myers



Wooden Spoon workshop with Anna Wynne (Sept)  
photo by Stephanie Myers

## JULY

Canada Day at Lakeside Park  
'WOOD' opening reception  
Spoon Carving workshop w/ Anna Wynne  
Market Night on Baker Street  
'Deep Roots' discussion panel  
Summer Lovin' FREE Thursdays

## AUGUST

ArtWalk second opening  
Seed Paper Making with Ysauld de Montigny  
Summer Lovin' FREE Thursdays

## SEPTEMBER

Book Launch: Rufous and Calliope - Sarah Louise Butler  
Art and Ecology course  
'Móðurmál/Mother tongue' - Hildur Jonasson - Opening  
Summer Lovin' FREE Thursdays

## OCTOBER

Art and Ecology course  
Book Event: Smokii Sumac & Zaynab Mohammed  
War of the Worlds - radio play reading  
Art Curious? Open Dialogue  
Fall into Fall FREE Thursday Evenings

## NOVEMBER

Opening 'Boat Without a Boat' - Deborah Thompson  
Judy Pollard The Distance book signing  
Big River Speaking Tour with Eileen Delehanty Pearkes  
Members' Sale  
Holiday Silent Auction  
Member's Only Social  
Film Screening and Catalogue Launch  
So Much Good Stuff Collage series  
Fall into Fall FREE Thursday Evenings

## DECEMBER

Holiday Silent Auction  
Greg Nesteroff King of Sandon book signing  
Icelandic Card making w Hildur Jonasson  
Après Ski FREE Thursdays

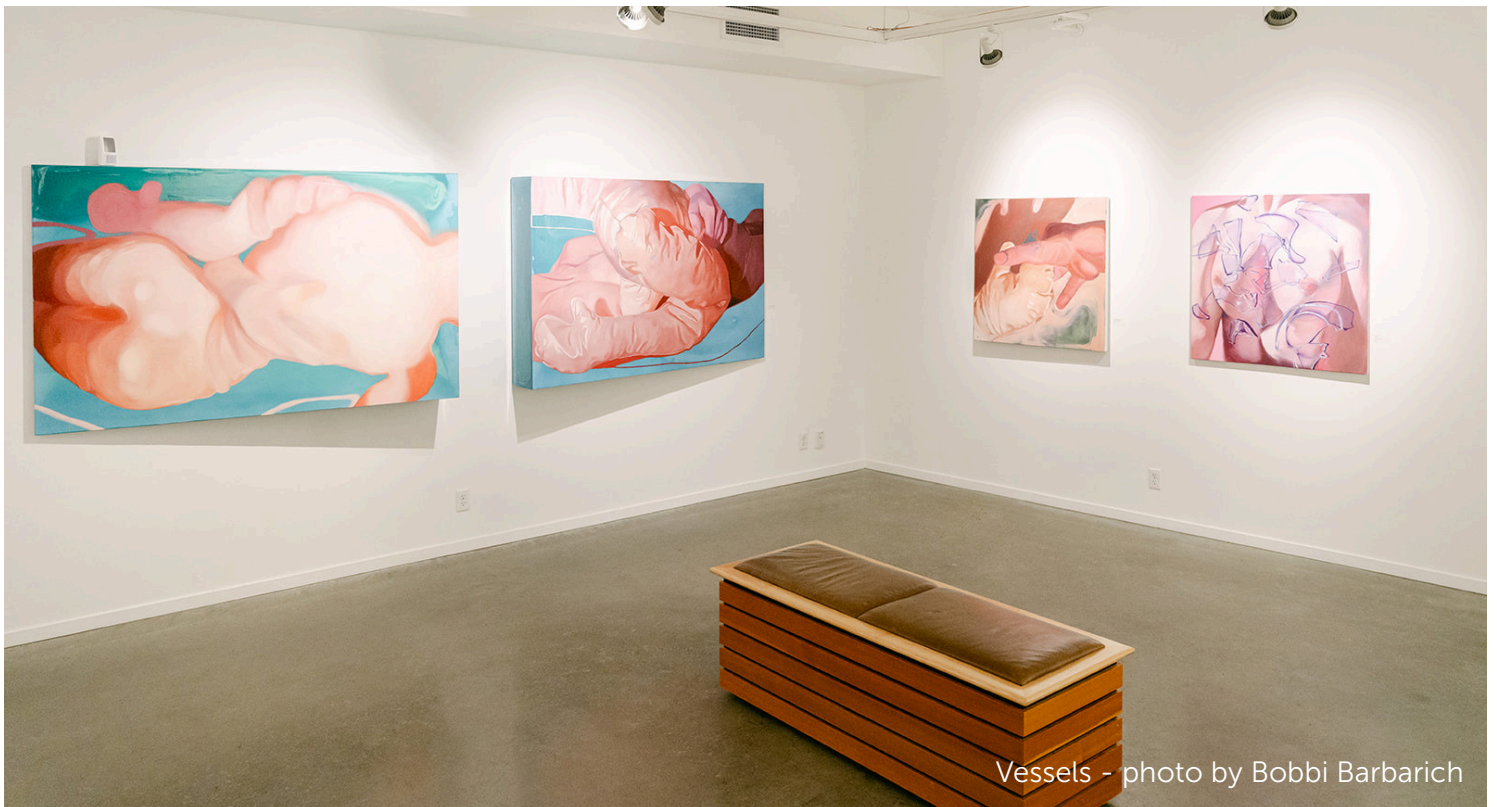
# Galleries



Dark Chapters - photo by Bobbi Barbarich

All NMAG Exhibition Programming is supported by British Columbia Arts Council Operating Funding and Province of British Columbia Gaming Funding. Many of the exhibitions are also supported by Canada Council for the Arts. We are grateful for the support from The City of Nelson, Nelson and District Credit Union and all the businesses that we work with, including Hall Printing & Nelson Fine Art Printing.

Thanks as always to our tireless volunteers and members!



Vessels - photo by Bobbi Barbarich

# *Dark Chapters – David Garneau*

MARCH 22ND – JUNE 28, 2025

CURATOR: ARIN FAY

GALLERY A

David Garneau's 'Dark Chapters' exhibition at NMAG in March 2025 represented the launch of a cross-Canada exhibition and book tour organized by Curator Arin Fay and generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts. Garneau places Indigenous animism next to materialist industry; learning from the land beside book learning; compares Indian Residential School graves with the loss of the bison; wonders about the complexity of Christianized First Peoples—all through the seemingly quaint still life genre. These works of high-realism, complex ideas, and humour are addressed to Indigenous folks familiar with the cultural references and non-Indigenous folks interested in our entangled histories and futures.

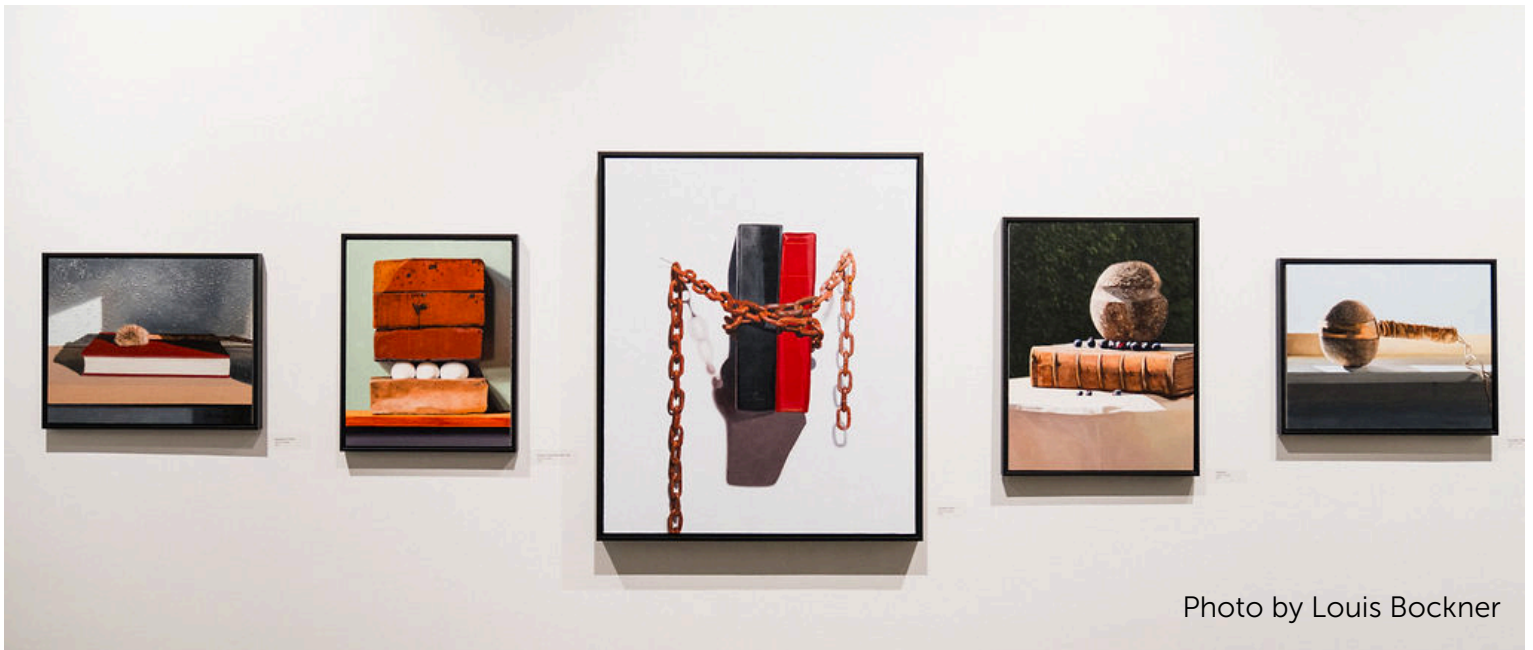
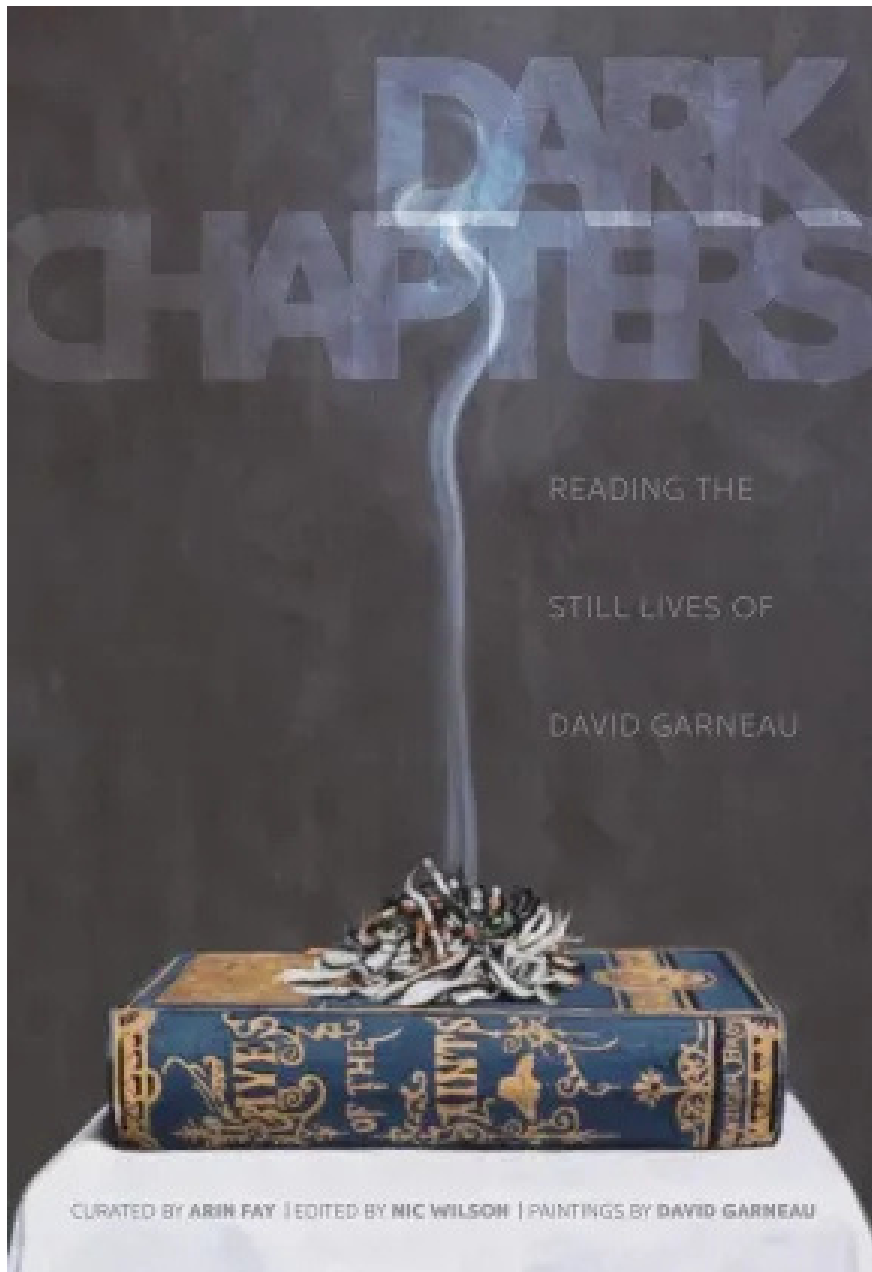


Photo by Louis Bockner

*In addition to speaking to and providing context for the works on display in any gallery setting, it is paramount that curators consider the complex and often fraught realities of inclusion and representation in these privileged spaces. Since galleries and museums are brick and mortar byproducts of social systems (often reinforcing the concepts inherent in structural functionalism, and maintaining the status quo), it is important to recognize opportunities to both reflect and challenge the cultural currents that these spaces are designed to embody and explore. Simply put, the role of a gallery should be reflexive and relational, challenging, and creative in every respect. Art is a perfect conduit for such contemplations, to create and bolster critical conversations, consider chaos and connectedness, and ponder our collective ability to be awestruck and outraged, creative and complicit. It is important also, in this call and response of art and culture process, to consider the infinite variation and intricate beauty that artists employ. (Arin Fay, Curatorial Essay Excerpt)*

# *Dark Chapters – David Garneau...*

Programming for 'Dark Chapters' included a national book launch at the Mackenzie Art Gallery in Regina, Saskatchewan and opening and closing events at NMAG which featured artist David Garneau and contributors: Fred Wah, Paul Seesequasis, and Susan Musgrave. We are also immensely grateful to the West Kootenay Métis Society for including David in their community celebrations and taking part in the talking circle event. Special thanks to Michele Morin and Nicole Courson for speaking at the opening and closing events. All Spring and Fall exhibitions involve school tours, facilitated by Kalika Bowlby.



The Book DARK CHAPTERS: Reading the Still Lives of David Garneau include Lillian Allen, Dick Averns, Billy-Ray Belcourt, Rita Bouvier, Jeff Derksen, Arin Fay, John Hampton, Trevor Herriot, David Howes, Larissa Lai, Peter Morin, Susan Musgrave, Cecily Nicholson, Paul Seesequasis, Tarene Thomas, Fred Wah, and Jesse Wenthe.

ONE OF QUILL & QUIRE'S NOTABLE BOOKS OF 2025 & shortlisted for the Publishing Award at the 2026 Saskatchewan Book Awards.

Available in the shop!



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada

# *Vessels – Amelia Ford*

FEBRUARY 15 – MAY 24, 2025

CURATOR: ARIN FAY

GALLERY B

Vessels was a body of work where objects such as glasses, fruit, flowers, and tchotchkes take on figurative roles to represent their latent symbology. In some paintings these objects are center stage in the form of classical still life, in others they warp and overshadow bodies as a looming reminder of their constant presence. These paintings make direct references to the work of prominent male artists such as Rodin and Titian to challenge their gaze but more so to reconsider our own gaze and our expectations of depicted women.

Programming included a very well attended opening event and LVR art class tours.



photo by Bobbi Barbarich

*Amelia Ford's exhibition 'Vessels' explores how representative and recognizable objects and/or subjects carry complex meanings. She does this through the somewhat antiquated but relevant genre of 'still life' and the forever focus of figurative form; categories of artistic expression that are vessels in and of themselves, and fabulous fodder for homage, intervention and experimentation.*

*(Arin Fay, Curatorial Essay Excerpt)*

# ***WOOD w/ artists: Peter von Tiesenhausen, Samuel Roy-Bois, Xiaojing Yan, Rita McKeough, Susan Point, Stephen Noyes, Pat Bruderer and Nadia Myre***

JULY 12 – OCTOBER 18, 2025

CURATOR: ARIN FAY

GALLERY A

WOOD was the 5th exhibition in an ongoing series of medium-centric group exhibitions generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts. These group exhibitions explore specific medium/media through as diverse a lens as possible and are a means of creating a curated and critical discourse with artists from across Canada that involve issues of place/environment, identity politics (settler/Indigenous, for example) and other diasporic realities, means and method, craft vs art, urban vs rural, and many other actualities. The discourse that these group exhibitions foster is centered on the collective conversation that is created through the artworks themselves, both in concert and meaningful disconnect, but also through the narrative elements and representative place of artists within the country, within their careers, and through their respective work and perspectives.



photo by Bobbi Barbarich



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada

# WOOD...

*Over the years I have compiled dozens of documents housing this research, with designations that reflect the same type of cloak-and-dagger titles as these exhibits have. WOOD, for example, an inherent but purposeful oversimplification that is remedied by the work on display. By surveying the creative landscape with an eye to diversity, geography, tradition, innovation, and so on, the lists of artists begin to build themselves, illustrating interesting themes and categories, differences and similarities, era specific disciplines and sensibilities, and contemporary challenges and responses. It is a captivating study, and one fueled by observation and appreciation of art and artists, in Canada and elsewhere. Once compiled the lists are further contemplated, and the work of finding patterns and dissonance takes over, uncovering the root and far-flung branch of expression, the balance of geographic representation and reflection of the landscape, the position*



photo by Bobbi Barbarich

*of artists within their own practice, the influence of academia and self-taught principles—all are factored in. The conversations with artists, and their willingness and interest in being a part of such a project is what makes these exhibitions both challenging and rewarding; the obvious questions about space, balance, design, and intention need to be parsed through and understood. It is not always advantageous to cluster a diverse group of artists together without a thread that holds the work and artists' intentions together. It is a tall order, but when it works, it is a thing of beauty.*

*(Arin Fay, Curatorial Essay Excerpt)*

Programming highlights include the Rita McKeough offsite performance at Allison Girvan's property in Blewett, filmed by Adam O. Thomas. The opening event and artist talk was attended by Rita McKeough, Peter von Tiesenhausen, Samuel Boise, Stephen and Emma Noyes. Special thanks to Shelly Boyd for the opening address. This exhibition included an exhibition catalog, designed by Stephanie Delnea.

# Deep Roots

JUNE 7 – SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

CURATOR: JEAN-PHILIPPE STIENNE

GALLERY B



photo by Bobbi Barbarich

Since time immemorial the forest has provided; homes and medicine, deep shade and stable ground, and resources from which we have created a legacy of economic opportunity. Deep Roots unearths the complex story of the Kootenay forest and our community's relationship to the environment, both past and present.

Deep Roots explored the history of the West Kootenay forestry industry, the attitudes and actions of our community, forest resources, and the continuing importance of forest management to people, the environment and the economy. This complex story is told through juxtaposition—from two photographs of Kootenay Lake and the Nelson waterfront side by side, one from the spring of 2025 by Louis Bockner, and the other an image from the Shawn Lamb Archives from 1899; to a towering mural of the lofty white pines acting as the backdrop to a singular matchbox. It also encompasses industry growth and the protests that followed; treeplanters and fire spotters. Artwork from Emma Noyes, Bridget Corkery and Fern Helfand hung alongside vintage felling tools, a timeline, archival images, and signage from the Collection and items loaned from the individuals in the community. Visitors were invited to take a tree sapling with them.

## *Deep Roots...*

*Today, residents of the West Kootenay increasingly advocate for the preservation of scenic and wilderness values alongside the need for economic stability. Efforts are underway to strike a sustainable balance that includes the voices of impacted Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. At the same time, concerns are growing over longer, more destructive wildfire seasons and the visible impacts of climate change. These challenges will shape how we continue to enjoy and manage our abundant and valuable forests in the years ahead.*  
(Jean-Philippe Stienne, Curatorial Essay Excerpt)



Programming included a very well attended panel discussion featuring former MLA and logger Corky Evans; West Kootenay Watershed founder and former RDCK Director Ramona Faust; Rik Valentine, trainer and co-founder of the Argenta Fire Crew; professional forester and forest ecologist Herb Hammond; owner of Kalesnikoff Lumber Ken Kalesnikoff; and Sinixt archaeologist Remy LaCombe. The discussion was moderated by strategic resource planning consultant John Cathro, who has worked professionally in the resource sector in British Columbia for over 30 years.

# *Boat Without a Boat – Deborah Thompson*

NOVEMBER 15, 2025 – FEBRUARY 21, 2026

CURATOR: ARIN FAY

GALLERY A



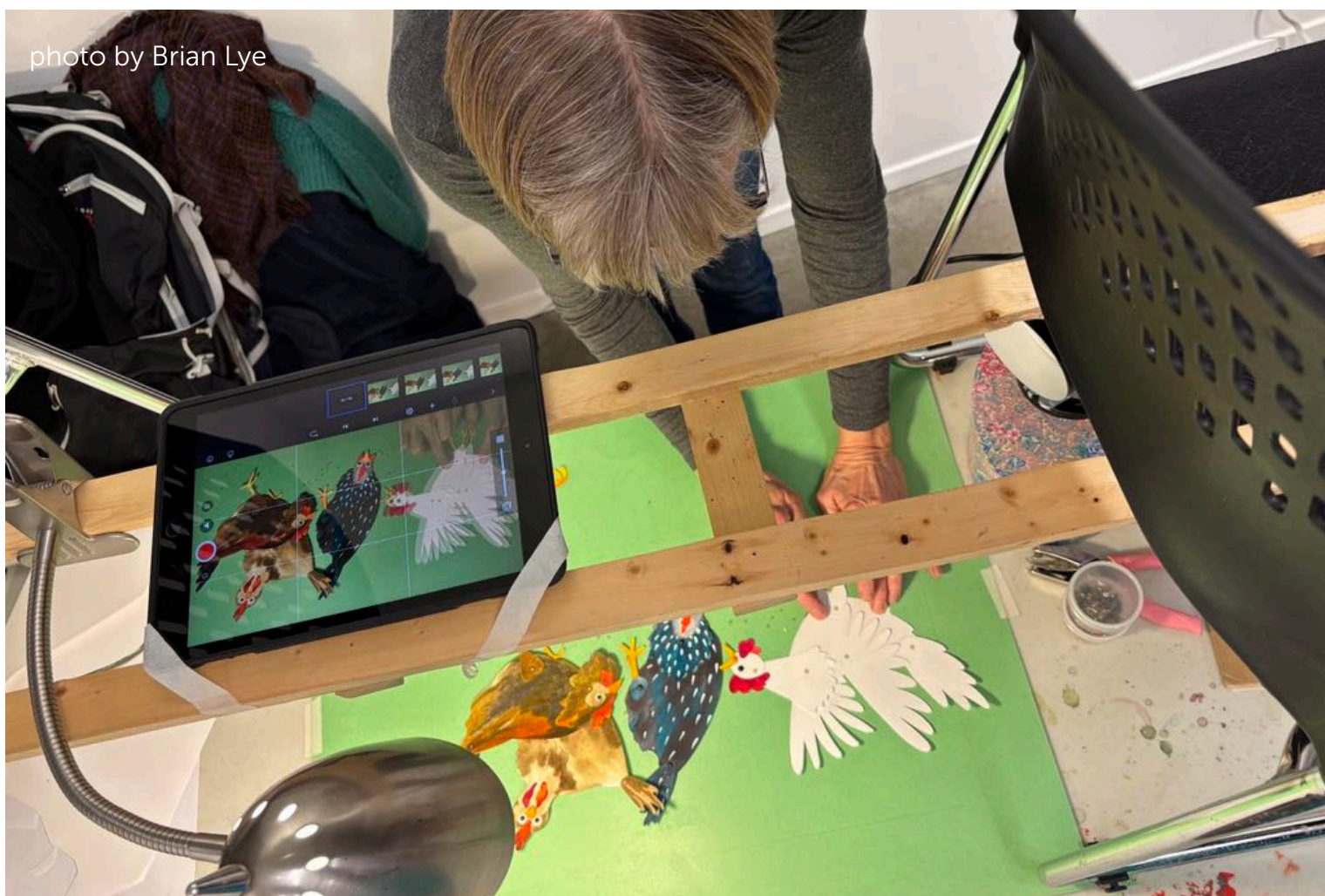
photo by Bobbi Barbarich

Featuring new work from Nelson-based painter Deborah Thompson, *Boat Without a Boat* captured her practice as it moves in two new directions. Comprising life size cut paper drawings that are assembled into what Thompson refers to as “Constellations” and stop motion animation works that embody the implied movement displayed on the walls, each piece forms from a mosaic of related associations that reach into art history, mythology, poetry, and media images as points of reference. They often begin with a central figure that moves across the wall, adding other figures and components as the narrative unfolds. Woven within this process are the metaphysical questions around creation and death that continue to inspire Thompson’s practice. These works bring the drawn image to the foreground, building on the underlying modality of a career spent imagining transformations of consciousness and of putting into image something felt rather than seen.

## *Boat Without a Boat...*

*There is a strong drawing and composition background to these works, a foundation which extends from Thompson's previous work, such as Maternal Body, Underworld & Plant Forms. Paintings that were brewed in the womb, as it were, infused with complex color spectrums, animism, and the comingling of form and emotion; works that are determinedly primordial and organic. Thompson's previous work is akin to the feminist fury of artists such as Joan Mitchell or Betty Goodwin. The sentiments remain in Boat Without a Boat but the approach has shifted to an eerie calm, and the articulation of haunting faces, cut lines, and monochromatic precision. And here again, the absence of certain elements draws attention to their importance; the relatively restrained use of color and constraint, illuminating the opposite.*

*(Arin Fay, Curatorial Essay Excerpt)*



Programming included an overwhelmingly well attended opening event and artist talk / catalog launch. This exhibition included a limited-run exhibition catalog designed by Stephanie Delnea. A stop-motion animation workshop and short exhibition in Gallery B was offered by Deb Thompson and Bryan Lye, facilitated by Stephanie Myers.



# *Móðurmál/Mother Tongue – Hildur María Hallgrímsdóttir Jónasson*

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 – JANUARY 10, 2026

CURATOR: ARIN FAY

GALLERY B

Hildur Jónasson is a multi-disciplinary artist with a printmaker's eye, using this body of work to explore the Icelandic language, her mother tongue, as both heritage and identity.



photo by Bobbi Barbarich

*Móðurmál/Mother tongue is a pictorial epistle to the land and language of Iceland. The botanic theme is stark and precise, embedded with emotion and devotion. Hildur María Hallgrímsdóttir Jónasson has centered her creative conversation around the embroidery of her grandmother, an artifact which acts as a refrain, reinforcing the main theme or idea, like a song.*

*The essence of place is echoed in the black and white characters, by turns subtle and stark, embodied mountainscape and elusive reflections, with vast white areas between, punctuated by a determined but delicate design; mountain avern flowers, as far as the eye can see. One feels solitude and tradition in these patterns, a sentiment echoed by Jónas Hallgrímsson, the Wordsworth of Iceland, in his poem dedicated to the island*

*Hildur's masterful use of serigraph techniques gives the viewer a sense of what an emotional but also tangible landscape looks like from an artists' perspective. A vista which reaffirms that place is always more than terra firma – here as elsewhere – it is a constantly mediated space, influenced by history and geography, language and love, politics and perspective. We learn a lot from such generous visual conversations, about others, and about ourselves.*

*(Arin Fay, Excerpt from Curatorial Essay)*

Programming included a very well attended opening event and artist talk / catalog launch. This exhibition included a limited-run exhibition catalog designed by Stephanie Delnea.

# From the Shawn Lamb Archives



photo by Stephanie Myers

Another 61 entries of artifacts and archives were donated to the archives in 2025. Entries included a "Monsoon" forest fire fighting bucket, a pair of Billy Clark made snowshoes, a 1931 Kootenay Music Festival gold medal, and a collection of rare Rocky Mountain Rangers badges. We also welcomed the arrival of a number of contemporary art pieces by local artists Bridget Corkery, Fern Helfand and First Nation artist Darwin Greyeyes. Through an agreement with the Sinixt Nation, we also became the repository for a large collection of Arrow Lakes archaeological finds. This collection was displayed at the museum as part of a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event where the pieces were blessed by Sinixt representatives.

2025 saw great strides made in the digitization of our audio-visual collections. We completed projects to digitize oral history recordings including the Life in the Woods and Where the Lardeau River Flows collections, as well as the 1971 Mrs. Buckley's Tea Chest radio show collection. We also continued to add vintage format and local Shaw TV community television program content. 346 videos were added to our YouTube Channel, which received over 23,500 views during the year. Films of Ronnie Gilbert performing at The Capitol Theatre, a distinctly 1980s LV Rogers High School Fashion Show, and a recording of a Margaret Atwood reading in Nelson in 1981 were among the biggest hits of the year.

The team in the Shawn Lamb Archives had another busy year helping to answer inquiries, conducting research, and cataloging our vast collections of maps and photographs. The team answered 147 research requests, with restaurants and mining being among the hot topics of interest. We received over twenty inquiries from writers often looking for information for historical fiction stories.

## 2025 Inquiries

### GEOGRAPHICAL SOURCES OF INQUIRIES

Local (West & East Kootenay regions) 46%  
Other parts of BC 27%  
Rest of Canada (AB, ON, SK, YK, MB) 3%  
Other (USA, Sweden, Netherlands, etc.) 11%  
Unknown 13%

### SOURCE OF REQUESTS BY TYPE

Private persons 64%  
Writers 15%  
Archives/Museums 0%  
Business 6%  
Academics 6%  
Government 6%  
Film Producers 1%  
Other 2%

### SOME TOPICS RESEARCHED:

Restaurants (KC, All Seasons, Golden Gate Café)  
Stores (Hudson's Bay, Kootenay Co-op, The Ark)  
Ice House, Drill Hall, Scout Hall  
Mines (Sheep Creek, Silver King & Tramway)  
Telephones, Streetcars, Nelson Brewing Co.  
Chinese in Nelson; Japanese Internment

# From the Shawn Lamb Archives

Around half of our inquiries came from Kootenay residents, although we also received sixteen inquiries from outside Canada. Nearly a quarter of all inquiries relate to family history and make use of our extensive obituary collections that have now grown to 20,000 entries. We also completed six house histories this year, with new archives volunteers Carol Elder and Pat Christensen joining the team.



photo by Stephanie Myers

We reached the final stages of a project to organize and document our Fairbank Architects plans. Details of almost 900 sets of plans for buildings constructed or renovated primarily by this Nelson architectural firm have been added to our online collections database. Our monthly History Buff column in the Nelson Star brought back memories for some and new histories to many.

Topics included the 1989 Nelson BC Winter Games, Nelson's Chinese Laundries, the 1984 David Thompson University Centre closure, fraternal orders of Nelson and prohibition in Nelson.

Not sure if it was due to heightened international concerns but we had record numbers of public visitors to the Nelson Bunker this year. We moved to offer tours every hour from 11am-3pm on Saturdays to meet the increased demand. The opportunity to be guided through the museum collection storerooms at the end of tours has also become a popular feature.

In May, we brought out some of our more unusual objects for a Community Day event at Chahko Mika Mall. The electric wave machine hair curler turned a few heads. In July, a microfilm reader and computer were transferred from Nelson Public Library together with their entire stock of microfilm of newspapers and birth, marriage and death records.



# From the Shawn Lamb Archives



Former volunteer Maggie Dennis joined us as a summer student this year, where they got the opportunity to work on a number of displays, events and collection access projects. Maggie also found time to create an online exhibition of photographs taken of our community by local photographer Fred Rosenberg. The collection is now on our NMAG Flickr website.



From June to September, we mounted the Deep Roots exhibition in Gallery B exploring our forest history. In July, we hosted a panel discussion on our relationship to forests and the ways we hope to sustain our woodlands into the future. In November, we were honoured to welcome a group of Ktunaxa Elders to the museum and archives and to get their thoughts as they looked at and held Ktunaxa pieces.

Summer Students: Gabby Asbel, Maggie Dennis, and Suzanne Miller supported by funding from Canada Summer Job and Young Canada Works.

# From the Shawn Lamb Archives

We have also continued our work to update the Nelson Sports Museum displays at the Nelson and District Community Complex, with a soccer history display completed. Our weekly social media offerings of Museum Monday and Throwback Thursday continued to provide stories and views of many of our artifacts and archives. The Nelson Daily News digitization program in partnership with the University of British Columbia continued to scan the newspaper's pages. We are now reaching the final stretch of this project to digitize the pages from 108 years of Nelson publishing history.



photo by Jean-Philippe Stienne

In October, we also got our famous Ladybird speedboat back on permanent display in its enclosure down by the Hall Street Pier. This is Bruce & Eileen Davis our devoted custodians.

# The Shop

The Shop had a vibrant mix of craft, visual art, literature, and community celebration this year. We continue to carry all the favourites such as Chocofellar Chocolate, YGK tea towels, and a great selection of locally made pottery, that are popular with both locals and tourists. The Shop also welcomed new artists Barb Cyr and Samantha Rose, whose work added warmth and cozy texture to the retail offerings.

ArtWalk featured compelling work by Scott Rothermel (paintings), Hannah Rane (ceramics), and Cutt and Etch, whose laser-etched wood pieces drew strong interest. Our literary programming was also robust, with book events featuring Judy Pollard (*The Distance*), Rita Moir (*It Was Dark There All the Time*), the launch of *Black Bear Review's* annual publication, and readings by Sarah Butler (*Rufous and Calliope*).

In the lobby, Haute Trash, a selection of winners from their upcycled fashion event, were on display in May. We also held a fundraising silent auction—successfully showcased a creative mix of donated works alongside thoughtfully deaccessioned pieces from the archives. Community events such as Corazon and Lalin further strengthened connections and broadened audience engagement.

We were also pleased to welcome three new youth volunteers in 2025: Zoey Sutton, Nova Svida Moffat, and Jacqueline Willard, whose enthusiasm and dedication contributed meaningfully to our operations and programming.

CINDY FILLION  
VISITOR SERVICES MANAGER



photos by Stephanie Myers

# Education

All our programming is designed to educate and inspire critical inquiry, but it is always a highlight to welcome students from local schools into the building. In 2025, we delivered 42 guided educational tours to a wide range of learners, including preschool, elementary, middle, secondary, and post-secondary students, as well as professional development and senior groups.

Tours included visits to the Cold War Bunker, the Regional History Museum, and our gallery exhibitions. Many classes returned for multiple visits, deepening their engagement. Teachers were supported with pre-visit discussion questions and post-visit classroom activities to enrich the experience and extend student learning.

Dark Chapters was our most visited exhibition. Students were awed by Garneau's technical skill and engaged in thoughtful discussions about perception and interpretation in art. During guided tours, they explored the power of symbolism and examined the relationship between Western systems of knowledge and Indigenous ways of knowing.

In May, Education Coordinator Kalika Bowlby completed the UBC edX course Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education and continues to integrate these learnings into educational programming and institutional practices.



photo by Kalika Bowlby

Students exploring the Queer Archive during the Youth Pride Event

# Sustainability



We continued to advance our sustainability initiatives, with a focus on climate adaptation and resilience.

This year, we installed sensor lighting in the first-floor exhibition spaces, reducing energy consumption by ensuring lights are only in use when needed.

We also upgraded the heating and cooling system serving the third-floor administrative offices, boardroom, and workshop space to an electric heat pump, further lowering both energy use and our overall carbon footprint.

## Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report

To the Members of  
Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Practitioner's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

### *Conclusion*

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society as at December 31, 2025, and the results of its operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### *Emphasis of Matter*

We draw attention to Note 2, which indicates that Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society incurred year-over-year operating losses and negative cash flows from operating activities, and has an Unrestricted Net Assets deficit as at the year end December 31, 2025. As stated in Note 2, these conditions, along with other matters as set forth in Note 2, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. Our conclusion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### *Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements*

As required by the Societies Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, the accounting principles in Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

*Pinnacle PAC*

Chartered Professional Accountants

April 2, 2026

# Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31

	Note	2025	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents		\$ 258,841	\$ 436,287	\$ 782,768
Accounts receivable		7,981	13,459	37,111
Inventories		34,065	37,731	34,294
Prepaid expenses		13,133	10,051	12,710
		314,020	497,528	866,883
Collections	4	100	100	100
Tangible Capital Assets	5	384,712	395,797	450,791
		<b>\$ 698,832</b>	<b>\$ 893,425</b>	<b>\$ 1,317,774</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		\$ 55,930	\$ 70,897	\$ 58,590
Government remittances payable		8,880	10,098	12,036
Deferred revenue ( <i>Schedule 1</i> )		282,848	319,473	586,214
		347,658	400,468	656,840
Deferred Capital Contributions	6	346,937	345,871	385,433
Net Assets				
Invested in tangible capital assets		37,775	49,926	65,358
Internally restricted net assets	7		97,160	210,143
Unrestricted net assets (deficit)		(33,538)		
		4,237	147,086	275,501
		<b>\$ 698,832</b>	<b>\$ 893,425</b>	<b>\$ 1,317,774</b>

Approved by the Directors:

# Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended December 31

	Note	2025	2024	2023
<b>Revenue</b>				
Grants revenue	8	\$ 601,765	\$ 673,660	\$ 667,450
Earned revenue	9	199,028	190,118	156,369
Donations		16,633	22,767	103,114
		817,426	886,545	926,933
<b>Expenses</b>				
Human resources		428,478	460,166	441,157
Events and programs		176,646	213,455	232,211
Building operations		113,780	108,800	131,647
Administration		98,942	93,552	91,766
Amortization of tangible capital assets		79,271	74,343	73,212
Gift shop cost of sales		63,158	64,644	58,395
		960,275	1,014,960	1,028,388
<b>Operating deficit</b>		(142,849)	(128,415)	(101,455)
<b>Government assistance</b>				10,000
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses (deficit)</b>		\$ (142,849)	\$ (128,415)	\$ (91,455)
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>		147,086	275,501	366,956
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>		\$ 4,237	\$ 147,086	\$ 275,501

# Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended December 31

	2025	2024	2023
<b>Operating Activities</b>			
Excess of revenues over expenses (deficit)	\$ (142,849)	\$ (128,415)	\$ (91,455)
Non-cash items			
Amortization of tangible capital assets	79,271	74,343 <sup>826,603</sup>	73,212
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(64,296)	(58,260)	(58,723)
Forgivable portion of CEBA loan			(10,000)
Changes in non-cash working capital	18,614	(214,800)	
	(109,260)	(327,132)	539,637
<b>Financing Activities</b>			
Repayment of CEBA loan			(30,000)
<b>Investing Activities</b>			
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(68,186)	(19,349)	(136,169)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents</b>	(177,446)	(346,481)	373,468
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year</b>	436,287	782,768	409,300
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 258,841</b>	<b>\$ 436,287</b>	<b>\$ 782,768</b>

# 2025 Volunteers

The Nelson Museum, Archives & Gallery is grateful for the dedication of a strong team of volunteers in 2023. Cataloguing images in the Archives, greeting visitors at the Front Desk, setting up events, and participating on committees - volunteers make an impact in every department. We couldn't open the doors without you!

Shelia Achilles  
Maureen Attridge  
Gretchen Backus  
Rhiannon Barbour  
Nelson Becker  
Carol Bergman  
Marilyn Best  
Peter Beug  
Brent Bukowski  
Eli Bukowski  
Morgan Bukowski  
Carolay Campas  
Pat Christenson  
Barbara Couch  
Eileen Davies  
Judy Deon  
Cheryl Dew  
Aiyanna Dickerson  
Sheona Duthie

Carol Elder  
Chelsea Freyta-Yates  
Joy Gillender  
Talia Goertz  
Michael Graham  
Carmen Heer  
Laurie Helyer  
Lorna Inkster  
Liz Knox  
Nick Kostiuk  
Gail Littlewood  
Isa MacDonald  
Susan Mackintosh  
Ed Mannings  
Della McLeod  
Michael McMann  
Judy Mulloy  
Sherry Nicholson  
Lori O'Neill

Nancy Radonich  
Dennis Ray  
Wendy Steed  
Anne Stroo  
Jerry Sussenguth  
Zoey Sutton  
Nancy Suuban  
Nova Svida-Moffat  
Marjorie Simington  
Sylvie Thomas  
Marianne Tremblay  
Linda Van Hombeeck  
Frances Welwood  
Michael Wicks  
Jacqueline Willard  
Elliot Wilson-Birks

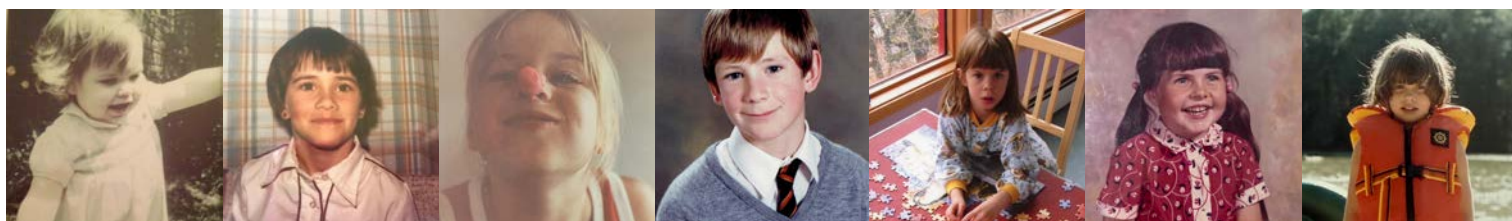
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CINDY FILLION | Visitor Services Manager  
ARIN FAY | Curator  
JEAN-PHILIPPE STIENNE | Collections Manager & Archivist  
TRESSA FORD | Assistant Archivist  
STEPHANIE MYERS | Public Program Coordinator  
KALIKA BOWLBY | Education Coordinator & Environmental Lead

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photo by Bobbi Barbarich