



Aug 24th, 2020

Tannis Nelson – Assistant Manager - Parks, Recreation & Culture

Regional District of North Okanagan
9848 Aberdeen Road
Coldstream, BC V1B 2K9

Dear Tannis,

It is our pleasure to provide a letter in support of Regional District of the North Okanagan application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

Our remit is to advocate for sport, culture and recreation within our community. We bring together partners of all sport and culture organizations, including tourism, stakeholders, levels of government, our community and volunteers.

Our community spoke loud and clear when we voted in a referendum to approve the borrowing for \$25million for the building of a new cultural centre in downtown Vernon. We have recognised the importance of culture within our community and the need to improve the facilities of our public art gallery and museum and archives collection.

A new state of the art centre will be a signature showpiece for our region and rejuvenate our downtown core. The new centre will offer the opportunity for our anchor tenants to host professional exhibits and offer programming their current space does not facilitate.

The centre will also bring positive economic impacts for the region. Using very conservative estimates of only 12,000 out of town annual visitors multiplied by spending forecasts supplied by a 2017 Destination BC regional report and a 2017 InterVISTAS Economic Impact report, the financial impact of non-local spending will range anywhere between \$720,000 - \$860,000 annually.

In addition to the economic impacts, the social impacts will be monumental. A new facility will change the face of culture within the North Okanagan, increase arts and culture visibility, become a stimulant for development and investors, attract professionals, improve our quality of life and activate our downtown, making it a more vibrant and safer place.

We are proud of our community for voting for a positive future, it would be hoped the BC government shares our vision.

Yours sincerely,

Rodney Goodchild
Executive Director