



**For Immediate Release**  
**Friday, July 31, 2009**  
09-24

## **Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Service Delivery Plan Consultation Meeting Schedule**

*Central Cariboo* - The Cariboo Regional District, working in partnership with the City of Williams Lake, created the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture service through the adoption of Bylaw 4420 in December 2008. Through Bylaw 4420 a maximum potential tax requisition of \$200,000 is available annually to support arts and culture activities.

The next step is the development of a detailed service delivery plan. The plan will identify the specific needs of arts and culture groups in the area, the best ways to provide support for them, and strategic goals for the sector.

“Arts and culture is very important to the central Cariboo; it’s an important aspect of economic development including tourism and contributes to an attractive and healthy community,” stated CRD Area F Director Duncan Barnett. “We’ve been providing local government support for public recreation and leisure activities, such as the swimming pool and twin arenas for many years and this new service will help provide similar opportunities for residents in arts and culture.”

To assist the Regional District in creating the delivery framework for the service, Stonefield Consulting of Beaver Valley has been contracted to engage stakeholders and residents of the service area. The service area includes the City of Williams Lake and central Cariboo Electoral Areas D, E, and F.

Community and stakeholder meetings will be hosted in Horsefly July 29, McLeese Lake August 6, Likely August 10, Williams Lake on August 20, and with First Nations on August 17 in Williams Lake.

“The arts and culture community is strong in the Cariboo, but to grow and truly flourish there needs to be stable local government support,” stated City of Williams Lake Councillor, Laurie Walters. “The funding through the new service will not be all things to all groups, but it certainly will provide some basic support and allow non-profit organizations to effectively secure other grants and increase fundraising activities.”

The consultant will be collecting information on the needs of the arts and culture sector by meeting one-on-one with stakeholders, hosting focus groups and community forums, as well as distributing and analyzing survey data. With this information, recommendations will be made to the CRD on the most effective and efficient method to deliver support for arts and cultural activities in the central Cariboo.

During this process, Stonefield Consulting is encouraging all arts and culture stakeholders and interested area residents to attend these open meetings and share priorities and ideas. A survey has been developed to find out the needs of stakeholders and community members and is available on [www.williamslake.ca](http://www.williamslake.ca) and [www.cariboord.bc.ca](http://www.cariboord.bc.ca)

More information on exact meeting times and locations is available on the CRD and City websites. For information on the consultation process, contact Jill Zimonick of Stonefield Consulting at 250-243-0055 or email [jzimonick@hotmail.com](mailto:jzimonick@hotmail.com)