

Media Release

April 17, 2024 For immediate release

National Volunteer Week

Nelson, BC: Nelson, BC: This week marks National Volunteer Week across Canada and the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is fortunate to work with hundreds of volunteers across the entire organization. The RDCK has dedicated volunteers in numerous areas, including, committees, commissions, fire departments, search and rescue organizations, emergency support services, societies, as well as advisory and community groups.

"The RDCK is very fortunate to have so many community-minded residents who are willing to give back," said Stuart Horn, RDCK Chief Administrative Officer. "I want to thank all of our volunteers who offer up their time and energy to support our services."

The benefits of volunteering include building confidence, competence, connections, and community. Even the smallest amount of community involvement can have an everlasting impact on the community.

"Volunteers are fundamental in providing recreation opportunities for people of all ages in our communities," said Joe Chirico, RDCK General Manager of Community Services. "Without them, many sports, community programs, and special events would not happen. We thank all volunteers for their willingness to give back to their communities."

All RDCK fire departments operate on a volunteer basis. In total there are over 300 volunteer firefighters across 16 departments; dedicated individuals who did not hesitate to stand up and serve their community.

"Volunteer firefighters are the backbone of the Canadian fire service," said David Zayonce, RDCK Regional Fire Chief. "Our volunteers are members of our community, our family, and we are so fortunate to have so many willing to support their communities. As part of National Volunteer Week, I would like to recognize the tremendous service provided by the volunteer firefighters at our respective departments across the RDCK."

This week, during National Volunteer Week, take a moment to recognize those who choose to give back; through their kindness, generosity and commitment to volunteering. Thank you.

Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit <u>www.rdck.ca</u>.

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