



## Regular Council Meeting

Date: MONDAY APRIL 22, 2024  
Time: 6:30 pm

### ADDENDUM

**Item 12(a):**

**Letter of Support for the New Pathways to Gold Society**

Recommended Resolution:

THAT Council of the District of Hope issue a letter of support to the New Pathways to Gold Society for their application to Heritage BC's Heritage Legacy Fund for work on the 1926 Alexandra Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

*Original Signed by John Fortoloczky*

Chief Administrative Officer

## *Office of the Mayor*

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April 22, 2024

Imogen Goldie  
Heritage Grants Administrator & Heritage Planner, Heritage BC  
PO Box 846  
Ladysmith, B.C. V9G 1A6

Dear Imogen Goldie:

I am writing you today, on behalf of Council, to support the New Pathways to Gold Society's (NPTGS) application to Heritage BC's Heritage Legacy Fund (Heritage Conservation Program) for work on the 1926 Alexandra Bridge Rehabilitation Project. This initiative to restore an icon of B.C. transportation history and marquee heritage asset is a partnership between NPTGS, the Spuzzum First Nation and a coalition of heritage sites/organizations, community groups, local businesses and all levels of government, including the Heritage Branch.

The 1926 Alexandra Bridge is a notable of B.C.'s history. Situated in the traditional territory of the Spuzzum First Nation at a crossing point on the Fraser River used by Indigenous Peoples for millennia, it's built on the foundations of the original 1863 Cariboo Waggon Road bridge. Decommissioned in 1964 with the opening of the new bridge two km downstream, the bridge has not been well-maintained and needs urgent repairs.

NPTGS has been working in partnership with the Spuzzum First Nation (SFN) and others since 2009 to restore the bridge. Initial work was done in 2022 and a new phase of restoration started on April 1 of this year. There are many reasons why Heritage BC should support this project:

- The funding will allow for an expansion in the scope of the current work on stabilizing the bridge's two support towers, essential to extending the life of the structure.
- A restored 1926 Alexandra Bridge is a key goal of the Ministry of Tourism's current tourism strategy and has the support of the provincial government as well as civic governments and First Nations.
- The bridge is in the in Canada's Historic Places Inventory and has a statement of significance that details its significance "for the historical, scientific, cultural, aesthetic and recreational values of the structure and its location within the surrounding Fraser Canyon landscape."

- A restored bridge will provide a unique heritage experience for hikers and mountain bikers to explore the Fraser Canyon landscape and the spectacular views of the Fraser Canyon as they travel down the old Cariboo Highway (now the trail down to the bridge) and the river itself they cross to the west bank.
- The project will celebrate Indigenous culture as well as the contributions of under-represented groups who worked to help build both the 1926 structure and the original 1863 Cariboo Waggon Road bridge on whose foundations the “new” bridge was built.
- The project is an example of the government’s UNDRIP legislation in action and will create a focal point for conversations about Indigenous Reconciliation.
- NPTGS has been working in partnership with the Spuzzum First Nation (SFN) and others since 2009 to restore the bridge. A restored bridge is the centerpiece of SFN’s economic development plan, the Tikwalus Project, recently approved by the BC government.
- NPTGS is a non-profit society dedicated to building local economies via Indigenous Reconciliation, heritage tourism development (including restoring heritage trails and maintaining outdoor recreation infrastructure) and Multiculturalism. Its board is composed of a 50-50 balance between Indigenous and non-Indigenous directors and one designated Multicultural Director. NPTGS is a member of Heritage BC.
- Since 2007, NPTGS has worked with its Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners have restored or built 360 km of trails, installing amenities such as picnic tables, outhouses, directional signage and interpretive materials that tell a more inclusive narrative of our shared history.

The District of Hope is fully convinced that the 1926 Alexandra Bridge Rehabilitation Project meets the fund’s Heritage Conservation Program goals of preserving, rehabilitating and restoring heritage resources. Should you require any further information, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely;

Victor Smith  
Mayor