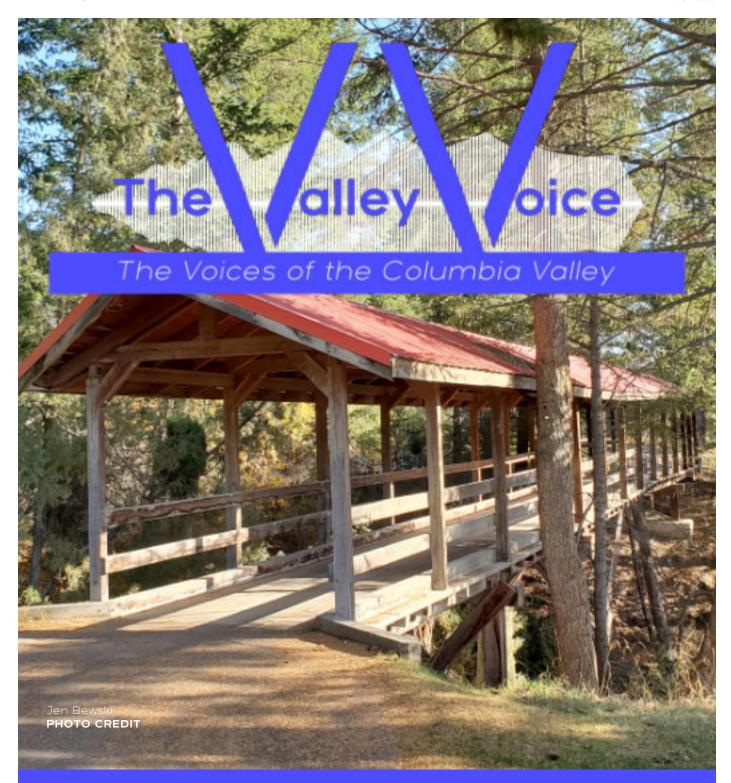
Columbia Valley, BC #57 Issue



NSIDE THIS EDITION

BUDGET 2022

INDIGENOUS SAFETY SEES NEW SUPPORT

The Canadian government has released their 2022 budget surrounding housing and a declining deficit. A community fund is being developed to end violence.

FUNDING FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

Infrastructure projects in B.C. are receiving funding.

STRs BEING REGULATED

RDEK is moving forward with STR regulation.



LETTER FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

Easter weekend is upon us!

Wow, how time flies.

We hope our readers take the time this weekend to spend with their family, friends, and loved ones.

Enjoy the time holidays bring, celebrate the ones in your life. By spreading love and positivity, you're making our community a better place.

The global climate continues to skew and change our society in ways that are unhealthy, though we can always fight it with optimism.

Stay smiling readers!

The VVV





TABLE OF CONTENTS

O 4 BUDGET 2022

The Canadian government has released their 2022 budget.

08 INDIGENOUS SAFETY SEES NEW SUPPORT

A community fund is being developed to end violence.

16 Funding for Local Projects

Infrastructure projects in B.C. are receiving funding.

18 STRs
BEING REGULATED

RDEK is moving forward with STR regulation.

22 Six-Year Overdose Epidemic

Local groups mark the public health emergency across the province

24 20 Years of Kingdom Hearts

We have a new entry in the franchise coming.

How are we doing?

Valley Voices Online Magazine are dedicated to providing content that is generated and supported by our valley residents.

We welcome and encourage all communication - we want to know how we're doing!

Send us a note on Facebook or Instagram @thevoicecv

DR

by email to news@thevoiceca.ca



Budget 2022

The Canadian government has released their 2022 budget surrounding housing and a declining deficit.

The major focus of the 2022 budget released by the federal government is housing affordability where there will be \$10 billion set aside over five years. This will include setting up tax-free savings accounts for first-time buyers and making foreign nationals buying up housing illegal to help free up the tight housing market. The tax-free savings accounts are set to give first-time homebuyers a chance to

save close to \$40,000 with contributions being tax-deductible and withdrawals for buying your first home not being taxed. To help cover the costs of the new programs being provided, the government will be levying a 16.5% corporate income tax against the big banks of Canada and insurers who received record profits during the pandemic.

Alongside the support for homebuyers, there is also a new housing accelerator fund being launched with the 2022 budget which is worth \$4 billion over five years. The fund is dedicated towards supporting housing development in municipalities with

a goal to create 100,000 new housing units over the next five years. This also extends the rapid housing initiative with a pledge of \$1.5 billion over the next two years which will help create 6,000 housing units for the homeless.

Dental Care

The recent alliance between the Liberal and NDP government had some caveats and once of them was dental care for Canadians. The Liberal government moved on its commitment with the NDP and promised \$5.3 billion over the next five years with \$1.7 billion each year thereafter to support a national dental care program.

It is expected to rollout this year for children under 12 years old and will expand to cover children under 18 years old and seniors or people with disabilities in 2023. The national dental care program will be fully implemented by 2025 and is limited to families whose incomes are less than \$90,000 a year. For families whose income is less than \$70,000 per year will have copayments waived as well.



Indigenous Reconciliation

As part of the 2022 federal budget, the government has dedicated additional funds to support Indigenous children, families, and communities. The federal government has pledged \$11 billion over six years which includes \$4 billion for housing, \$4 billion to ensure access to health, social, and educational services for First Nations children. There will also be funding towards improving infrastructure on reserves, specifically \$247 million towards water and wastewater infrastructure. One of the key commitments on reconciliation included support for communities to document, locate, and memorialize burial sites of former residential schools which will see funding of \$210 million. Part of this budget will also go towards a new building for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation which will assist with the complete disclosure of federal documents related to residential schools.

It's expected that the country's deficit will be \$113 billion in 2021-22 which is down from the estimate of \$144 billion. The deficit is projected to decline each year to \$8.4 billion in 2026-2027. The budget proposes a total of \$60 billion in new spending and has received comments from the Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister that it is a modest budget with deficits reduced. The budget is expected to pass without resistance due to the agreement entered between the Liberal and NDP government which will see the NDP vote hold up the Liberal budget.







VALLEY PROMOTIONS



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7

Indigenous Safety Sees New Support

A community fund is being developed to end violence.

The Path Forward Community Fund is being developed by the B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and is dedicated towards ending violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people.

In total, \$5.34 million will be distributed to communities Indigenous organizations across the province. The funding will be made available to the Path Forward Community Fund to ensure an Indigenous-led approach and an Indigenous organization to developed and administer the funding. The group can award medium-sized grants to other organizations which will support initiatives to build capacity and increase safety in Indigenous communities.

Here are the organizations eligible for the funding provided:

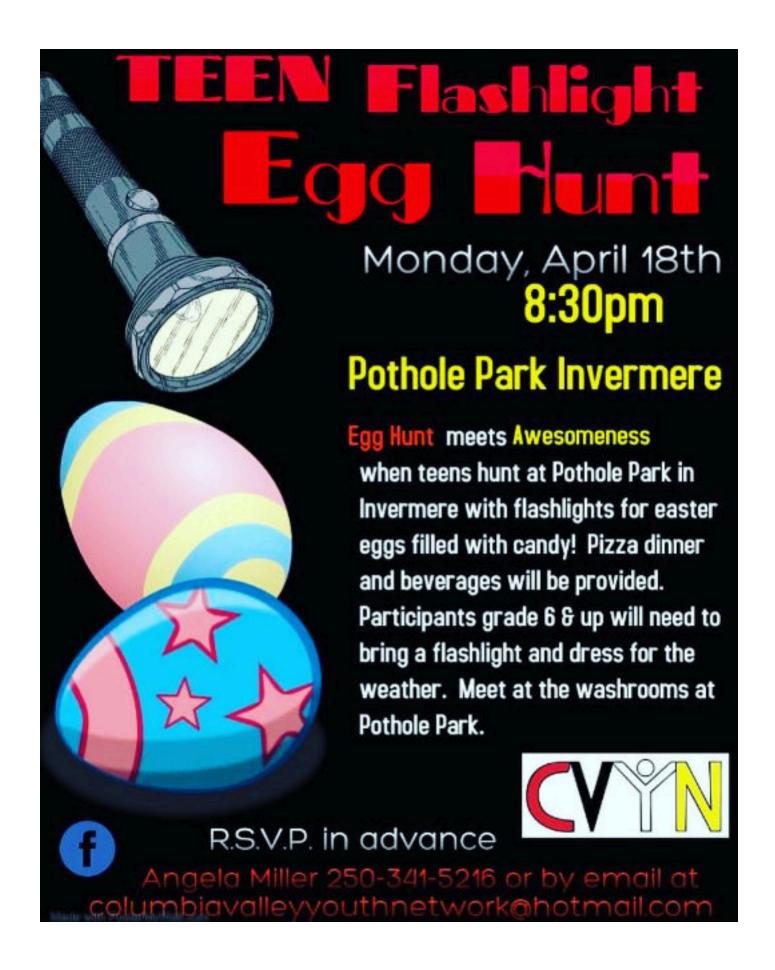
- Indigenous 2SLGBTQQIA+ organizations
- Indigenous non-profit societies or registered charities
- First Nations, Bands, and Tribal Councils
- **Treaty First Nation Governments**
- **Metis Chartered Communities**
- Metis organizations or service providers
- Urban/off reserve Indigenous organizations

statement reported mveastko<u>otenaynow.com</u>, Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General released the following statement.

"In keeping with the idea of 'nothing about us, without us,' we are looking to the BCAAFC to administer and award the grants to Indigenous communities and organizations. The Indigenousled Path Forward Community Fund is a milestone our shared journey toward reconciliation and gender equality."

Eligible projects include everything from hosting of planning sessions, culturally appropriated safety training, along with healing and cultural support.





9



Radium Hot Springs Public Library

EASTER EGG SCAVENGER HUNT

April 16, 2022 | 9:00am-11:00am

Join us for our second-annual Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt Fundraiser!



@ the Radium Centre

Entry by donation





Radium Hot Springs Public Library

4863 Stanley St Radium Hot Springs, British Columbia V0A 1M0 | 250-347-2434 https://radium.bc.libraries.coop/









VALLEY PROMOTIONS



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS

INFO SESSION ON TRANSPORTATION

The unemployment rate across the Kootenays in March was 5.3% which is down from last year which was at 6.7%. This drop signifies the lowest unemployment rate in the Kootenays in the last 50 years. The rate overall for the province of BC was 5.2% which is down from 7.7% overall.

The District of Invermere is hosting an information session on April 27th from 6:30pm-7:30pm to discuss their transportation master plan.

The plan is expected to guide future decisions surrounding all forms of transportation in Invermere. The registration link for the session can be found here.







Three suspects were caught attempting a breakin on a mailbox in Spillimacheen when they took off in a black Mitsubishi SUV and located by Golden RCMP. They were arrested for reported break-ins of mailboxes in Fairmont, Windermere, and Invermere this past Saturday.

The vehicle being driven was stolen from Calgary with evidence of mail theft in the vehicle.

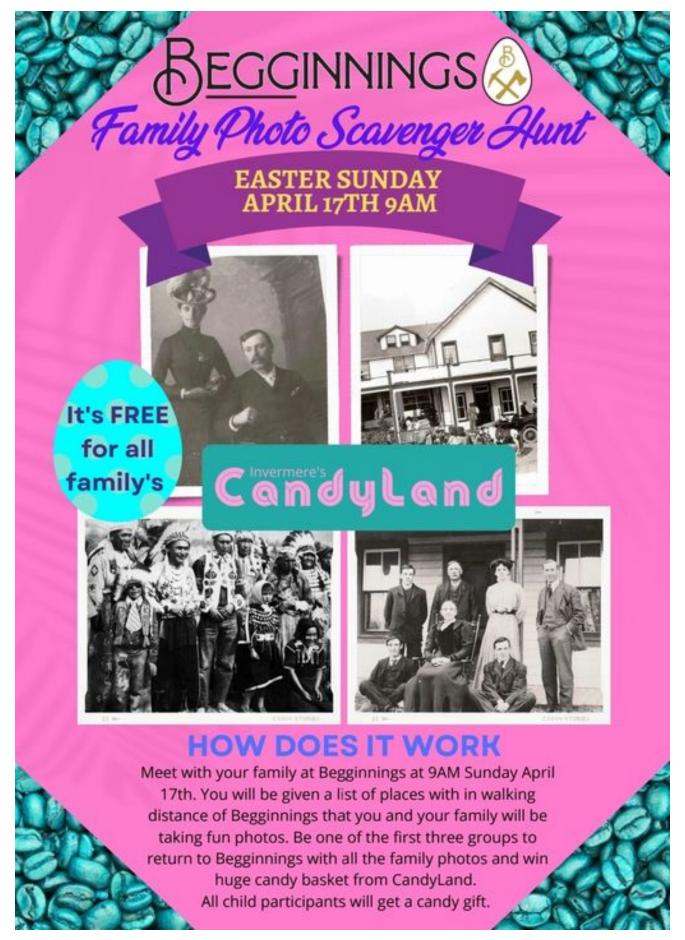


STAYING SAFE

With Easter days away and Ramadan continuing, Dr. Theresa Tam has urged Canadians to stay safe and prepare themselves for a resurgence of the Omicron variant. Tam shares their comments.

"All across Canada, it doesn't matter where you are, it's very likely that the Omicron variant, the B.A.2 sub-lineage, is spreading quite widely in your community. So it doesn't matter where you are in Canada right now I would advise getting that booster shot and masking and improving ventilation."





VALLEY PROMOTIONS





Free Personal Tax Filing at the Radium Library-Beginning February 22, 2022!

Free tax clinics are available for eligible individuals through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

This free personal tax preparation service is available for individuals who do not exceed the BC Low-Income Value. Please go to our website to review full eligibility criteria, or call the fibrary at 250-347-2434 to inquire!

The Clinic will end on April 2), 2022.



Radium Hot Springs Public Library 4663 Stanley St Radium Hot Springs, British Columbia VSA 1MO | 250 347 3494 https://todium.ic.libraries.com/





Every Tuesday 9:30-11:30am

Starting May 17th we would like to invite seniors to the farm every Tuesday between the hours of 9:30-11:30am. During this time you will have the opportunity to visit farm animals, have tea or coffee, enjoy the garden and its different stages throughout the season.

> Visit Farm Animals * Seniors social with tea or coffee * Enjoy the outdoors



By Donation

15 The Voice CV.ca

CONTRACT TOUSE





FUNDING FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

Infrastructure projects in B.C. are receiving funding.

Both the federal and provincial government are dedicating \$110.3 million towards 57 community, recreation, and green infrastructure projects taking place across the province.

Castlegar will be receiving a total of \$654,400 from the federal government alongside \$545,279 from the provincial government. The funding will be dedicated towards installing a castle play structure and creating an accessible walking trail around Millennium Park.

As reported by <u>myeastkootenaynow.com</u>, Joyce Murray Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and Canadian Coast Guard believes the funding will help people meet each other in the community. Something that hasn't been able to happen very much with the onset of the pandemic.

"Accessible spaces that enable community members to gather, learn and express their creativity help reduce social isolation and promote inclusivity. Our government is happy that British Columbia is partnering with us to invest in social and green infrastructure projects that will make a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands of British Columbians."

The City of Kimberley will also be seeing funding coming their way to install a permanent welcome centre in the city. The new building will be located at the Kimberley Nordic Club and is receiving \$59,136 in funding from the provincial government alongside \$94,645 from the federal government.



STRs Being Regulated



RDEK is moving forward with STR regulation.

The Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) has approved regulation of Short-Term Rentals (STRs) in all its Electoral Areas. The vote came from the board to regulate Short-Term Rentals through Temporary Use Permits which specifies certain conditions of the Short-Term Rental use and regulates construction of buildings for its specific use. The permits are issued for up to three years with the chance to extended for another three years prior to re-applying for the permit.

In a statement reported by <u>e-know.ca</u>, RDEK Planner Michele Bates shares her following comments on the new regulation of STRs.

"Over the past year, we have been engaged

in a planning process to investigate the benefits and concerns of STRs and options to regulate them. The results of the planning process were presented to the Board April 7 and 8. We brought forward three options that could be considered should the board wish to proceed with regulations: zoning and Official Community Plan amendments, Temporary Use Permits, or an Order-in-Council to allow the RDEK to use business licenses."

Additional consultation will be taking place with the public throughout the next phase of this project. Staff will begin laying out the expected timeline to complete the work needing to be done and bring the recommendations towards the board.

MOVIES'IN THE

MOUNTAINS

Monday Nights at Dark'
Pothole Park
Downtown Invermere

July 4 Godzilla vs. Kong
July 11 Ghostbusters Afterlife
July 18 Spiderman No Way Home
July 25 Jumanji
Aug 1 Honey I Shrunk the Kids
Aug 8 Encanto
Aug 15 The Bad Guys
Aug 22 Dolittle
Aug 29 Sing 2



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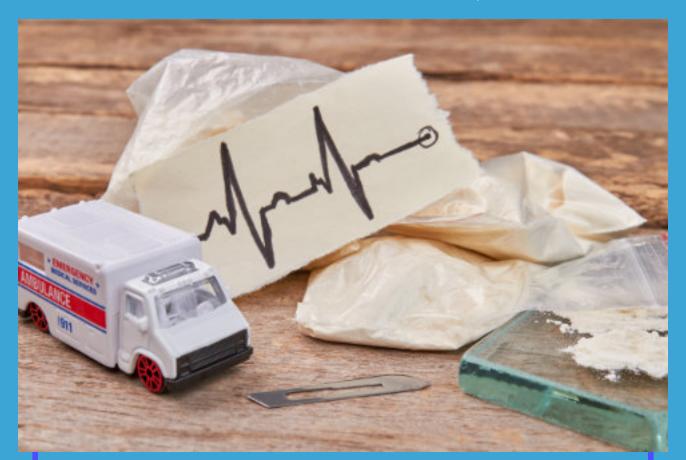


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VALLEY PROMOTIONS



6-Year Overdose Epidemic

Local groups mark the public health emergency across the province.

April 14th marks six years since the public health emergency was declared by the province in relation to the drug toxicity deaths occurring across the province. Local groups are looking to utilize the day as a way to honour those who have passed.

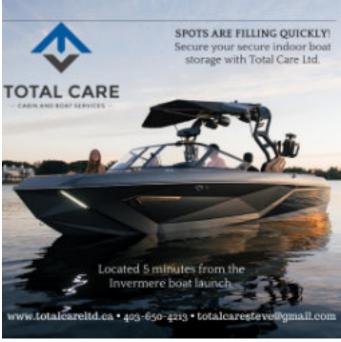
The local community group Ankors had planned to stage a vigil and protest on April 14th, though alterations have been made due to the global climate. In a statement reported by myeastkootenaynow.com Jessica Lamb, peer lead development coordinator with Ankors had the following comments on the organizations plans for April 14th.

"During COVID and with people passing away and not being able to have funerals or gatherings, we just really wanted to focus on the side that people weren't able to gather. We really want to honour and remember those people. We're going to be doing the big events and protests and that kind of thing on August 31st and we decided to keep this date kind of low-key."

Since January 2016, 9,410 British Columbians have lost their lives to drug toxicity and 174 lives were lost in February 2022 alone. Public education on this crisis is important to shine a light on the problem and find effective solutions to prevent the number of deaths from rising.

Ankors will be hosting Naloxone training on April 14th at their office and participants will be entered into a draw for a free t-shirt and nasal naloxone kit. There will also be a turkey lunch held the next day between 11am-2pm.









23

VALLEY PROMOTIONS



20 Years of Kingdom Hearts

We have a new entry in the franchise coming.

At the 20th anniversary event for Kingdom Hearts, two new games were announced for the franchise. Kingdom Hearts 4 and Kingdom Hearts Missing-Link were announced with no platform confirmation

or release window. Though, we did get a glimpse of Sora in the new word of Quadratum, along with a small gameplay tease, and an ending complete with Donald and Goofy! The art style that can be seen from the teasers resembles the style of previous games with a much more realistic look of the environment and characters. The game is currently in early development by Square Enix so it can be expected there will be a long wait for the newest entries in the franchise.

The footage released at the event showed a forest then transitions to a large city where Sora can be seen waking up in an apartment where we are introduced to Strelitzia, a character who was first seen in Kingdom Hearts Union X. While there's a peaceful atmosphere being portrayed, the skies begin to manifest a threat which looks very much like a massive heartless. The gameplay footage teases Sora with his iconic keyblade flying through the sky, crawling buildings, surfing on walls, and using his blade as a grappling hook.

Personally, this sounds like Kingdom Hearts meets parkour. The last entry in the franchise, Kingdom Hearts 3, was critically acclaimed though I felt it had way too many cut scenes. The final chapter of Kingdom Hearts Dark Road was also announced to be released in August 2022 as a free update for the Kingdom Hearts Union X Dark Road app.





JOSH GRIEVE

Gamer and Author

<u>@The_incrediblejosh</u> on Instagram



A LITTLE FUN

Across

 Assns.; 5- I've Got ____ in Kalamazoo; 9-Related by blood; 13- Overgrown with ivy; 14-Falls; 16- ____-majesté; 17- Son of ____!; 18-Parsonage; 19- Sly look; 20- Martini garnish; 22- Uttered gratingly; 24- Make obsolete; 27-Radiate; 28- Characteristics; 29- Paunchy; 33- Bring forth from the egg; 34- Env. notation; 35- She played Carla on "Cheers"; 36- Med. specialty; 37- Brainstorms; 38-Abby's twin; 39- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 41- Farrow and Hamm; 42- Child's building cube; 44- Economized; 46- Comes to mind; 47- Boyfriend; 48- High time?; 49- Discovers; 52- At a great distance; 53- Being, to Brutus; 57- Soprano Gluck; 58- Fortune-telling cards; 60- Clublike weapon; 61- -do-well; 62-Accumulation of fluids; 63- Chemical used on trees; 64- New Orleans is The Big ____; 65-Elevator man; 66- Roman emperor:

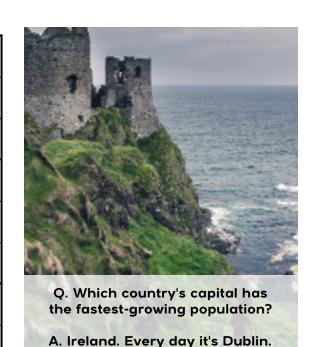
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Down

 Reproductive cells; 2- Semi; 3- Bearded beast; 4- Pertaining to a church council; 5-Lets in; 6- Tomb; 7- Tops; 8- CD precursors; 9- Premier player; 10- Retain; 11- Ahal; 12-

Square, 15- Religious discourses; 21- Narrow strip of wood; 23- Goal, intention; 24- Catchall category; 25- Pertaining to a rare element; 26- Shred; 27- Kett and James; 29- Lieu; 30- Total disorder; 31- Therefore; 32- Jerks; 34- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 37- Cover with a viscous substance; 40- Collection of books; 42- Friend in the 'hood; 43- Person who repairs telephone wires; 45- Game pieces; 46- Main arteries; 48- Model Campbell; 49- Alley; 50- Zeno's home; 51- lowa city; 52- Worry; 54- Cut-price retail event; 55- "The Lion King" villain; 58- Architect Saarinen; 59- Flurry;

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We will ask you to provide the meal set you want tasted, at no charge, to our public food writer. (One of the front facing volunteer positions through the Valley Voice where anonymity is not always possible.) You will be notified when to expect the critic and they will introduce themselves. Once the meal has been completed, you can expect a full-page review, complete with photography of your food, to appear in a future issue.

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