

**For immediate release
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**BUSINESS FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE
IN SLRD ELECTORAL AREAS A & B**

Rebates of up to \$5,000 available for storefront facelifts – Application deadline: April 30

Lillooet, BC – The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) has secured a \$20,000 funding commitment from Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) to encourage commercial property owners and business tenants in Electoral Area A (the Upper Bridge River Valley) and Electoral Area B (Rural Lillooet) to invest in business façade improvements.

NDIT's 2017 *Business Façade Improvement Program* provides rebate funding of up to 50% of the cost of eligible improvements, to a maximum of \$5,000 per applicant, for the renovation, restoration or redesign of commercial building façades and storefronts. The program aims to enhance the economic viability and vibrancy of the region's small communities, revitalize local landmarks, boost community pride, enhance the visitor experience and stimulate investment into the local economy.

"We've all heard that you only have a few seconds to make a good first impression, and this funding is geared at making that moment count," says SLRD Electoral Area A Director, Debbie Demare. "Sprucing up storefronts and commercial buildings with fresh paint, better signage, new lighting, and other exterior improvements can convey the warm welcome that visitors will receive here when they stop in."

Up to \$5,000 in matching funding is available for visual improvements such as new siding, painting, new signage, murals, architectural features, siding, lighting and awnings. The program covers labour costs, design or contractor fees, tool rental, or materials, but does not extend to tool purchase. Home-based businesses may also apply for a rebate of up to \$500 for way-finding signage that directs people to their business.

"We appreciate the investment from Northern Development Initiative Trust in the region," says SLRD Electoral Area B Director Mickey Macri, "and we're happy to provide this incentive to building owners keen to take on improvements that will help to make the communities in the northern SLRD even more inviting places to live, work and visit."

Applications for funding support must be received prior to the start of the improvements. Interested applicants with eligible properties located in SLRD Electoral Area A or Electoral Area B should go to www.slrd.bc.ca/businessfacadeimprovementprogram for more information and an application form. The deadline to submit applications to the SLRD is April 30, 2017.

The District of Lillooet (DOL) has been running the program since 2014, but this is the first time the rebates will be available in SLRD Electoral Areas A and B. DOL businesses can learn more about the DOL's 2017 program intake at www.lillooetbc.ca.

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