



PRESS RELEASE

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE USE IN THE THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT

Kamloops, BC—August 12th, 2019—from travel trailers, fifth wheels, and campers to ‘park model’ units, the TNRD’s Development Services Department is raising awareness about Recreational Vehicle (RV) use in the region.

The use of RVs as permanent, year-round, and seasonal dwellings in rural areas within the TNRD has been increasing. Some have had their wheels removed and others have had additions such as decks, roofs, and utility rooms; however, the use of an RV as a dwelling has never been permitted within the TNRD. RVs are designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use. Larger ‘park model’ RVs can appear similar to a manufactured (mobile or modular) home, but are designed for use in campgrounds or RV parks.

Some of the impacts of using an RV as a residence include:

- **Environment:** lack of septic systems, often near lakes, watercourses, and wells
- **Equity:** RVs are not taxed so all other complying homeowners pay more
- **Safety:** risk of fire from electrical overload or carbon monoxide poisoning
- **Property value:** RVs reduce the value and sale potential of neighbouring properties

In Canada, park models, travel trailers, and other RVs are constructed in compliance with Canadian Standard Association (CSA) requirements specific to RVs and are regulated under the *BC Motor Vehicle Act*. An RV does not meet required standards for dwelling use under the *BC Building Code* and using an RV as your permanent home, even in the short-term, is not allowed under the TNRD’s [Zoning Bylaw](#) and Building Bylaw regulations.

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