



Monument to Honour Efforts of Volunteers

For Immediate Release (November 15/17): The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) is commemorating the efforts of volunteers during this summer's unprecedented wildfire season with a monument.

The TNRD Board of Directors has approved setting aside \$100,000 in the 2018 budget to create the monument, which will be erected outside the Sandman Centre in Kamloops, where many of the wildfire evacuees were housed or received aid and support from volunteers.

The creation of a legacy monument would provide a number of opportunities:

- It will be a place for people to go to acknowledge the work done by the volunteers in the region at a time when their neighbours needed them most.
- It will be a place of pride for those who volunteered to visit and take their families or friends to recognize their contributions.
- It will act as an inspiration to others to consider volunteerism as a way to make a difference in their community.

A part of the display being considered is space for plaques to be added, recognizing future events and volunteers' contributions to them.

A call will be put out to regional artists to submit concepts for the display for review by a joint committee between the TNRD and the City of Kamloops. The goal will be to announce the art concept to the recent wildfire volunteers at an appreciation dinner early in 2018, with unveiling of the monument planned to coincide with National Volunteer Week in April 2018.

It is estimated that more than 150,000 hours were volunteered within our region to support evacuees impacted by the 2017 wildfire events, which lasted more than two months starting in July.

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The TNRD covers 11 municipalities (Ashcroft, Barriere, Cache Creek, Chase, Clearwater, Clinton, Kamloops, Logan Lake, Lytton, Merritt and Sun Peaks) and 10 Electoral Areas - "A" (Wells Gray Country), "B" (Thompson Headwaters),

"E" (Bonaparte Plateau), "I" (Blue Sky Country), "J" (Copper Desert Country), "L" (Grasslands), "M" (Beautiful Nicola Valley - North), "N" (Beautiful Nicola Valley - South), "O" (Lower North Thompson) and "P" (Rivers and the Peaks). The TNRD provides over 120 services including planning and building inspection, solid waste management, emergency preparedness, 9-1-1 services, recreation, utilities, television rebroadcasting, river buoys, transit, tourism, library services and operates a film commission.