

# NEWS

## March 30, 2012

### COUNCIL UPDATES

#### Budget planning underway

Once again this year, Mayor and Council are encouraging residents to become informed, get involved, speak up and participate in the budget process. The decisions around the City's annual budget are complex and interconnected, and input from residents helps Council make more informed decisions.

Elected officials and senior staff will be on hand at the 2012 Budget Open House to answer your questions and hear your thoughts. What would you do, if you were in Council's shoes? Please come out and tell us.

**Location:** Nelson Municipal Library  
602 Stanley Street, Nelson BC

**Date:** Wednesday, April 4, 2012

**Time:** **Two separate sessions** will be held as follows:  
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Colin McClure, the City's Chief Financial Officer, will present a formal overview of the 2012-2016 Financial Plan starting at 7:00 p.m.

### OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT NEWS

#### Street Cleaning and Clearing

Once the snow has gone, the City of Nelson will begin sweeping and flushing streets and boulevards. The downtown core will be first, followed by Fairview, Uphill and then Rosemont.

Residents and businesses are asked to provide assistance to City maintenance crews. Please continue to follow the practice of parking on the odd-numbered side of the street on odd-numbered calendar days and on the even-numbered side of the street on even-numbered days — either until the end of April, or until street sweeping on your street has been completed.

#### Boulevard – Sand Clearing

Please rake sand from the boulevard onto the road beside the curb. Do not place sand in piles or in bags. Call (250) 352-8228 or (250) 352-8238 when sand is ready for removal by the City sweeper.

### SKATE PARK FUNDING ANNOUNCED



Here at the City of Nelson we are excited about the recent announcement from the province of \$400,000 toward an outdoor skate park in Nelson. These funds are part of the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development's Community Recreation Program, and the City was pleased to work with the Kootenay Lake Outdoor Skate Park Society to put forward this application.

### CITY BULLETIN BOARD

#### Many fires can be prevented

The province has launched a smoke alarm campaign intended to ensure that every home in BC has a working smoke alarm, part of a broad initiative to reduce fire-related deaths and injuries.

Research done by Surrey Fire Services, in partnership with the University of the Fraser Valley, shows that almost 70 per cent of houses that caught fire did not have a functioning smoke alarm. The research predicts that working smoke alarms could reduce annual fire deaths by as much as 32 per cent. The research findings also indicate the province's most vulnerable populations – such as children and the elderly – face the highest risk of dying in a residential fire.

And remember – smoke alarms do not work if they are disconnected or if their batteries are dead. Test yours now to see if it works correctly.

For complete details on this new initiative, please visit the City's home page at [www.nelson.ca](http://www.nelson.ca).

#### National Poetry Month

Celebrate National Poetry Month with two special events at the Nelson Public Library and City Council chambers!

In response to a challenge received from the City of Regina, the City of Nelson embraces National Poetry Month with a poetry reading at the regular Council meeting on Monday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in Council chambers. Not just one, but two notable Nelson poets, Margaret Hornby and Elena Banfield, will read at the meeting.

In addition, the public is invited to the Nelson Library on Thursday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m., when Hornby launches a new book of poetry, *Love in Exotic Places*, and Banfield reads from recent works.

#### Easter Statutory Holiday

City Hall, Nelson Hydro, the Operations Department and the Nelson Library will be closed on Friday, April 6th and Monday, April 9th for Easter.

Please note that the Library will be open as usual on Saturday, April 7th.

Please remember that there is no transit service on statutory holidays.

For Operations emergency service, please call (250) 352-3103

To report a power outage, electrical hazard, damage to Nelson Hydro equipment or for outage updates call 1-877-32HYDRO (1-877-324-9376).

#### Are you a Distracted Driver?

Since January 2010 it has been illegal for drivers to use handheld cellular phones and other portable electronic devices. Although many drivers have come into compliance with the new section 214 of the BC Motor Vehicle Act, the Nelson Police Department has noted that many drivers are still talking on the phone, or texting, while driving.

We have posted the relevant section of the Motor Vehicle Act to the City website at [www.nelson.ca](http://www.nelson.ca) and hope you will take a few minutes to review it.

Distracted driving is not limited to cell phone use. It can also include a variety of personal tasks such as eating while driving. Overall the public is encouraged to follow this legislation. Doing so will help keep us all safe, and save you from getting a fine.

### NELSON HYDRO NEWS

#### New Energy Retrofit Program

Curious about where the heat is escaping in your building? Nelson Hydro will be launching EcoSave, an Energy Retrofits Program. Participants will have an opportunity to register to be part of a simplified process to make their homes or businesses more energy efficient. Details about the program and how you can participate will be advertised early in April. Save Energy. Save Money.



#### Earth Hour Challenge – Pass it on!

The City of Nelson and Nelson Hydro challenge all customers to participate in Earth Hour. Join us Saturday, March 31, 2012, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Can you switch off all lights and non-essential appliances for one hour? Register your pledge for FortisBC's Earth Hour Community Challenge at [www.fortisbc.com/earthhour](http://www.fortisbc.com/earthhour) for the opportunity to win a \$5,000 energy upgrade for the Nelson Cares Society. The community with the most pledges will win, so... pass it on!

For more information on how you can participate in Earth Hour, please visit our website at [www.nelson.ca](http://www.nelson.ca).

#### Customer Electrical Grounding Requirements

Soil conditions in the West Kootenay area make electrical grounding difficult at best, and Nelson Hydro installs a multi-grounded neutral wire to compensate for these poor soil conditions. In order to protect utility workers from possible differences in potential between the utility's system and the customer's system, the separate neutral systems are tied together.

Because of this connection, many customers unknowingly depend on the utility ground system to protect their service equipment. The Canadian Electrical Code mandates that ground rods or ground plates at customer's installations must be installed to protect equipment – often these ground rods or plates are incorrectly installed, or omitted entirely. If a customer's facility is adequately grounded, loss of the Hydro system neutral should have no effect on private equipment.

Please ensure that your electrical distribution system is properly grounded. If you are not sure, you should call an electrical contractor to inspect your power system, and upgrade as required.

