



# REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-383

From: Financial Administration

Date: July 24, 2025

**Subject: Grant Request – Chetwynd Communications Society**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee recommend that the Regional Board authorize a grant in the amount of \$100,000 payable from Function 505 - Chetwynd and Area Scramblevision, to be issued to Chetwynd Communications Society to assist with general operating costs.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

The Chetwynd Communications Society (CCS) is requesting \$100,000 in financial assistance for their general operating costs. CCS provides community broadcasting services to the District of Chetwynd and surrounding areas, including Electoral Area E. It operates two local media outlets; Peace FM, a community radio station and Chet TV, a community television station. Both operate under a Community Radio License and a Community Television License issued by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), which mandates that the content provided must be focused specifically on local events and topics that are of interest to its residents.

The following requested grant funds will be used to cover operational expenses for the remainder of the year:

Category	Amount
Office Supplies and Related expenses	\$3,000.00
Overhead costs	\$14,200.00
Shaw Satellite Services	\$963.00
Telephone and Internet	\$9,000.00
Wages – TV	\$68,686.00
Staff Travel Expenses – TV	\$1,200.00
Group Insurance	\$3,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$100,049.00</b>

Community media remains an important source of local news and event coverage in the region. During emergencies such as wildfires, floods, or evacuations, CCS plays a vital role in delivering real-time emergency updates by ensuring timely communication with residents. CCS rebroadcasts 13 television

channels via analog signal and 3 radio stations, reaching audiences across Electoral Area E. Without Community Media, a lot of pivotal information would not be shared with residents and many wonderful local events would go unrecognized.

CCS is currently operating with a deficit of \$137,578.48. They maintain a High Interest Savings Account with a balance of \$140,848.85, which is currently being drawn upon to support ongoing operational needs. Core revenue sources include bingo fundraising and radio advertising; however, these streams are insufficient to cover all expenses. To address financial challenges, CCS is actively working with a Strategic Planning Advisor to assess and improve operations, explore alternative revenue sources, and strengthen community engagement. While these efforts are underway, financial support is necessary to maintain operations and avoid service disruptions.

CCS is a registered not-for-profit society in good standing with the *Societies Act* of BC. This request meets the eligibility criteria outlined in the Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid Policy.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant application from the Chetwynd Communications Society and provide no grant funding to assist with their general operating costs.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

\$100,000 was budgeted in Function 505 – Chetwynd and Area Scramblevision for 2025 to the Chetwynd Communications Society, pending a grant application submission from the Society.

Function 505 – Chetwynd and Area Scramblevision is a sub-regional service established in 1991 to provide scrambled television rebroadcasting services on behalf of the District of Chetwynd and a defined portion of Electoral Area E. In 1994, the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) entered into an agreement with the Chetwynd Communications Society to operate and maintain the service on behalf of the PRRD. In 1997, the bylaw boundaries were amended to include the District of Chetwynd.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

The applicant will be notified in writing of RBAC's decision and, if funding is approved, will be asked to recognize the PRRD for its contribution.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

Attachment:

1. Grant Application – Chetwynd Communications Society

External Link:

1. [Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid Policy #0340-69](#)