

These board highlights provide a general overview of discussion items and major decisions made at the Board of Directors meeting on **November 24/25, 2017** which was held in Invermere, BC. It excludes confidential information such as business negotiations, personnel issues and legal matters.

- The Board approved \$1 million in funding for a new Non-profit Tech Grants program to support the purchase of technology resources, such as computers, software, hardware and phone systems, to enhance the capacity, sustainability and efficiency of Basin non-profit organizations. This program is a one-time intake with an application deadline of January 30, 2018. Learn more at: [ourtrust.org/techgrants](http://ourtrust.org/techgrants).
- The Board approved \$1.05 million over three years for new Heritage, Museum and Archive Grants to support the work of museums, historical societies and archives in the Basin. This program will be administered by Heritage BC within the Basin and is expected to launch on January 29, 2018. The Trust's support for the heritage sector also includes [Built Heritage Grants](#) to conserve heritage assets and a Heritage BC Basin Planner to support and develop capacity of heritage groups.
- The Board approved \$3 million over two years for new [Arts and Culture Venue Grants](#) to support the purchase, construction, renovation or expansion of an arts and cultural facility or space, as well as the purchase of equipment that is essential to operating the venue. This program will launch December 7, 2017. Learn more at: [ourtrust.org/venuegrants](http://ourtrust.org/venuegrants).
- The Board appointed Heidi Romich to the Board of Directors of Columbia Basin Development Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trust, for a term expiring January 2019. Ms. Romich, based in Cranbrook, brings a strong background in small business, tourism and hospitality to the Board. She is the owner/operator of the Heid Out Restaurant and Brewhouse and Fisher Peak Brewing Company, and the current Chair of go2HR (formerly the Hospitality Industry Education Advisory Committee). Learn more about our subsidiaries and advisory committees at: [ourtrust.org/board](http://ourtrust.org/board).
- The Board approved the budget for 2018/19. This includes the Delivery of Benefits budget of over \$57 million. Some highlights include:
  - \$29.6 million to [Community Initiatives](#) to support communities and community groups develop projects, access funds and obtain resources for their work with residents to identify and achieve their collective priorities which includes our [Housing Initiatives](#).
  - \$8.4 million to [Environment Initiatives](#) to support residents and groups to develop and implement projects and initiatives that address environmental priorities which includes our [Climate Action Program](#) which works with communities to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for and adapt to changing climate conditions.
  - \$6 million to [Economic Initiatives](#) to enhance the creation of a diverse and resilient Basin economy that is supported by strong businesses, a trained workforce and sufficient job opportunities.
  - \$3.6 million to [Broadband Initiatives](#) to support the expansion of high-speed internet connectivity available throughout the region.
  - \$3.3 million to [Social Initiatives](#) to support residents and communities to experience social well-being which includes child care support programs, poverty reduction and [Social Grants](#).

The Trust's Service Plan provides budget details and will be made available online in February 2018 at [ourtrust.org/serviceplan](http://ourtrust.org/serviceplan).

- The following is the 2018 meeting schedule for the Trust Board of Directors:
  - January 25/26 Fairmont
  - April 6/7 Nakusp
  - May 24/25 Castlegar
  - July 20/21 Revelstoke
  - September 21/22 Fernie
  - November 23/24 Nelson
  
- Board meeting minutes are posted to the Trust website after they have been approved by the Board at the following meeting. View minutes here: [ourtrust.org/publications](http://ourtrust.org/publications).