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For Immediate Release

## **Business façade grants offered to rural businesses**

*Cariboo Chilcotin, B.C.* – The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) is offering a Business Façade Improvement Program again this year thanks to a \$40,000 grant from the Northern Development Initiative Trust. In an effort to create vibrant commercial areas that can attract new customers, visitors and potential investors, the program provides funding for business and property owners to improve their commercial building frontages.

The 2017 Business Façade Improvement Program is open to all commercial businesses located within the rural areas of the Regional District. Eligible businesses can receive a 50 per cent reimbursement to a maximum of \$5,000 for exterior renovations and improvements such as façades, signage, murals, architectural features, siding, lighting and awnings.

The CRD program excludes businesses within municipal boundaries as they can apply with their local municipality. The City of Quesnel, City of Williams Lake, District of 100 Mile House and District of Wells are offering the program in 2017.

The final deadline for applications is May 31, 2017. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply early, though, as funding is limited. Projects will be reviewed and approved in the order they are received until program funds are depleted.

In 2016, the CRD delivered the program in Likely, Horsefly and the Interlakes area, in partnership with the Likely & District Chamber of Commerce, Horsefly Board of Trade and Interlakes Economic Association. Program applicants completed four projects representing a total investment of \$19,482 in business façade improvements.

Business Façade Improvement Program guidelines and application forms are available online at [cariboord.ca](http://cariboord.ca) under Community Economic Development or at the CRD offices in Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House.

For more information about Northern Development Initiative Trust's funding programs and success stories, visit [northerndevelopment.bc.ca](http://northerndevelopment.bc.ca).

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