



Mackenzie County

## REQUEST FOR DECISION

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>April 29, 2015</b>
<b>Presented By:</b>	<b>Joulia Whittleton, Chief Administrative Officer</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Built Rite Invoice to the County</b>

### **BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:**

Mackenzie County's fire departments respond to motor vehicle accidents within the County.

It is the responsibility of those that are involved in an incident to take care of all costs associated with the accident. It is mandatory in Canada for a motor vehicle operator to have his/her vehicle insured. It is also mandatory for trucker companies (shippers and receivers) to carry cargo insurance when transporting goods.

### **OPTIONS & BENEFITS:**

Mackenzie County administration has refused to pay Built Rite's invoice when a truck that was carrying cargo to Built Rite's La Crete location was involved in an accident on a provincial highway. Built Rite had collected the lumber off the highway and sent a \$25,000 invoice to the County. Although the Built Rite representative is insisting that this cleanup was requested by the La Crete Fire Department representative, Mackenzie County administration advised Built Rite that they should be recovering these costs from either the trucker's insurance or from their supplier. Mackenzie County had sent Built Rite's invoice to the trucker's insurance (located in BC). It is not appropriate for the County taxpayers to pay a cleanup invoice as it is between the trucker, the shipper and the receiver to ensure proper insurance coverage is in place to cover the cost of potential incidents. Any costs associated with the cleanup should be recovered through the appropriate insurance coverage and not through the County's taxpayer dollars.

On Monday, our Fort Vermilion office received a phone call from Peace River Canada Post inquiring whether Mackenzie County requested a mass distribution of a flyer (attached). Administration advised the caller that the flyer had not originated as a request from Mackenzie County. The Canada Post caller advised that the person that

**Author:** J. Whittleton      **Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_      **CAO:** JW

dropped off the flyers at their Peace River location refused to provide their name. Administration is unaware of the flyer's origin.

**COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

NA

**SUSTAINABILITY PLAN:**

NA

**COMMUNICATION:**

NA

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Simple Majority       Requires 2/3       Requires Unanimous

For information and discussion.

Author: \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ CAO: JW

## SHOULD YOU, A MACKENZIE COUNTY TAXPAYER, PAY THIS BILL???

On hearing rumours in town regarding some attempted business dealings involving Built Rite and Mackenzie County, a group of concerned individuals did some research into the matter, and discovered the following facts:

- In July of 2014, a truck carrying an uninsured load of lumber for Built Rite had a rollover on Highway 697, spilling the load.
- The Fire Department responded to the scene; a volunteer on the Fire Department informed Built Rite that the lumber they had ordered had spilled, and that they might want to pick it up.
- Built Rite picked up their lumber, but then billed Mackenzie County \$25,410.00 for "cleanup costs".
- Mackenzie County notified Built Rite that they had forwarded the invoice to Built Rite's insurance company, and explained that all incident invoices are the responsibility of the trucker's insurance.
- The insurance company informed Built Rite that they would not process the claim, as the trucking company he had hired did NOT have cargo insurance.
- As a result, Built Rite's manager expected Mackenzie County to pay the bill, claiming that a member of the Fire Department had advised him to clean up the load - which the Fire Department authorities deny doing.
- In fact, ONLY the RCMP are authorized to order a cleanup, due to the spill occurring on an Alberta Transportation highway. At NO POINT was Built Rite given such an order.
- Threats were made by Built Rite manager, Andrew Zacharias, to several local councillors that if the bill was not paid by Mackenzie County, there would be a campaign to have any councillors opposed to paying the bill, removed from office.
- The majority of councillors sided with taxpayers and voted AGAINST paying the bill. Mackenzie County again advised Built Rite to take it up with their insurance company, and even attempted to contact the insurance company on Built Rite's behalf as a courtesy to Built Rite.
- An aggressive campaign against the councillors who opposed paying the bill, is now occurring.
- See the reverse of this sheet for a copy of the invoice in question.

For further information regarding the bill on the reverse, please contact the Mackenzie County office at 780-927-3718.

1258520 Alberta Ltd o/a Bullt Rite

Box 240  
10807-96 St  
La Crete, Alberta T0H 2H0

INVOICE

Invoice No.: 10887  
Date: 07/10/2014  
Ship Date:  
Page: 1  
Ref Order No.

Sold to:  
Mackenzie County  
Box 1800  
La Crete, Alberta T0H 2H0

Ship to:  
Mackenzie County  
Box 1080  
La Crete, Alberta T0H 2H0

Business No.: 644702024HT0001

hrs						
100	labour (ropes and cleanup lumber) 15	G	60.00		10,600.00	
hrs	2 trucks @ 12 hrs	G	140.00		4,200.00	
hrs	2 trucks and trailers to haul equipment and	G	150.00		4,200.00	
hrs	garbage	G				
hrs	2 tractors @ 12 hrs	G	110.00		3,300.00	
hrs	sub-contractor to haul lumber to storage yard	G	200.00		1,400.00	
	cleanup lumber spill on highway 697 by					
	plus creek					
	G - Plus 8% GST					
	GST					1,210.00
Shipped By: Tracking Number:						
Comment:						
Sold By:						28,410.00