

The Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Society (Last Wishes) is a non-denominational volunteer community society located in New Denver, BC. It was formed to provide information about various types of funeral arrangements, including private funerals. This knowledge allows an individual or family to make informed choices in planning for burial or cremation.

Funerals in Canada are usually provided by commercial funeral companies. However it is legal in British Columbia for the family to make private funeral arrangements.

The Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Society does not provide funeral services. We do provide information regarding what is required for families to create their own private funerals.

A death in the family is exceedingly stressful. Last Wishes encourages preplanning. In this way, decisions regarding the disposal of the deceased's body will have been considered and documented.

Due to the small population of New Denver, we are limited in the area we can support. If there is interest in your community to start your own group, requirements can be found under the Starting Your Own Society header.

Mission Statement

The aim of the Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Society is to provide information and support to residents of the Slocan Lake area. This empowers, and therefore enables, people to care for their loved ones when they die. Last Wishes encourages planning prior to death, and provides information on what is required at the time death occurs. Costs are kept to a minimum.

WHAT TO DO AT THE TIME OF DEATH

When death is expected:

1. Check to see if any preplanning has been done
2. Initiate arrangements to fulfill the dying person's requests eg coffin building
3. Consult the list of who to call when death occurs. This may include:
 - Physician, Home Care Nurse, other medical attendant
 - Family member or friend with planned phone tree
 - Spiritual advisor if desired
 - Funeral provider or Last Wishes Society
 - New Denver Hospice if involved, at 358 7828.

When expected death occurs:

1. DO NOT CALL 911
2. There is no rush to do anything, and no legal requirement to move the body quickly
3. Make the phone calls as appropriate
4. Unless there is a form stating the death is expected at home, the person who had died will have to be officially 'pronounced' deceased by the medical attendant
5. To assist the grieving process, review how the death occurred, and encourage expression of feeling
6. An important step in the grieving process is spending time with the body
7. It is very important to explain what is happening to children
8. Make sure that any remaining medication is safely put away until it can be disposed of. It can be given to the medical attendant or a pharmacy for safe disposal.

In case of UNEXPECTED death:

CALL 911 and ask for the ambulance. They will arrange the appropriate service to come, depending on who is available in the area. This may be ambulance attendants or other first responders trained to assess vital signs. They are mandated to start CPR, unless a Do Not Resuscitate request or a Living Will signed by the person who had died is available. The Coroner is notified in all cases of unexpected death.

TASKS WHICH NEED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED AT THE TIME OF DEATH

Tasks Checklist:

1. Family meeting
2. Completion of forms needed immediately, see below
3. Book burial or cremation
4. Order coffin
5. Assess transportation needs
6. Plan laying out of the body
7. Arrange viewing of the body
8. Make service arrangements
9. If cremation is chosen, arrange disposition of ashes
10. Send obituary to newspaper.

DETAILS OF TASKS AT THE TIME OF DEATH

Depending on the circumstances, each set of activities will be slightly different.

1.FAMILY MEETING

This is to bring family and friends together to review the wishes and/or preplanning of the deceased, and to plan for implementation of those wishes. If it would be helpful, a Last Wishes volunteer could be included. If the death is expected, this meeting could take place before the death occurs, and may include the person who is dying.

2.COMPLETION OF TIME SENSITIVE FORMS

Three BC Government official forms are time related and must be obtained, filled out and faxed **as soon as possible** after the death has occurred.

For details of these forms, see Required Forms page 7

- a. **Registration of Death** forms are numbered by the BC Government. They can be obtained by phoning **250 712 7562**. Have a local fax number ready for forms to be sent to you; email is not appropriate for security reasons.

- b. **Medical Certificate of Death**

The completed form is obtained from the attending physician.

a and b must be faxed together to 250 712 7598. A Burial Permit will be faxed back in a few hours; until this is received, the body may not be moved.

- c. **Private Transfer Permit Application**

This form is required as well as the Burial Permit. If Last Wishes does not have a copy available, phone **250 265 4865**. The application form must be filled out, faxed and returned before moving the body, and can be started in anticipation of the death.

For other forms which will also need to be completed, see Required Forms, page 7.

3.BOOK BURIAL OR CREMATION

BURIALS are legally required to take place in a designated cemetery. The New Denver Cemetery is run by the village of New Denver. Burials need to be booked through the village office at **250 358 2316**. Two village employees are require to do the 'opening and closing' of the grave (digging and filling in). Burial usually takes place within 72 hours of death. If the time is longer, sanitation issues may require embalming, which is only carried out by a commercial funeral provider.

CREMATION cannot take place prior to 48 hours after death. It must be done in a designated crematorium, arranged through a commercial funeral provider. Prior to cremation, pacemakers have to be removed; this is usually done by the attending physician. Replaced joints do not need to be removed.

PLANNED HOME DEATH The body of the deceased may be kept in the home until burial or cremation.

DEATH IN A FACILITY If the death occurs in a hospital or other facility, the staff need to know as soon as possible what the funeral arrangements will be.

UNEXPECTED DEATH The Coroner will be responsible for assessing the cause of death, and also must be informed about funeral arrangements. An autopsy (medical examination of the body to determine the cause of death) may be required.

4. ORDER COFFIN

A 'rigid, combustible, leak-proof container' (coffin or casket) is required for either burial or cremation. This can be made locally from any kind of wood, including particle board or plywood. Last Wishes keeps several in store, and will provide names of local woodworkers who keep materials on hand. If it is not possible to have one made, it can be obtained from a commercial funeral provider.

A sheet may be used to lift the body into the coffin. If the body is to be cremated, the head end of the coffin must be marked. If people wish to decorate the coffin, any paint applied should be water based.

5. ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION

Transportation in a coffin must be arranged from the site of death to wherever the body needs to go. A coffin containing a body should not be visible during transportation. Three or more adults will be required to lift the coffin containing an adult. A truck or van should be measured to ensure that it is long enough to for an adult coffin. A child's coffin will fit in larger cars.

6. LAYING OUT

This process is optional, and may include washing and dressing the body for viewing and burial, or for cremation. Laying Out may take place at home, or in

a community building with many people participating. It helps if people gather beforehand to discuss with an experienced person what to expect and what they will do. Items need to be assembled such as water, disposable gloves, towels and clothing.

7.ARRANGE VIEWING

Viewing the body is also optional, and can occur at home or in a community building. If the viewing period is to be greater than 72 hours, embalming may be necessary to preserve body tissues.

In situations of sudden death, or when the family or friends have not seen the deceased person for some time, the opportunity to see the body can be a crucial component in coming to terms with the reality that death has occurred.

8.MAKE FUNERAL, CEREMONIAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE PLANS

Ceremonies serve various purposes including community acknowledgement of the death, providing support, sharing grief with bereaved family and friends, and celebrating the life of the person who has died. The body or cremated remains may be present at the service but do not need to be.

Arrangements can be made entirely by the family and friends, or may include a religious leader. An 'order of service' may be prepared that includes biographic or other information, and whatever rituals, readings, music etc are chosen.

9.DISPOSITION OF CREMATED REMAINS

Arrangements will be needed to pick up the cremains, commonly known as ashes. Cremains weigh 4-8 pounds, and are returned from the crematorium in a plastic bag or cardboard box. They may be transferred to an urn, and buried or scattered later. Urns may be made of various materials eg pottery, brass, wood. It is possible that if cremains are scattered on water they may not sink and the water will move them to the shore.

10.ARRANGE NOTICES

If desired, write and place a funeral notice or obituary in a newspaper.

In New Denver, it is traditional to post a notice in the Post Office window.

LEGAL AUTHORITY TO CONTROL DISPOSITION OF BODY

There is a legal order of authority to control disposition of the body. This order cannot be changed, and is in the following order of priority:

- a) the personal representative named in the will of the deceased, ie the executor of the estate
- b) the spouse of the deceased, including common law partnerships, if living with the deceased at the time of death; or a person who was living with the deceased as husband or wife for a continuous period of not less than two years
- c) an adult child
- d) a parent
- e) an adult brother or sister
- f) an adult nephew or niece
- g) an adult next-of-kin determined by the Estate Administration Act.

Under c) to g), the order of priority is from oldest to youngest.

If a person is unavailable or unwilling to give instructions, the right passes to the next qualified person.

REQUIRED FORMS

Forms Checklist:

1. Registration of Death, required by the Department of Vital Statistics
2. Medical Certificate of Death, supplied and completed by physician or coroner
3. Burial Permit, will be received from Vital Statistics
4. Private Transfer Permit, from Business Practices & Consumer Protection Branch
5. Cremation Authorization, supplied by crematorium
6. Death Certificate, issued by Vital Statistics
7. Birth Certificate or Immigration Papers
8. Notification of Death, obtained from and returned to Government of Canada
9. Death Benefit Application, obtained from & returned to Government of Canada.
10. Mailing original forms.

DETAILS OF FORMS

Fill all forms out in black ink so the writing can be copied by fax machines. Have a local fax number ready for forms to be faxed back to you. Fax is advised for security reasons, as identity theft is easier if information is processed online. If you do not have access to a fax machine, there is one at the Health Center in New Denver.

1. REGISTRATION OF DEATH

This is required by the Department of Vital Statistics as soon as possible after the death. The forms are numbered, and will be faxed back to you when you call **250 712 7562** or **250 861 7592**

or email **darlene.cross@gov.bc.ca**

Last Wishes recommends compiling the information on this form ahead of time, as part of the preplanning process; it is an added stress to gather the required material at the time the death occurs.

2. MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

The physician of the person who has died will supply this form and fill it out, and it may need to be picked up when completed.

The cause of death is confidential to the next-of-kin.

If the Coroner is involved, they will supply and complete this form.

Unless a legal name change has taken place, the name on these forms must be the same as the name on the person's Birth Certificate, or the form will be rejected. The Birth Certificate or Immigration Papers may be required and should be available.

The Registration of Death and Medical Certificate of Death must be faxed together to Vital Statistics as soon as possible to 250 712 7598.

3. BURIAL PERMIT

The Burial Permit will be faxed back from Vital Statistics within a couple of hours of receiving the Registration of Death and Medical Certificate.

The Burial Permit and Private Transfer Permit together authorize transportation of the body.

Three copies will be issued: one for the funeral director, or the family in the case of a private funeral; one for a religious leader if they are involved; and one for the cemetery or crematorium.

WEEKENDS

On weekends, there is a problem obtaining the Burial Permit, as the Vital Statistics Office is closed and a Permit will not be issued til Monday.

If a weekend death is expected, the form may be requested ahead of time.

If difficulty occurs on a weekend, it may be appropriate to obtain assistance from a commercial funeral provider.

4. PRIVATE TRANSFER PERMIT

This form is required because a commercial funeral provider is not involved, and is headed BPCPA Cemetery and Funeral Services. A copy may be available through Last Wishes; if not, call the District Registrar in Nakusp at **250 265 4865**. It should be filled out, faxed in and returned to you before the body is moved.

5. CREMATION AUTHORIZATION

A form for this authorization is provided by the crematorium, to be completed by the executor or next-of-kin.

The crematorium requires copies of the Medical Certificate of Death, Burial Permit and Private Transfer Permit. They may also ask for the Birth Certificate or Immigration Papers.

6.DEATH CERTIFICATE

This certificate is required if there is an estate to settle, for death benefits, to obtain compassionate airline tickets, and for other reasons. Call the District Registrar's Office in Nakusp at **250 265 4865** to obtain the form, and fax in the completed application. There is a fee for each copy.

7.BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR IMMIGRATION PAPERS

These may be required to accompany proof of death documents.

8.NOTIFICATION OF DEATH

This is used to stop payment of CPP and Old Age Pensions, GST benefits etc, in order to avoid overpayment which would then need to be returned. Call **1 800 959 8281** to obtain the form.

9.CPP BENEFIT APPLICATION

This only applies to people who have paid into CPP.

The Death Benefit is a one-time lump sum payment made to the estate of the deceased. The amount depends on the payments made into the plan, with a maximum of \$2500.00. The Death Benefit is taxable and will need to be declared as income on the deceased person's final tax form.

CPP Survivor's Pension for legal spouse or common-law partner.

CPP Children's Benefit for dependent and adopted children under 18.

Call **1 800 277 9914** for details of these plans.

10.MAILING FORMS

Within a couple of weeks of the death, the original copies of the Registration of Death and the Medical Certificate of Death, together with a copy of the Birth Certificate, must be mailed to:

The Department of Vital Statistics
101, 1475 Ellis Street
Kelowna BC V1Y 2A3.

CARPENTER CREEK LAST WISHES SOCIETY CONTACTS

For information, please call one of the Board members:

Kay Costley-White	250 358 7991
Gloria Lisgo	358 2253
Carolyn Parker	358 7760
Jamie Barber	358 7269
Susie O'Donnell	358 2162
Curtis Mortensen	355 2835
Leslie Beare	551 2895

OTHER AREA SOCIETIES BRINGING DEATH CARE BACK HOME

Winlaw: Dumont Creek Burial Society and Cemetery
250 226 7124 dumontcreekcemetery.com

Nelson: Nelson End of Life Society
250 509 1617 nelsociety.org

PRIVATE FUNERAL COSTS

All expenses are the responsibility of family of the deceased or their estate. Costs vary widely and may be higher than quoted. Local cemetery fees are higher after hours, and on weekends and holidays, and for non residents.

In 2017, excluding taxes, approximate costs START at:

Coffin	\$275
Grave space in New Denver Cemetery	\$150
Non residents	\$400
Opening and closing the grave	\$350
Ash burial	\$90
Cremation	\$950
Embalming (rarely required)	\$460
Death Certificate	\$27
Urn, optional	prices vary

KOOTENAY AREA COMMERCIAL FUNERAL PROVIDERS

These are businesses which offer a wide variety of services, from full formal funerals to cremation only. Their costs vary, and it is important to request full disclosure of all fees they will charge. As well as the basic cost of the service you request, they may charge extra transportation fees, administration fees, or others.

Nelson: Thompson Funeral Services and Cremation
613 Ward Street, Nelson
250 352 3613

Nakusp: Valley Funeral Home
101 Nelson Avenue, Nakusp
250 265 4316

Castlegar: Castlegar Funeral Chapel
411 9th Avenue, Castlegar
250 365 3222

Trail: Alternatives Funeral and Cremation Services
298 Pine Avenue, Trail 250 368 8080 or 1 800 780 3322

Alternatives Funeral and Cremation Services in Trail, Castlegar Funeral Chapel in Castlegar, Thompson Funeral Home in Nelson, and Valley Funeral Home in Nakusp are all under the same ownership.

Kelowna: Springfield Funeral Home will do cremations on weekends if the body is delivered to them.

All costs are subject to change. It is essential to request full disclosure of all costs prior to using these services.

The following list of prices was supplied by Thompson Funeral Service in 2017.

Nelson Thompson Funeral Service list of Fees:

Professional and Staff Service	\$1,089.00
Transfer (transportation)	\$599.00
Use of Facilities	\$599.00
Basic Cremation Casket	\$299.00
Cremation	\$915.00
Death Certificate	\$27.00, copies free
Consumer Protection BC	\$30.00

This fee is paid by funeral companies on every death in BC. The Agency regulates funeral business contracts and licensing.

Nakusp Valley Funeral Home

Prices out of the Nakusp facility of Thompson Funeral Service are less because it is a store front that does not have full time staff. The Professional and Staff Service fee is \$871.00 and a basic cremation casket is included; all other costs are as in Nelson.

Merchandise

Urn: Following cremation, a basic black vinyl urn is included at no charge.

More elaborate urns start at \$89.00

Cremation Container \$299.00

COST SUMMARY for Commercial Funeral basic service

Subtotal \$ 3270.00 + GST \$163 **Total \$3433.50.**

This information was supplied by Thompson Funeral Service.

Fees include the following:

The Professional and Staff Service Fee includes the initial meeting with a family to collect information and coordinate the disposition, coordination of details with the cemetery and or crematorium, ordering merchandise including caskets required for cremation or burial, record keeping and clerical assistance, including completion of Government procedures/forms, registration, death certificates and burial permits, filling the registration of death with Vital Statistics, and availability of staff 24 hours a day.

The Transfer Fee includes use of removal vehicle, stretcher, linens and staff; and transportation from place of death regardless of location (within the West Kootenays) to the funeral home and from the funeral home to the crematorium which is located in Nelson BC.

The Facilities Fee includes use of administration and receiving areas, including office and chapel space used during arrangements and visitation, and a cooling facility.

The Cremation Fee includes the amount paid for the cremation and record keeping.

A Cremation Container is a rigid, leak proof container that is required by law that the deceased is placed in for cremation. It is made of a pine frame with cardboard inserts. The deceased remains in this container for the process of cremation. This can be upgraded to a pine container for an additional fee.

PREPLANNING

Full name _____

Disposition of body:

I request _____ conventional burial at _____ cemetery

_____ cremation _____ ashes returned to my family

_____ burial of ashes at _____

_____ scattering of ashes at _____

Type of service:

I request _____ graveside service

_____ funeral service

_____ memorial service

_____ no service

I have arranged donation of _____ eyes
_____ other organs

arrangements are made with _____

I understand that feasibility of organ donation depends upon time and place of death.

I request _____ no viewing of my body
_____ suitable time for viewing of my body without embalming
_____ embalming if necessary to allow family members to arrive
to view if they wish

I would like any donations to go to: _____

At the service I would like (flowers, music etc) _____

If possible, I would like my coffin to be made by _____

Other wishes _____

Signature _____ Date _____

LAST WISHES MEMBERSHIP

This Membership sheet will be filed by Last Wishes. The other two papers you are requested to fill out when you join Last Wishes may be filed with this sheet if you wish. If you prefer, you may keep the others for your privacy. If papers are filed at your residence, please inform family members of their existence and location.

Please return this form to a member of Last Wishes.

Preplanning and Vital Statistics sheets may be included if so desired.

Full Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Street Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Please provide the name of the person you would like Last Wishes to coordinate with at the time of your death _____

Street address _____

Phone _____

If this person is not available, who would you like in their place

_____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

The above information may change. Please be responsible for providing Last Wishes with updates.

Signed _____ Date _____

VITAL STATISTICS

INFORMATION REQUIRED AT TIME OF DEATH

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date of Death _____

Name, with all given names _____
The name provided must be the same as that on the Birth Certificate.

Birth name if different _____

Mailing Address _____

Street Address _____

Phone _____ Birthdate with month by name _____ Sex ☐ M ☐ F

Birthplace with city, province, country _____

Mother's maiden name and given names _____

Mother's birthplace _____

Father's surname and given names _____

Father's birthplace _____

Occupation: kind of work done during most of life _____

type of business or industry _____

Marital Status ☐ never married ☐ married ☐ separated
☐ divorced ☐ widowed ☐ other

Full name of spouse with woman's birth name _____

Personal Health Number _____ Social Insurance Number _____

Aboriginal Registration Number _____ DVA Serial

Family Physician name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Next-of-kin or Executor name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

OR name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Funeral Provider _____

Time & Place of Funeral or Cremation _____