

Council Report

Report Date: December 4, 2017
Meeting Date: December 5, 2017

To: Council
From: Mayor Bob Simpson
Subject: Council Year in Review 2017

We have accomplished much again this year as a Council:

- We continue to exercise fiscal prudence and implement our three-year tax framework. By the end of 2018 we will have achieved our goals of controlling costs, weaning the City off its overdependence on industrial taxation, and substantially addressing the City's infrastructure deficit.
- We continue to successfully attract grant dollars to our community, enabling us to invest in projects that enhance our community's attractiveness and address our infrastructure needs. For example, the opening of Spirit Centre has been very well received by residents and our downtown businesses, as have the accessibility improvements undertaken by many downtown businesses.
- Council's fiscal plan has enabled us to make significant investments in core infrastructure and amenities throughout the City. The City's new playgrounds are being well used and there is excitement building for the new skateboard park that Council pre-approved the capital funding for this year.
- The City's new brand and new website have modernized Quesnel's image and created easier access for residents and visitors to obtain information and get answers to questions. This year, for the first time, we are also seeking input into the City's budget through an online survey.
- Council made strides toward recognition of and reconciliation with First Nations in our region. We signed a protocol agreement with the Lhtako Dene Nation and we have formally recognized the Lhtako Dene's traditional territory in our civic properties and our public meetings. Council also added recognition of the Metis to our First Nations reconciliation and recognition initiative.
- Our positive partnership with the CRD Northern Directors resulted in the successful completion and opening of the new arena and continued progress toward finding creative ways to address our common needs and concerns.
- Council's new housing incentive bylaw assisted in attracting significant investment to our community and the commencement of two new housing projects in North Quesnel.
- Quesnel stepped up and played a significant supporting role in this summer's wildfire event by hosting evacuees, supporting a major firefighting base at the airport, and providing structural fire protection to impacted communities in the South Cariboo. We



are now working with the Provincial Government and other partners to protect our community from future wildfire events.

- Council is proactively engaging with the new provincial government and we enjoyed a record number of meetings at the UBCM convention this year. Our hope is that this direct engagement with the province will result in much needed public investments being made in our transportation corridor, hospital, schools, and at CNC.

The details of all of Council's strategic initiatives and specific data on City functions and achievements can be found in the City of Quesnel's annual and quarterly reports. These reports also represent a significant achievement for Council, as they have been reformatted to be more readable and to make the City's statistical data more accessible to the general public.