



MUNICIPAL MATTERS

The Dawson Creek City Council Update



January -
March 2024

Welcome to the Mayor & Council quarterly newsletter, your direct source for news and information about how your Mayor & Council are working for you.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

It's been a busy start to 2024. I've been focussed on advancing a number of key initiatives and priorities related to youth, seniors, community outreach and public safety.

Congratulations to the community leaders that were recognized at the 2023 Community Awards Gala in February. We're fortunate to have so many people going the extra mile to make our city such a great place to live and work.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the budget consultation process this winter. We gathered important feedback about the new fiscal plan, which is shaped by Council's strategic priorities.

I was proud to launch the Mayor's Open Door gatherings this year, which are held about once a month and provide an opportunity for me to chat with people and answer any questions or concerns.

I also had the great privilege of hosting informative discussions through our roundtable project. We currently run roundtable discussions with three groups: seniors, business and youth that are designed to foster communication, collaboration and ongoing dialogue.

The City has had many productive meetings with senior levels of government, health officials and organizations that care for vulnerable populations. We're working hard to ensure Dawson Creek is given its fair share of resources so that people feel safe and supported in our community. To improve access to healthcare, we're working alongside our medical professionals and assisting in recruitment efforts, where possible.

We'll keep updating you on the progress we're making on our strategic priorities - we have lots to look forward to as we head into the spring and summer seasons! In the meantime, I'll continue to provide regular updates and information on my Facebook page. ~ Mayor Dober

MILE ZERO MOMENTS



Wow! 181 walkers raised \$40,679 during the Chilly Walk for Hope hosted by Networks Ministries in February. Thank you to the 30 volunteers who made the event possible, raising important funds to help provide support and services to the community.



NEWS RELEASES

- Splash Park Update (March)
- Mayor's Office Youth Survey (March)
- Business Facade Improvement Program Update (March)
- Spring Leisure Guide Release (March)

COUNCIL CORNER

Your Dawson Creek City Councillors continue to meet with community members and organizations to have productive conversations about what's working in the city and what needs to be improved.

There is important progress happening on a number of fronts, but we know that improving transportation, childcare, healthcare, public safety, community infrastructure and economic development opportunities (to name a few) are always top of mind in the community and within City Hall. We continue to work with senior levels of government and others to secure additional funding and create new, innovative solutions.

We are always impressed by the outstanding events and initiatives spearheaded by our dedicated business and community organizations – thank you for all you do!

You may have seen us out and about at various events over the past few months – we love being able to connect with people face-to-face and learn more about the impressive work underway through our many dedicated community groups.

We're looking forward to the events on the horizon, including the upcoming Peace Arts Festival, which will showcase local artists, musicians, dancers and creators. It's being hosted by the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre and takes place from June 6-9. We hope to see you there!

~ Councillors Gregg Apolonio, Jeremy Earl, Amy Kaempf, Kyle MacDonald, Charlie Parslow and Mike Sudnik

YOUR CITY

Have your say!

We're updating our [Official Community Plan \(OCP\)](#) to guide the future of our community.

And, we want to hear your needs, wants and priorities for Dawson Creek.

The OCP sets a vision for the next 20 years and outlines objectives and policies for the City to work toward. We're hosting events across the city and online to gather feedback, including [this survey](#), that runs until May 10.

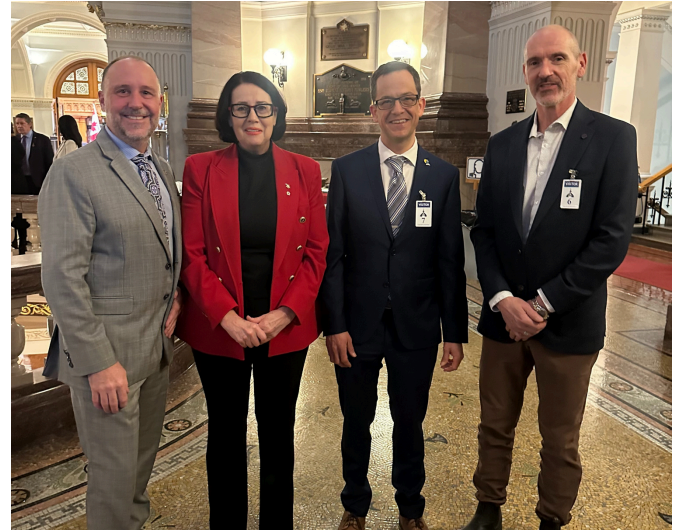
Attention all non-profits, schools and community organizations!

The IMAGINE Grant program through Northern Health is now accepting [applications](#) until May 10, 2024.

The grants are designed to support projects that address community-led health and wellness initiatives, while improving the well-being of all Northern BC residents. Grants are available up to a maximum of \$10,000. Learn more [here](#).



IN FOCUS



Peace River South MLA Mike Bernier, Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin, Mayor Dober and Dawson Creek CAO Kevin Henderson at the BC Legislature in Victoria (February 2024).

Public safety remains a key priority

The City of Dawson continues to work with the RCMP, senior government officials, public health agencies and others to ensure our community remains safe, personal and property crime is reduced, and our most vulnerable populations receive the help they need.

Mayor Dober meets with the RCMP weekly to receive updates on public safety and talk about the plans in place to deal with any issues or concerns.

In February, the Mayor and CAO travelled to Victoria to meet with the Public Safety Minister and Attorney General to discuss increasing crime and the additional resources needed in Dawson Creek and the region.

In March, the Mayor and CAO met with Northern Health (NH) to review plans for the Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) located at the Dawson Creek Hospital. They indicated that if NH intends to keep an OPS site open in the city, it should be located close to the hospital, and if a new location is being considered, the community must be consulted.

EVENTS CALENDER

- May 6-17: Community Clean Up
- May 8-9: Yard Waste Pick Up for Seniors & Persons with a Disability
- June 1-30: Participaction Community Challenge; weekly activities to help us win Canada's Most Active Community
- June 1: Spring Park & Play at Kin Park
- June 1: Go by Bike Kick Off; challenge runs June 3-9

Learn more at calendar.dawsoncreek.ca



Calling all businesses!

Looking to spruce up the exterior of your building? Creating a vibrant downtown is one of Council's strategic priorities.

That's why the City is partnering with the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) to provide grants of up to \$5,000 for business owners to update their storefronts.

The first intake period for the program is open until April 30, 2024. Learn more.

There are many other funding programs available through NDIT – check them out!

COMING SOON

It's Spring cleaning time!



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Connecting with our future leaders

Reaching out to our youth and making their voices heard is a priority for the City.

The Mayor hosts a roundtable with youth and organizations that serve young people in our city. The group discusses the needs of youth and upcoming events or services being offered.

As part of this collaboration, the Mayor conducted an online survey for youth this spring to hear more about their interests and ideas about new initiatives.

Stay tuned as we put those ideas into action!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Batter up!

Thanks, in part, to a \$42,588 Recreation Infrastructure grant through the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT), the City was able to complete renovations on Kin 1 and Kin 2 Minor Baseball Diamonds.

The fields are now more level, the metal framework on the stands has been replaced and new roofs were installed on the dugouts.

NDIT has many grant streams available to assist with projects in our community.

If you are part of a non-profit or society, we encourage you to explore the grant opportunities available.

AROUND TOWN



BC Natural Resources Forum

City councillors attended the 22nd Annual BC Natural Resources Forum in Prince George in January. It's Western Canada's largest multi-sector resource conference bringing First Nations, government and the Natural Resources Sector together to discuss opportunities, innovative solutions and success stories.



City Council Student Visits

Council welcomed members of the DCSS Student Council and their mentor, Sean Cowie, to Council Chambers. We encourage schools and classrooms to contact City Hall if you would like to arrange a visit. Council is looking forward to having the entire DCSS Student Council attend a future City of Dawson Creek Council Meeting.



Mayor's Open Door Event

Thanks to Beans & Barley for co-hosting the second Mayor's Open Door in March! The events are a chance to connect with the Mayor over coffee, ask questions and build relationships. Councillors Jeremy Earl and Kyle MacDonald popped by to join the conversation. We're looking forward to the next event on June 6 at City Hall!



Council of Forest Industries Convention

Dawson Creek was represented at the Council of Forest Industries convention to discuss the current state of the BC forest industry and the serious work that needs to be done to create a more resilient, renewable and investable forest sector that can meet the needs of both present and future generations.