



# MUNICIPAL MATTERS

The Dawson Creek City Council Update



October -  
December 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

Happy New Year to all! As we step into 2025, I'm filled with optimism and gratitude for our incredible city.

The last few months have been filled with community gatherings and a renewed focus on one of the most pressing issues in city – recruiting and retaining medical professionals to provide timely healthcare for our residents.

We're thrilled the South Peace Primary Care Network (PCN) Service Plan was approved - a significant step forward for our community! The plan includes new initiatives and 21 net new healthcare workers for the region, including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and allied health professionals.

This news builds on the City's investment to purchase the Eljen medical clinic to create a healthcare hub that will be central to implementing the strategies included in the Service Plan.

We've been busy attending a number of sessions to collaborate on new healthcare initiatives and keep the community informed on the progress underway. Council Sudnik and I are regularly attending the Physician Recruitment & Retention meeting which is a great opportunity to work directly with healthcare organizations and physicians to develop new solutions.

In a recent meeting with Northern Health, I was informed that the net gain of employees in 2024 was 877 – which is a substantial increase. We have a long way to go, but it's great to see the recruitment efforts paying off.

I also attended Rotary Club meetings alongside the South Peace Division of Family Practice to discuss recruitment efforts. The team is looking for ways to ensure physicians moving here are linked to a supportive network and feel welcome before they even set foot in our community.

Healthcare was the hot topic at the Seniors Roundtable I hosted, where guests from Northern Health provided an update on the new hospital – only two years until the state-of-the-art facility is complete!

Thank you to all the organizations who put on holiday events this season – the spirit of giving was alive and well. Here's to a new year filled with health, happiness and success! ~ Mayor Dober



## MILE ZERO MOMENTS



Mayor Dober and Councillors attended the Celebration of Medical Professionals appreciation event put on by the South Peace Health Services Society.

Nearly all of our local physicians and many other healthcare professionals came together to celebrate those that are making a real difference in our community. Thank you to all our medical workers for your hard work and dedication - we appreciate you!



Mayor and Council had a blast at the Reindeer Hunt at Rotary Manor - a great opportunity to connect with staff and residents. Lots of laughter was had by all and we're happy to report that everyone came out of the "hunt" unscathed!

## COUNCIL CORNER

From attending the annual Fire Truck Parade and the many other Christmas and charitable events around town, to having important strategy meetings and participating in the Mental Health and Addictions Symposium in Prince George, it's been a busy few months for Council.

One of the highlights was the annual Dawson Creek Community Awards Gala in November. It was hosted by Community Futures Peace Liard and was a great evening celebrating some fantastic members of our community!

Thank you to all the sponsors, nominees and award winners for your unwavering support for our city. Here's a look at the people and businesses that were honoured:

- Business of the Year: Dawson Creek Co-op
- Citizen of the Year: Mona McNalley
- Emergency Services Professional Champion of the Year: Jerome Lake
- Entrepreneur of the Year: Krista Forshner
- Health Services Professional Champion of the Year: Autumn Sipma
- Inclusive Workplace of the Year: School District 59
- Non-profit of the Year: South Peace Search and Rescue
- Special Recognition: Northern Lights College
- Volunteer of the Year: Adam Rolick
- Youth of the Year: The Ark Christian Youth Centre

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, suggestions or issues that you need assistance with. In the meantime, we look forward to catching up at the next community event!

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



## IN FOCUS



### From Classroom to Construction

Introducing a fantastic new partnership!

You may notice some activity on the Dawson Creek Exhibition Grounds as students from the Northern Lights College Enhanced Carpentry Foundation build a new horse barn on the grounds.

It's a collaboration between the City of Dawson Creek, Northern Lights College and the Dawson Creek Exhibition Association (DCEA). The students will learn the entire process of building construction, from framing the walls to installing the roof trusses, and the project will create an important legacy for the community.

A barn is built the same way as a house, just without things like internal wiring and plumbing. This reduces the need for outside contractors to complete parts of the project that aren't part of the curriculum. By building a barn, the students still meet the required learning outcomes and the DCEA gets a new event space.

The new barn will provide available boarding for arena users and increase the capacity to host light horse shows. "When large organizations come together with a shared vision, it's these kinds of partnerships that truly move projects forward and drive meaningful change," says Mayor Dober.

"This project will enhance the capacity for hosting events at the fairgrounds, and we are excited to work alongside all parties involved to achieve this milestone, which will benefit the entire community."

## YOUR CITY

### Grandview Neighbourhood Concept Plan

In November, City Staff launched a survey and in-person engagement asking our residents how the site at 1100 95 Avenue should be utilized.

The Grandview Neighbourhood Concept Plan will be a long-range planning document that will guide Council in the decision-making process.

The area previously housed the Grandview School and the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre. The second round of public engagement will take place in March and we will present the plan to Council this Spring.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### Welcome Dr. Eknewir!



Mayor Darcy Dober and CAO Kevin Henderson were happy to give a warm welcome to one of the newest additions to our healthcare community, Dr. Eknewir.

The new doctor stopped by City Hall to connect and learn more about our city.

We want to do everything possible to ensure new physicians are welcomed into our community and connected to the organizations that can lend a hand as they relocate to the area.

This is one of the important initiatives brought forward by the Recruitment & Retention Committee that is helping to attract new medical professionals to the region.



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



### Finding New Solutions

Council attended the inaugural Mental Health and Addictions Symposium in Prince George, co-hosted by the North Central Local Government Association.

The Symposium spotlighted community-driven solutions, showcased innovative projects and tools, facilitated relationship building and explored collaborative strategies.

We signed the Mental Health and Addictions Accord, a joint initiative designed to address the urgent challenges facing Central and Northern British Columbia.

This Accord brings together local governments, First Nations, healthcare providers, service agencies and community organizations to advance positive solutions to improve services and outcomes for individuals affected by mental health and addiction.

Join the Municipal  
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## EVENTS CALENDAR

### FMX World Tour

Join us February 15 for the adrenaline-pumping FMX World Tour! This extreme action sports extravaganza will showcase the most electrifying FMX (Freestyle Motocross) athletes as they battle for glory in an unforgettable competition. You'll also get exclusive access to the arena floor for the ultimate Party in the Pits!



## AROUND TOWN



### Snow, Scenery and Smiles

Mayor Dober visited the Nordic Ski trails. We're so lucky to have these great trails so close to home. Thank you, Bear Mountain Nordic Ski Association, for all the hard work you put in. And a big shout out to Paul Gevatkoff for receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal! We wouldn't have the Bear Mountain ski hill if it wasn't for his years of passion and dedication – thank you!



### Deck the Halls

'Tis the season! The Mayor and Councillors visited Rotary Manor to help with the judging of the resident's Christmas door decorating. What a fun event for everyone involved!

### The Great Canadian Roadtrip 2.0

The Great Canadian Roadtrip is returning March 19 and will be co-headlined by award-winning Canadian country artists Jason McCoy, Chad Brownlee and Jason Blaine.

Each artist will share personal stories and fascinating insights about their songs, accompanied by stunning visuals.



### Recognizing Foster Families

October was proclaimed as Foster Family Month in Dawson Creek. It was a time to celebrate foster families and to bring awareness to the foster parent program. Thanks to representatives from Community Bridge and the Ministry of Children and Family Development for attending the meeting to make this proclamation.



### Holiday Heroes

A heartfelt thank you to Coastal GasLink for organizing an incredible toy drive this Christmas. Your generosity and hard work brought smiles to so many children in our community!