



the City of  
**Dawson Creek**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

# MUNICIPAL MATTERS

The Dawson Creek City Council Update



April -  
June 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 productive spring season as the City continues to work on many fronts to improve our community, connect with residents and address some of the challenges that exist.

I'm proud to say the City was awarded the Rural BC Community Award for a series of collaborative initiatives that improve health care services and help welcome medical providers to our city. These initiatives include the development of the Chickadee Maternity Collaborative; the establishment of the Bulterys House to provide affordable accommodation for people travelling here for medical treatment; and the creation of the locum house for visiting physicians.

The City isn't directly involved in healthcare, but there's a role we can play to recruit and retain medical professionals in our community. That's why we're moving forward with the purchase of the Eljen Medical Clinic to ensure the team there can continue to provide essential primary care services.

The community has expressed concerns regarding the resignation of local doctors. I recently attended the first meeting of the new Northern Health Recruitment & Retention Committee to discuss plans to attract additional healthcare professionals to our region. We're working together to find new solutions to address this ongoing issue.

It seems like a lifetime ago, but we're still buzzing about the 2023 National Women's U18 Championship held in Dawson Creek last November. The host committees, event organizers, sponsors, supporters and legacy fund recipients came together in May to celebrate the success of the event. It was so much more than hockey - It's about community and the legacy funds that were invested back into our local organizations.

I'm continuing to host my Seniors' Roundtable and Youth Roundtable to have important conversations and hear feedback on positive changes and any new initiatives they would like to see the City work towards. A big hats off to all the recent graduates - I look forward to seeing what new adventures they pursue. Wishing you a healthy and safe summer! ~ Mayor Dober



## MILE ZERO MOMENTS



Dr. Magda du Plessis, Mayor Dober, Councillor Mike Sudnik and Charleigh Rudy, RN at the 2024 BC Rural Health Conference in Whistler, BC to receive the "Rural BC Community Award". Dawson Creek received the award for advancing key initiatives to improve healthcare.



Dawson Creek representatives in Calgary to present the sacred artwork that was originally gifted to Hockey Canada at the U18 Women's Championship held in Dawson Creek. Elder Dean Dokkie of West Moberly First Nations, on behalf of his Nation, gave his part of the buffalo skull to join in true relationship for the betterment of all people in the Treaty 8 territory.



## COUNCIL CORNER

We want to give a big shout out to our local suppliers and everyone who supported our neighbours who were impacted by the Fort Nelson wildfire in May as our city sheltered evacuees and provided resources at the Emergency Reception Centre. We're now in the heart of wildfire season - Please [click here](#) to sign up to receive emergency news and alerts from our Emergency Support Services (ESS) team.

We're pleased to provide an update on the new Capital Projects approved this year that will contribute to the growth and sustainability of our city. 40 new initiatives, totaling more than \$15 million were approved for 2024. To view the list or learn more about them as they unfold, visit [dawsoncreek.ca/capitalprojects](https://dawsoncreek.ca/capitalprojects).

We're happy to report that we had double the amount of applications for the [Business Façade Improvement Program](#) this year. It's amazing to see so many business owners investing in their company and helping to update and beautify our downtown core.

Councillors have been busy attending various community, industry and government events, including the [North Central Local Government Association](#) conference. Congratulations to Councillor Kyle MacDonald for being elected to the NCLGA Board of Directors – he's a passionate voice to advocate for our community and region.

We've enjoyed all the cultural activities taking place across the city this spring. The first-ever [Peace Arts Festival](#), organized by Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre, showcased our talented local artists and performers. And more recently, the [South Peace Community Arts Council](#) organized a vibrant day of festivities at the annual Multicultural Fusion Celebration, which was a lot of fun for the whole family. We look forward to seeing you out and about this summer!

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

## YOUR CITY

### Let's get moving!

The City is renewing its [Transportation Master Plan](#). We need your input to help design the vision for multi-modal transportation in our community.

Have your say - provide your ideas in-person at City Hall or fill out [this survey](#) for a chance to win one of four \$50 gift cards for City of Dawson Creek Community Services Programming.



## IN FOCUS



*The Eljen Medical Clinic, located at 1300 111th Avenue in Dawson Creek*

### Investing in our healthcare needs

We know families are concerned and frustrated with the shortage of doctors in our community – we feel the same way. The City is taking steps to help alleviate this issue and improve access to quality healthcare in Dawson Creek. In May, [Council announced](#) our intention to purchase the Eljen Medical Clinic, located near the hospital, because we learned it was slated to be sold.

The physicians and healthcare team at this clinic provide vital primary care services for our residents. While the purchase of the clinic may not solve the doctor shortage that Dawson Creek is facing, it is a step in the right direction. It secures the clinic space and ensures it will continue to be used to provide community healthcare services.

The City will purchase the clinic using a grant from the Province of BC through the [Growing Communities Fund](#). In March 2023, the City of Dawson Creek received \$3,942,000 in funding, which has since grown to more than \$4.1 million, due to interest accrued.

While the City will own the medical clinic, it will be operated by the South Peace [Division of Family Practice](#). We're working toward securing a lease with healthcare professionals that will offset the clinic's operational costs.

### NEWS RELEASES

- [Splash Park Engagement: Round 2](#)
- [Capital Projects Update](#)
- [Eljen Medical Clinic Update](#)
- [Dawson Creek Receives Rural BC Community Award](#)
- [Community Art Contest](#)



## Unleash your creativity

The City is looking for artists of all ages to help beautify the new Official Community Plan (OCP).

Draw, paint, design or take a photograph showing what you love about Dawson Creek for a chance to have it incorporated in the updated OCP and other City promotional materials.

Visit [dawsoncreek.ca/ocpartcontest](https://dawsoncreek.ca/ocpartcontest) to learn more and submit your artwork before August 30 to eligible for consideration.

Send us a digital format or come visit us at City Hall and drop off your artwork!

## Shape the future!

Let's create a vibrant future for Dawson Creek, together!

The City is updating its Official Community Plan (OCP) to ensure it reflects our current and future needs, and aligns with the community's desires and priorities. The plan will guide decision-making over the next 15-20 years.



From now until fall 2024, we'll be hosting events across the city and online. [Click here](#) to learn how you can get involved!

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### Supporting the South Peace Child Development Centre



Councillor Amy Kaempf helping out on McHappy Day! This year in Dawson Creek, around \$13,000 was raised for the South Peace Child Development Centre and Ronald McDonald House BC. The centre intends to use the money it's receiving to upgrade its outdoor playground.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



### Sliding into summer!

Just in time for summer, the City opened a brand-new kid's playground in Kin Park – now families have not one, but two incredible playgrounds to explore and enjoy at the park!

As part of [Dawson Creek's Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan](#), we are dedicated to bringing free, accessible recreation for all ages, and the new playground is an example of that commitment. It's designed to provide play options for children of all abilities, ensuring that everyone can join in on the fun.

We owe a huge thank you to the funding grants we've received from Northern Development (NDIT) and Employment and Social Development Canada. Their support has made this playground project possible.

Join the Municipal Matters mailing list!





## AROUND TOWN



### Forestry at Work

Councillor Amy Kaempf, Councillor Kyle MacDonald, Councillor Gregg Apolonio, Mayor Darcy Dober and MLA Mike Bernier touring the LP manufacturing plant in Dawson Creek. It was built as an OSB mill in 1987 and converted to a siding plant in 2019. We learned a lot about the facility and ways the City can help advocate for the industry at the provincial level.



### Improving Healthcare in Dawson Creek

Mayor Dober visiting the staff at the Dawson Creek and District Hospital to thank the team for all they do in our community. We can't wait for the new, state-of-the-art hospital to be complete! The new facility will include many enhancements, including an increase of 24 beds and an ER that will be double in size.



### Thank you, Saddle Hills County!

Mayor Dober stopped by to see our neighbours at the Saddle Hills County for a visit and to thank them for their contribution to the National U18 Women's Championship that Dawson Creek hosted in November 2023. We wouldn't be able to host events of this magnitude without help from our neighbours.



### National Indigenous Peoples Day

Councillor Kyle MacDonald and Councillor Jeremy Earl at a National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at the Dawson Creek & District Hospital. The event is an important way to recognize and celebrate the history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis across Canada.

## EVENTS CALENDER

- July 26-28 Dawson Creek Rib Fest
- Every 2nd Wednesday through July & August: Shell's Slice of Summer Park n' Plays
- Aug. 7-11: Agricultural Fair, Rodeo & Exhibition
- Aug. 9: Fall Fair Parade

Learn more at [calendar.dawsoncreek.ca](https://calendar.dawsoncreek.ca)