



# MUNICIPAL MATTERS

The Dawson Creek City Council Update



July to September 2025

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 season of challenges and opportunities, and I'm pleased to provide an update on the work we've been advancing on your behalf.

Thank you to all residents for your continued water conservation efforts as we navigate prolonged drought conditions and develop both short-term and long-term solutions to the issues. To better understand the challenges, I joined City staff on a watershed tour last month of the Kiskatinaw River and Bearhole Lake. Seeing the conditions firsthand underscored the urgency of advancing the Dawson Creek Water Supply System Project, which proposes a new water line from the Peace River to deliver a long-term, reliable supply.

While securing our water future has been a top priority, Council's work extends across many areas of advocacy and community connection. Earlier this month, I attended an interprovincial meeting as a PRRD Director, where leaders gathered to discuss shared challenges such as mental health, solid waste management, highway twinning, rail opportunities and ecological corridors. These conversations are critical for ensuring our region's needs remain a focus at both the provincial and interprovincial level.

At home, I hosted another Seniors Roundtable, which continues to be a valuable way to update seniors on City projects while also hearing their perspectives and concerns. We also welcomed BC's Minister of Forests, Minister Parmar, on his first visit to Dawson Creek, and I connected with MLA Larry Neufeld and colleagues at a community meet-and-greet - strengthening relationships to support Dawson Creek's long-term goals.

Council and I will continue to keep you updated on our work - from tackling water security to advancing projects that shape Dawson Creek's future. As we look ahead, I'm excited for the joyful sights and sounds of the holiday season that bring our city together in such a special way. Wishing you health and happiness as we close out 2025.

~ Mayor Dober



## MILE ZERO MOMENTS



Dawson Creek Fire Rescue received three new Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), thanks to TC Energy and Coastal GasLink. AEDs are portable devices that deliver a shock to restore normal heart rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest. These new units ensure crews have the most reliable, lifesaving tools when seconds matter.



Mayor Dober, Councillor Apolonio and Councillor MacDonald attended the Onam Celebration in September, hosted by the Kerala Cultural Association of Northern BC. Onam is a harvest and cultural festival from Kerala, India, marking the Malayali New Year. Thank you for bringing our community together through this vibrant tradition.



## COUNCIL CORNER

It's been a busy start to the Fall season! In September, Mayor Dober and Council attended the annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention in Victoria, joining local governments and First Nations from across the province. The convention gives municipalities the chance to bring forward resolutions, meet directly with provincial and federal ministers, and strengthen partnerships with other communities.

A key moment for Dawson Creek was advancing our sponsored resolution calling for rural crime prevention officers. This initiative, which received strong attention, would help improve communication between rural RCMP detachments and local crime prevention organizations - a practical step toward safer communities across the Peace Region and beyond.

Council also received updates from the federal Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and heard directly from Premier David Eby, who emphasized the importance of the BC Northeast as the province's economic engine and highlighted the need to support resource industries.

Throughout the week, Council met with numerous ministries, including Health, Finance, Energy and Climate Solutions, Environment and Parks, and Emergency Management, as well as Northern Health, rural communities and resource investors. These meetings allowed Council to strongly advocate for Dawson Creek's priorities - from healthcare and education to resource development and community safety.

As we carry this momentum forward, Council remains committed to advocating for Dawson Creek and delivering on the priorities that matter most to our residents.

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



Mayor and Council in Victoria at UBCM

## IN FOCUS



### Securing Dawson Creek's Water Future

Dawson Creek has now entered its fourth year of prolonged drought, with water levels in the Kiskatinaw River - the City's current water source - at historic lows. In past years, releases from Bearhole Lake provided relief, but the lake is no longer recharging, leaving no supplemental water available. With warm, dry weather persisting, Dawson Creek must now rely heavily on stored reserves.

To stretch those reserves, Council moved the community into Stage 3 Water Conservation Measures effective September 11, 2025. These measures are essential to ensure the City can meet demand through the winter months.

At the same time, Dawson Creek is pursuing both short-term and long-term solutions, including advancing the Dawson Creek Water Supply System Project. A near-term plan is in development and will be shared later this fall. The long-term solution - a new water line from the Peace River - is already advancing through the early stages of the provincial environmental assessment process.

Ensuring a secure and sustainable water supply is the City's top priority and we are committed to building resilience against drought. Residents and businesses are asked to continue conserving wherever possible to help protect our community's future water supply.

Have questions or want to provide feedback?

[Send us your thoughts.](#)



## YOUR CITY

### 2025 Capital Projects: Building a Stronger City

Dawson Creek is investing in the future with a wide range of 2025 Capital Projects that are underway or already completed. From road, water and sewer upgrades to refreshed recreation facilities, arenas and parks, these improvements strengthen core infrastructure, enhance daily life and support long-term growth and community pride. We're excited to see so many improvements taking shape across the city this year. Learn more: [dawsoncreek.ca/capitalprojects](https://dawsoncreek.ca/capitalprojects).

### On the Move: New Transportation Master Plan

Big news for Dawson Creek! Council adopted a new Transportation Master Plan - a roadmap for a more connected city. The plan touches every part of how we move around - from walking and biking to driving and public transit - and it's built with accessibility, connectivity and sustainability in mind. Whether you walk, drive, roll or ride - this plan shapes your future travel. [Explore it here.](#)



### Boosting Growth: New Property Tax Incentives



Dawson Creek is taking bold steps to encourage growth and renewal with a new [Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw](#). Adopted in August, it offers property owners municipal tax savings when they invest in new construction, renovations or improvements valued at more than \$75,000.

With phased exemptions of up to 10 years, the bylaw supports a vibrant downtown and new residential, commercial and industrial development.

Learn more at [dawsoncreek.ca/revitalization-tax](https://dawsoncreek.ca/revitalization-tax).



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



### Kin Arena Transforms: More Sports, More Fun!

Big changes have come to Kin Arena! For the 2025/26 season, the arena is swapping ice for brand-new sports flooring, creating a year-round fieldhouse for team sports, youth programs and community events.

This exciting trial project makes better use of our facilities while expanding recreation options for residents. The Oviniv Events Centre will serve as the replacement ice surface during this period.

We want to hear from you! [Share your thoughts and opinions](#) on the Kin Arena sports floor so we can bring the community exactly what it's looking for. Your feedback will help shape the future of this space.

Join the Municipal Matters mailing list!





## AROUND TOWN



### Step into History: Downtown Walking Tour Revamped

Discover Dawson Creek's past in a fresh new way! Tourism Dawson Creek's Historical Downtown Walking Tour now features 11 new plaques, redesigned markers, printed brochures and an interactive digital experience available on the On This Spot app.

Take a stroll and see history come alive downtown!



### Walking Together for Truth and Reconciliation

A heartfelt thanks to Aboriginal Family Services and the Nawican Bergeron Youth & Cultural Centre for hosting a walk and lunch in honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We walked in memory of every child who never came home and in honour of the survivors, families and communities impacted by residential schools.



### Racing Against Hunger!

The Mayor and City Councillors laced up for Oviniv's Race Against Hunger at the Dawson Co-op. Together with the community, food and donations were collected to help fight hunger locally. A big thank you to the Dawson Co-operative Union for hosting this annual event!



### Celebrating 30 Years of Software Emporium

Cheers to 30 years of success at Software Emporium! Congratulations to Paul Davey and the entire team on this incredible milestone. For three decades, they've provided great service, quality products and unwavering commitment to our community - a true example of business excellence.



### Business is Brewing

Mayor Dober attended the grand opening of Portavia. More than just a café, Portavia represents local investment and community growth. Supporting small businesses like this strengthens our economy, creates gathering spaces and highlights the entrepreneurial spirit that makes our city thrive.