



the City of
Dawson Creek
BRITISH COLUMBIA

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

The Dawson Creek City Council Update



July -
September 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

What a summer we had! From community events, to farmers' markets and other family fun gatherings, Dawson Creek was buzzing with activity and community spirit. I'd like to thank all the volunteers, local businesses and event organizers who worked tirelessly to bring these events to life.

Mayor & Council have been busy over the last few months trying to connect with as many residents as possible during the season of community events, while also working to make progress addressing some of the challenges our city is facing. From healthcare to public safety and working to secure new resources to invest in our city, we are always advocating on behalf of our community.

Healthcare has been a frequent topic at the City this year. Myself and Councillor Sudnik sit on the Recruitment & Retention Committee, which met over the summer. It's a great opportunity to hear directly from our doctors about what changes and improvements they believe will help alleviate the issues facing our region.

We also recently met with the new CEO of Northern Health and invited him to come to Council to educate the group about what our provincial health authority is working on and how they are tackling the ongoing challenges.

I had the opportunity over the summer to attend a walking tour downtown to hear about the issues that local business owners have been facing. I was joined by members of the RCMP, City Bylaw Officers and staff from the Connective Support Society, formerly My Home Place, to brainstorm potential solutions. It's through ongoing dialogue that we can help create a safer, more vibrant downtown core.

We look forward to a busy Fall season of council business and events. As we head into the holiday season, I'm wishing you and your family a peaceful and joyous time with friends and family. ~ Mayor Dober



**YOU ARE INVITED
TO CONNECT**



**MAYOR'S
OPEN DOOR**

NOV 15 2024	AT 11:00 AM	TO 1:00 PM
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City Hall
10105 12A Street



Mayor
DARCY DOBER

MILE ZERO MOMENTS



Mayor and Council were on hand for the groundbreaking for the Mile 0 Park Society's new Pump Track & Bike Skills Park at Rotary Park. A pump track is a purpose-built track for bikes, scooters and other wheels - fun for all ages! The pump track will be a great new addition to the area, alongside the new playground. Crews are working toward opening the new track next year. Learn more at dawsoncreek.ca/capitalprojects.



Council was honoured to celebrate the exemplary service of two of our hometown heroes! Fire Chief Marcel Capelle received the BC Long Service Award for 35 years of dedication and firefighter Mark Sutton received the BC Long Service Award for 25 years of commitment to the fire service.

COUNCIL CORNER

The spirit of our community really shines through during the summer and this year was no exception. We were able to watch projects and events come to fruition thanks to the dedication of our community leaders and organizations that give back in so many different ways.

Council was eager to head to the annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in September, as we had a number of topics to discuss with the provincial government. We also use this event to have conversations with other municipalities to brainstorm best practices that might be a good fit for our city.

We know education and childcare are always a high priority for our residents, and we were able to have important discussions about specific issues, including:

- addressing barriers and the inequity of support between nonprofit and private childcare providers.
- inquiring about a new elementary school for School District #59.
- inquiring about a Northern Student Teacher Bursary.

Additionally, in response this year's dangerous wildfire activity, we prioritized meeting with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to address issues that came up during the fire season, including:

- discussing resources and supports necessary for emergency management and post-event recovery. The current model is not sustainable and Council is inquiring if the province has a long-term plan to address the need for supports for local governments.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you out and about at the upcoming holiday festivities!

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

YOUR CITY

Swing, Slide and Soar!

We hope families were able to get out and enjoy the new playground at Rotary Park this summer.

The new facility opened in July and it was great to see so many families enjoying the new play area. Thank you to the Mile 0 Park and Campground for partnering with the City on this fun new playground!



IN FOCUS



Mayor, Councillors and the CAO at the UBCM convention in Vancouver.

Advocating for Dawson Creek

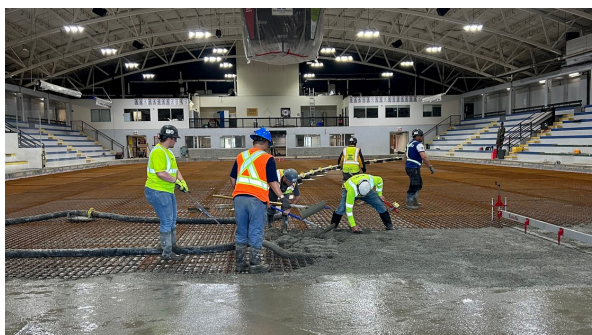
Each year, Mayor and Council attends the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention to talk with the provincial government about local issues, foster collaboration and brainstorm about new initiatives that will benefit our city.

This year, we developed a comprehensive playbook that outlined the topics that we were going to focus on.

Healthcare was a key priority for us and here's a look at some of the specific areas we inquired about:

- what the province is doing to address challenges facing northern communities regarding the recruitment and retention of doctors, nurses and healthcare workers.
- what funding options, solutions and partnerships are available to develop new solutions and enhance ongoing local healthcare initiatives.
- will the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills commit to working collaboratively to provide programming and training opportunities to benefit to our region, especially as the new hospital is being built on NLC property.
- what resources the province will utilize to address gaps in mental health and addictions care.
- how the province will ensure acceptable standards of care with timely access to imaging services.
- what the province is doing to ensure adequate care is available to our growing seniors population.

The conversations we had were informative and productive. [Click here](#) for an in-depth look at our UBCM action plan.



Investing in City Infrastructure

Crews have been busy working on the Memorial Arena pad replacement project, which is progressing smoothly!

To ensure that ice users could start their season on time despite the ongoing work, we installed ice at the Oviniv Events Centre.

This will provide the crew with enough time to finish this project and the other necessary upgrades.

Learn more about the current status of the 2024 Capital Projects list at dawsoncreek.ca/capitalprojects.

OCP Update: What We Learned

The Official Community Plan (OCP) Project Team has been collecting feedback at various events. The responses have now been compiled into a new ["What We Learned"](#) report.

The OCP helps guide Council and decision-making and is due for an update this year. The new plan is expected to be presented this Fall.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Hope and Healing



Mayor Dober stopped in at the Peace Pregnancy Support Centre grand opening and ribbon cutting. Thank you to everyone involved in the centre for the support you are offering to our community.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Game, Set, Match!

"Creekside Courts," a new multi-use sports facility located in Kin Park is open!

The facility is home to four pickleball courts, two tennis courts and a multi-use court that can house volleyball or tennis.

The facility was officially named "Creekside Courts" at the request of local donor Ross Ravelli. The grand opening ceremony was a chance to celebrate the completion of this new community asset and recognize the [generous donors](#).

We owe a huge thank you to the support we received from Pacific Economic Development Canada, Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT), Cindy and Ross Ravelli and Lindberg Construction Ltd. Their generosity made this facility possible!

Join the Municipal
Matters mailing list!



EVENTS CALENDAR

Oktoberfest!

The Annual Oktoberfest is back at the Oviniv Events Centre on Sat., Oct. 26! In partnership with the Kiwanis Community Band, this event is all about raising funds and awareness and having a lot of fun!



Community Awards Gala

Come celebrate our community leaders on Nov. 7 at the Oviniv Events Centre! The awards recognize the efforts and commitments made by

individuals, businesses and groups to build a stronger community through volunteerism, achievement, acts of heroism or philanthropy.

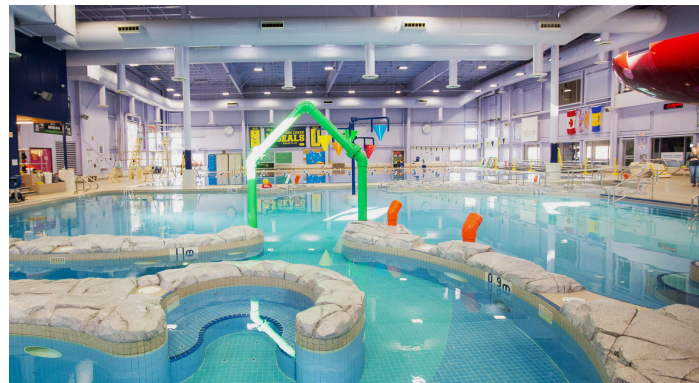


AROUND TOWN



The New Hospital is Taking Shape

We visited the site of the new Dawson Creek & District Hospital. The concrete superstructure is now complete and the tower cranes will soon be taken down. The roof installation begins in October and by the end of December, the building will be sealed and enclosed. Learn more from Northern Health.



Kenn Borek Aquatic Centre is Open!

The Mayor visited our Aquatic Centre for a tour and to say hello to our hard-working staff. Thanks to everyone for your patience as we completed our annual maintenance tasks that required the pools to be closed. There were issues that needed to be fixed to prevent larger problems from occurring.



Fall Fair Fun

Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy the 2024 Fall Fair Parade organized by the Rotary Club of Dawson Creek. It was such a fun time for the whole family – can't wait till next year!



Celebrating Canada!

It feels like just yesterday that we headed to Pouce Coupe for the Canada Day Parade! Thank you to the Village for hosting the parade each year – it's a great route and it was wonderful to see so many kids and families enjoying the festivities.