



# OUR COMMUNITY

*Dawson Creek* JULY 2017

## IMPORTANT OCP DATES

August 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>

Public Consultation at the  
Dawson Creek Exhibition & Stampede

Help develop the new Official Community Plan  
by completing the online survey at  
[www.dawsoncreek.ca/](http://www.dawsoncreek.ca/)

Draft components will be reviewed with the  
community later in 2017.

## Public Consultation on Encroachment Policy

*Written comments will be received until noon on August 14<sup>th</sup>*

The City of Dawson Creek recognizes that encroachments onto City property exist and will continue to be discovered.

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, Council approved a draft Encroachment Policy to be presented to the public for a 30 day comment period. The full report and draft policy can be found on the City's website [www.dawsoncreek.ca](http://www.dawsoncreek.ca). If you only have a couple of minutes to spare please review the following highlights.

It is the intention of the City to apply the new encroachment policy when a complaint is received, when encroachments are identified by the City through its normal work, or when an application for an encroachment is received.

The policy includes guidelines to make sure that encroachments do not:

- negatively affect City lands and easements or the City's ability to maintain effective services,
- restrict public access and enjoyment of lands for public use,
- contradict Federal/Provincial legislation, City bylaws, City policies, or City planning documents.

Encroachment applications will first be received by City staff, who will apply the following criteria before providing a recommendation to Council to either approve or reject the application:

- encroachments within an emergency access;

- encroachments that create, or have the potential to create, a hazardous situation;
- encroachments that reduce off-street parking for more than 48 hours (except those related to development);
- encroachments that obstruct sightlines;
- encroachments that obstruct or damage utilities;
- parkland designation, including levels of access and public use;
- the impact on neighbouring properties;
- the amount of land being utilized/requested;
- permits;
- new development or long standing development;
- plans for future use by the City.

If approved by Council, the required documentation will be signed and filed on title. If the application is not approved, the encroachment will have to be removed.

The policy will be reconsidered at the August 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting. **Written comments or requests to appear as a delegation must be received by noon on August 14<sup>th</sup> in order to be included on the agenda.**

Written comments will be received by email at [admin@dawsoncreek.ca](mailto:admin@dawsoncreek.ca), by mail at P.O. Box 150, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4G4 or can be dropped off at City Hall.

If you have questions please contact City Administration at 250-784-3614 or the Mayor at 250-784-3616.



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[www.dawsoncreek.ca](http://www.dawsoncreek.ca)  
[admin@dawsoncreek.ca](mailto:admin@dawsoncreek.ca)

250-784-3600  
Dial 311



## Fees and Service Charges - Increases Coming

After extensive consultation with user groups and consideration of current operating costs, Council is proposing amendments to the Fees and Charges Bylaw that would see an increase in fees to users of various City services including Community Services programs and facilities. The proposed increases will bring user fees and charges closer to the current costs to operate programs and contribute to reducing the fiscal gap between City revenues and expenditures.

Adoption of the amendments will be voted on at the next Council meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Some of the proposed changes will include:

- A 15% increase to airport landing fees for non-scheduled flights.
- A waiver for landing and terminal fees for up to 6 months for new, scheduled air passenger service. This would be considered on a case by case basis and would be approved by Council resolution.
- A new fee for the new Emergency Services Training Centre.
- An increase to some administration fees such as advertising costs.

- An increase for RCMP criminal record checks to \$50.
- An annual increase, based on the BC Consumer Price Index, will be applied to all fees and charges for 2019 and 2020, with an additional review of all fees in 2020.

The Community Services Department recently completed a lengthy user group consultation process and have proposed fee increases beginning January 1, 2018 that will affect users of the arenas, the pool and sports fields.

Increases to user fees are based on a policy to have user groups pay a set percentage of the cost of operating and maintaining the facilities they use. Recovery rates are considered case-by-case to maintain the viability of user groups.

The new rates for the fees and charges will come into effect as soon as the bylaw is adopted, except for the Community Services fees. The new rates for Community Services would come into effect on January 1, 2018.

For more information regarding the arena, pool and sport field fees please call Community Services at 250-784-3604 or email [recreation@dawsoncreek.ca](mailto:recreation@dawsoncreek.ca) for all other inquiries please contact City Administration at 250-784-3614 or email [admin@dawsoncreek.ca](mailto:admin@dawsoncreek.ca).

### Percentages of costs users pay for use of City owned and operated facilities and programs:

#### Rentals

Youth – 50%  
 Adult – 75%  
 Private Users – 100%  
 Commercial Users – 125%

#### Drop-In

Preschool – 0%  
 Youth/Senior – 25%  
 Adult – 50%  
 Family – 100%

#### Programs

Preschool – 25%  
 Youth/Senior – 50%  
 Adult – 75%

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