

**COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA**

Date: Monday, February 10, 2025, 7:15 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers of the Municipal Office
1 Mackenzie Boulevard, Mackenzie, BC

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

We would like to begin by acknowledging the land on which we gather is within the traditional territory of the Tse'khene People of the McLeod Lake Indian Band.

We would also like to let everyone know that we will be livestreaming and recording this meeting and the recordings will be made accessible on the District website and YouTube channel.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Special Meeting- January 27, 2025 5

2.2 Committee of the Whole - January 27, 2025 6

2.3 Regular Meeting - January 27, 2025 8

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Please note that all comments and questions must pertain to items listed on the agenda.

Are there any members of the public in attendance this evening who wish to comment on the agenda?

Administration are there any members of the public attending through Zoom or Phone that wish to comment on the agenda?

6. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

7. CORRESPONDENCE

THAT the Correspondence listed on the Agenda be received.

7.1 For Action:

- 7.1.1 Chamber of Commerce Spring Expo 13
Tracy Medley, Acting Office Manager, Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce, is requesting space to park vendor RVs for the weekend of May 2 & 3, 2025.
- 7.1.2 Mackenzie Community Arts Council Special Request 14
Michelle Bobrel, President, Mackenzie Community Arts Council, is requesting the re-allocation of pledged funds from the 2024 Haunted Maze to the 2024 Festival of Bells.
- 7.1.3 Mackenzie Community Arts Council - Letter of Support 15
The Mackenzie Community Arts Council is requesting a Letter of Support from Mayor and Council, for their application to Northern Development Trust Initiative: Fun and Fabulous Festivals for the 2025 Rockin' the Ridgeline event.
- 7.1.4 Mackenzie Secondary School Class of 2025 Grad Fundraising 16
The 2025 graduating class of Mackenzie Secondary School is seeking an in-kind donation for the rental of the Community Hall for their Banquet Dinner.

7.2 For Consideration:

Is there anything Council wishes to address in the "For Consideration" or "Centre Table File" correspondence?

- 7.2.1 Heritage Week 17
Heritage Week is an annual event, established by the National Trust for Canada in 1973, that encourages Canadians to learn about and advocate for the heritage in their communities.
- 7.2.2 Regional District of Fraser Fort-George 9-1-1 News Release 19
The way 9-1-1 calls are answered in the Fraser-Fort George, Bulkley-Nechako, Cariboo and Kitimat-Stikine regional districts is changing. Starting in 2026 the Fraser-Fort George 9-1-1 will answer 9-1-1 calls, determine the nature of the emergencies, and transfer callers to police, fire, or ambulance dispatch centres as required.
- 7.2.3 BC Community Bat Program - Press Release 21
The BC Community Bat Programs, in collaboration with the Province of BC, are asking the public for help in the effort to

detect and prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome (WNS) in bats. Residents are urged to report any bat activity observed in winter and any sick or dead bats found before May 31st.

7.2.4	BC Nature Municipal Protected Area Project Webinar An invitation from Stewart Guy, Executive Director, BC Nature, for the Municipal Protected Areas Project (MPAP) webinar being held on February 20, 2025.	25
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7.2.5	February 2025 Northern Health Communities E Brief	26
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7.3	<u>Centre Table File</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Joy Davy's Applications to the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and Mackenzie Public Library	
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8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

8.1	<u>Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee</u> THAT Council appoints Joy Davy to the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2027.	30
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8.2	<u>Mackenzie Public Library – Board Appointments</u> THAT Council appoints Camille McPhedran, Lynn Blackmore, and Joy Davy to the Mackenzie Library Board of Directors with a term beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026.	32
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8.3	<u>Resolution of Support – CNC Legacy Fund – Municipal Website</u> THAT Council supports the District of Mackenzie’s application to the CNC Legacy Fund grant program for up to \$60,000 in funding towards the redevelopment of our municipal website.	34
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9. COUNCIL REPORTS

9.1	<u>Mayor's Report</u>	
9.2	<u>Council Reports</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Councillor Wright	36

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. BYLAWS

13. NOTICE OF MOTION

In accordance with Council Procedure Bylaw No. 1470, the following will be considered at the February 24, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.

13.1 Notice of Motion – NCLGA and UBCM Resolutions - Foundry 39

13.2 Notice of Motion – Mental Health and Addictions Liaison 40

14. COMING EVENTS

15. INQUIRIES

- In-person
- Online (Zoom/phone)
- Written comments received

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Special Council Meeting
Minutes**

**January 27, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
District Office, 1 Mackenzie Boulevard**

Council Present: Mayor J. Atkinson, Councillor A. Barnes, Councillor V. Brumovsky, Councillor R. McMeeken, Councillor K. Tapper, Councillor J. Wright, Councillor P. Kylo

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer D. Smith, Chief Financial Officer K. Borne, Director of Operations J. Murray, Fire Chief J. Guise, Director of Corporate Services E. Kaehn, Finance Manager W. Peterson, Land and Environmental Programs Coordinator L. Thorne, Facility Manager, N. Siebert, Legislative Clerk/Executive Assistant, C. Smith

1. CALL TO ORDER

CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00pm.

Mayor Atkinson acknowledged the land on which we gather is within the traditional territory of the Tse'khene People of the McLeod Lake Indian Band.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution: 33667

Moved by: Councillor McMeeken

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. 2025 BUDGET PRESENTATION - OPERATIONS

Chief Financial Officer, Kerri Borne, provided a presentation on the 2025 Operational Budget including known impacts to the budget and proposed scenarios to fund the \$1.5 million loss in tax revenue faced by the District in 2025.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution: 33668

Moved by: Councillor Barnes

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:55pm.

CARRIED

Mayor

Corporate Officer

**Committee of the Whole
Minutes**

**January 27, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers of the Municipal Office
1 Mackenzie Boulevard, Mackenzie, BC**

Council Present: Mayor J. Atkinson, Councillor A. Barnes, Councillor V. Brumovsky, Councillor P. Kylo, Councillor R. McMeeken, Councillor J. Wright

Council Absent: Councillor K. Tapper

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer D. Smith, Chief Financial Officer K. Borne, Director of Recreation Services T. Gilmer, Director of Public Works J. Murray, Fire Chief J. Guise, Director of Corporate Services E. Kaehn, Finance Manager W. Peterson, Legislative Clerk/Executive Assistant, C. Smith, FireSmart Coordinator, M. Taylor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order at 7:00pm

Councillor Barnes acknowledged the land on which we gather is within the traditional territory of the Tse'khene People of the McLeod Lake Indian Band.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

N/A

3. REPORTS

3.1 Operations

Moved by: Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Operations reports for the months of November and December 2024 be received.

CARRIED

3.2 RCMP

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT the RCMP reports for the months of November and December 2024 be received.

CARRIED

PRIOR TO ADOPTION

- 3.3 Fire
Moved by: Councillor McMeeken
THAT the Fire reports for the months of November and December 2024 be received.
CARRIED
- 3.4 Recreation Services
Moved by: Councillor Wright
THAT the Recreation Services reports for the months of November and December 2024 be received.
CARRIED
- 3.5 Finance
Moved by: Councillor McMeeken
THAT the Finance reports for the months of November and December 2024 be received.
CARRIED
- 3.6 Council Strategic Priorities
Moved by: Mayor Atkinson
THAT the Council Strategic Priorities 2024 Fourth Quarter Report be received.
CARRIED
4. **OTHER BUSINESS**
N/A
5. **ADJOURNMENT**
Moved by: Councillor McMeeken
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:08 pm
CARRIED

Mayor

Corporate Officer

**Regular Council Meeting
Minutes**

January 27, 2025, 7:15 p.m.

Council Chambers of the Municipal Office

1 Mackenzie Boulevard, Mackenzie, BC

Council Present: Mayor J. Atkinson, Councillor A. Barnes, Councillor V. Brumovsky, Councillor P. Kylo, Councillor R. McMeeken, Councillor J. Wright

Council Absent: Councillor K. Tapper

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer D. Smith, Chief Financial Officer K. Borne, Director of Operations J. Murray, Fire Chief J. Guise, Director of Recreation Services T. Gilmer, Director of Corporate Services E. Kaehn, Finance Manager W. Peterson, Land and Environmental Programs Coordinator L. Thorne, Legislative Clerk/Executive Assistant, C. Smith, FireSmart Coordinator, M. Taylor

Visitors Present: Alice Pritchett, Director, Mackenzie Public Library, Camille Ginnever Chair Member Mackenzie Public Library

1. CALL TO ORDER

CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:15pm.

Mayor Atkinson acknowledged the land on which we gather is within the traditional territory of the Tse'khene People of the McLeod Lake Indian Band.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Regular Meeting - January 13, 2025

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 13, 2025, were adopted as presented.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

N/A

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution: 33669

Moved by: Councillor McMeeken

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

N/A

6. **PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

6.1 Mackenzie Public Library Budget Presentation

Resolution: 33670

Moved by: Mayor Atkinson

THAT the Mackenzie Public Library's request for an extra \$8043.92 be approved.

DEFEATED

Resolution: 33671

Moved by: Councillor P. Kylo

THAT Council approves a partial increase in an amount equal to the increase in the audit services fee.

CARRIED

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Resolution: 33762

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT the Correspondence listed on the Agenda be received.

CARRIED

7.1 For Action:

7.2 For Consideration:

7.2.1 Integrated Youth Services

7.2.2 Letter of Support Nuclear Energy in British Columbia

7.2.3 Industrial Inquiry Commission Reviewing Canada Post

Resolution: 33673

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT the District of Mackenzie provide input for the Industrial Inquiry Commission for the review of Canada Post.

DEFEATED

7.2.4 Northern Rockies Fire Rescue

7.2.5 Spectrum Support Newsletter

7.3 Centre Table File

N/A

8. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

8.1 2025 EOC (Emergency Operations Center) Grant

Resolution: 33674

Moved by: Councillor Barnes

THAT Council approves an application of up to \$40,000 to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) under the 2025 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to administer the grant application, and if successful, any related documentation.

CARRIED

8.2 Infrastructure Planning Grant Application – Sidewalk and Trails Assessment

Resolution: 33675

Moved by: Councillor Brumovsky

THAT Council supports the application to the Provincial Government for the Infrastructure Planning Grant for up to \$15,000 towards sidewalk and trail condition assessments and data collection;

AND THAT Council authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the grant application and any related documentation.

CARRIED

8.3 Resolution of Support – Municipal Website

Resolution: 33676

Moved by: Councillor McMeeken

THAT Council supports the District of Mackenzie’s application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust’s Marketing Initiatives grant program for up to \$20,000 in funding towards the redevelopment of our municipal website.

CARRIED

Resolution: 33677

Moved by: Councillor Barnes

THAT Council supports the District of Mackenzie’s application to SparcBC’s Local Communities Accessibility Grant program for up to \$25,000 in funding towards redevelopment of our municipal website.

CARRIED

Resolution: 33678

Moved by: Councillor Brumovsky

THAT Council supports the District’s application to South Peace Mackenzie Trust grant program for up to \$60,000 in funding towards redevelopment of our municipal website.

CARRIED

Resolution: 33679

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT Council supports the District’s application to the Outdoor Recreation Fund grant program for up to \$10,000 towards website content and accessibility updates as they relate to outdoor parks, trails, and amenities.

CARRIED

8.4 RTC – Business Façade Improvement Program 2025
Resolution: 33680
Moved by: Councillor Barnes
THAT Council approves the applications from Mackenzie Community Arts Centre, Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce, and The Purple Bicycle to the Business Façade Improvement Program to a maximum amount of \$9,969.59.

CARRIED

8.5 2024 – 4th Quarter Activity Report
Resolution: 33681
Moved by: Councillor Wright
THAT Council receives this report for information.

CARRIED

8.6 Commemorative Bench and Tree Program Review
Resolution: 33682
Moved by: Councillor McMeeken
THAT Council approve the amendment of Council Policy 1.16 as detailed in the attached report, with an amendment to allow for up to six (6) plaques per bench.

CARRIED

9. COUNCIL REPORTS

9.1 Mayor's Report
N/A

9.2 Council Reports
Councillor Wright provided a written report.
Councillors McMeeken and Barnes gave a verbal report.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

11. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution: 33683
Moved by: Mayor Atkinson
THAT, if requested, Council send a letter to McLeod Lake Indian Band Chief and Council in support of their letter to College of New Caledonia;0
AND THAT Council send a letter to College of New Caledonia directly with regard to the recent campus service and staff changes.

CARRIED

12. BYLAWS

N/A

13. NOTICE OF MOTION

N/A

14. COMING EVENTS

N/A

15. INQUIRIES

Janice Nelson, the Macktown Buzzette, noted that the total request for funding to update the Municipal Website are about \$100,000. She asked if the District would utilize that entire amount. Emily Kaehn, Director of Corporate Services, explained yes, quotes the District has received are in the area of about \$80,000. There are additional features that could be used if the budget needed to be higher. The District is hoping to have the project funded completely and are applying for multiple streams in case one or more are unsuccessful. Janice asked if the project would be posted to BCBid, Ms. Kaehn answered yes.

Janice also inquired about the language in the "Infrastructure Planning Grant" application language and asked why trails were included as they are not considered pedestrian pathways. Ms. Kaehn explained there are two projects in one application - one assessing paved pathways such as cowpaths and sidewalks, and one to help manage recreational assets such as the trail system. Janice asked if MORATA is responsible for the monitoring of the Lakeshore and Azan Trails. Mayor Atkinson responded that trails and sidewalks within District boundaries are something the District should be aware of when it comes to maintaining and repairing.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution: 33684

Moved by: Councillor Wright

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:16 pm.

CARRIED

Mayor

Corporate Officer

January 28, 2025

District of Mackenzie
Mayor and Council

Dear Mayor Joan and District Council,

The Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce would like to express their deepest gratitude to all the support, help, and mentorship that the District of Mackenzie continues to give us year after year. Thank you!

As you are aware, the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce Spring Expo is happening on May 2 & 3, 2025. We have vendors coming in from out of town to join the many local vendors. I have been asked to give a list of spaces that a RV could be parked. Is it possible to have a couple of RVs parked at the Rec Centre for the weekend?

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Tracy Medley
Acting Office Manager



Mackenzie Community Arts Council
PO Box 301, 9 Laurier Drive, Mackenzie BC V0J 2Co
www.mackenziecac.com
mackenziearts@outlook.com
(250)997-5818

February 5, 2025

ATTENTION: District of Mackenzie Mayor and Council

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Request for Re-allocation of approved grant funding

MCAC would like to thank you for your pledged contribution of \$1000 for the 2024 edition of the Haunted Maze. We have encountered a conflict with using this funding for this programme, as we cannot combine funding from Gaming with Municipal sources and so we would like to humbly request a re-allocation for this contribution.

Festival of Bells was held in December and is also one of MCAC's keystone events that we offer to the community. This event did not receive Gaming funds to deliver and did, like Haunted Maze, receive community support and donations. This year's iteration was in memorial to Doris Sinclair, who was a strong passionate advocate for the arts in Mackenzie.

We can provide a final report and budget as per standard. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Bobrel
Mackenzie Community Arts Council President
w.250-997-5818/c.250-997-1339

I acknowledge that I live, work and create within the traditional territory of the Tse'khene People of the McLeod Lake Indian Band.



Mackenzie Community Arts Council
PO Box 301, 9 Laurier Drive, Mackenzie BC V0J 2Co
www.mackenziecac.com
mackenziearts@outlook.com
(250)997-5818

February 5, 2025

ATTENTION: District of Mackenzie Mayor and Council

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Request for Letters of Support for MCAC Grant Application

Further to our request for support for our application to BC Arts Council Community Arts Festivals Component for this year's upcoming Rockin' the Ridgeline Festival,

MCAC would like to request:

THAT, the District of Mackenzie supports the application to NDIT: Fun and Fabulous Festivals for 2025's Rockin' the Ridgeline from the Mackenzie Community Arts Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Bobrel
Mackenzie Community Arts Council President
w.250-997-5818/c.250-997-1339

I acknowledge that I live, work and create within the traditional territory of the Tse'khene People of the McLeod Lake Indian Band.

MSS Class of 2025 – Grad Fundraising

Hello Council members!!!

We are thrilled to announce that the Mackenzie Secondary Class of 2025 has officially begun their graduation year!

This journey through elementary school and high school, will end with a Valedictory Ceremony on June 21st followed by our Banquet Dinner. Here we will celebrate the achievements and memories of our 2025 grads.

This year's Grad Committee would love your support with fundraising efforts! We were hoping you might be interested in donating or donating a portion of the community hall for the Banquet Dinner. Your contribution would mean so much to our grads and help us celebrate their hard work and achievements!

If you are interested in supporting the MSS Class of 2025, please contact us via email at mssgrad2025@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!!

Warm regards,

Chae Gaudreau

Student Vice President, Graduation Committee

Phone Number: 250-997-7498

MSS Class of 2025

HeritageBC



Dear Mayor and Council,

We are sending you this poster to celebrate **Heritage Week, Pastimes in Past Times**, which takes place on **February 17-23, 2025**. Heritage Week is an annual event, established by the National Trust for Canada in 1973, that encourages Canadians to learn about and advocate for the heritage in their communities.

Heritage BC is a member-based non-profit that educates and builds awareness for heritage stewardship in the province, and every year we promote Heritage Week with posters, proclamations, and themed events to raise awareness for the importance of learning about our diverse heritage across the province.

As the leaders of your community, your initiative will play an important role in stewarding local heritage for future generations. There are a few key things that you can do to promote awareness of and advocate for heritage.

- **Declare Heritage Week through a Municipal Proclamation**

Every year, the Provincial Government and local governments across BC make proclamations for Heritage Week, signaling the importance of the stewardship of heritage in this province. We have attached a template for your reference. Share your proclamation with us at info@heritagebc.ca.

- **Visit a Heritage Site, Museum, or Cultural Centre**

Consider a local government 'field trip' to a local heritage site, museum or heritage organization to learn more about your community's history. Your visit can have a lasting impact on a small not-for-profit, and signal the value they bring to the community as stewards of history and heritage.

- **Learn About the Basics of Local Heritage Conservation**

Local Governments have the capacity to conserve local heritage in all its forms through tools outlined in the Local Government Act. Familiarize yourself with these important tools by reading the free one-pagers on our website: heritagebc.ca/heritage-quick-studies.

- **Support Your Heritage Commission**

Heritage BC offers workshops and webinars for members of local heritage committees. These workshops help educate volunteers who care about heritage conservation, so they can make better informed decisions in their work.

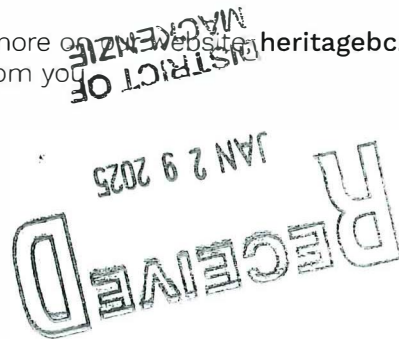
- **Become a Member**

For \$100 a year, a Government Membership to Heritage BC provides all staff planners and associated committee members with free access to our on-demand and live webinars, as well as discounts for heritage workshops and our annual conference. Promoting continuing education will create a strong foundation for the protection of your community's unique heritage.

Have questions about what we do at Heritage BC? Learn more on our website heritagebc.ca or reach out by email at info@heritagebc.ca. We would love to hear from you!

Thank you from all of us at Heritage BC!

Kirstin Clausen
Executive Director
604 417 7243
kclausen@heritagebc.ca



As a not-for-profit organization of provincial scope, Heritage BC recognizes that its members, and the local history and heritage they seek to preserve, occupy the lands and territories of B.C.'s Indigenous peoples. Heritage BC asks its members to reflect on the places where they reside and work, and to respect the diversity of cultures and experiences that form the richness of our provincial heritage.

HERITAGE WEEK

pastimes in past times

Feb 17-23, 2025



Heritage BC

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Fraser-Fort George 9-1-1 to take over answering 9-1-1 calls

January 22, 2025

Type(s)

News Releases

The way 9-1-1 calls are answered in the Fraser-Fort George, **Bulkley-Nechako**, **Cariboo** and **Kitimat-Stikine** regional districts is changing. Starting in 2026, Fraser-Fort George 9-1-1, a service provided by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, will answer the four regional districts' 9-1-1 calls, determine the nature of the emergencies and transfer callers to police, fire or ambulance dispatch centres as required.



"Fraser-Fort George 9-1-1 will provide our partner regional districts with a more autonomous 9-1-1 call answer service that can respond to the needs of northern communities and residents," says Lara Beckett, Chair of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

The regional districts have had a contract with Vancouver-based **Emergency Communications for BC Inc. (E-Comm)** to answer 9-1-1 calls since 2014. When Fraser-Fort George 9-1-1 takes over this role next year, 9-1-1 calls will be answered in Prince George for these four regional districts.

"Bringing the 9-1-1 call answering service back to north central BC will create new job opportunities and economically benefit the region," says Mark Parker, Chair of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.

"As our 9-1-1 call answer costs continued to increase, we needed to identify a more financially sustainable option for our residents," says Margo Wagner, Chair of the Cariboo Regional

District.

In 2024, a total of 104,476 9-1-1 calls were made in the regional districts, with 47,671 in the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, 23,013 in the Cariboo Regional District, 19,591 in the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine and 14,201 in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.

“We look forward to Fraser-Fort George 9-1-1 being able to apply local knowledge and provide a better experience for our residents when they need emergency services,” says Cyra Yunkws, Chair of the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine.

When Fraser-Fort George 9-1-1 takes over the call answer service, calls will continue to be transferred to the same dispatch centres as under E-Comm. Calls for police services are dispatched by the RCMP Operational Communications Centre in Prince George, calls for fire/rescue services are dispatched by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George’s Fire Operations Communications Centre in Prince George and calls for ambulance services are dispatched by the BC Ambulance Service in Vancouver, Victoria and Kamloops.

[Learn more about Fraser-Fort George 9-1-1 and the 9-1-1 call answer service](#)

February 3, 2025

BC Bats Show No Sign of Infection from White-nose Syndrome – Public Asked to Report Dead Bats

Mackenzie, BC - The BC Community Bat Programs, in collaboration with the Province of BC, are asking the public for help in the effort to detect and prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome (WNS) in bats. Residents are urged to report any bat activity observed in winter and any sick or dead bats found before May 31st.

There have not been any bats with WNS found to date in BC, but *Pseudogymnoascus Destructans* (Pd), the fungus that causes the disease, was confirmed in 2022 in the Boundary Region. Recently, the B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship released results from 413 samples taken last winter and spring, and they all came back as negative. “This was surprising, but great news, as bats with WNS have been confirmed in Alberta and in northern Washington State, just south of the border,” says Tina Watters, Omineca coordinator for the BC Community Bat Programs.

First detected in New York State in 2006, the disease continues to spread, with detections in northwestern and central Washington and in south-central Alberta. The fungus does not cause disease in humans and pets, but WNS has devastated North American bat populations. The fungus attacks bats while they are hibernating, growing on their faces to give an appearance of a white nose. Bats often wake to clean the fungus from their skin. This uses valuable energy, and eventually the bats die from starvation.

“Across North America, millions of bats have been killed, and seven of our 15 BC species could be severely affected by the disease,” says Watters. The Little Brown Myotis and the Northern Myotis are both listed as Endangered in Canada due to WNS. Though there is not yet a proven cure for WNS, several promising treatment options are being developed, and it may be possible to mitigate the effects of this wildlife health crisis.

If you find a dead bat or have sightings of winter bat activity, please report to the BC Community Bat Programs online at www.bcbats.ca, via email at omineca@bcbats.ca or by calling 1-855-922-2287 ext. 26. All live bats should be left alone — keep your distance, snap a photo and report it to the BC Community Bat Programs. If you must move a bat, visit www.bcbats.ca for advice and never touch a bat with your bare hands. Please note that if you or your pet has been in direct contact with the bat you will need further information regarding the risk of rabies to you and your pet. Contact the BC Community Bat Programs for more information. “The more bat reports from the public that we receive, the better we can understand how WNS might spread and affect local bat populations,” says Watters.

“The bats of BC are key predators of many night-flying insects. They are essential parts of BC’s ecosystems and provide a huge economic benefit by helping control agricultural, forest, and urban pests,” says Watters. In partnership with the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, the BC Community Bat Programs provide information and promote local stewardship and citizen science. The programs are supported by funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Forest Enhancement Society of BC, the Habitat Stewardship Program, and the Province of BC. You can find out

more about the BC Community Bat Programs and options for helping local bat populations at www.bcbats.ca, omineca@bcbats.ca, or 1-855-922-2287, ext. 26.

Photos:

1. White-nose syndrome occurrence map – by year (2025). Downloaded 2025-01-14. Available at <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/where-is-wns>
2. White-nose syndrome is caused by a fungus that covers the skin and wings of bats while they are hibernating. Reporting any winter sightings or dead bats helps researchers monitor and learn about bats. Photo: Jordi Segers

Contact:

Tina Watters, Omineca Region Coordinator, BC Community Bat Program

Toll free line. 1-855-922-2287 ext. 26

Cell: 403-505-2915

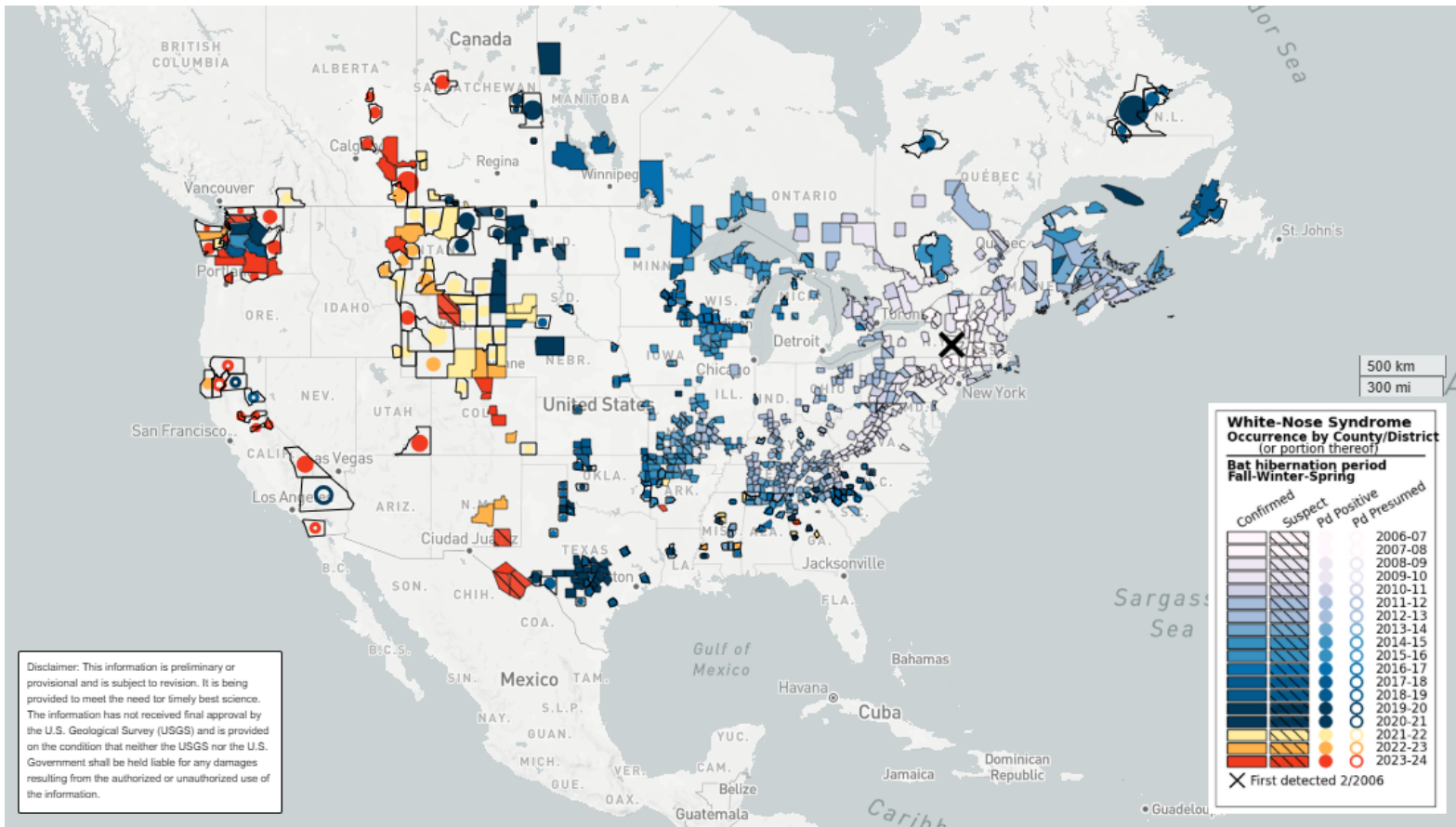
Email: omineca@bcbats.ca

Website: www.bcbats.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bcbats>

Instagram: [BC Community Bat Program \(@gotbats\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)







January 31, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: Municipal Protected Areas Project Webinar – 10 am February 20, 2025

I am contacting you on behalf of BC Nature / Land Trust Alliance of BC to inform you of the Municipal Protected Areas Project (MPAP) and to invite you and the appropriate staff to participate in a webinar on the MPAP being held on February 20, 2025.

The Municipal Protected Areas Project (MPAP) is inspired by Canada's commitment at the 2022 United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) to conserve 30% of our lands and waters by 2030 (the 30 x 30 Commitment). Municipal and local governments' protected areas are home to rich cultural and biological diversity and are integral to achieving Canada's biodiversity commitments, including the 30 x 30 Commitment.

Details on the Webinar:

BC NATURE: MPAP gives local governments the tools and resources to register their local protected areas on the Canadian database for protected lands. We will outline the requirements for candidate sites, how the registration process works, and how we can complete this work for you at no cost for your community. The MPAP is an opportunity to validate and recognize your community's conservation policies and strategic plans.

LTABC: MPAP is also promoting increased conservation efforts. The Alliance will discuss municipal support for provincial tax incentives for landowners in your community who wish to conserve ecologically sensitive properties

We invite you and the appropriate staff to attend a 1 hour webinar on MPAP being held at 10 am on February 20, 2025 to discover more. We will outline the requirements for candidate sites, how the registration process works, and how we can complete this work at no cost for your community.

JOIN THE MUNICIPAL PROTECTED AREAS PROGRAM WEBINAR (1 hour)

10 am on February 20, 2025

Register at: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/9LWNK01AT228XTSDzj_ssQ

If you require more information beforehand, please contact us at manager@bcnature.ca

Sincerely,

Stewart Guy
Executive Director, BC Nature

- c. Paul McNair, Executive Director, Land Trust Alliance of BC
- Andrew Banks, BC Nature - Project Manager, Municipal Protected Areas Project
- Julia Carr, BC Nature - Project Lead, Municipal Protected Areas Project

Welcome to the Northern Health Healthy Communities E-Brief. This monthly newsletter, brought to you by the [Healthy Communities](#) team, aims to keep local governments and community organizations in Northern BC informed about resources, upcoming events, and funding opportunities that promote health and well-being in our region.

Resources

2024 BC Child Poverty Report Card

The new [BC Child Poverty Report Card](#) shows a sharp rise in child poverty in BC. One in six children (147,570 kids) live below the poverty line. The report includes recommendations for all levels of government.

Climate Ready Infrastructure Service

This [service](#) connects local governments and communities with climate experts. It helps make infrastructure projects more resilient and low-carbon. It provides guidance and advice to better serve communities, reduce emissions, and tackle climate change.

Cold weather resources

Cold weather can be [risky](#) for everyone. Communities can reduce these risks by planning and acting together. Visit the [BC Housing website](#) for more information on emergency weather shelters and the [Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness website](#) for details on daytime warming spaces.

Social Connections Guidelines for Communities

Communities thrive when everyone feels connected and supported. These [new guidelines](#) offer ways to reduce loneliness, social isolation, and disconnection.

Events and learning opportunities

Brain Waves Online Program for grades 4 to 6

Dates: Various dates in February 2025

[Brain Waves](#) is a free program that teaches brain safety to students in grades 4 to 6. It is delivered by the BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit (BCIRPU). For more information and to register, email bcinjury@bcchr.ca.

Social infrastructure and community safety as catalysts for belonging

Date: February 5, 2025 @10-11 am PT

Join this free [webinar](#) to learn how parks, cultural programs, and community organizations can create a sense of belonging. These elements provide spaces for interaction, build trust, and promote community cohesion.

The Great BC School Food Cook-off

Dates: Now until March 1, 2025

An exciting cooking contest is heating up this winter for BC students! Create a recipe as a class made with BC foods, get featured in a new digital cookbook, and win some great cash prizes. To learn more, visit the [Farm to School BC webpage](#).

Funding opportunities

Community Grants Program (ICBC)

Deadline: February 21, 2025

This [program](#) improves the lives of British Columbians by supporting community organizations with road safety and injury recovery initiatives.

Community Foundation grant (Canada Post)

Deadline: February 28, 2025

The [Canada Post Community Foundation](#) provides grants for projects that support community, education, and health.

Local Food Infrastructure Fund (Government of Canada)

Deadline: February 28, 2025

The [Local Food Infrastructure Fund \(LFIF\)](#) supports projects that strengthen community food security. It increases access to local, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food, especially for Indigenous and Black communities.

Active Transportation Fund: Capital Project stream (Government of Canada)

Deadlines: February 26 and April 9, 2025

Local, regional, provincial/territorial, and Indigenous governments, as well as public sector and non-profit organizations, can [apply](#) for funding. This funding supports new construction, infrastructure enhancement, and safety improvements that encourage active transportation.

BC Healthy Aging Grant (United Way)

Deadline: March 7, 2025

United Way's Healthy Aging team invites grantees to an [information session](#) on February 6, 2025, from 1-2:30 PT. Learn about the 2025-26 Healthy Aging Program Offerings and Enhancement Grants.

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning (Government of BC)

Deadline: April 25, 2025

This [funding](#) supports the development of evaluation route plans and public notification plans for emergencies.

Active Transportation Planning program grants (Union of BC Municipalities)

Deadline: September 30, 2025

Local governments with populations under 25,000 can [apply](#) for up to \$30,000 for active transportation planning.

Local Community Accessibility Grants (SPARC BC)

Deadline: Ongoing until March 2026

Municipalities and regional districts in BC can [apply](#) for up to \$25,000 to support persons with disabilities. This funding helps remove barriers identified by local government Accessibility Committees or Accessibility Plans.

Regional Homebuilding Innovation Initiative (Government of Canada)

Deadline: March 31, 2026 or when funding is fully exhausted

The [Regional Homebuilding Innovation Initiative](#) supports the residential homebuilding supply chain in BC. It advances innovative homebuilding solutions and boosts manufacturing efficiency.

Homelessness Community Action Grants Program (SPARC BC)

Deadline: Ongoing

Apply for one-time [funding](#) to support local planning and collaborative initiatives that address the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Nature Smart Climate Solutions (Government of Canada)

Deadline: Open until funding is exhausted

This [fund](#) supports projects that help meet Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan. Projects can include natural climate solutions, policy development, programs, incentives, and other tools to support emission reductions.

Northern Healthy Communities Fund (Northern Development Initiative Trust)

Deadline: Ongoing

If your community is nearby an LNG Canada or Coastal GasLink project, apply for the [Northern Healthy Communities Fund](#) to help manage the economic growth from major development projects.

Secondary Suite Incentive Program (BC Housing)

Deadline: Open until funding is exhausted

With the [Secondary Suite Incentive Program](#), homeowners can get up to 50% of renovation costs (up to \$40,000). This funding helps develop a secondary suite rented below market value for at least five years.

Transit Minor Betterments Program (Government of BC)

Deadlines: Open until funding is exhausted

Public transit helps people access jobs and education, especially those with transportation challenges. [Apply](#) for up to \$100,000 for projects that improve the transit experience. These projects can include bus stop shelters, lighting, accessibility improvements, and signage. Local governments, First Nations communities or organizations, and non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply. Projects must be completed by March 31, 2025.

Northern Health Stories

Ditch the diet: Rekindle a positive relationship with food

The start of a new year often brings resolutions to “eat healthier” (which is often code for trying to lose weight). With the latest weight-loss diets hitting the media, it’s easy to get swept up in it all....[continue reading](#).

See the latest stories at stories.northernhealth.ca.

E-Brief subscription information

To subscribe, send a blank email to healthycommunities@northernhealth.ca with “subscribe” in the subject line.

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If you have any questions about our list and your privacy, please phone 250-637-1615.



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council
From: Corporate Services
Date: February 5, 2025
Subject: Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council appoints Joy Davy to the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2027.

BACKGROUND:

At the Regular meeting of November 14, 2022, Council approved and established the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee with the intention of providing advice and recommendations to Council on matters relating to citizens with disabilities, seniors, and other citizens with access issues that may impede participation in everyday aspects of community living.

Two committee member terms came to an end on December 31, 2024. A call for applicants for the vacancies was advertised throughout January 2025. Two applications were received. Upon review, Joy Davy is being recommended for appointment.

Applications are evaluated based on related work, volunteer, or lived experience with accessibility issues, whether their intentions and goals for participating on the committee aligned with the committee's terms of reference; and their availability to participate in meetings and additional committee activities. Joy Davy's application is available in Centre Table file for Council's further information.

Due to unexpected circumstances, the other applicant has asked for some time to reconsider their application to the committee.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Community and Social Development

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

Strong Governance and Finances

- As the municipality's elected governing body, we serve all residents and businesses in the community. We engage residents and stakeholders on important issues and make our decisions through open and transparent processes. We are careful in our use of resources, mindful of the need to maintain programs and services, while also meeting the community's infrastructure needs.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Emily Kaehn, Director of Corporate Services

Reviewed By: Corporate and Financial Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Administration

Date: February 5, 2025

Subject: Mackenzie Public Library – Board Appointments

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council appoints Camille McPhedran, Lynn Blackmore, and Joy Davy to the Mackenzie Library Board of Directors with a term beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

The Mackenzie Public Library Board has a rotating committee of seven members, with six members appointed by Council for two-year terms, and one Council member for a one-year term.

Four (4) Board appointments became available at the end of December 2024 (two were vacant prior to two terms ending, with no applicants).

The District advertised for the vacancies throughout January 2025 and received two applications from previous board members – Camille McPhedran and Lynn Blackmore, and one from a new applicant – Joy Davy. Staff are recommending their appointment to the Board.

If Council approves the above recommended appointments then the Library Board will have a total of six members, which is not the typical number of Board members (which is 7), however still within the requirements by the *Library Act*. Applications for the one vacancy will remain open until filled.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Strong Governance and Finances

- As the municipality's elected governing body, we serve all residents and businesses in the community. We engage residents and stakeholders on important issues and make our decisions through open and transparent processes. We are careful in our use of resources, mindful of the need to maintain programs and services, while also meeting the community's infrastructure needs.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Emily Kaehn, Director of Corporate Services

Reviewed by: Corporate Services

Approved by: Chief Administrative Officer

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Administration

Date: February 10, 2025

Subject: Resolution of Support – CNC Legacy Fund – Municipal Website

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council supports the District of Mackenzie’s application to the CNC Legacy Fund grant program for up to \$60,000 in funding towards the redevelopment of our municipal website.

BACKGROUND:

At the Regular Council Meeting on January 27, 2025, Mayor and Council provided a resolution of support for the District of Mackenzie’s applications to the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT), SparcBC, South Peace Mackenzie Trust, and the Outdoor Recreation Fund for funding towards this redevelopment of our municipal website.

Due to the high cost of the project and to improve the chances of securing full funding, administration staff recommend pursuing additional grant opportunities, including the CNC Legacy Fund. By pursuing additional grant funding, the District of Mackenzie can maximize financial support for the website redevelopment project, ensuring it is fully funded without impacting municipal budgets.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Funding to support the yearly maintenance and servicing costs will be allocated from the General Government Operating Budget.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Community and Social Development

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

Economic Vitality

- The District is a leader on efforts aimed at diversifying the community's economy, supporting local businesses, and attracting new investment to the community. Diversification, a strong business sector and new investment are key to our economic vitality.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Rachelle Richman, Economic Development Coordinator

Reviewed By: Corporate and Financial Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer

COUNCIL MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT

To: Mayor and Council
From: Councilor Wright
Date: **January/February 2025**
Subject: Report for January/February 2025

Notice to Council: I have returned to my previous job with Olameter, working as Mackenzie's gas meter reader.

Councilor Wright Council Appointments:

Education and Youth Liaison
Williston Lake Elders Society Liaison
Climate Action Liaison
Deputy Mayor (August 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025)

Alternate For:

Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Liaison
Chamber of Commerce Liaison
Alternate Director for Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG)
Alternate for Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee
Alternate Member of Northern Development Initiative Trust's (NDIT) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Activities:

Date:	Activity	Council Appointment:
January 23, 2025	Attended a presentation by Protect our Winters Canada hosted by the Climate Caucus around outdoor recreation and its impact on municipalities in terms of economies and climate change.	Climate Liaison
January 27, 2025	Participated in Mackenzie's PCN Community Collaborative Table.	N/A
January 27, 2025	Participated in a focus group around a new guide being put together around Outdoor Recreation and Community Development, hosted by professors at Selkirk College and the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC.	N/A
January 29, 2025	Attended the Mackenzie & District Museum's Annual General Meeting.	N/A
January 30, 2025	Participated in the NorthCAN Peer Network meeting hosted by the Community Energy Association.	Climate Liaison
January 31, 2025	Met with Jill Irwin from the Ministry of Forests to discuss ways they can work with the District in the future.	N/A
January 31, 2025	Participated in a meeting of the signatories of the Mental Health and Addictions Accord the District of Mackenzie signed in 2024, hosted by the NCLGA.	N/A
February 4, 2025	Attended the Chamber of Commerce's monthly Board of Directors meeting.	Chamber of Commerce Alternate

Respectfully Submitted,

Councilor Wright



COUNCILLOR WRIGHT ASK ME ANYTHING

Join me February 6th for an 'Ask Me Anything'
about what you are interested/concerned about for
Mackenzie!

Facebook Live

5:30-7PM

NOTICE OF MOTION

To: Mayor and Council
From: Councillor Wright
Date: February 4, 2025
Subject: Notice of Motion – NCLGA and UBCM Resolutions - Foundry

The date for this motion to be considered is at the February 24, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council directs staff to submit the following resolution to NCLGA and UBCM:

“Whereas youth in rural and remote British Columbia are facing mental health and wellness challenges just like their peers in urban centers,”

“Whereas Foundry BC in-person Centers are largely located in urban British Columbia and not accessible for youth in rural and remote BC communities,”

“Therefore, be it resolved that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government, commit to establishing in-person Foundry Centre's that meet the needs of rural and remote youth in their home communities, that recognizes the unique challenges of youth living in rural and remote communities.”

RATIONALE:

1. The services offered by Foundry BC are needed by the youth in Mackenzie.
2. Currently, the only option for Mackenzie youth is Foundry Virtual, which does not work for all youth.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Nothing, all this motion requires is staff/council time.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Councillor Jesse Wright

NOTICE OF MOTION

To: Mayor and Council
From: Councillor Wright
Date: February 4, 2024
Subject: Notice of Motion – Mental Health and Addictions Liaison

The date for this motion to be considered is at the February 24, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council adds to the roster of Council Liaison Appointments the role of ‘Mental Health and Addictions’ Liaison, whose role, as a starting place, is to represent the District of Mackenzie in its role as a signatory of the ‘Mental Health and Addiction’s Accord’ signed in November 2024.

RATIONALE:

1. Meetings have been planned to be held bi-monthly of signatories of the accord. With this time commitment, having a formal role of a Mayor/Councillor to do this work will provide predictability and stability to the District’s role in the group.
2. The Accord is a ‘living document,’ which means edits are expected to meet the current issues of the day and changing political landscape. Having the District of Mackenzie’s voice in these discussions is essential, as our name is on the document.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

1. Nothing, all this motion requires is staff/council time.
2. The Mental Health and Addictions Symposium held last year is intended to be an annual/bi-annual event. A consideration of a budget to assure the District of Mackenzie has in-person representation at this event could be added at a later date.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Councillor Jesse Wright