

COUNCIL MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT

To: Mayor and Council
From: Mayor Joan Atkinson
Date: October 23, 2023
Subject: Activity for month of September 2023

Date:	Activity:
September 1	Participated in meeting with Morfee Mountain Road stakeholders including representatives from MORATA, McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest and Ministry of Forests regarding District of Mackenzie request for tenure of Morfee Mountain Road.
September 6	Along with Mayors and RD Chairs, I participated in Teams meeting with Minister Ma (Emergency Management and Climate Readiness) and Minister Kang (Municipal Affairs) regarding ongoing Wildfire and Drought in the province.
September 6	Attended Special Council Meeting regarding Airport Paving Management Plan.
September 9	Volunteered at District of Mackenzie Booth at Recreation Fair. Council members took the opportunity to educate residents on the management of bear attractants. We had a "Food Cycler" on display and there was great deal of interest in this new option to compost.
September 11	Participated in Northern Development Initiative Trust Regional Advisory Committee Meeting. Application from College of New Caledonia Mackenzie campus for upgrades to their Event Space including training kitchen equipment was approved for \$100,000.
September 12	Along with Mayors and RD Chairs, I participated in Teams meeting with Minister Ma (Emergency Management and Climate Readiness) and Minister Kang (Municipal Affairs) regarding ongoing Wildfire and Drought in the province.
September 12	Participated in Resource Municipalities Coalition meeting. Terms of RMC Dissolution Agreement effective December 31, 2023, was signed. CAO's of Member Municipalities will receive database of information gathered over past 7 years

September 12	Attended Staff Appreciation BBQ hosted by Public Work Department.
September 12	Participated in Active Transportation workshop. Active Transportation encourages and supports non-motorized transportation in the community.
September 14	Attended meeting hosted by Ministry of Forests on the next steps in Timber Supply Review, which will be the apportionment of the new Annual Allowable Cut that has been set at 2.39 million cubic metres. Meeting participants included First Nation titleholders, Ministry of Forests staff and local stakeholders including Conifex Timber, East Fraser Fiber and Canfor.
September 14	Attended "Inspired by Design" Opening Reception sponsored by Mackenzie Community Art Centre.
Sep 18-22	<p>Attended "Union of BC Municipalities" conference in Vancouver. I attended numerous resolution sessions and learning opportunities/meetings with other elected officials. I participated in the following Minister Meetings:</p> <p>Minister Jennifer Whiteside Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions Topics of discussion included the establishment of a Foundry Centre in Mackenzie, which would bring together health and social services to empower young people on their path to wellness. Mackenzie is requesting one of the twelve new centres recently announced by the Ministry be located in Mackenzie.</p> <p>Minister Grace Lore – Minister of State for Childcare Topics of discussion included the recruitment and retention of teachers in our community and the need for more day care/childcare spaces in Mackenzie. In addition to meeting with Minister Lore, we also met with Provincial Childcare staff regarding childcare model in Mackenzie.</p> <p>Minister Bruce Ralston – Ministry of Forests Our topics of discussion included Tenure Redistribution to support communities and local companies, especially our Value-Added industry. We reminded government of the passing of the Forest Amendment Act, 2021, which allows the government to expropriate and redistribute existing harvesting rights. We also requested an expansion of the volume for the Community Forest that would help offset the loss of industrial tax in the past 2 years. Also touched on the recent release of the new Annual Allowable cut and the importance of having the Apportionment of that volume completed as soon as possible. It is Minister Ralston's exclusive right to determine how much volume is assigned to each licence type.</p>

	<p>Minister Adrian Dix – Ministry of Health</p> <p>Our request to Minister Dix was a re-evaluation of the current staffing model in Mackenzie as it is abundantly obvious, we are being underserved by the BC Ambulance Service. Minister Dix committed to reaching out to me, but to date, I have not yet had the opportunity for that discussion.</p>
September 25	Participated in an Information Session on “Foundry Services” in Mackenzie. It was well attended by numerous organizations from the community.
September 27	Attended Mackenzie Community Services Open House. Very exciting to see all the new programs and services available to the community.
September 27	Attended the Iris Energy Luncheon and Grant Disbursement Celebration at the CNC Event Space. Close to \$100,000 in grant funding was distributed to organizations in the community.
September 27	Participated on a team for the “Family Feud” event at the Legion which was part of the Senior’s Week festivities. Great community event that was well attended.
September 28	Attended the Connection Fair at the Rec Centre hosted by the Senior’s Week Committee. I took the opportunity to try and operate a wheelchair for the first time, which was not an easy task.
September 29	Along with other Directors of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, the City of Prince George and Lheidli T’enneh First Nation, I participated in a Community to Community Gathering in recognition of National Day of Truth & Reconciliation at the House of Ancestors in Prince George. Our special guest speaker was Dr. Daniel Sims who is an Associate Professor in the Department of First Nation Studies at UNBC and a proud member of the Tsay Keh Dene Nation. Dr. Sims provided a high level overview of the Indian Act, and each participant was presented with a copy of “21 Things You May not Know About the Indian Act (Author Bob Joseph). We also participated in a Blessing and Smudging ceremony with Elder Darlene McIntosh.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mayor Joan Atkinson