

District of Mackenzie

**COUNCIL MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT**

**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Councilor Wright  
**Date:** **September 2024**  
**Subject:** Report for September 2024

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**Councilor Wright Council Appointments:**

Education Liaison  
New Horizons Liaison  
Williston Lake Elders Society Liaison  
Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee  
Deputy Mayor (August 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024)

**Alternate For:**

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

**Activities:**

Date:	Activity	Council Appointment:
September 13, 2024	Meeting with Mayor Atkinson, CAO Smith and the Executive Director of Mackenzie Community Services Sasha Van den Berg to discuss current state of MCFD Child Protection in Mackenzie.	N/A
September 13, 2024	Meeting with MCFD Lead for Mackenzie Raylene Bryce to discuss MCFD's role and work in Mackenzie.	N/A
September 15, 2024	Participated in a Board meeting of the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) at the Fraser Basin Council office in Vancouver.	N/A
September 16, 2024	First Day of UBCM in Vancouver. Activities include but are not limited to these listed. Also numerous informal connections to others in the local government space throughout the day: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Informational session on the new Emergency and Disaster Management Act.</li><li>2. A session featuring speeches and panel discussions on the resource economy and ways it needs to change to better support communities.</li><li>3. Meeting with Minister of Health Adrian Dix, Northern Health CEO Ciro Panessa amongst other Ministry staff where we discussed the issues of i) Hospital Diversions, ii) Long Term Care Home for Seniors and iii) Neurodivergent Wait-times.</li><li>4. Attended a dinner hosted by the Truck Loggers Association, which featured speeches by Pollster David Colletto and Minister of Forests Bruce Ralston.</li></ol>	Covered multiple roles.
September 17, 2024	Second Day of UBCM: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Spent the morning in the 'Small Town Forum' which was a series of presentations geared towards communities of 5000 people or less.</li><li>2. Attended an awards ceremony where UBCM presented awards to different municipalities for excellence in different areas.</li><li>3. Attended the opening reception where I got a chance to network with other elected officials from across the province.</li></ol>	Covered multiple roles.
September 18, 2024	Day 3 of UBCM, today was a big day for Team Mackenzie! <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Started with a presentation on 911 services in BC and potential changes moving forward.</li></ol>	Covered multiple roles.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Meeting with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction, which included the Deputy Minister and Northern Health CEO Ciro Panessa to talk about Foundry expansion to Mackenzie.</li> <li>3. Next a meeting with Forestry Minister Bruce Ralston to discuss i) FSR Roads that are being closed due to faulty infrastructure and ii) expansion of Community Forest tenure.</li> <li>4. Attended a press event hosted by Houston's Mayor Shane Brienen and Mackenzie's Mayor Joan Atkinson to demand better action from the provincial government on Forestry.</li> <li>5. Participated in a lunch hosted by the North Central Local Government Association.</li> <li>6. Meeting with Minister of Education and Child Care Rachna Singh to discuss the multiple issues Mackenzie is having with SD57 and the need for more Child Care Spaces.</li> <li>7. Meeting with Minister of Economic Development Brenda Bailey to discuss support for Economic Development Initiatives in Mackenzie.</li> <li>8. Attended a town hall featuring Health Minister Adrian Dix, Citizen Services Minister Geroge Chow and Education Minister Rachna Singh. I was personally able to ask a question of Minister Singh about what she and her Ministry is doing around retention of current teachers.</li> <li>9. Attended awards ceremony and reception of the Community Energy Association (CEA).</li> <li>10. Attended reception hosted by the Council on Forest Industries (COFI).</li> </ol>	
September 19, 2024	<p>Day 4 of UBCM:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Started with Resolution voting, which sees delegates from Municipalities voting on issues of collective importance, and whether we agree UBCM should advocate for moving forward. I spoke to Mackenzie's resolution advocating to lower wait times for Neurodivergent Assessments, which seemed to have unanimous support from members.</li> <li>2. Watched a speech from Premier David Eby. Of note for Mackenzie, Premier Eby specifically mentioned Mayor Joan Atkinson and praised her for the work she did getting the acute tower deal done for the PG Hospital.</li> </ol>	Covered multiple roles.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Had some free time so wandered around the trade show, met with different businesses and organizations that have something to offer municipalities.</li> <li>4. Participated in a meeting with representatives from BC Hydro. Councilor Brumovsky led the session, where he asked for BC Hydro's help with our Downtown revitalization plan, in particular overhead Hydro infrastructure and whether it can be moved underground. I was able to ask at the end questions about accessibility and inclusion at BC Hydro Rec Sites, namely the bathrooms at the Alexander Mackenzie Landing.</li> <li>5. Attended a session on Mental Health and Elected Officials. Which was a mixture of speeches and interactive activities.</li> <li>6. Attended the Conference final Reception and Banquet.</li> </ol>	
September 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	<p>Final Day of UBCM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Started the day with another round of resolution voting.</li> <li>2. A speech was delivered by Federal Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson.</li> <li>3. A speech by BC Conservative John Rustad.</li> <li>4. A speech and Q&amp;A from BC Greens Leader Sonia Furstenau. I was able to ask one question, where I asked her what the BC Greens will do to support rural and northern forestry communities if elected. She did not really give a straight answer, she seemed to suggest a province wide switch to clean energy is part of the solution, but she was unclear how that connected specifically to rural and northern communities.</li> <li>5. Finished with a final round of resolution voting.</li> <li>6. In a personal highlight for me, I got to meet former Chief of Staff to Premier Christy Clark and current Hotel Pacifico host Mike McDonald!</li> </ol>	Covered multiple roles.
September 21, 2024	Attended the Community Awards hosted by the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce	Chamber of Commerce Alternate
September 23, 2024	Attended the Community Grants Ceremony and Luncheon hosted by IREN	N/A
September 23, 2024	Had a meeting with Mackenzie's Teachers Union President Shannon Pride to discuss education in Mackenzie	Education Liaison
September 24, 2024	Stopped by the Community Connections Fair at the Rec Centre for Seniors Week. Was able to participate in the 'live it for a minute' that the Access and Inclusion Committee hosted.	N/A

September 24, 2024	Was a guest speaker for a Foundry BC staff meeting, outlining what Mackenzie has been doing to try and advocate for Foundry to come to Mackenzie and what Mackenzie is currently doing to support youth	Education Liaison
September 26, 2024	Participated in an orientation session as a member of the Mackenzie Primary Care Network (PCN) Community Representative for the PCN Steering Committee on which I sit	N/A
September 27, 2024	Meeting with Foundry staff to debrief guest speaking appearance earlier in the week.	Education Liaison
September 30, 2024	Organized and facilitated a film screening in honour of Truth and Reconciliation Day in the Mackenzie Community Services Board Room. Screened the film 'Colonization Road' to 15 some odd people and raised \$100 for the First Nations Caring and Family Society.	N/A
September 30, 2024	Participated in the monthly Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance (CSIA) BC/Yukon Region Board meeting. Had an update from the National Board on the goings on there.	N/A

Respectfully Submitted,

Councilor Wright