

NOTICE OF MOTION

To: Mayor and Council
From: Councillor Jesse Wright
Date: December 2, 2025
Subject: 2026 Mayor and Council Travel Policy Amendments

This recommendation will be considered at the January 12, 2026 Regular Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council adopts the Mayor and Council Travel Policy starting in 2026 as outlined in this report.

BACKGROUND:

Key Highlights of Changes:

- Lower discretionary budget for individual Councillors
- More specific travel covered, but tied to specific Council Liaison roles

Mayor and Council Travel Budget Policy

Discretionary Budget (Members can choose how to spend this money without seeking approval of the rest of Council):

- Mayor: \$15, 000
- Council Members: \$2,500

Events Covered for Every Member Regardless of Role and DOES NOT count towards Discretionary Budget:

- 1) Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA)
- 2) 1 of North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) **OR** Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) **OR** Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) *** (FCM can only be once per four year elected term)
- 3) Any event or Conference that is being hosted in the District of Mackenzie or that the District of Mackenzie is hosting/co-hosting.

Extra Events Covered that DO NOT count towards Discretionary Budget (Based Off Council Liaison Appointments*):

Chamber of Commerce Liaison:

- 1) Fee for Monthly Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce Luncheons
- 2) Northern BC Tourism Summit
- 3) BC Chamber of Commerce AGM

Forestry Liaison:

1. BC Community Forest Conference and AGM
2. Council of Forest Industries (COFI) AGM
3. Natural Resources Forum

Mining Liaison:

1. Natural Resources Forum
2. Minerals North

Mental Health and Addictions Liaison:

1. Mental Health and Addictions Symposium

Climate Action:

1. CEA's NorthCAN Conference

Library Liaison:

1. BC Library Association Conference

Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

1. An additional discretionary budget of \$1000 per year to travel and build relationships. To go for things like meals, gifts and other relationship building activities.

Special Considerations/Clarifications

- 1) This list is per calendar year.
- 2) If a liaison cannot make an event in their category, the budget for said event can be shifted to the named alternate if both liaison and alternate agree.
- 3) Any member of Council at any time can request travel in addition to the above. The request needs to be brought to an open Council meeting under New Business or a Notice of Motion and be voted on by the rest of the Council with an explanation of why the additional travel is of benefit to the Municipality.
- 4) New events arise and are cancelled all the time. This travel list should be reviewed annually at the same time Council Appointments are named.

- 5) None of this list should be viewed as mandatory. It just gives flexibility and predictability to members of Council to know what they can and cannot attend each year.

Rationale:

1. Each Council Liaison Role has different expectations of events, some like Mining have events like Minerals North well others like Education have no corresponding events. It is not fair for members in those roles to have to use the same budget as others when more is being asked of them.
2. Local Government Leadership Academy is the only event focused 100% on making members of the Council better at their job of being elected officials. Everyone should be allowed to attend every year; it will make for a better municipality.
3. NCLGA, UBCM and FCM are the three big conferences per year, every Councilor should be able to attend 1 per year.
4. None of this list is mandatory. It just gives flexibility and predictability to members of Council to know what they can and cannot attend each year.

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:

Councillor Jesse Wright

Reviewed By: Corporate Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer