



# AGENDA

## Regular Council Meeting

3:00 PM - Monday, June 8, 2026  
City Hall Council Chambers

Page

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

**2. NOTICE OF NEW BUSINESS:**

- 2.1. Mayor's List
- 2.2. Councillors' Additions
- 2.3. Chief Administrative Officer's Additions

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA BY CONSENSUS:**

**4. RECOMMENDATION(S) FROM JUNE 8, 2026 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING:**

**5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

- 5 - 15
- 5.1. **May 25, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes**  
[260525 - Regular](#)

**6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:**

**7. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS:**

- 16 - 58
- 7.1. **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2026 Proclamation**  
Lorna Penner, BC Northeast Mentor and Sharron Hammond, Coordinator - BC Association of Community Response Networks  
[World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2026 Proclamation Request Fort St. John and Area Community Services and Care for Seniors](#)

[BC Association of Community Response Networks Brochure](#)  
[World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2026 Proclamation](#)

59 - 61

7.2. **NCLGA Community Leadership Awards**

Social Responsibility Award - Council's Response Committee on Housing and  
Emergency Shelter

Economic Development Award - Downtown Action Plan

Lifetime Achievement Award - Trevor Bolin

[NCLGA Social Responsibility Award - City of Fort St. John CRCHES](#)

[NCLGA Economic Development Award - City of Fort St. John Downtown Action  
Plan](#)

[NCLGA Lifetime Achievement Award - Trevor Bolin](#)

**8. DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMITS / TEMPORARY USE PERMITS  
ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

None

**9. PUBLIC AND STATUTORY HEARINGS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS:**

None

**10. CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

**11. COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE ADOPTION:**

62 - 116

11.1. **Administration Report No. 0106/26**

June 8, 2026 Council Information Package

[08 Jun 2026 - 0106/26 - June 8, 2026 Council Information Package](#)

**12. REPORTS FROM CAO AND ADMINISTRATION:**

117 - 120

12.1. **Administration Report No. 0103/26**

2026 Local General Election and Assent Vote

[08 Jun 2026 - 0103/26 - 2026 Local General Election and Assent Vote](#)

121 - 127

12.2. **Administration Report No. 0104/26**

Tender Award - Lower Bouffieux Coulee Dike Armouring

[08 Jun 2026 - 0104/26 - Tender Award - Lower Bouffieux Coulee Dike  
Armouring](#)

**13. BYLAWS:**

- 128 - 138 13.1. Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 2634, 2026  
**Bylaw to be adopted by title only**  
[Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 2634, 2026](#)

**14. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 139 - 140 14.1. Council Calendar  
[June 8 2026 Council Calendar](#)

**15. NOTICE OF MOTION:**

**16. QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC:**

**17. REPORTS BY MAYOR & COUNCIL:**

**COUNCILLOR STEWART**

**COUNCILLOR MACDOUGALL**

**COUNCILLOR ZABINSKY**

**COUNCILLOR BOLIN**

**COUNCILLOR LEQUIERE**

**COUNCILLOR KLASSEN**

**MAYOR HANSEN**

**18. CLOSED MEETING:**

18.1. **Closed Items Released to the Public**

None

141

18.2. **June 8, 2026 Resolution to Move to Closed Council Meeting**  
[260608 - Resolution to Move to Closed](#)

**19. ADJOURNMENT:**



**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL  
MAY 25, 2026  
3:00 PM  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Lilia Hansen  
Councillor Trevor Bolin  
Councillor Gord Klassen  
Councillor Jim Lequiere  
Councillor Byron Stewart  
Councillor Tony Zabinsky

**ALSO PRESENT:** Milo MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer  
Darrell Blades, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Jessica Bowie, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Lucas Panoulas, Chief Corporate Services Officer (3:04pm)  
Robert Norton, Director of Public Safety/Fire Chief  
Kylah Bryde, Director of Community Services  
Shirley Collington, Director of Finance  
Jennifer Decker, Director of Development Services  
Ryan Harvey, Communications Manager (3:04pm)  
Charlene Jackson, Planning Manager  
Stephanie Peters, Manager of Economic Development  
Keith McKinley, Facilities Manager  
Naomi Gallant, Community Development Coordinator  
Christina Brace, Deputy Corporate Officer  
Glennis Wunderlich, Administrative Assistant II (recording secretary)

- 1. Call to Order:**  
The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.
- 2. Notice of New Business:**  
None
- 3. Adoption of Agenda by Consensus:**  
The May 25, 2026 Regular Council meeting agenda was adopted as presented by consensus.

**4. Adoption of Minutes:**

**May 11, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

RESOLUTION NO. 134/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT, the minutes of the May 11, 2026 Regular Council meeting be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED

**5. Business Arising Out of the Minutes:**

None

**6. Presentations and Delegations:**

**National AccessAbility Week and Easter Seals Red Shirt Day Proclamation**

Lori Slater, Community Member and Naomi Gallant, City of Fort St. John  
Community Development Coordinator

The presenters greeted Council and explained that the Northeast Accessibility Committee was formed in response to the Accessible BC Act (2021), which requires prescribed organizations, including local governments, and other public-sector bodies, develop accessibility strategies and form accessibility committees.

Local governments in Northeast British Columbia collaborated to develop a regional approach, including a Collaborative Accessibility Plan and the formation of the Northeast British Columbia Collaborative Accessibility Committee.

The following communities are part of Northeast Accessibility Committee:

- Northern Rockies Regional District,
- Peace River Regional District,
- City of Dawson Creek,
- City of Fort St. John,
- District of Chetwynd,
- District of Hudson’s Hope,
- District of Taylor,
- District of Tumbler Ridge, and
- Village of Pouce Coupe.

Membership of the committee is comprised of staff, community, and members of organizations that work with individuals with accessibility challenges. The committee currently has 35 members, with many members having lived experience with a disability. There are nine seats that are reserved for staff appointed from each local government to serve as liaisons between the committee and local governments.

The broad purpose of the Committee is to provide a forum for discussion of issues affecting people with all types of disabilities in the region, inform local governments on accessibility issues and solutions in the region, and make recommendations for improvements. The Committee will also identify accessibility barriers and solutions, review feedback from the public and provide

## 6. Presentations and Delegations:

### National AccessAbility Week and Easter Seals Red Shirt Day Proclamation

(continued)

Lori Slater, Community Member and Naomi Gallant, City of Fort St. John  
Community Development Coordinator

input on community plans, actions, and designs with an accessibility lens, and organize and participate in relevant community events and awareness activities.

The Chief Corporate Services Officer and the Communications Manager arrived at the meeting.

The Committee meets monthly to discuss accessibility matters, welcoming presentations and discussion topics from local governments on projects that may benefit from an accessibility lens. Community feedback is collected and relayed to local governments. Implementation of the Northeastern BC Collaborative Accessibility Plan is monitored and progress is regularly reported among participating communities.

Ms. Slater explained that it is important to understand that disabilities may be visible or non-visible. A range of disability types and challenges experienced in the community were referenced, including physical, auditory, visual, learning, mental, speech, and age-related disabilities.

National AccessAbility Week is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Canadians with disabilities and to promote accessibility and inclusion, supported through nation-wide events that celebrate, educate, and encourage learning.

Easter Seals Red Shirt Day was first celebrated in 2019 and occurs annually on the Wednesday of AccessAbility Week. "Try it On" is an open awareness and education event taking place on the NVT Logistics Walking Track from 3:00 to 5:00 pm on June 2. People are encouraged to wear red, take photos, make a pledge to improve accessibility and inclusion, and share commitments using #RedShirtDay and #RedForAccessAbility on social media posts.

Councillor Zabinsky asked if there were any other awareness and education events planned. Ms. Slater replied that the Try it On event is the only event planned for the near future. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to wear red to participate.

Councillor Lequiere asked about improvements that have been made in Fort St. John as a result of the Committee. Ms. Slater explained that there have been improvements and provided proper curb cuts as an example of a change that has improved travel.

Councillor Klassen asked if there were other accessibility advocacy efforts underway. Ms. Slater replied that building awareness and promoting education is an ongoing effort. The Committee has been active for three years and working with community members to advance accessibility and inclusion. The Committee took public feedback and worked with staff of the North Peace Cultural Centre to ensure accessible seating was more suitably arranged and located. The Committee was also consulted when enhancements to Kin Park were designed.

**6. Presentations and Delegations:**

**National AccessAbility Week and Easter Seals Red Shirt Day Proclamation**  
(continued)

Lori Slater, Community Member and Naomi Gallant, City of Fort St. John  
Community Development Coordinator

Councillor Stewart asked if organizers of large events such as the air show and Energetic County Fair occasionally reach out to the committee for input on event planning. Ms. Slater replied that the Committee is sometimes contacted and receives submissions from the public. The Committee does not often perform outreach, therefore, it is important to raise awareness of how accessibility issues can be reported and addressed.

RESOLUTION NO. 135/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT, the week of May 31 to June 6, 2026 be proclaimed ‘National AccessAbility Week’, and June 3, 2026 be proclaimed ‘Easter Seals Red Shirt Day’ in the City of Fort St. John.”

CARRIED

**Pride Week 2026 Proclamation**

Jessica Beaumont, Vice President; Jade Mah, Acting Chair; and Abby-Hannah Landon, Director - North Peace Pride Society

Ms. Beaumont introduced herself and the other presenters and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present.

The North Peace Pride Society (NPPS) is in its 11th year of celebrating diversity and inclusion in the Northeast. The Society is registered under the Societies Act of British Columbia, is in good standing, and is financially sound with a strong sponsorship base.

Pride celebrations continue to be important locally and globally, particularly in light of ongoing challenges affecting LGBTQ2S+ communities. Canadian Pride groups have faced reductions in funding from both governments and corporate sponsors, which have been attributed to shifts in the economic and political culture. In recent years, changes to policies affected access to medical care for members of the transgender community in some Canadian jurisdictions, underscoring the need to work to create and maintain safe and inclusive spaces, and continuing advocacy for equality and acceptance within society.

NPPS is a volunteer-run, non-profit society, funded through membership fees, sponsorships, grants, and revenue-generating events. The Society uses its resources to host an annual Pride Walk and Festival at Centennial Park, as well as community events such as dances and art and games nights, while also providing support to local youth outreach programs. It was noted that the City of Fort St. John provided a \$500 grant in 2026 to support the rental of chairs and tables for the Pride Walk and Festival.

NPPS has adopted a requirement for vulnerable persons screening for all directors and volunteers involved in youth mentorship.

**6. Presentations and Delegations:**

**Pride Week 2026 Proclamation** (continued)

Jessica Beaumont, Vice President; Jade Mah, Acting Chair; and Abby-Hannah Landon, Director - North Peace Pride Society

Rising violence against LGBTQ2S+ communities and changes to legislation has emphasized the importance of providing safe and inclusive spaces, fostering compassion, and promoting compassion, diversity, and inclusion within the community. The 2026 Pride Walk is planned to take place June 6 beginning in Centennial Park at 2:00 pm.

RESOLUTION NO. 136/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT, the week of May 30 to June 6, 2026 be proclaimed ‘Pride Week’ in the City of Fort St. John.”

CARRIED

**Philippine Heritage Month 2026 Proclamation**

Alan Yu

Mr. Yu introduced himself and thanked Council for the opportunity to present. On October 30, 2018, Canada’s House of Commons unanimously passed M-155, a motion officially designating the month of June as Filipino Heritage Month across the country.

The Filipinos have a long history in Fort St. John, stretching back to the mid 1960’s when the first Filipino nurse arrive in Fort St. John. There is still an influx of Filipinos in Fort St John, with the majority being Temporary Foreign Workers and Students. Filipinos continue to be a productive sector of Fort St John.

RESOLUTION NO. 137/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT, the month of June 2026 be proclaimed ‘Philippine Heritage Month’ in the City of Fort St. John.”

CARRIED

The Community Development Coordinator left the meeting.

**7. Development Variance Permits / Temporary Use Permits Administration Reports:**

None

**8. Public and Statutory Hearings and Public Meetings:**

None

**9. Correspondence:**

None

**10. Council Information Package Adoption:**

**Administration Report No. 0101/26**

May 25, 2026 Council Information Package

RESOLUTION NO. 138/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, the Council Information Package for May 25, 2026 be received for discussion."

CARRIED

The Community Development Coordinator returned to the meeting

**11. Reports from CAO and Administration:**

**Administration Report No. 0080/26**

Community Services 2026 Group Purchasing for North Peace Arena Basement Heating and Ventilation System Upgrade

RESOLUTION NO. 139/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, Council approve Administration Report No. 0080/26 - Community Services 2026 Group Purchasing for North Peace Arena Basement Heating and Ventilation System Upgrade for the purchase price of \$254,444, plus applicable taxes."

CARRIED

The Facilities Manager and the Manager of Economic Development left the meeting.

**Administration Report No. 0088/26**

North Peace Fall Fair - Conference or Event Sponsorship Grant Request

RESOLUTION NO. 140/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, Council approve the event sponsorship application from the North Peace Fall Fair to sponsor the 2026 North Peace Fall Fair in the requested amount of \$5,000."

CARRIED

The Manager of Economic Development returned to the meeting. The Community Development Coordinator left the meeting.

**11. Reports from CAO and Administration:**

**Administration Report No. 0093/26**

Ratification of Council Survey Poll - Amendment to Extend Lease of Office Space at Kids Arena Field House

RESOLUTION NO. 141/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT, the following Council Survey Poll, conducted by email on May 1, 2026, be ratified:

*THAT, Council approve an amendment to the Office Space Lease Agreement between the City of Fort St. John and the Fort St. John Association for Community Living for office and storage space located at the Kids Arena Field House (9615 96 Avenue),  
AND THAT, the amendment extends the original lease for three additional months, with an option for a further month-to-month extension of five months, ending no later than December 31, 2026,  
AND THAT, all other provisions, including the monthly rent amount of \$1,320, remain unchanged,  
AND THAT, the Mayor and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the amendment agreement.”*

CARRIED

**Administration Report No. 0094/26**

Local Area Service Project No. 01/2026 - Roadworks - 111 Avenue

Councillor Klassen asked if the owners of the subject properties were previously approached regarding the proposed improvements. The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer explained that two proposed local area service projects on the gravel section of 111 Avenue were previously initiated by the City, and they were not supported by the property owners. Staff will be considering other strategies to upgrade remaining gravel roads in the city.

Councillor Stewart asked if development on the south side of 111 Avenue would impact the outcome of a proposed local area service project. The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer replied that both properties on the south side of 111 Avenue were included in the recent proposal, and that development may not result in a different outcome.

RESOLUTION NO. 142/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT, the Certificate of Sufficiency of Petition to Council to Not Proceed with Local Area Service No. 01/2026 - Roadworks, be received,  
AND THAT, 92% of the property owners representing 84% of the value of the parcels liable to be specifically charged for this project are in opposition to the project proceeding,  
THEREFORE, Local Area Service No. 01/2026 - Roadworks, will not proceed.”

CARRIED

**11. Reports from CAO and Administration:**

**Administration Report No. 0095/26**

Tender Award - Surerus Park Playground Construction

Councillor Stewart asked if the tender was for installation only or if equipment was included. The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer explained that purchase of the equipment was not included as it was already procured and that the current tender includes installation, as well as surface covering and trail construction.

RESOLUTION NO. 143/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, Council award the tender for the Surerus Park Playground Construction project to Van der Pauw Landscaping Ltd. of Maple Ridge, BC, for the unit rates set out in their tender submission dated April 23, 2026, in the amount of \$859,076.00."

CARRIED

**Administration Report No. 0096/26**

2025 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)

RESOLUTION NO. 144/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, Council approve the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) for the year ended December 31, 2025,  
AND FURTHER THAT, the Mayor and Director of Finance be authorized to sign the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Approval."

CARRIED

**Administration Report No. 0099/26**

Application for Non-Farm Use in Agricultural Land Reserve at 10661 86 Street

Councillor Klassen inquired about the possibility of providing support setting a precedent for future applications and asked if neighbours are provided an opportunity to give input on applications. The Director of Development Services explained that applications are all considered individually and that an increase in applications is feasible. This application will progress to the Agricultural Land Commission upon receiving support from Council and a Public Hearing will be held if the application is approved at that level.

RESOLUTION NO. 145/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, Council provide municipal support for a Non-Farm use application to the Agricultural Land Commission on the property located at  
Civic Address: 10661 86 Street, Fort St. John, BC, PID: 018-939-759  
Legal Description: Lot 2 Section 5 Township 84 Range 18 West of the Sixth Meridian Peace River District Plan PGP38300."

CARRIED

**12. Bylaws:**

**Administration Report No. 0098/26**

City of Fort St. John Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 2634, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 146/26

MOVED/SECONDED

“THAT, City of Fort St. John Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 2634, 2026 be introduced and read for the first three times by title only.”

CARRIED

**13. New Business:**

**Council Calendar**

The Council Calendar was received for information.

Councillor Zabinsky noted that the calendar should indicate that the Fort St. John Co-op AGM is scheduled for 5:00 to 8:00 pm and that the Fort St. John and District Chamber of Commerce AGM is scheduled from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. The upcoming Regional District Board meeting is being held in Chetwynd.

**14. Notice of Motion:**

None

**15. Questions from the Media and Public:**

None

**16. Reports by Mayor & Council:**

**Councillor Zabinsky**

- Participated in the Northern Health Forum, panel sessions, and evening gala at the North Central Local Government Association AGM where the City of Fort St. John received two Community Leadership Awards and Councillor Bolin was awarded NCLGA's Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Attended the Peace River Regional District Board Meeting.
- Participated in the MS Walk.

**Councillor Lequiere**

- Attended the Peace River Regional District Board Meeting as Alternate Director.
- Joined the City of Fort St. John Mental Health Conference at the Pomeroy Hotel.
- Attended the Bluey Day celebrations at Centennial Park.
- Participated in the MS Walk.

**Councillor Stewart**

- Attended the Bluey Day celebrations at Centennial Park.
- Observed the Province's naming of the John Horgan Dam.

## 16. Reports by Mayor & Council:

### Councillor Klassen

- Attended a Seniors Taskforce Meeting as Council Liaison.
- Joined the International Education Orientation at Northern Lights College.
- Participated in the raising of the MS Flag in front of City Hall.
- Attended the Firefighters Charity Ball.
- Attended the 2026 BC Economic Summit.
- Participated on the UBCM Hiring Committee for the Executive Director position.
- Joined a Northern Medical Programs Trust event where over half a million dollars were disbursed to support education and retention of medical professionals in Northern BC.
- Attended the NCLGA Annual General Meeting and Conference where all three resolutions submitted by the City of Fort St. John were endorsed.
- Participated in the Trade Diversification with CETA Virtual Information Session.
- Participated in a Project Heavy Duty Tour.

### Councillor Bolin

- Celebrated Nurse's Week with medical staff at the Fort St. John Regional Hospital while recovering from surgery.
- Greeted attendees of the City of Fort St. John Mental Health Conference on behalf of Council.

### Mayor Hansen

- Attended the Day of Mourning Walk and Luncheon, together with Councillors Klassen, Zabinsky, Lequiere, and staff, who joined community members in honouring BC workers lost to workplace injury or illness.
- Attended a Community-to-Community Meeting with Doig River First Nation with Peace River Regional District Directors in Dawson Creek.
- Together with Councillor Zabinsky, attended the Peace River Regional District Board Meeting, followed by a Regional Hospital District Board meeting.
- Participated in the Raising of the MS Flag in front of City Hall with local MS representative Sherri Mytopher, and Councillors Zabinsky and Klassen.
- Together with Council, attended the local Firefighters Charity Ball.
- Attended the Robert Olgivie Elementary School Art Show.
- Participated in McHappy Day.
- Attended District of Taylor's Emergency Preparedness 2026 BBQ.
- Attended a Webinar - Community Safety and Street Disorder.
- Supported Legion's Mother's Day Loonie Auction Fundraiser.
- Attended Community Futures Peace Liard Committee Meeting.
- Attended Northern Health - Municipal/Regional partner information call.
- Together with Economic Development staff and Councillor Zabinsky, attended the 2026 BC Economic Summit.
- Participated in a Teams meeting with Northern Health and Peace River Regional District Healthcare Committee to discuss Peace Villa 3.

**16. Reports by Mayor & Council:**

**Mayor Hansen** (continued)

- Together with Councillor Klassen and Councillor Zabinsky, attended the NCLGA AGM and Convention. The City of Fort St. John was presented with two Community Leadership Awards, for the categories Economic Development and Social Responsibility. Councillor Bolin was awarded NCLGA's Lifetime Achievement Award for exceptional leadership and dedication.
- Participated in a North Peace Airport Society Hiring Committee Meeting.
- Participated in the Trade Diversification with CETA Virtual Information Session.
- Together with members of Council, participated in a Project Heavy Duty Tour with Jeff Mayer.

**17. Closed Meeting:**

**Closed Items Released to the Public**

None

**May 25, 2026 Resolution to Move to Closed Council Meeting**

RESOLUTION NO. 147/26  
MOVED/SECONDED

"THAT, Council move to a Closed Council Meeting for the purpose of discussing:  
(c) Labour relations or other employee relations."

CARRIED

**18. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

**Confirmed by Council this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026**

**CERTIFIED CORRECT IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH SECTION 124 OF THE COMMUNITY CHARTER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lilia Hansen, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bonnie McCue, Corporate Officer



May 18, 2026

Glennis Wunderlich

Administrative Assistant

10631 100 Street Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Z5

250-787-8042

The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day flag is scheduled to be flown at City Hall from June 9-16, 2026.

A purple light-up of Centennial Park Stage is scheduled for June 15, 2026.

Dear Glennis,

On behalf of the BC Association of Community Response Networks (BCCRN), I am writing to request a proclamation by Mayor Lilia Hansen in recognizing **World Elder Abuse and Awareness Day** (WEAAD), on June 15, 2026. WEAAD brings communities together each June 15th to promote the dignity and rights of older adults. This global movement, launched in 2006, combines education, advocacy, and celebration to create a world where aging is honoured, and elder abuse is eliminated. It is a day to raise awareness about abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults- an issue that impacts individuals, families, and communities across British Columbia. This year marks 20 years of collective action, and we invite you to be inspired by the power of partnership as we strengthen our impact in communities across BC.

This year's theme "Be Bold – Age with Attitude" celebrates the strength, wisdom, and resilience of older adults while promoting their right to live free from abuse and discrimination.

Across British Columbia, BC CRN's 90+ Community Response Networks (CRNs) are preparing events and awareness activities.

I am requesting to have purple lighting lit up on the stage at Centennial Park on June 13 to 15 and to have our WEAAD flag flown at City Hall.

Wear purple on June 15 to show your support and help shine a light on the importance of aging with dignity. Let's stand together to celebrate aging and take a stand against elder abuse.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lorna Penner

Lorna Penner

Regional Mentor- BC Northeast

BC Association of Community Response Networks

(BC CRN)

[lorna.penner@bccrns.ca](mailto:lorna.penner@bccrns.ca)

250-261-1385

BC Association of Community Response Networks (BC CRN)  
#505 8840-210 Street, Box 349 • Langley, BC V1M 2Y2  
Email: [info@bccrns.ca](mailto:info@bccrns.ca) • Fax: 1-800-986-0841 • Web: [www.bccrns.ca](http://www.bccrns.ca)



BC ASSOCIATION OF  
**Community Response Networks**  
*Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect ...Together.*



**United Way**  
British Columbia

Working with communities in  
BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland,  
Central & Northern Vancouver Island

## FORT ST. JOHN AND AREA COMMUNITY HEALTH GUIDE CARING FOR SENIORS 2026

The information in this guide is a collaborative effort created by volunteers from the BC Association of Community Response Networks (BCCRN), Save our Northern Seniors (SONS) and the Fort St. John and Area Community Connector (United Way).

To the best of our ability we have tried to cover all services and providers in our local area. We are providing information, not endorsements. To access a digital copy for reference or printing go to:

[https://bccrns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/FSJ\\_Community\\_Health\\_Guide\\_2026\\_Revised.pdf](https://bccrns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/FSJ_Community_Health_Guide_2026_Revised.pdf)

Or go to the BC Association of Community Response Networks homepage at:

<https://bccrns.ca/>

Find a CRN, Fort St. John Community Response Network, Fort St. John Community HealthGuide 2026

**Printed copies** are available at several locations in our community. You can also contact SONS [mackeno35@gmail.com](mailto:mackeno35@gmail.com) or the Seniors Community Connector [250-784-5392](tel:250-784-5392) for locations and more information.

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**HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CLINICS**

**Fort St. John Hospital: 250-262-5600**

**Fort St. John Hospital Lab Booking (bloodwork): 1-888-223-1530**

**Fort St John Hospital Medical Imaging: 250-261-7424**

**Dawson Creek Hospital Medical Imaging: 250-784-7320**

**Chetwynd Hospital and Health Center Medical Imaging: 250-788-2236**

**Home Support: 250-263-6040 or 250-261-7210 (Medication check, Bathing, Wellness check)**

**Home Care: 250-263-6021 (Wound Care/Bloodwork)**

**Long Term Care: 250-263-6002 (Assessments/Support)**

**Fort St. John Health Unit: 250-263-6000**

Primary Care Services includes a combination of the following services: Case Management, Home Care Nursing, Home Support (including CSIL), Rehabilitation (occupational therapy/physiotherapy) Services, Social Worker, Palliative Care Nurse Consultants, Health Services for Community Living, Primary Care Nursing, Mental Health and Substance Use Services, and Life Skills services.

**Hudson's Hope Health Center: 250-783-9991**

**Dawson Creek Health Unit: 250-719-6500**

**Chetwynd Health Unit: 250-788-2236**

**ABC Clinic: 250-785-1220**

9842 101st Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

**North Peace Primary Care Clinic: 250-262-0016**

10504 100th Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

**Fort St. John Family Practice:** 250-785-6677  
10011 96th Street, Fort St. John, BC

**Fort St. John Cancer Clinic:** 250-261-7358

**Dawson Creek Cancer Clinic:** 250-795-6156

**Longevity Care Clinic**  
Melanie Chapple, RD  
#350-10501 100 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 1Z2  
Melanie@mindfuleatingmatters.ca

**Greenwoods Dental Centre:** 250-787-6363  
10031 100 Street, Fort St John, BC V1J 3Y5

**Alaska Avenue Dental Clinic:** 250-787-1606  
11116 100 Avenue #3, Fort St John, BC V1J 1Z8

**Accent Dental:** 250-787-1918  
9629 100 Avenue, Fort St John, BC V1J 1Y2

**Fort St. John Dental Clinic:** 250-785-1867  
9523 100 Avenue, Fort St John, BC V1J 1Y1

**North Peace Dental and Implant:** 250-785-4513  
9860 101 Avenue, Fort St John, BC V1J 2B2

**Apex Dental:** 250-787-7820  
9131 96a Street, Fort St John, BC

**Blooming Smiles Dental Hygiene Inc:** 250-263-5681  
10008 88 Street, Fort St John, BC V1J 3G6

**Strasdin Orthodontics:** 250-785-0169  
9852 101 Avenue, Fort St John, BC V1J 2B2

**Northern Lights Dental Clinic:** 250-785-7888  
9838 100 Avenue, Fort St John, BC V1J 1Y5

**Fostering Smiles Dental Hygiene:** 778-242-4224  
9730 101 Avenue #204, Fort St John, BC V1J 2A8

**Complete Care Denture Clinic:** 250-785-7000  
10021 100 Street, Fort St John, BC V1J 3Y5

**Dr. Kerim Ozcan:** 250-787-1848  
Unit C, 9629 100 Avenue Unit B, Fort St John, BC V1J 1Y2

**Dr Lertruchikun Dental Corp:** 250-785-1867  
9523 100 Avenue, Fort St John, BC V1J 1Y1

**Northern Vision Care-Partner of FYidoctors:** 250-785-2020  
9808 101 Avenue, Fort St John, BC V1J 2B2

**North Peace Optometry Clinic:** 250-785-8055  
10035 100 Avenue, Fort St John, BC V1J 1Y7

**Merwin Optical Ltd:** 250-787-0232  
9920 101 Avenue, Fort St John, BC V1J 2B2

**PHARMACIES**

**Shoppers Drug Mart:** 250-785-6155  
10351 100 Street, Fort St. John, BC

**Safeway Pharmacy:** 250-261-5479  
91230 100 Street, Fort St. John, BC

**Walmart Pharmacy:** 250-261-5544  
9007 96A Street, Fort St. John, BC

**Peace Pharmacy:** 250-785-1140  
9840 101 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

**Fort St. John Pharmacy and Wellness Center:** 250-785-3234  
9730 101 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

**Loblaw Pharmacy:** 250-785-2527  
9831 98A Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

**IDA Family Drug Mart:** [250-261-7039](tel:250-261-7039)

10504 100 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

**InnoviCares** is a free drug savings card available to all Canadian residents. Apply online at [Free Drug Payment Card | innoviCares](#)  
Simply sign up to get your card and take it to your pharmacy with your prescription. InnoviCares coordinates with your pre-existing insurance plan(s) to save you money. No insurance? No problem. InnoviCares can be used with or without insurance to help you lower the cost of your medications at the pharmacy

## **NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES**

**Register for a family doctor:** [8-1-1](tel:8-1-1) or [7-1-1](tel:7-1-1) for the deaf and hard of hearing

**Health Connect Registry/ HealthLink BC** (online registration)

Registration takes less than five minutes. To register, please provide your:

- Personal Health Number (PHN), found on your BC Services Card or BC Driver's Licence
- Home address
- Email address and phone number

**HealthLink BC:** [811](tel:811) Available 24/7

Health advice, assistance, services, information

**Division of Family Practice FSJ and Hudson's Hope:** [778-715-2917](tel:778-715-2917)

**For an extensive list of Northern Health resources go to:**

[northernhealth.ca](http://northernhealth.ca)

**Choice in Supports for Independent Living (CSIL):** [250-263-6000](tel:250-263-6000)

CSIL is a self-directed option for eligible home support clients for Independent Living.

**Northern Health Lifeline Program /Medic Alert System:** [250-645-3758](tel:250-645-3758) or [1-800-851-0184](tel:1-800-851-0184)

Lifeline is an easy-to-use medical alarm service designed to reduce the risk of living alone. In the event of a fall emergency, help is available at the touch of a button. The Lifeline Personal Help Button connects you to a trained Personal Response Associate who can send help quickly – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Virtual Clinic:** 1-844-645-7811 10:00am-10:00pm, 7days a week

The Virtual Clinic will focus on providing timely care for patients in the Northern Health region who **do not have a primary care provider**, particularly those in rural and remote areas with chronic or complex care needs. It is supported by a compassionate team of health care professionals including doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, mental health clinicians, a social worker, and a physiotherapist.

If you have a primary care provider, the clinic will help connect you to the most appropriate resource, whether that be your own primary care provider, a Virtual Clinic nurse or other health care professional, a local pharmacy, walk-in clinic, urgent and primary care centre in your community, or other virtual clinic options.

**NHTracks:** 250-262-5200

**NH Tracks** shows where your family member, friend or loved one is during their surgery from the time they check in for surgery until they are discharged to go home or to the inpatient unit. NH Tracks uses a unique patient code called Tracks ID. Give the Tracks ID to your family so they can follow your progress. Please contact the hospital surgery booking office if you would like your Tracks ID.

**Telehealth:** Telehealth connects you with your out-of-town health care provider over a secure connection using your own smartphone, computer, or tablet. You can talk with your health care provider as if they were in the room.

Contact: [telehealth@northernhealth.ca](mailto:telehealth@northernhealth.ca)

**HealthElife:** HealthElife is a digital tool that gives you 24/7 secure online access to your electronic health record from any computer, tablet, or smartphone. You can also access the information and services of any adult, child, or elderly family member you may be supporting in care.

**The Regional Chronic Diseases Program:** 250-261-7339

Promotes partnerships and linkages between Primary Care and Specialty Services and Specialists who are providing care to patients with chronic diseases. Services for cancer, cardiac, chronic pain, diabetes, HIV and Hepatitis C, kidney, and stroke care.

**Health Services for Community Living (HSCL):** 250-645-3712 Fax: 250-645-8068

The HSCL program provides non-emergency specialized nursing, rehabilitation, dietary and dental hygiene services to adults who have a developmental disability and are eligible for services under Community Living British Columbia (CLBC).

Prince George Legion Wing 3701 Rainbow Drive, Prince George BC V2M3V9

## **Complaint Process for Health Concerns:**

If you have a complaint in regards to yourself or on behalf of a loved one please first speak to the provider of the service or the area manager.

If your complaint remains unresolved after discussing the issue with the service area, encourage you to contact our **Patient Care Quality Office:**

Patient Care Quality Office

299 Victoria Street, 6Th Floor

Prince George, BC V2L 5B8

Toll- free: 1-877-677-7715 Fax 250-565-2640

Email: [patientcarequalityoffice@northernhealth.ca](mailto:patientcarequalityoffice@northernhealth.ca)

You can expect your complaint to be dealt with promptly and fairly. The Patient Care Quality Office will:

- Formally register your complaint
- Work with you to identify a reasonable resolution to your concerns
- Provide you with a response to your complaint and an explanation about any decisions and actions taken as a result of your complaint

What happens once you register a complaint?

If you are calling on behalf of yourself, the Patient Care Quality Office will work with you to identify the issues you wish to follow up on and negotiate a mutually acceptable resolution to whatever the concerns may be.

If you are calling on behalf of a family member or other individual, you will be asked to have the individual. The complaint is in reference to, contact us directly to ensure their perspective about the matter is understood and to confirm what follow up they wish to occur. If they are unable to do so, you will be asked to provide proof of your authority to act on behalf of that individual and or to receive feedback about that person's care or service with Northern health this is done in order to protect the clients privacy and accordance with the confidentiality policies and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Individuals within the health authority, who are responsible for monitoring the quality of care provided by their respective programs will be asked to undertake an examination of the identified issues of concern. Once that is complete, a response will be provided directly to whomever has the authority to receive it, typically the individual the information is about, or with that person's authorization a third-party such as a family member.

What if I'm still not satisfied?

If you feel that the response from the Patient Care Quality Office has not addressed your concern about the healthcare you received, you may contact the **Patient Care Quality Review Board** for consideration of your concern. The Patient Care Quality Review Board is made up of people who live in your region and are independent of the

health authority. For more information about the Patient Care Quality Review Board visit:

[www.patientcarequalityreviewboard.ca](http://www.patientcarequalityreviewboard.ca)

To request a review of your complaint by a board, please contact:

Patient Care Quality Review Boards

PO Box 9643

Victoria, BC V8W 9P1

Phone: 1-866-952-2448. Fax: 250-952-2428

Email: [contact@patientcarequalityreviewboard.ca](mailto:contact@patientcarequalityreviewboard.ca)

Website: [www.patientcarequalityreviewboard.ca](http://www.patientcarequalityreviewboard.ca)

**HOME CARE SUPPORT**

**Wings of Care:** 250-793-5043

[www.wingsofcare.ca](http://www.wingsofcare.ca)

[wingsofcare@outlook.com](mailto:wingsofcare@outlook.com)

phone lines are open from 8am – 8pm Monday to Friday

**Classic Lifecare:** 250-563-3501

Home Health Care Fort St. John - Classic LifeCare

**Northern Health:** 250-263-6040 or 250-261-7210

**Ashley's Home Care Service:** 250-329-6772

**Northern Health Home Care Nursing**

**Northeast Health Service Delivery Area**

Chetwynd 250-788-7305

Dawson Creek 250-719-6500

Hudson's Hope 250-783-9991

Fort Nelson 250-774-7092

Fort St. John 250-263-6000

Tumbler Ridge 250-242-4262

**MEDICAL SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Medical Alerts:** Technology to keep your loved one safe

**NH Lifeline office:** 250-645-3758 or toll-free at 1-800-851-0184

**Telus SmartWear Security:** [telus@email.telus.com](mailto:telus@email.telus.com)

Necklaces, keychains, bracelets etc. shares your location with up to 5 contacts

**Airtags:** Google Airtags for information

**Fort St. John Pharmacy and Wellness Center:** 250-785-3234

9730 101 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

Minor Ailments Prescribing, Medication Compounding, Foot Care, Wound/Ostomy

Continence Care, Home Healthcare, Blister Compliance Packaging,

Immunizations/Travel Medicine Advice, Travel Clinic, Opioid Agonist Treatment,

Smoking Cessation, Drive-thru Pharmacy. For detailed information please go to Fort St.

John Pharmacy & Wellness Centre – Centered on Your Health

**Drea's Footcare and Esthetics:** 250-401-8267

All footcare services are performed by a Certified Podologist (C. Pod.) A pedicure with a C. Pod. is a non-medical advanced pedicure service, with a technician who has in-depth knowledge of skin and nail disorders as well as diabetic and geriatric foot care. The technician also has advanced working knowledge of the structure of the feet from biomechanics to gait and has learned corrective techniques to improve your gait and foot health. Footlogix Professional footcare line is used, with a specifically designed gentle electronic filing system.

**We offer mobile footcare service!** We understand mobility constraints, so we are happy to come to you. *C. Pod's cannot diagnose, but will recommend and refer for any medical issues.*

**Marlene Hayne:** 778-256-7779

Footcare and Hair Care

**HME Home Health E-Store**

[www.hmec.com](http://www.hmec.com)

Mobility and accessibility equipment

**Red Cross:** 250-262-0083

Medical Equipment Rentals

**Arthritis Society Canada: 1-800-321-1433**

arthritis.ca/resources  
arthritis.ca/get-involved  
arthritis.ca/newsletter  
info@arthritis.ca

**BC Lung Association: 604-731-5864 or Toll Free: 1-800-665-5864**

2675 Oak Street  
Vancouver, BC V6H 2K2  
info@bclung.ca

**Rainbow GP: 877-596-7653**

Breathing Supports – Fresh Air Machine  
Rainbow GP serves Grand Prairie and Fort St. John and has models for Fresh Air Machines.

**MedPro Respiratory Care: 1-888-310-1444**

Unit A - 8707 100 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 1W9

**Adaptive Clothing Silverts' Adaptive Clothing – Women, Men, Adaptive Kits**

customercare@silverts.com

**Wheelchair/walker Repair: 250-261-1080 or 250-785-5055**

Based in Fort St. John but is willing to go to Fort Nelson  
Greg Large – Cost is determined by Greg

## **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Northern BC residents can get help immediately by contacting any one of the following:

- Suicide Crisis Helpline – Call or text 9-8-8
- 310 Mental Health Support – Call 310-6789 for emotional support, information, and resources specific to mental health
- 1-800-SUICIDE – Call 1-800-784-2433 if you are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including thoughts of suicide

- Northern Health Virtual Clinic – Call [1-844-645-7811](tel:1-844-645-7811) for access to a family doctor or nurse practitioner, including for mental health needs

**The Alcohol and Drug Information and Referral Service:** [1-800-663-1441](tel:1-800-663-1441)

**Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre at BC Children's Hospital:** [604-875-2084](tel:604-875-2084)

or Toll-Free: [1-800-665-1822](tel:1-800-665-1822)

Healthy Minds Centre

Entrance #85, Room P3-302

4500 Oak Street

Vancouver, BC V6H 3N1

[kelycentre@cw.bc.ca](mailto:kelycentre@cw.bc.ca)

For kids and teens (ages 20 and under), professional counselors are available to help, 24 hours a day. It's free, confidential, and anonymous. Visit <https://youthinbc.com/> to chat online with a crisis responder.

**Fort St John Mental Health & Addiction Services:** [250-263-6080](tel:250-263-6080)

10011 96 Street, Fort St. John, BC, Canada V1J 3P3

**Government of BC Access for Mental Health and Substance Use:**

- Visit [HeretoHelp.bc.ca/Get-Help](http://HeretoHelp.bc.ca/Get-Help) or email [support@heretohelp.bc.ca](mailto:support@heretohelp.bc.ca) to speak to a mental health and substance use navigator
- Northern Health region: [1-844-645-7811](tel:1-844-645-7811)
- Visit [HelpStartsHere.gov.bc.ca](http://HelpStartsHere.gov.bc.ca) for a comprehensive list of publicly funded mental health and substance use supports across B.C.
- Opioid Treatment Access Line: [1-833-804-8111](tel:1-833-804-8111)

**Community Program:** [250-263-6080](tel:250-263-6080)

The Mental Health & Substance Use community programs offer services that include a combination of functions with interprofessional teams, as well as some specialty services, i.e. Developmental Disabilities Mental Health (DDMH), Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), etc. Youth addictions counselling and referral, elderly services counselling, early psychosis, eating disorders, vocational and recreation rehabilitation is also available at most community programs. Community programs provide assessment, treatment and referrals for adults. Hours of operation: Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

10011 96th Street, Fort St John, BC V1J 3P3

After hours or emergency line:

**Hospital:** [250-262-5200](tel:250-262-5200)

**Crisis Line: 1-888-562-1214**

**HeretoHelp** is a project of the BC Partners for Mental Health and Substance Use Information. We are a group of seven leading mental health and substance non-profit agencies. Since 2003, we've been working together to help people live well and better prevent and manage mental health and substance use problems.  
<https://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/>

**Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health (CCSMH): 1-888-214-7080**

The CCSMH works to promote seniors' mental health by connecting people, ideas and resources. Our comprehensive focus areas include Anxiety, Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD), Delirium, Depression, Mental Health in Long-Term Care, Social Isolation and Loneliness, Suicide Risk and Prevention of Suicide, Substance Use and Addiction, and Wellness in Aging.  
20 Crown Steel Drive, Unit #6, Markham, ON L3R 9X9 Email: [info@ccsmh.ca](mailto:info@ccsmh.ca)

**PsychClinic FSJ: 250-263-9313** (A referral only practice)

We are a blended team of Psychiatric professionals who focus on providing inclusive quality care to the underserved Northeast BC. Local holistic, whole health services for local people.

**Ministry of Children and Family Development Child & Youth Mental Health Intake Clinic Fort St. John: 250-263-0121**

Children and youth can access free and voluntary community-based mental health supports and services in BC

**Child & Youth Mental Health Toolkit** with links to resources (PDF)

Centre for Suicide Prevention equips Canadians with information, knowledge and skills to respond to those considering suicide. Visit <https://www.suicideinfo.ca/>  
Visit <https://bc.211.ca/> or dial 2-1-1

**211** is Canada's primary source of information for government and community-based, non-clinical health and social services. The free and confidential service can be accessed 24 hours a day. You do not have to give your name or personal details to ask for information.

**ANXIETY CANADA** offers trusted resources and programs to help people better understand and manage anxiety, and find the relief they need.  
<https://www.anxietycanada.com/>

## **MINDSHIFT CBT**

A free mental health app with evidence-based anxiety relief. Scientifically proven strategies based on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) to help you learn to relax and be mindful, develop more effective ways of thinking, and use active steps to take charge of your anxiety.

**Centre for Addiction and Mental Health** <https://www.camh.ca/>

CAMH's goal is to provide hope and a path toward recovery from mental illness and substance use for anyone in need.

## **Wellness Together Canada**

A mental health and substance use website to support people across Canada and Canadians living abroad.

<https://www.wellnesstogether.ca/en-CA>

## **Indigenous Mental Health Services:**

- KUU-US Crisis Response Service provides culturally-aware crisis support for Indigenous peoples in BC. Call [1-800-588-8717](tel:1-800-588-8717)
- Métis Crisis Line – Call [1-833-MetisBC](tel:1-833-MetisBC) [1-833-638-4722](tel:1-833-638-4722)
- National Indian Residential School Crisis Line provides support for former Residential School students and those affected. You can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-hour National crisis line: [1-866-925-4419](tel:1-866-925-4419)

## **PALLIATIVE CARE & GRIEF SUPPORT**

**Fort St. John Palliative Care & District Palliative Care Society:** [250-787-2814](tel:250-787-2814)

#106-10142-101 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 2B3

## **Northern Health Palliative Care**

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to be added to our monthly distribution list, please contact our team at

[Palliative.Care.Consult.Team@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Palliative.Care.Consult.Team@northernhealth.ca)

**BC Centre for Palliative Care: 604-553-4866**

Provides education, resources and supports for individuals & families, healthcare providers, community organizations, researchers.

<https://www.bc-cpc.ca/>

**Grief Boxes: Connie Greyeyes 250-793-1468**

Donated self care items, support and information for grief loss.

**Healing Hearts FSJ**

A support group for people who have lost loved ones to the opioid crisis.

[Healingheartsfj@gmail.com](mailto:Healingheartsfj@gmail.com)

**British Columbia Bereavement Helpline: 1-877-779-2223**

[www.bcbh.ca](http://www.bcbh.ca)

**Dying With Dignity Canada**

[events@dyingwithdignity.ca](mailto:events@dyingwithdignity.ca) or website at [www.dyingwithdignity.ca](http://www.dyingwithdignity.ca)

Facebook page: Dying with Dignity Canada

[info@dyingwithdignity.ca](mailto:info@dyingwithdignity.ca)

**ADVANCE CARE PLANNING**

**NIDUS: 604-408-7414**

We provide British Columbians with education, support, and assistance with personal planning and Representation Agreements, and have developed institutional expertise about the creation, use, and support around these important planning tools.

[info@nidus.ca](mailto:info@nidus.ca)

**Fort St. John Palliative Care Society: 250-787-2814**

Advance Care Planning courses and assistance

**Advance Care Planning Websites:**

**[Advance Care Planning - Province of British Columbia](#)**

**[Advance Care Planning Canada: A CHPCA Initiative](#)**

**[FNHA-Preparing-Basket.pdf](#)**

## **MEDICAL TRAVEL FUNDING**

### **Travel Assistance Program – TAP BC: 1-800-663-7100**

The Ministry of Health, in partnership with private transportation carriers, has a program called Travel Assistance Program (TAP BC). TAP helps alleviate some of the transportation costs for eligible BC residents who must travel within the province for non-emergency medical specialist services not available in their own community. The website outlines Eligible Services, Eligible Individuals and the Application Process. Your physician, nurse practitioner or specialty clinic will provide the TAP form and complete most of it for you.

Travel Assistance Program (TAP BC) - Province of British Columbia

### **Canadian Cancer Society: 1-888-939-3333**

Offers financial assistance with travel expenses associated with accessing cancer treatment for low income individuals

### **Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction: 1-866-866-0800**

Transportation and accommodation costs may be covered for individuals receiving income and/or disability assistance. Assistance is intended to meet non-local travel costs associated with essential medical treatment

### **Fort St. John FireFighters Charity Society**

fsjfc@gmail.com

### **Veterans Affairs Independence Program: 1-866-522-2122**

Funding provided to assist veterans with transportation to medical appointments

### **Treaty 8 Medical Transportation: 250-785-0612 ext. 243**

The Medical Transportation Benefit is a supplementary benefit intended to provide financial support when a Client is accessing medically necessary health services not available in their Community of Residence. This support may include coverage towards the cost of transportation, meals and accommodation.

medicaltransport@treaty8.bc.ca

## **OUT OF TOWN ACCOMMODATIONS FOR FAMILY & CAREGIVERS**

The BC Government website offers a Medical Travel Accommodation Listing webpage at <http://csa.pss.gov.bc.ca/medicaltravel/>. When booking, request medical rate or long

term rental rate. Enter the city and dates of stay to generate results.

<https://csa.pss.gov.bc.ca/medicaltravel/>

**Easter Seals House:** [1-800-818-3666](tel:1-800-818-3666)

3981 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC

### **Out of town patients who need to travel to receive cancer treatment:**

**Kordyban Lodge Prince George:** [250-562-3535](tel:250-562-3535)

1100 Alward Street, Prince George, BC, V2M 7B1

- meals and snacks
- volunteer driver program to help you get to and from medical appointments
- wig and breast prosthesis services
- wellness and supportive care programs such as dog therapy, art and music sessions

**Canadian Cancer Society Lodge Vancouver:** [604-879-9131](tel:604-879-9131)

575 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4C3

- meals and snacks
- wig and breast prosthesis services

**Southern Interior Rotary Lodge Kelowna:** [250-712-2203](tel:250-712-2203)

330 Strathcona Avenue, Kelowna, BC, V1Y 5K7

- meals and snacks
- volunteer driver program to help you get to and from medical appointments
- wig and breast prosthesis services
- Look Good Feel Better program

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Community**

**Handy Dart Booking:** [250-787-9373](tel:250-787-9373)

To register and eligibility requirements call BC Transit [250-787-7433](tel:250-787-7433)

**BC Transit- Fort St. John Transit System:** [250-787-7433](tel:250-787-7433)

**BC Bus North:** [1-844-564-7494](tel:1-844-564-7494)

**Teco Taxi:** [250-787-0641](tel:250-787-0641)

**Fort St. John Cabs:** 250-785-3342

**Energetic Taxi Cabs:** 250-261-8888

**Coastal Rides:** 1-855-921-2226

## **Medical**

**Northern Health Connections:** 1-888-647-4997 (outside of BC call 1-250-564-7499)  
<https://nhconnections.ca>

### ***schedule subject to change***

This service is for all northern residents travelling outside their home community for non-emergency health care or who need to get home after travelling by ambulance to another community. Travel companions can also travel with you and immediate family may use the bus to travel to support family members who require health care services outside of their home community. This service is also available for seniors (over 60) and people with mobility challenges.

**Hope Air:** 1-877-346-4673

Provides Canadian residents in financial need with free flights to travel to medical appointments away from their home community

\*\*Hope Air assesses all applications for travel support on a case-by-case basis based on two primary criteria:

- A confirmed appointment covered by your provincial healthcare plan, and;
- A demonstrated financial need.

**TR Cares:** 1-250-242-7444

Free medical shuttle every Thursday from Tumbler Ridge to Chetwynd to meet the Northern Health Bus. Transportation is also provided for Tumbler Ridge residents travelling to Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, and Grande Prairie for medical appointments.

## **SUPPORT GROUPS & VICTIM SERVICES**

**Fort St. John RCMP Victim Services:** 250 787-8138  
10712 100th Street, Fort St John, BC V1J 3Z6

**Community Based Victim Services: 250-785-6021**

Community Bridge

10142 101 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 2B3

**Seniors Abuse & Information Line (SAIL): 604-437-1940 or Toll-Free at**

**1-866-437-1940 Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm excluding statutory holidays.**

SAIL is a confidential means for seniors to speak to a professional intake worker about issues that affect their well-being, receive information, or learn about our programs.

Language interpretation is available.

**First Link Dementia Helpline: 1-800-936-6033 (English), 1-833-674-5007 (Cantonese & Mandarin), or 1-833-674-5003 (Punjabi)**

Online and in person

[alzbc.org/programs-services](http://alzbc.org/programs-services)

Connect to First Link by asking your health-care provider for a referral or by calling the First Link Dementia Helpline, available Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Pain BC: 1-844-430-0818**

[supportline@painbc.ca](mailto:supportline@painbc.ca)

[www.painbc.ca/supportline](http://www.painbc.ca/supportline)

**Self-Management BC - University of Victoria: 1-866-902-3767**

[selfmgmt@uvic.ca](mailto:selfmgmt@uvic.ca)

Programs on chronic pain and medical conditions

**Fort St. John Support Group for MS: 250-263-8058**

This group is for people living in Fort St. John and the surrounding area who are affected by Multiple Sclerosis

**Salvation Army: 250-785-5891/ Admin Office 250-785-0506**

10116 100 Avenue, Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 1Y6

Website: <http://www.safsj.org/>

**Spinal Cord Injury BC: 250-787-1912**

[peervolunteerfsj@sci-bc-ca](mailto:peervolunteerfsj@sci-bc-ca)

**Seniors Outreach & Resource Centre: 250-861-6180**

#115 - 2065 Benvoulin Court, Kelowna, BC

[soos\\_projects@seniorsoutreach.ca](mailto:soos_projects@seniorsoutreach.ca)

**Alzheimer Society of BC Northern Region:** 250-564-7533 or 1-866-564-1642

811 Victoria Street, Suite 302, Prince George, BC, V2L 2L6

[info.princegeorge@alzheimercbc.org](mailto:info.princegeorge@alzheimercbc.org)

**Fort St. John Alzheimer's Support Group:** 250-785-3876

Meet the third Thursday of the month in the Peace Lutheran church fellowship lounge at 7:30 from Sept. until June

**Alzheimer Society - BC & Yukon Division:** 1-877-952-3181

**Fort St John Cancer Support Circle Society:** 250-263-7824

[fsjcsc@gmail.com](mailto:fsjcsc@gmail.com)

**North Peace Community Resources Society:** 250-785-6021

**Community Bridge**

Counselling and support services

[info@communitybridge.ca](mailto:info@communitybridge.ca)

10142-101 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 2B3

**Pacific Post Partum Support Society:** 1-855-255-7999

<https://postpartum.org>

**Confident Parents:Thriving Kids** [www.confidentparents.ca](http://www.confidentparents.ca)

**Post Secondary Students online support** [hearttotalk.ca/main](http://hearttotalk.ca/main)

**BC Schizophrenia Society:** 250-261-9189

[www.bcscs.org](http://www.bcscs.org)

**Parkinson's Support Group:** 1-800-668-3330

Many of our support groups now offer virtual meetings via Zoom, providing flexibility and accessibility. For details or to connect with a local group facilitator, please contact us.

[supportgroups@parkinson.bc.ca](mailto:supportgroups@parkinson.bc.ca)

**Northern Brain Injury Association:** 1-250-224-4673

**Smoking cessation** [www.quitnow.ca](http://www.quitnow.ca)

**Traumatic Brain Injury** [www.tbiguide.com](http://www.tbiguide.com)

**BCACC Clinical Counselling** <https://bcacc.ca/>

**Fort St John Grief Support Mental Health & Substance Use Resources:**  
250-264-2804

**Counselling for those with extended benefits/third party insurance**

- BC Assoc. of clinical counsellors [www.bcacc.ca](http://www.bcacc.ca) for list of clinicians
- Psychology today [www.psychologytoday.com/ca](http://www.psychologytoday.com/ca) for list of clinicians
- Cognito [www.getcognito.ca](http://www.getcognito.ca) for paid mental health services

**Canadian Diabetes Association:** 705-791-7203

Abbott Diabetes Care Division

<http://www.abott.com/contact>

**BC Diabetes Office:** 1-888-874-9333 or 604-683-3734

400 – 210 W Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 3W2

Email: [info@bcdiabetes.ca](mailto:info@bcdiabetes.ca)

**Fort St. John Diabetes Education Center:** 250-261-7439

8407-112 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 0J5

**Alcohol and Drug Information**

**Referral Service:** 1-800-663-1441

[www.drugrehab.ca](http://www.drugrehab.ca)

**Support Group for Overdose/Opioid Crisis:** 250-793-8817

Group meets Wednesdays at 7pm - Treaty 8 building

[phtwobs@hotmail.com](mailto:phtwobs@hotmail.com)

**Life Ring Secularity-Sobriety Self Help**

[www.Liferingcanada.org](http://www.Liferingcanada.org)

**Alcoholics Anonymous Fort St John:** 250-785-8866

Al-Anon meetings Monday @7pm Calvary Baptist Church. Enter north side of church

[www.fsjintergroup@gmail.com](http://www.fsjintergroup@gmail.com)

**Peace Area Narcotics Anonymous:** 1-877-463-3537

[www.peaceareana.com](http://www.peaceareana.com)

**Trafalgar Addiction Treatment Centre:** 1-855-730-8984  
traflgarresidence.com

**Fort St John Adult Day Treatment Program:** 250-261-7208

**Prince George Detox:** 250-645-7420

**Grande Prairie Detox:** 780-538-6300

**Towards The Heart:** [www.towardstheheart.com](http://www.towardstheheart.com)

**British Columbia Centre on Substance Use:** [bccsu.ca/drug-checking](http://bccsu.ca/drug-checking)

**Drug Rehab Centers in Canada:** 1-877-254-3348  
DrugRehab.ca

#### **Web Based Resources**

- Mental Health resources  
[www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/bc-guidelines/depression-in-adults](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/bc-guidelines/depression-in-adults) (right side of the page has a patient guide pdf to download)
- BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services - [www.bcmhsus.ca](http://www.bcmhsus.ca)
- Anxiety Canada [www.anxietybc.ca](http://www.anxietybc.ca)
- Wellness Together: Free counselling funded by the government  
<https://www.wellnesstogether.ca/>
- Bounce back 1-866-639-0522 [www.bounceback.ca](http://www.bounceback.ca)

#### **Apps for Smart Phone**

- Mindshift- free app that is Cognitive Behavior Therapy based
- How we feel – [howwefeel.org](http://howwefeel.org)
- Balance- free year trial for anxiety
- Lifeguard of Besafe – for substance use while alone

#### **SENIORS HOUSING AND FACILITIES**

**Peace Villa:** 250-262-5200

**Northern Health Long Term Care**

Assessment by Northern Health Required

8407 – 112th Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 0J5

**Residents' Bill of Rights**

**Commitment to care**

**1. An adult person in care has the right to a care plan developed:**

- (a) specifically for him or her, and
- (b) on the basis of his or her unique abilities, physical, social and emotional needs, and cultural and spiritual preferences. Rights to health, safety and dignity

**2. An adult person in care has the right to the protection and promotion of his or her health, safety and dignity, including a right to all of the following:**

- (a) to be treated in a manner, and to live in an environment, that promotes his or her health, safety and dignity;
- (b) to be protected from abuse and neglect;
- (c) to have his or her lifestyle and choices respected and supported, and to pursue social, cultural, religious, spiritual and other interests;
- (d) to have his or her personal privacy respected, including in relation to his or her records, bedroom, belongings and storage spaces;
- (e) to receive visitors and to communicate with visitors in private;
- (f) to keep and display personal possessions, pictures and furnishings in his or her bedroom. Rights to participation and freedom of expression

**3. An adult person in care has the right to participate in his or her own care and to freely express his or her views, including a right to all of the following:**

- (a) to participate in the development and implementation of his or her care plan;
- (b) to establish and participate in a resident or family council to represent the interests of persons in care;
- (c) to have his or her family or representative participate on a resident or family council on their own behalf;
- (d) to have access to a fair and effective process to express concerns, make complaints or resolve disputes within the facility;
- (e) to be informed as to how to make a complaint to an authority outside the facility;
- (f) to have his or her family or representative exercise the rights under this clause on his or her behalf. Rights to transparency and accountability

**4. An adult person in care has the right to transparency and accountability, including a right to all of the following:**

- (a) to have ready access to copies of all laws, rules and policies affecting a service provided to him or her;

- (b) to have ready access to a copy of the most recent routine inspection record made under the Act;
- (c) to be informed in advance of all charges, fees and other amounts that he or she must pay for accommodation and services received through the facility;
- (d) if any part of the cost of accommodation or services is prepaid, to receive at the time of prepayment a written statement setting out the terms and conditions under which a refund may be made;
- (e) to have his or her family or representative informed of the matters described in this clause.
- (f) Scope of rights

**5. The rights set out in clauses 2, 3 and 4 are subject to:**

- (a) what is reasonably practical given the physical, mental and emotional circumstances of the person in care;
- (b) the need to protect and promote the health or safety of the person in care or another person in care, and
- (c) the rights of other persons in care.

**Independent Long-Term Care Councils Association of BC (ILTCCABC)**  
iltccabc@gmail.com

**Abbeyfield House Fort St John: 250-787-6640**  
Home for Independent Seniors  
8112 – 96<sup>th</sup> Ave, Fort St John, BC V1J 1J6  
<http://www.abbeyfieldfsj.org>  
[info@abbeyfieldfsj.org](mailto:info@abbeyfieldfsj.org)

**Heritage 1: 250-787-2376**  
**BC Housing: 1-800-667-1235**  
9824-106th Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 2N7

**Heritage 2: 250-787-2376**  
**Northern Health Assisted Living**  
9824 106 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 2N7  
Assessment by Northern Health Required

**Heritage 3**  
**BC Housing: 1-800-667-1235**  
9804 106 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

**McMahon Place (Taylor)**  
**BC Housing:** 1-800-667-1235

**North Peace Seniors' Housing Society:** 250-785-8983  
**Independent Living**  
101-9816-108 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 5S4  
npshts@fsjmail.net

**Silver Willow Court:** 250-783-5521  
10104 Ellis Crescent, Hudson's Hope, BC V0C 1V0

**Harlequin City Centre:** 604-731-1020  
**Independent Living**  
98 St. at 100 Avenue  
Fort St. John, BC  
<https://harlequinfortstjohn.com>  
#310 - 2006 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 2B3  
Email [vanres@vrs.org](mailto:vanres@vrs.org)  
Fax: 604-731-4003

**Prespatou Country Lodge**  
21883 Prespatou Road, Prespatou, BC V0C 2S0

**SHINE: Seniors Housing Information and Navigation Ease:** 604-520-6621  
[shine@sssbc.ca](mailto:shine@sssbc.ca)

The SHINE program, funded by the Ministry of Health and led by the Seniors Services Society of BC is a province-wide initiative which can help with issues such as evictions, access to programmes and services and advocacy to secure and maintain safe and stable housing.

**Connective:** 250-787-7177  
Fort St. John Affordable Housing  
Providing 42 units of safe, secure, affordable housing in Fort St. John. Call them to apply for a unit or be placed on their waiting list.  
[reception@actionproperty.ca](mailto:reception@actionproperty.ca)

**The Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER Program):** 1-604-433-2218 or  
1-800-257-7756  
[www.bchousing.org/safer](http://www.bchousing.org/safer)

The SAFER program helps BC seniors with low to moderate incomes with more affordable housing rent.

## **COMMUNITY BASED SENIORS SERVICES**

**Fort St. John & Area Better at Home:** 250-785-8880

#19 - 9907 110 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 2S9

Subsidized housekeeping, laundry, yardwork, and shovelling, Meals at Home Program

**Chetwynd Better at Home:** 250-788-2996

Tansi Friendship Centre

4729 51 Street, Chetwynd, BC, V0C 1J0

**Hudson's Hope Better at Home:** 250-783-0917

**Dawson Creek Better at Home:** 250-782-2341

10200 8 Street, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 3P8

**Fort St. John & Area Community Connector:** 250-784-5392

9907 110 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 2S9

**Peace Seniors Connect and Care Society:** 250-262-9154

npscscs2020@gmail.com

Facebook: Peace Connect and Care Society

**CareMongers Fort St. John:** 250-263-5970

jkritzgosselin@gmail.com

**Fort St. John & Area Seniors Care Foundation:** 250-787-0034

rrchmelyk@hotmail.com or roxannechmelyk1962@gmail.com

**The Rotary Club of Fort St. John and the Sunrise Rotary Club**

Text, or call

250-794-1606, 250-261-3497 or 250-261-8032

**Fort St. John Senior Citizens' Association Branch #58**

**Seniors Hall:** 250-785-7897

10908 100 Street, Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Z6

fsjseniors58@telus.net

## **Seniors First BC**

Seniors Abuse & Information Line: [1-866-437-1940](tel:1-866-437-1940)

Information, legal advocacy and support for BC Seniors

[info@seniorsfirstbc.ca](mailto:info@seniorsfirstbc.ca)

## **Telus Internet for Good for Seniors: apply online [Internet for Good for Seniors | TELUS](#)**

Internet for Good® provides low-income seniors in British Columbia, Alberta and some areas of Quebec with the tools and access they need to stay connected. You are eligible if you receive the GIS benefit in the amount of at least \$6500 per year

## **Telus Mobility for Good for Seniors: apply online [Mobility for Good for Seniors | TELUS](#)**

Mobility for Good® for low-income seniors provides Canadian seniors receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) benefit with low-cost wireless service. Customers can get a free certified pre-owned device on a 2-year term, bring their own device or take advantage of a \$75 discount towards the online purchase of a refurbished smartphone or accessories through our retail partner, Mobile Klinik.

**Telus Health for Good for Seniors:** You'll automatically qualify to add TELUS Health Medical Alert when your application for Internet for Good for Seniors or Mobility for Good for Seniors is approved. Health for Good™ provides low-income older adults who have qualified for our Internet for Good or Mobility for Good for Seniors programs with access to low-cost TELUS Health Medical Alert services. Get 24/7 access to live emergency operators for just \$20/month.

## **FOOD SOURCES/FOOD DELIVERY**

**Salvation Army Food Bank:** [250-785-5891](tel:250-785-5891)

**Women's Resource Centre Food Bank:** [250-787-1121](tel:250-787-1121)

**Fort St. John & Area Better at Home - Meals at Home Program:** [250-785-8880](tel:250-785-8880)

**Lucas' Pitstop:** [250-785-1729](tel:250-785-1729)

Prepared fresh/frozen meals, fresh daily specials, baked goods  
8803 100 Avenue, Fort St John, BC

**Aniela's Kitchen and Catering:** 250-794-0673  
Fresh/frozen meals, daily specials, baked goods  
10611 101 Avenue, Fort St John, BC

**M&M Food Market:** 250-263-9500  
Frozen prepared meals  
9600 93 Ave, Totem Mall, Fort St John, BC

**FIRST NATIONS/INDIGENOUS SERVICES**

**First Nations Health Authority:** 1-866-913-003

**Fort St. John Friendship Society:** 250-785-8566  
10208 95 Avenue, Fort Saint John, BC V1J 1J2

**FSJ Metis Association:** 250-785-1541  
fsjmetis@telus.net

**Treaty 8 Tribal Association:** 250-785-0612  
reception@treaty8.bc.ca

**Doig River First Nation:** 250-827-3776 or 1-888-344-9997 (toll free)  
reception@doigriverfn.com

**Blueberry First Nations:** 250-630-2802  
reception@blueberryfn.ca

**Fort Nelson First Nation:** 1-888-543-3636  
reception@fnnation.ca

**Halfway River First Nation:** 250-772-5058  
reception@hrfn.ca

**Prophet River First Nation:** 1-844-323-0324  
reception@prophetriverfn.ca

**Saulteau First Nations:** 250-788-3955  
communications@saulteau.com

**West Moberly First Nations:** 250-788-3663 or 1-877-608-3663  
reception@westmo.org

**NENAS North East Native Advancing Society:** 250-785-0887  
www.nenas.org

**National Indian Residential School Crisis Line:** 1-866-925-4419

**KUU-US Crisis Line Society:** 1-800-588-8717

**Metis Crisis Line:** 1-833-638-4722

**Fort St. John Native Housing Society:** 250 785-4900

**Dawson Creek Native Housing Society:** 250-782-1598

**Aboriginal Housing Society of Prince George:** 250-564-9794

**LOCAL, PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTACTS**

**Service BC:** 1-800-663-7867

Service BC centers provide access to provincial government services and information. They can also provide guidance on local governments, First Nations and improvement districts.

**MLA:** Jordan Kealy, Peace River North Constituency Office: 250-263-0101  
10104 100 Street, Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Y7

**Office of the Seniors Advocate BC (Dan Levitt):** 1-877-952-3181

The office monitors and analyzes seniors services and makes recommendations to government and service providers to address systemic issues in five areas: health care, housing, income support, community support and transportation.

**Service Canada:** 1-800-662-6232  
9820 120 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 8C3

**MP:** Bob Zimmer, Prince George/Peace River/Northern Rockies: 250-787-1192  
9916 100 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 1Y5

**Canada Pension Plan:** 1-800-277-9914

**Revenue Canada:** 1-800-959-8281

**Tax credits and benefits:**

Remember when you are working on your taxes that there are a number of credits for seniors, including:

- **Canada caregiver credit**
- **disability tax credit**
- **medical expenses**
- **home accessibility expenses**
- **age amount**
- **pension income amount**
- **pension income splitting**

Filing your taxes allows you to receive the benefits and credits you're entitled to. For low-income seniors, it is especially important, as we will use the income information from your income tax and benefit return to review your eligibility for the Guaranteed Income Supplement, automatically, every year.

**Peace River Regional District:** 250-784-3200 or 1-800-663-3456

**City Hall - Fort St. John:** 311 or 250-787-8150 for all city services  
10631-100 Street, Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Z5

**Lilia Hansen, Mayor:** 250-787-8160

**Bylaw Services:** 250-787-8150

**LOCAL BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS**

**Fort St John District Chamber of Commerce:** 778-256-7762

#104, 9907 99 Avenue, Fort St John, BC V1J 1V1  
info@fsjchamber.com      fsjchamber.com

**Fort St. John Friendship Society:** 250-785-8566

10208 95 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 1J2

**Fort St. John Public Library: 250-785-3731**

10015 – 100 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 1Y7

Matthew Rankin Director of Library Services

access@fsjpl.ca www.fsjpl.ca

- **CLICK Program:** computer/cell phone support free of charge
- **Access Program:** providing access to books, materials and resources regardless of income, background, geographic location or reading ability. By providing an accessible library service for people with print disabilities – in digital formats and free of charge
- **Homebound Services** allows people who cannot get to the Library to access materials free of charge by mail (Rural residents) or by delivery. Delivery services are available within the Fort St John Municipal Boundary and Areas B and C of the Peace River Regional District. Deliveries from March through to October will occur within a 20km radius of the library. Deliveries from November through February will occur within a 10km radius of the library. Those within the FSJPLA service area, but outside of the delivery distance will receive Library by Mail at no charge. FSJPLA staff will deliver library materials during normal business hours. Deliveries will not take place during extreme weather conditions.
- **Cognitive Care Kits:** designed by Northern Health and the Library
- **Audiobooks**

**Fort St. John Royal Canadian Legion Branch #102: 250-785-3917**

10103 105 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J2M4

Ksmlegionnaire44@gmail.com

**Fort St. John Literacy Society: 250-785-2110**

#201, 10136 – 100 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

slsw@fsjliteracy.ca or www.fsjliteracy.ca

**S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Immigrant Settlement & Integration Program: 250-785-5323**

10504 100 Street, Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Z6

**City of Fort St. John Community Services: 2-1-1**

bc211.ca

**North Peace Leisure Pool: 250-787-8178**

**Pomeroy Sport Centre:** 250-785-4592

**Recreation and Leisure:** 250-785-4592

**Fort St. John Community Arts Council:** 250-787-2781

10320 94th Ave, Fort St. John, BC V1X 4X

info@fsjats.org

**FSJ Museum:** 250-787-0430

Heather Sjoblom Manager/Curator

Fort St. John North Peace Museum & North Peace Historical Society

fsjnpmuseum@fsjmail.com

**North Peace Community Garden Society:**

npcommunitygardensociety@gmail.com

We will need volunteers this growing season to help with watering, weeding and general maintenance of the garden

**Peace Gallery North - Art Gallery:** 250-787-0993

North Peace Cultural Centre

10015-100 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

**Energetic Property Maintenance:** 250-570-2928

Lawn services and garden maintenance

<https://www.facebook.com/EnergeticPropertyMaintenanceFSJ/>

**Dynamic Snow & Mow:** 250-263-8188

**B. Grahams Lawns:** 250-329-4016

Dump runs, property maintenance and cleanups, and much much more

**North Peace Community Foundation:** 778-576-1669 or Toll free: 866-558-8488

Mobile: 250-309-4572

[www.northpeacecf.com](http://www.northpeacecf.com)

PO Box 378, RPO Downtown, Fort St. John, BC V1J 6W7

**Community Bridge:** 250-785-6021

10142 101 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

**Women's Resource Society: 250-787-1121**

10051 100 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

**North Peace Pregnancy Care Centre: 250-787-5584**

9900 100 Avenue, Suite 335, Fort St. John, BC

**Child Development Center of Fort St John: 250-785-3200**

10417 106 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC

**The Foundry: 250-271-0177**

Foundry offers free and confidential mental health and wellness services for youth ages 12-24 in British Columbia and their families. You don't need a referral.

foundryfortstjohn@bcymca.ca

**RBC Royal Bank: 250-787-0681**

10312 100 Street, Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Z6

**BMO Bank of Montreal: 250-785-8356**

10207 100 Street, Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Y8

**TD Canada Trust: 250-262-5000**

10155 100 Street, Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Y6

**Scotiabank: 800-472-6842**

9607 100 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Y3

**BDC Business Development Bank: 888-463-6232**

10019 103 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 2H4

## **FRAUDS AND SCAMS**

Fraud can happen to anyone. Criminals use phone calls, text messages, emails, and social media to trick victims into giving up personal information or sending money. From bank imposters and income tax scams to romance scams and online marketplace fraud. The tactics are constantly evolving. Fraud is growing, crossing borders, and becoming ever more sophisticated and convincing due to Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Protect yourself by:

- Never sharing personal or banking information with unknown callers

- Verifying requests directly with your bank or business using official contact numbers
- Avoiding clicking suspicious links in texts or emails
- Monitoring your accounts regularly for unauthorized activity
- Reporting scams immediately

If it feels suspicious, pause and verify before you act.

**Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC): [1-888-495-8501](tel:1-888-495-8501)**

Collects information on fraud and identity theft; provides information on past and current scams affecting Canadians; website contains an A-Z index of frauds/scams, scams by mediums, recent scams, and strategies for protecting yourself. If you think you're a victim of fraud, report it! Visit: <https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/>

**Local Police/RCMP: [250-787-8140](tel:250-787-8140)** Fort St. John. Can assist with investigations and reporting to the CAFC. Find a list of Non-Emergency Numbers at: <https://www.ecomm911.ca/>

**Canada Revenue Agency:** Scam alerts - Check their website regularly: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/corporate/security/protect-yourself-against-fraud/scam-alerts.html#h2>

**People's Law School:** Scams & Identity Theft - <https://www.peopleslawschool.ca/>

**Credit Reports:** Equifax [www.equifax.ca](http://www.equifax.ca) / Transunion [www.transunion.ca](http://www.transunion.ca)

**Get Cyber Safe:** A national public awareness campaign created to inform Canadians about cyber security and the simple steps they can take to protect themselves online. Learn how to secure your devices and browse safely online. <https://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca/en>

**Cyber-Smart.ca:** Cybersecurity awareness for seniors. Information, tips, videos, and resources to learn about scams and how to avoid them. <https://cyber-smart.ca/>

**Fraud Prevention Toolkit for Seniors:**

[https://cba.ca/Assets/CanadianBankersAssociation/Documents/Articles/Scam\\_Prevention\\_Toolkits/2025cybersecurityolderadulttoolkitupdated\\_en.pdf](https://cba.ca/Assets/CanadianBankersAssociation/Documents/Articles/Scam_Prevention_Toolkits/2025cybersecurityolderadulttoolkitupdated_en.pdf)

**Cyber Seniors:** 1-844-217-3517 Toll-free  
Free tech support & training for older adults  
[www.cyberseniors.org](http://www.cyberseniors.org)

**Competition Bureau of Canada:** The Little Black Book of Scams  
<https://competition-bureau.canada.ca/en/little-black-book-scams-2nd-edition>

**VOLUNTEERING**

**Phoenix Volunteer Club:** 250-785-1430  
[phoenixfsj@gmail.com](mailto:phoenixfsj@gmail.com)

**Fort St. John Volunteers & Fundraisers:** Facebook Group  
[Fort St John Volunteers & Fundraisers | Facebook](#)

**Fort St. John Hospital:** 250-645-8520  
[volunteers@northernhealth.ca](mailto:volunteers@northernhealth.ca)

**Fort St. John Hospital Auxiliary:** 250-261-7568

**Fort St. John Hospital Foundation:** 250-261-7563  
8407 112 Avenue, Fort St. John BC V1J 0J5  
[fsjhospitalfoundation.ca](http://fsjhospitalfoundation.ca)

**Peace Villa:** 250-261-7450

**Fort St. John Palliative Care Society:** 250-787-2814

**Fort St. John & Area Better at Home:** 250-785-8880

**North Peace Seniors Housing Society:** 250-789-8583



**SONS** is a group of dedicated people in Fort St. John and area wanting to make a difference in our community. SONS mandate is:

- To advocate/lobby for the building of a facility that will ensure the safety, respect and dignity of our seniors;
- To provide current and reliable information for the number of facilities and beds available in our area;
- To pursue all avenues of support for our community – rural and urban - such as Supportive Living, Assisted Living, Intermediate Care, Extended Care, Special Unit, Psycho-Geriatric Care, Adult Daycare, Home Care, and Emergency Care.

Thank you to the BC Association of Community Response Networks, (**BCCRN**), for the Community Impact Grant that allowed us to have printed versions of the FSJ Community Health Guide for Fort St. John and surrounding area.



**BC ASSOCIATION OF  
Community Response Networks**

*Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect ...Together.*

Email: [info@bccrns.ca](mailto:info@bccrns.ca) or: [lorna.penner@bccrns.ca](mailto:lorna.penner@bccrns.ca) Web: [www.bccrns.ca](http://www.bccrns.ca)

**What is a Community Response Network (CRN)?**

A Community Response Network (CRN) is a local partnership of community members, service providers, agencies, and professionals working together to prevent adult abuse, neglect, and self-neglect and strengthen community safety.

**A Coordinated Community Response – (CRNs)**

CRNs support safer communities by:

- Raising awareness and providing education on adult abuse prevention

- Coordinating community-based prevention and advocacy
- Improving collaboration across health, social, legal, and community services
- Identifying gaps and barriers in supports for vulnerable adults
- Strengthening coordinated responses and accountability

Rooted in inclusion, shared leadership, and community engagement, CRNs recognize that strong, connected communities are essential to preventing harm and protecting adults at risk.



**United Way**  
British Columbia

Working with communities in  
BC's North, Interior, Lower Mainland,  
Central & Northern Vancouver Island

**Community Connector (Social Prescribing) [250-784-5392](tel:250-784-5392) Email-[sharron@npshts.ca](mailto:sharron@npshts.ca)**

A Community Connector supports older adults to strengthen their health and wellbeing by connecting them to community-based supports, activities and networks. Connectors strengthen both individuals and the broader community ecosystem. They strengthen the system of support by bridging healthcare, community and older adults by addressing the social determinants of health through relational, community-led approaches. Connectors reduce isolation, support aging in place, promote equity, and help build more resilient, connected communities across BC.

We are so thankful for all the volunteer and dedicated hours of service to help make our community a better place to be. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your time.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

- **Emergency 9-1-1**
- **Fort St. John Police Non-Emergency Line: 250-787-8140**
- **BC Nurse Line 8-1-1 or 7-1-1 for the deaf and hard of hearing**
- **Poison Control: 1-800-567-8911**
- **BC's Mental Health Line: 310-6789**
- **9-8-8 Suicide Crisis Helpline (call or text)**
- **1-800 Suicide Line: 1-800-784-2433**
- **Veteran's Crisis Line: 800-273-8255**
- **24-hour Crisis Line: 1-888-562-1214**
- **Crisis Response Team (CRU) 250-263-6080 Fort St John Hospital**
- **Emergency Department at 8407 112 Avenue if you or someone else's safety is at risk**
- **Racist Incident Helpline: 1-833-457-5463**
- **Kid's Help Phone: Text CONNECT to 686868**
- **First Link Dementia Helpline: 1-800-936-6033 (English), 1-833-674-5007 (Cantonese & Mandarin), or 1-833-674-5003 (Punjabi) Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
- **KUU-US Crisis Response Service: 1-800-588-8717 for culturally aware support for Indigenous peoples**
- **National Indian Residential School Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419**
- **Metis Crisis Line: 1-833-638-4722**
- **Canada-wide Telus Health Community Crisis Support Line: 1-844-751-2133**
- **Bereavement and Grief Support Line: 1-877-779-2223 Homewood Health**
- **Support Center (open to anyone): 1-833-375-0269**
- **Northern Health virtual and community mental health services: 1-844-645-7811**
- **NH Virtual Clinic Phone: 1-844-645-7811 (10am to 10pm daily PST including weekends and statutory holidays)**
- **PRRD Emergency Information Line: 250-219-5210**
- **BC Wildfire Services: 1-888-336-7378**
- **Peace Region Evac Helpline: 250-784-3200**
- **BC Conservation Officer: 1-800-663-9453**
- **BC Hydro Outage Line: 1-800-224-9376 or 1-888-769-3766**
- **Your Emergency Contact- Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_**

**\*\*please remove this page from the guide and hang in a highly visible place\*\***

# IT TAKES A COMMUNITY To Prevent Adult Abuse



## Be Part of the Solution!

An interconnected community can help prevent abuse. BC's Community Response Networks (CRNs) bring the community together to create a coordinated response to adult abuse, neglect and self-neglect. Visit our website to find a CRN near you!



BC ASSOCIATION OF  
**Community Response Networks**

*Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect ... Together.*

[www.bccrns.ca](http://www.bccrns.ca)

# HOW TO SUPPORT AN ADULT IN NEED

**1**

## **LISTEN AND TALK TO THE PERSON IN PRIVATE**

Ask questions to learn more about an individual's experience. Understand that often before a person will seek or agree to accept help, they need to be able to trust you and know that you will follow through with the help you offer to give.

**2**

## **RESPECT PERSONAL VALUES, PRIORITIES, GOALS AND LIFESTYLE CHOICES OF THE PERSON**

Identify support networks and solutions that suit the adult's individuality. Help the person identify resources that could be helpful.

**3**

## **RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT TO MAKE DECISIONS**

Adults have the right to make decisions, even if those choices are considered risky or unwise by others (including you). Support the individual's autonomy while offering help when it's welcome.

**4**

## **SEEK CONSENT OR PERMISSION**

Always seek consent before taking any action involving others. Ensure the person agrees, and respect their decision if they decline. Everyone should feel safe and respected.

**5**

## **RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY RIGHTS**

Get consent before sharing another person's private information, including confidential personal or health information.

Together, we can create a society that values and respects people of all ages, now and for generations to come.

*We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of BC.*

*Thank you to the Elder Abuse Prevention Council for sharing the "It Takes a Community" and "How to Support an Adult In Need" resources with BC CRN.*



### **The Best Way You Can Help**

Listening—truly listening—to the person may be your most powerful offering. Here are some examples of supportive language to help start an important conversation.

#### **Supportive language:**

- “ I see what is happening
- “ I am concerned
- “ It's not your fault
- “ I believe you
- “ I am here for you
- “ You are an important member of our community



BC ASSOCIATION OF

**Community Response Networks**

*Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect ...Together.*

[www.bccrns.ca](http://www.bccrns.ca)



# PROCLAMATION



## WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY JUNE 15

- WHEREAS** Fort St. John’s older adults deserve to be treated with respect and dignity and to be valued as contributing members of society, imparting a wealth of experience and wisdom in our communities; and
- WHEREAS** The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, in support of the United Nations International Plan of Action, proclaimed this day to recognize the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue; and
- WHEREAS** Fort St. John recognizes the importance of taking action to invest in creating social change, to prioritize the prevention of elder abuse and raise awareness to foster a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older adults and their rights; and
- WHEREAS** elder abuse has a significant impact on the lives of older adults and families; and is not limited to race, gender, culture, or circumstance, and regardless of whether the abuse is physical, emotional, sexual, financial, or neglectful; and
- WHEREAS** ageism and social isolation are major causes of elder abuse in British Columbia; and
- WHEREAS** recognizing that it is up to all of us, as citizens, organizations, communities, and governments, to work collectively to prevent violence and abuse of older adults in their homes and communities; and
- WHEREAS** preventing abuse of older adults through improving and maintaining social and health services and systems such as housing, income security, and safety will improve their quality of life and allow them to live independently and contribute to the vibrancy of British Columbia; and
- WHEREAS** where there is respect for human rights, equality, and justice there can be no abuse; therefore, all Fort St. John residents are urged to join this global movement to promote the rights of older adults, stop abuse, and restore respect.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Lilia Hansen, Mayor of the City of Fort St. John, do hereby proclaim **June 15, 2026** as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” in the City of Fort St. John.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Lilia Hansen**  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
June 8, 2026

**Date**

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP  
AWARD  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

PROUDLY PRESENTED TO THE:

*City of Fort St. John*

*In recognition of the City's commitment to social responsibility and  
creating a positive impact within the community.*

*May 22, 2026*

DATE



NCLGA PRESIDENT

# COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROUDLY PRESENTED TO THE:

*City of Fort St. John*

*In recognition of the City's commitment to supporting economic  
development within the community.*

*May 22, 2026*

DATE



NCLGA PRESIDENT





**REQUEST FOR DECISION**

**File # 0530-40**

**Report To: Mayor and Council**  
**From: Christina Brace, Deputy Corporate Officer**  
**Subject: Administration Report No. 0106/26**  
**June 8, 2026 Council Information Package**  
**Meeting: Regular Council**  
**Meeting Date: June 8, 2026**

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

"THAT, the Council Information Package for June 8, 2026 be received for discussion."

**CAO'S COMMENTS:**

This report compiles correspondence received by Mayor and Council since preparation of the last agenda package.

**ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION:**

N/A

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**KEY ISSUES(S)/ CONCEPTS DEFINED:**

To receive the correspondence within this report for information and to discuss particular items of interest.

**RELEVANT POLICY:**

N/A

**IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION**

**COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PILLARS:**

*Vibrant Community – Invest in community safety, social, cultural, and recreational programs.*

*Relationships & Advocacy – Initiate and foster relationships and advocate to decision makers on the issues that impact our community and our neighbours.*

*Economic Development – Enhance community economic development to provide opportunities and sustainability for Fort St. John.*

*Organizational Excellence – Provide a healthy workplace that is inclusive and builds on our diversity, engagement, and sense of community.*

*Managing Assets – Build and manage assets that support the current and future needs of the community.*

**COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**

N/A

**GENERAL:**

N/A

**ORGANIZATIONAL:**

N/A

**FINANCIAL:**

N/A

**FOLLOW UP ACTION:**

N/A

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:**

N/A

**COMMUNICATION:**

N/A

**DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED ON THIS REPORT:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- [1. District of Saanich - Letter to the Province regarding Climate Action Funding Continuation - May 19, 2026](#)
- [2. City of Fort St. John - Letter of Support for the Fort St. John Soccer Club BC Gaming Grant Application - May 19, 2026](#)
- [3. Our Blood Counts - Request for Support of Plasma Donor Centre in Northern BC - May 19, 2026](#)
- [4. Northern BC Tourism Association - May Newsletter](#)
- [5. Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness - Four Phases Newsletter - May 2026](#)

[6. District of Central Saanich - Letter to Provincial Ministries regarding Funding for Municipalities Meeting Housing Targets - May 21, 2026](#)

[7. Northern Health - Healthy Communities E-Brief June 2026](#)

[8. Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC - June Newsletter](#)

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Glennis Wunderlich, Administrative Assistant II



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office  
770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | www.saanich.ca

VIA EMAIL  
May 19, 2026

The Honourable David Eby, Premier  
The Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate  
The Honourable Kelly Greene, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness  
The Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs  
The Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance

Email: [Premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca), [ECS.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ECS.Minister@gov.bc.ca), [EMCR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EMCR.Minister@gov.bc.ca),  
[HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca), [FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Premier Eby, Minister Dix, Minister Greene, Minister Boyle, and Minister Bailey:

**RE: BC Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) – Funding Continuation**

On May 11, 2026, Saanich Council passed the following motion:

*That Council direct the Mayor to send a letter to the Province and Local MLA's, as per the draft provided, outlining the need for continued Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) funding and share this letter with the Capital Regional District Board of Directors, other BC municipal elected officials and Chief Administrative Officers.*

On behalf of Saanich Council, I'm respectfully requesting your consideration for the need for the Province to continue to fund the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP). In February 2026, the Provincial Government released the 2026/27–2028/29 Service Plan for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. The plan does not appear to include funding for the renewal of the LGCAP. As long-standing local government partners of the Province, we are concerned that the implications of allowing this funding to lapse may not be fully understood.

For more than 15 years, the Province has provided consistent annual climate action funding to local governments, recognizing our essential role in meeting provincial greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets and climate adaptation goals. LGCAP and its predecessor, the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP), have provided a critical and reliable source of dedicated funding that enables municipalities to resource staff capacity, support community climate initiatives, deliver key GHG reduction and adaptation programs, and leverage other utility funding and provincial and federal grants. Many of these initiatives directly support the goals of the CleanBC Roadmap and the Climate Preparedness & Adaptation Strategy.

This funding arrangement and the projects and programs enabled have led to a nearly 50% reduction in Saanich's corporate GHG emissions and a nearly 20% reduction in Saanich's community-wide GHG emissions from our 2007 baseline. We have realized significant transportation mode shifts, from 17% of trips taken by transit and active transportation in 2011, to 26% today; we have seen over 2,300 Saanich households replace their fossil fuel heating systems with heat pumps to deliver efficient heating and protective cooling; we have completed

1

comprehensive climate risk assessments of Saanich infrastructure to ensure we are planning and investing effectively for the climate changes ahead. Provincial investments in local government action have been working, but there is more to do. Local government partners have valuable insights that should inform the next iteration of this successful program.

Municipal budgets are under significant pressure to fund core services and respond to the increasingly costly impacts of accelerating climate changes, including devastating floods, wildfires, and extreme heat. Removing dedicated Provincial climate action funding will create a shortfall that cannot be replaced without significant impacts to local taxpayers. While we appreciate the various climate-related grants currently available through the Province, these programs are competitive, time-limited, and often difficult to access due to requirements for matching funds and the staff capacity needed to prepare and manage applications and implement projects. They have also been reduced in recent years. LGCAP has been the stable foundation that allows local governments to pursue these opportunities. Without it, many municipalities will be unable to apply for competitive grants or deliver community-focused climate programming that supports provincial objectives.

Over the last three years Saanich received approximately \$1.1 million from LGCAP, which staff successfully leveraged to secure approximately **\$1.0 million in additional external grant funding** (this excludes other major grants for capital projects such as corporate building retrofits and EV charging infrastructure which are in the \$multiple millions). This has contributed to a wide range of climate programs and projects that benefit Saanich residents and community including:

- Corporate and Community Climate Risk Assessments
- Community emissions inventories
- Strata Energy Advisor Program
- Top-up incentives for EV Ready Plans and retrofits in MURBs
- Climate Plan Update
- Fleet E Bike Program
- Tillicum Green Infrastructure Project
- Energy & Carbon Emissions reporting
- Gorge Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy
- One Planet Saanich
- School climate education programs
- Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator
- Zero Waste initiatives
- Oil removal policy review

Local governments are on the front lines of planning for and responding to climate impacts and have direct or indirect influence over more than half of B.C.'s GHG emissions. The Province cannot meet its CleanBC targets, achieve its climate adaptation goals and protect BC residents from the increasing impacts of climate change without strong, resourced municipal partners.

LGCAP funding is essential to ensuring that local governments can continue to deliver climate action and prepare for climate impacts at the scale required.

Despite our long-standing partnership, local governments, including Saanich, were not consulted on the decision to cease funding for LGCAP. To staff's knowledge, no local government was engaged prior to the release of the Service Plan. While several months of LGCAP funding remains from the pre-payment for the 2026/27 year, many climate actions are multi-year projects, most external grants take months or years to determine, and many local governments fund staff using LGCAP, so work is already underway to prepare for the 2027-28 year and beyond based upon continued LGCAP funding. Certainty related to consistent, continuous funding is paramount.

As we collectively work to build a stronger, more sustainable Province, Council requests that the Province confirm their commitment to consistent, continuous LGCAP funding and we look forward to further collaboration on climate action and preparedness.

Sincerely,



Dean Murdock  
Mayor

cc:  
Hon. Nina Krieger, MLA Victoria Swan Lake <Nina.Krieger.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
Hon. Diana Gibson, MLA Oak Bay Gordon Head <Diana.Gibson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
Hon. Lana Popham, MLA Saanich South <Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
Saanich Council <[council@saanich.ca](mailto:council@saanich.ca)>  
CRD Board of Directors <[crdboard@crd.bc.ca](mailto:crdboard@crd.bc.ca)>  
All BC Municipalities



City of Fort St. John  
10631 100 Street | Fort St. John, BC | V1J 3Z5  
(250) 787 8150 City Hall  
(250) 787 8181 Facsimile

May 19, 2026  
File # 0220-20  
Via email: [booksfsjsoccer@gmail.com](mailto:booksfsjsoccer@gmail.com)  
[ackerman@telus.net](mailto:ackerman@telus.net)

Fort St. John Soccer Club  
9615 96 Avenue  
Fort St. John, BC V1J 4J3

**Attention: Daniele Niele**

Dear Ms. Niele:

**Re: Letter of Support for the Fort St. John Soccer Club BC Gaming Grant Application**

On behalf of the City of Fort St. John, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Fort St. John Soccer Club for a BC Gaming Grant application. The funds awarded would allow the Fort St. John Soccer Club to continue providing access to competitive and recreational soccer in the North Peace area.

The Fort St. John Soccer Club is a volunteer organization that has promoted physical literacy in our community for decades. This organization champions human connection, diversity, fair play, and personal athletic advancement. Its work supports the fulfillment of Council's objective to provide and support robust, affordable, and accessible wellness and recreation opportunities.

The City of Fort St. John considers the work of this organization to be an invaluable contribution to our community. Council is pleased to provide this letter of support and wishes the Fort St. John Soccer Club success in its application for a BC Gaming Grant.

Sincerely,

Lilia Hansen  
Mayor

[www.fortstjohn.ca](http://www.fortstjohn.ca)



May 19, 2026

City of Fort St. John: Her Worship Mayor Lilia Hansen and members of Council  
[info@fortstjohn.ca](mailto:info@fortstjohn.ca) [lhansen@fortstjohn.ca](mailto:lhansen@fortstjohn.ca)

**Subject: Supporting a Blood Plasma Donor Centre in Northern BC**

Dear Mayor Hansen:

On behalf of *Our Blood Counts*, we ask for Council's support in principle as we advocate for a Northern BC Blood Plasma Donor Centre in Prince George on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.

Canada relies heavily on American donors and suppliers for medications from blood plasma. A plasma donor centre in Northern BC would help to address that critical deficiency. We ask for a letter of support to BC Minister of Health Josie Osborne ([HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca)) and Canadian Blood Services (CBS) CEO Dr. Graham Sher ([graham.sher@blood.ca](mailto:graham.sher@blood.ca)), and possibly a resolution of support from Council. We also appreciate you and members of council signing and sharing our petition at [www.ourbloodcounts.com](http://www.ourbloodcounts.com).

**Canada's plasma shortage and the need for a Northern BC centre**

Plasma is processed into treatments for cancer, immune deficiencies, and blood disorders.<sup>1</sup> Canada collects about 30 percent of the plasma that our patients need. The majority of immune globulin (a key medication made from plasma) comes from the United States. CBS's expansion of plasma collection is expected to only meet 50 to 60 percent of national demand.<sup>2</sup>

Prince George had a blood donor centre from 1998 to 2015. The closest donor centres to Northern BC are in Kelowna, Metro Vancouver, or Alberta. Rural communities similar to Prince George such as Thunder Bay, Ontario now have plasma donor centres.<sup>3</sup> We believe Northern BC can play a role in supporting the CBS goal of securing a million new blood donors by 2030.

**Our advocacy and regional support**

Our Blood Counts is a group of donors, recipients, and advocates. Our petition has 4,200 signatures, with 90 percent of those signing saying they would be likely to donate at a regional blood plasma donor centre.

We have received resolutions and letters of support from the following organizations and elected officials:

---

7605 Loedel Crescent, Prince George, BC V2N 0A5  
250.617.8091, [ourbloodcounts@gmail.com](mailto:ourbloodcounts@gmail.com), [www.ourbloodcounts.com](http://www.ourbloodcounts.com)

- Lheidli T'enneh First Nation
- Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- Regional District of Fraser Fort George
- Cariboo Regional District
- Village of Burns Lake
- Village of Fraser Lake
- District of Kitimat
- Village of Hazelton
- District of New Hazelton
- District of Mackenzie
- Village of McBride
- City of Prince George
- City of Prince Rupert
- City of Quesnel
- District of Stewart
- City of Terrace
- Village of Valemount
- District of Vanderhoof
- Sheldon Clare, MLA: Prince George- North Cariboo
- Kiel Giddens, MLA: Prince George- Mackenzie
- Sharon Hartwell, MLA: Bulkley Valley Stikine
- Claire Rattée, MLA: Skeena
- John Rustad, MLA: Nechako- Lakes
- Todd Doherty, MP: Cariboo- Prince George
- North Central Local Government Association (2025 Annual Convention)
- Northern Health Authority
- Prince George Hospice and Palliative Care Society
- BC Nurses' Union

## Canadian Blood Services' response

CBS has declined our call for a Northern BC centre, citing population and unspecified logistical concerns. We believe their analysis overlooks regional capacity <sup>4</sup> and Prince George's proximity to Calgary and Vancouver testing facilities. Several petitioners from across Northern BC have noted they would include blood donation in their regional travels should a centre return. We made these points in a presentation to the CBS Board last spring: <https://tiny.cc/cbsbo2506> and continue to do so in our correspondence

## Why Council's support matters

We believe Council's support would show Northern leadership and unity toward addressing the need for specialized blood products in BC and across Canada. We would be grateful for your support. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Our Blood Counts:* Irina Doering PhD, Mark Karjaluo (chair), Alan Kavanaugh, Suman Kumar, Ankur Patel

## Sources:

1. Canadian Blood Services, **Plasma for Life: What is plasma?** (undated) <https://www.blood.ca/en/plasma>
2. Canadian Blood Services, **Our commitment to increasing plasma sufficiency in Canada** (undated) <https://www.blood.ca/en/about-us/media/plasma/plasma-sufficiency>
3. Alicia Anderson, Thunder Bay's plasma centre celebrates grand opening, TB News Watch, April 23 2025 <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/thunder-bays-plasma-centre-celebrates-grand-opening-10566304>
4. Sources include:
  - a. Statistics Canada, **Population estimates, July 1, by census metropolitan area and census agglomeration, 2021 boundaries, Jan 14th 2026** <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710014801>
  - b. Northern Health, **Our Communities:** <https://www.northernhealth.ca/our-communities>

[View this email in your browser](#)



### **2026 Northern BC Tourism Summit Registration Open**

Join tourism professionals, entrepreneurs, and community leaders for the 2026 Northern BC Tourism Summit. Connect through keynote speakers, hands-on workshops, and panels focused on the future of tourism in our region. Gain fresh insights, spark new partnerships, and help shape a thriving visitor economy in northern BC. The Tourism Summit would not be possible without the support of its valued partners. Organizations interested in [sponsorship opportunities](#) are encouraged to get involved.

**Register Today**



**Travel Media Association of Canada Conference**

Northern BC Tourism Association was in Richmond from April 29 to May 3, pitching stories from across the region at the Travel Media Association of Canada's (TMAC) annual conference. NBCTA's Travel Trade Media Specialist, Dustin Ruth, held 24 one-on-one meetings during the conference's media marketplace and connected with dozens of additional writers at evening events, all of them eager to explore northern BC. The timing couldn't be better: many Canadian travel writers are pulling back from US travel and actively seeking compelling domestic stories. Northern BC is exceptionally well-positioned to fill that gap, offering something rare in the current landscape. The region feels genuinely new to most readers yet remains accessible. Follow up from TMAC continues, with several strong leads on potential media visits already in the pipeline for 2026.



**Travel Writers Explore Northwest BC**

This year's Travel Media Association of Canada conference brought writers from across the country to Richmond and NBCTA made the most of it. Following the event, NBCTA's Travel Trade Media Specialist, Dustin Ruth, joined four travel writers on a post-conference press trip into the northwest, flying into Terrace before heading up the Skeena River corridor to explore Port Edward and Prince Rupert. With an outstanding lineup of local operators and experiences and localized industry support, the trip delivered the kind of authentic, place-driven storytelling that travel writers live for. Coverage from the journey will be featured in upcoming newsletters as stories are released.



Photo: Destination BC

## NBCTA Attends Regional Service Meeting

The Northern BC Regional Visitor Services Meeting took place April 14–15, 2026, in Prince George, bringing together visitor services professionals from across the region to connect, collaborate, and share insights. Tourism Development Specialist, Aimee Cordeiro participated in discussions focused on regional challenges, opportunities, best practices, and strengthening collaboration across northern BC's tourism industry. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas, build relationships, and support ongoing efforts to enhance visitor experiences throughout the region.

## Request Report



**Celebrating Creative Industries in BC Week**

NBCTA attended Celebrating Creative Industries in BC Week, an annual provincial celebration recognizing the strength and impact of BC's creative sector. The week brought together industry associations, creators, government, and key stakeholders to highlight the important role industries like film, digital media, music, publishing, and the arts play in strengthening communities and economic development across the province. Clint Fraser, CEO of NBCTA, also had the opportunity to connect with Minister Anne Kang to discuss the continued growth and potential of northern BC's creative and film sectors. Participation reinforced NBCTA's ongoing support for northern BC's creative industries through initiatives like [Film Northern BC](#) and regional partnership development.

[Learn More](#)



## Board Member Spotlight: Dustin Bodnaryk

Dustin Bodnaryk works with a team of event and facility management professionals in Dawson Creek, delivering live entertainment while driving economic impact through event hosting in the Peace Region. He has been involved with NBCTA for 19 years and is currently serving his second year on the NBCTA Board. Passionate about tourism's ability to transform lives, Dustin loves working in an ever-changing industry that creates remarkable experiences. In his leisure time, he enjoys camping, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

## OUT & ABOUT IN THE REGION



## Tumbler Ridge Joins the FIFA World Cup 2026 Celebration

Tumbler Ridge will join communities across British Columbia in celebrating FIFA World Cup 2026 on June 15, 2026, as part of the Canada Celebrates program. The event will bring watch parties, entertainment, and soccer themed interactive experiences to the community while creating space for connection, resilience, and support. Guided by local voices, the celebration will highlight the strength and character of Tumbler Ridge, support local businesses, and encourage visitation as the community shares in the excitement of the world's biggest sporting event.

[Read Press Release](#)



**Kitimat and Prince George Honoured at BCEDA Awards**

Northern BC communities were recognized for their leadership and innovation at the 2026 BC Economic Development Awards. The District of Kitimat received the Economic Development Marketing Innovation Award for its bold “It’s Not For Everyone” campaign, while the City of Prince George and partners earned the Community Resiliency Award for the Support PG Tariff Response initiative. The awards celebrate projects and partnerships that are strengthening local economies, supporting resilience, and advancing community development across British Columbia.

[Read Press Release](#)



**Tourism Dawson Creek Opens New Location for Visitor Centre**

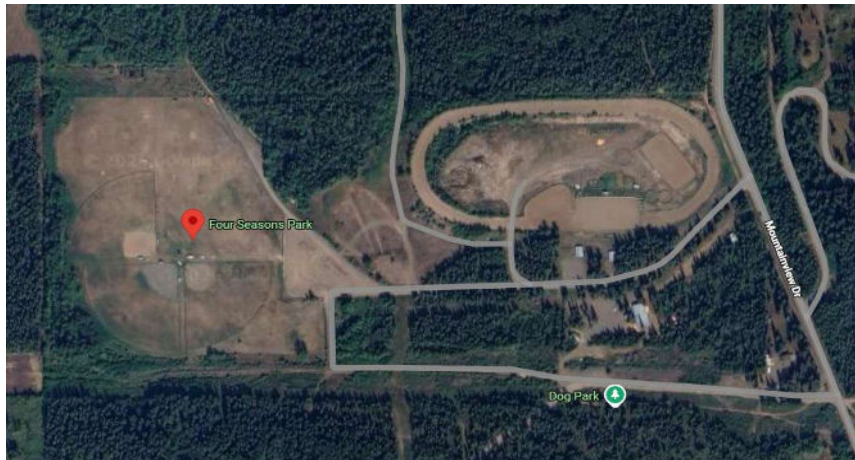
Tourism Dawson Creek opened their visitor centre in a new location - the Mah Building, adjacent to the Mile 0 Post in downtown Dawson Creek. This new location for the Visitor Centre has nearly a century of history in the community - first at the Dawson Creek Co-op, then as a long standing local business, and now as a space that supports many local entrepreneurs. Mayor Darcy Dober and Chelsea Mottishaw from the City of Dawson Creek talked about the power of community and this space being representative of the way the community comes together. Tourism Dawson Creek was previously located in the NAR Park and will continue to provide mobile visitor services in that location to better support visitors to the community.

[Learn More](#)



**Tourism PG Completes Colour the Core Art Installation**

[Tourism Prince George](#) has completed the *Colour the Core* public art installation in downtown Prince George, bringing vibrant new artwork into the community through a collaborative partnership with Downtown Prince George, Two Rivers Gallery, and the Prince George and District Community Arts Council. Originally initiated by Carmen Herman and later coordinated to completion by Christina Watts, the project features life-size sturgeon and salmon artwork created by local artist Theresa Sapergia. The installation was supported through a myPG grant from the City of Prince George.



**District of Houston Advances Four Seasons Park Master Planning**

The District of Houston recently hosted an open house to gather community input on a new master plan for Four Seasons Park and the future of recreation in Houston. The workshop featured interactive stations where residents, recreation groups, and local clubs could

share ideas and priorities for park upgrades, new amenities, and future activities. The event created an opportunity for the community to help guide long-term recreation planning and strengthen outdoor spaces for residents and visitors alike.



## Tourism Prince George Hosts Industry Networking Event

Tourism Prince George recently brought partners together for an industry networking event focused on collaboration, relationship-building, and future tourism opportunities in the region. Joshua Seymour shared valuable perspectives on building authentic relationships with Indigenous peoples and understanding tourism through an Indigenous lens. The event also featured remarks from Board Chair Jamie Valcourt and Executive Director Scott McWalter, who provided updates on Tourism Prince George initiatives, the new tourism sector plan *Look West*, and Destination BC's iconic brand, *The Great Wilderness*.



## Mental Floss Highlights Dinosaur Fossil Hikes in Tumbler Ridge

Tumbler Ridge was recently featured in Mental Floss for its remarkable dinosaur fossil hikes and paleontological discoveries within the UNESCO Global Geopark. The article showcases how visitors can explore ancient trackways, fossil-rich landscapes, and guided hiking experiences that bring the region's prehistoric history to life, further reinforcing Tumbler Ridge's growing profile as one of northern BC's most distinctive adventure and geotourism destinations.

[Read Article](#)

## INDUSTRY NEWS & UPDATES



**2026 TIABC SURVEY**  
OPEN TO ALL INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

**YOUR VALUABLE INPUT IS NEEDED TO HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE DIRECTION**

ADVOCACY & POLICY DEVELOPMENT  
MEMBERSHIP & STRATEGIC ALLIANCES  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY & EXCELLENCE  
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & RECONCILIATION

**Survey Closes June 12th**

## Share Your Input in TIABC's BC Tourism Industry Survey

The Tourism Industry Association of BC (TIABC) is inviting tourism businesses, destinations, and sector organizations across the province to participate in a new industry survey. Feedback will help guide TIABC's future advocacy efforts, member services, communications, and strategic priorities to ensure the association continues to support the evolving needs of BC's visitor economy. The survey takes approximately 12 minutes to complete, and responses are requested by Friday, June 12. Stakeholders are also encouraged to share the survey within their organizations.

## Take the Survey

### [Destination BC Learning Centre](#)

Destination BC has launched BC Tourism Basics, a new introductory guide available through its Learning Centre that provides a Tourism 101 overview of BC's tourism ecosystem, visitor economy, community development considerations, and the foundations of globally competitive destinations.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



### Northern BC Tourism Resiliency Program

Providing one-on-one guidance, marketing support, photography services, and flexible funding to help operators and communities access the resources they need to build experiences, expand operations, and strengthen long-term sustainability.

## Learn More

### [Local Festivals — Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage](#) | **Deadline October 15**

Provides funding of up to \$200,000 to support recurring festivals that showcase local artists, cultural performers, Indigenous cultural carriers, and community heritage initiatives across Canada.

[CanExport SMEs Program](#) | **Deadline May 29, 2026**

Offers up to \$50,000 to help Canadian small and medium-sized businesses expand into international markets through activities like trade shows, market research, and export marketing.

[Worker Retention Grant \(WRG\)](#) | **Deadline December 31, 2026 (3:00 pm EST)**

Supports employers with active Work Sharing agreements by providing additional income support for EI eligible employees participating in training during reduced work hours.

## EMERGENCY RESOURCES

The Northern BC Tourism Association provides resources and toolkits to support communities during emergencies, with a clear priority on ensuring the safety of businesses, residents, and partners across the region.

[Learn More](#)

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Stay connected with us for the latest news in Northern BC Tourism.



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**[For best quality, view online](#)**

Welcome to the May newsletter. Ongoing warm weather increases the likelihood of flooding, drought, wildfire and landslides. In this issue, you will find details about a new regulation update, information about funding to support resilience and response projects, opportunities to register for upcoming training, webinars and podcasts as well as programs, resources and reminders to help people and communities prepare for emergencies.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility.

- To learn how to prepare for emergencies, visit: [PreparedBC.ca](http://PreparedBC.ca)
- For information on evacuation alerts and orders, visit: [EmergencyInfoBC.ca](http://EmergencyInfoBC.ca)
- To learn about current advisories and flood conditions, visit: [gov.bc.ca/RiverForecast](http://gov.bc.ca/RiverForecast)
- To learn how to prepare for drought and water scarcity, visit: [gov.bc.ca/Drought](http://gov.bc.ca/Drought)
- To learn how to reduce wildfire risk, visit: [FireSmartBC.ca](http://FireSmartBC.ca)

[Emergency Management and Climate Readiness \(EMCR\) regional offices](#) are available to support First Nations' and local governments' emergency management planning, response and recovery needs. Reach out if you need assistance.



## Funding strengthens community resilience

People throughout B.C. face growing risks from climate-driven hazards. To help reduce risks, strengthen emergency preparedness and build long term resilience, the Province is investing more than \$18 million through the [Disaster Resilience and Innovation Funding \(DRIF\) program](#) for 10 projects.

The DRIF program is part of B.C.'s commitment to protecting people and communities from emergency events like floods, drought, extreme temperatures, earthquakes and landslides.

[Read the news release](#) for additional information about current and past projects.



## Business Continuity and Resilience Awareness Week

May 18 to 22, 2026 is [Business Continuity and Resilience Awareness Week \(BCAW+R\)](#). This year's theme, "Think You're Resilient? Think Again," emphasizes the ongoing need to review and strengthen resilience plans.

Hosted by the [Business Continuity Institute \(BCI\)](#) in partnership with [Riskconnect](#), the week spotlights the assumptions that often hide the most dangerous gaps in preparedness, then provides actionable guidance to close them. Learn more with

a daily webinar, research-backed articles, case studies and exercise templates and scenarios that provide practical takeaways.



## Risk assessment and planning requirements for regional districts and municipalities

On May 11, 2026, an [Order in Council](#) was made to bring into force the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) risk assessment and planning requirements for municipalities and regional districts, effective January 1, 2027.

The Order in Council adds new rules to the Emergency and Disaster Management Regulation to support emergency planning and risk assessments by municipalities and regional districts. These rules require local authorities to regularly review their emergency management plans, make them publicly available and include summaries of how they have consulted and cooperated with Indigenous governing bodies, while protecting Indigenous knowledge. The requirements to begin this work will take effect on January 1, 2027.

The Order in Council also adds rules to the Emergency and Disaster Management Regulation that are in force immediately. These amendments:

- require the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to publish regional district and municipality post-event reports on states of local emergency/local recovery periods;
- set rules for creating or expanding multijurisdictional emergency management organizations; and
- make other housekeeping changes.

EMCR is developing guidance to support regional districts and municipalities in meeting the risk assessment and planning requirements.

For more information, visit the [Emergency management legislation webpage](#) or email the EMCR Policy and Legislation team at [EMCR.PolicyandLegislation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EMCR.PolicyandLegislation@gov.bc.ca).



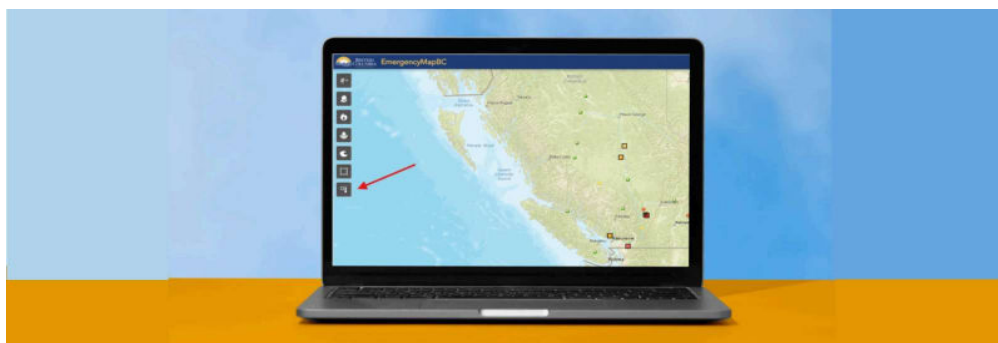
### Updates from FireSmart

The [Through FireSmart Eyes campaign](#) demonstrates that wildfire risk isn't always obvious until you learn how to recognize it. It reminds people that getting FireSmart is essential for protecting their property and community. Everyone has a role to play, and the time to act is before wildfire season arrives.

It includes an augmented reality (AR) experience to complement the campaign and to help bring Through FireSmart Eyes into your communities. The [campaign toolkit](#) includes instructions for the AR experience, poster print files and a social media calendar.

The [Local FireSmart Collective Program \(LFCP\)](#) is a B.C.-specific program designed to help communities work together to reduce wildfire risk.

Built on the success of the former FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program, the LFCP introduces a four-tier system that reflects increasing levels of community engagement and wildfire resilience, with financial incentives and recognition available.



## Cooling locations on EmergencyMapBC

Since the beginning of May, multiple temperature records have been broken across the province. [EmergencyMapBC](#) is available to help people know where to go during hot weather or a [heat warning](#).

First Nations and local authorities are encouraged to add the locations of emergency cooling centres or public cooling spaces using the Community Response Locations Portal. Contact your [EMCR regional office](#) if you do not have portal access or require assistance.

Check out the [PreparedBC extreme heat preparedness social media package](#) and share information on your community's social media channels.



## Join the CoNext Preparedness Hub

The [CoNext Climate Preparedness Hub](#) is a free, four-month training program that supports small, rural and remote B.C. communities in their climate preparedness journey.

The program is structured to support real people, doing real work, with deep community commitment but often limited resources.

Submit your [Expression of Interest to participate](#) in the fall 2026 session **by May 31, 2026**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Spaces are limited. Early submissions are strongly encouraged.

Contact [conext@fraserbasin.ca](mailto:conext@fraserbasin.ca) for more information.

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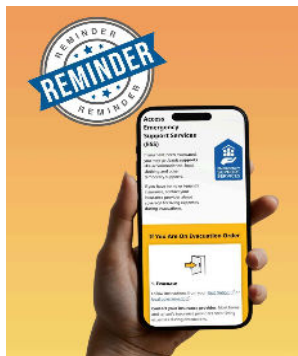
## First Nations Climate Action Network Map

Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative (CFN-GBI) is excited to announce the public launch of the [First Nations Climate Action Network Map](#).

The publicly accessible map is a tool for First Nations communities and coordinators to identify and connect with potential partners, organizations and communities working on similar climate resilience priorities.

Each listing on the map includes a description, links to relevant websites or resources and contact information.

To share stories of connections made or suggestions for future map improvements [submit a feedback form](#).



## Reminder: Pre-register for Emergency Support Services

EMCR is encouraging communities to remind residents to pre-register for [Emergency Support Services](#) through the [Evacuee Registration and Assistance \(ERA\)](#) portal.

Pre-registration helps ensure eligible evacuees receive e-transfers, which provides a more efficient way to meet their needs during an emergency.

## New cultural burning podcast series

The new Get FireSmart three-part podcast series, *Carrying the Fire: Indigenous Women Restoring the Land*, shares powerful stories from Indigenous women working to restore cultural burning practices and strengthen relationships with fire across communities.



Listen to [Episode 1: Reignition](#)

Learn more about the Get FireSmart podcast and listen to past episodes.



## Funding opportunities

Your community may be eligible for emergency response and recovery costs if you've experienced an emergency. For additional information, visit the [Emergency response operations webpage](#) for the Financial Assistance Standards for Emergency Response and Short-term Recovery.

Visit the [emergency management financial supports](#) webpage or [ClimateReadyBC](#) for available funding programs to support First Nations and local governments.



## Connect with us

Contact your [regional office](#) for emergency management information and support.

If you have received this by way of forward, **subscribe here**.

We acknowledge with respect that Emergency Management and Climate Readiness operates throughout British Columbia on the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples. We invite you to learn which territories you work/live on and how to respectfully acknowledge the land.

### SHARE THIS EMAIL & FOLLOW US



# ***AGENDA ITEM #11.1.***

[Unsubscribe](#) from future communications



The Corporation of the  
District of Central Saanich

May 21, 2026

Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs  
Parliament Buildings Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
Via email: [HMA.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HMA.minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance  
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
Via email: [FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Ministers Boyle and Bailey,

**RE: Request for Dedicated Provincial Funding to Support Municipalities That Achieve Provincially Mandated Housing Targets**

---

On behalf of the Council of the District of Central Saanich, I am writing to acknowledge the Province of British Columbia's leadership in addressing the housing crisis through the establishment of mandatory housing targets for local governments. We share the Province's commitment to increasing housing supply and supporting complete, livable communities across British Columbia.

The District of Central Saanich has proactively responded to provincial housing initiatives and requirements. Council and staff have undertaken significant planning, policy, and regulatory work to facilitate increased housing supply, including substantive housing-related land use policy changes, zoning bylaw amendments, and updates to our Official Community Plan. These actions required considerable municipal resources and reflect Council's strong commitment to meeting, and in several cases exceeding, our provincially mandated housing targets.

While Central Saanich is proud of its progress, the rapid pace and scale of housing delivery required to meet provincial targets generates corresponding growth-related pressures on municipal operations, neighbourhood livability, and community infrastructure. Increased development activity places added demands on staff capacity, traffic and transportation systems, water, sewer, stormwater, and utility infrastructure, as well as parks, recreation facilities, and other public amenities that support a high quality of life.

Local governments that demonstrate leadership and compliance with provincial housing mandates play a critical role in achieving shared provincial objectives. To that end, Council respectfully requests that the Province establish a dedicated funding stream for municipalities that have successfully implemented housing-enabling policy and regulatory changes and achieved or exceeded their housing targets. Such a program would recognize municipal leadership, incentivize continued housing creation, and ensure communities have the tools necessary to manage growth responsibly.

---

Specifically, the District of Central Saanich urges the Province to consider funding that may be allocated to:

- Municipal operational capacity, including staffing and systems required to manage increased development activity and service demands;
- Neighbourhood infrastructure improvements, such as traffic calming initiatives, pedestrian safety enhancements, and active transportation infrastructure;
- Civil infrastructure upgrades, including water, sewer, stormwater, and utility capacity expansions required to support additional housing; and
- Public amenities, including parks, recreation facilities, community spaces, and other infrastructure that contributes to complete, livable, and resilient neighbourhoods.

Central Saanich has demonstrated strong alignment with provincial housing objectives through timely policy implementation and regulatory reform. However, without dedicated growth-related funding, municipalities risk falling behind in delivering the infrastructure and services needed to support the very housing supply the Province seeks to accelerate.

We would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Province to further refine this approach and to share Central Saanich's experience as a community that has embraced housing reform. Council also intends to share this correspondence with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and neighbouring local governments to support broader regional and provincial advocacy on this matter.

Thank you for your continued partnership and leadership in addressing British Columbia's housing challenges. We look forward to your consideration of this request and to ongoing collaboration to support sustainable growth and livable communities. Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Planning and Building Services, at [Jarret.Matanowitsch@csaanich.ca](mailto:Jarret.Matanowitsch@csaanich.ca).

Sincerely,

Mayor Ryan Windsor

cc: Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)



## Northern Health - Healthy Communities E-Brief

**June 2026**

### Welcome to the Healthy Communities E-Brief!

This monthly newsletter is prepared by the [Healthy Communities team](#) to help local governments and community organizations in Northern BC stay informed about resources, upcoming events, and funding opportunities that support community health and well-being.

## Surveys



### Educator feedback Survey: Being Me, Being Us (Body image promotion in schools)

The BC Ministry of Health is inviting educators and school staff to complete a 10-15 minute survey on [Being Me, Being Us](#), an online resource that supports creating body-inclusive schools (no prior experience with the resources is required). Feedback will help improve future versions of the resource, and participants can enter to win a gift card.

Please share your input by **June 12, 2026**.

[Take the survey](#)

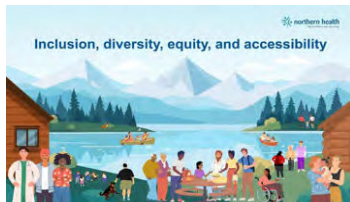


### Northern BC Off-Road Vehicle Safety Survey

Off-road vehicle riding is a popular activity, but it can lead to serious injuries. To help riders stay active and safe, a research team in Northern BC is studying how off-road vehicles are used in the region. This survey is for adults (19 and older) who use off-road vehicles and live in the Northern Health region.

Please share your input by **June 30, 2026**.

Take the survey



## Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Survey

Northern Health is working to make sure everyone feels respected, valued, and supported when they receive care. We know that some people still face unfair barriers. Addressing these barriers is important to building trust and improving health across Northern BC. The IDEA survey will help us understand people's experiences and what needs to change. Feedback from patients and staff will guide actions to make care more inclusive and fair for everyone.

Please share your input by **July 22, 2026**.

Take the survey



## Northern Health Strategic Planning: Community Survey

Northern Health (NH) is creating a new Strategic Plan and wants to hear from you. This short, five-minute survey asks about your experiences with care in Northern BC. What you share will help shape NH's mission, vision, values, and future plans. We will also share a summary of what we hear with community members, NH leadership, and the Board.

Please share your input by **July 31, 2026**.

Take the survey

## Resources



### What we heard: Off-Road Vehicle Use Survey

In early 2026, the [Northern Health Injury Prevention team](#) invited local governments, including First Nations, municipalities, and regional districts, to share their experiences with off-road vehicle use in their communities.

The results are now in. Thank you to all who participated. Your input is helping shape future work to support safer riding across the region.

Learn more

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**Northern BC Healthy  
K to 12 Schools Newsletter**

ISSUE 10 | SPRING/SUMMER 2026



Information for Northern BC schools, students, and families

**Northern BC Healthy K to 12 Schools Newsletter  
(spring/summer 2026)**

This newsletter shares helpful updates for schools, students, and families across the region. In this issue, you'll find information on immunization, physical activity, mental wellness, and more.

[Learn more](#)



**Men's Shed Association of BC**

Men's Sheds are welcoming spaces where men gather to work on projects, share skills, and support each other. In Northern BC, these spaces help people stay connected, especially in small or remote communities. Activities can include woodworking, fixing equipment, mentoring, or simply having a chat over coffee. Benefits include:

- More chances to connect and reduce loneliness in a safe, judgment-free space
- Sharing skills across generations
- Strengthening community resilience through volunteerism and local projects

You're welcome to join, start a Shed, or support one near you.

[Learn more](#)



**Wildfire smoke**

Wildfires and smoke have always occurred in BC, but they are becoming more frequent and severe as the climate changes. Wildfire smoke is a form of air pollution that can affect your health. The BCCDC has created fact sheets with information about wildfire smoke and its health impacts, including information on how to prepare for wildfire season.

[Learn more](#)



## In It Together: Neighbourhood Preparedness Guide

Being prepared isn't just about what supplies you have. It's about the people around you and how you can work together in an emergency. This guide will help increase your personal preparedness and provide conversation starters to help you connect with your neighbours about preparedness.

[Learn more](#)



## Community Partnerships for Equitable Local Climate Action

Working together helps communities take stronger climate action. This new guide shows how partnerships between local governments and community groups can support better results, including cutting greenhouse gas emissions and making sure everyone is included. It shares simple, evidence-based steps, real examples, and practical ways to build strong partnerships that support Canada's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

[Learn more](#)



## Wildfire resilience toolkit for small municipalities

This toolkit provides step-by-step guidance, templates, and examples to help municipalities reduce wildfire risks, protect infrastructure and ecosystems, and build community resilience using practical, nature-based and strategic solutions.

[Learn more](#)

## Events and learning

### Webinar: Michif Language, its revitalization, and implications for the Metis Nation

Date: June 2, 2026

10:00-11:30 am Pacific Time

Join Reid Hala for an engaging webinar on the Michif language and its role in Métis identity, culture, and wellbeing. Learn how Michif carries knowledge,

### Webinar: Systemic discrimination part two - What we can do

Date: June 4, 2026

10:00-11:30 am Pacific Time

Are you concerned about systemic discrimination in your community or organization? Do you want to take action? Are you unsure about how to start and what to

connection, and strength across generations, and hear about community efforts to keep the language strong for the future.

[Register now](#)

do? Join this free, 90-minute educational webinar from the BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner to learn more about some ways to address systemic discrimination.

[Register now](#)

**Challenge:  
The ParticipACTION community challenge**

**Date: June 1-30, 2026**

A national physical activity initiative encouraging Canadians to move more. Organizations, schools, local governments, and community groups can register for the Challenge, which awards \$100,000 to Canada's Most Active Community and \$5,000–\$10,000 to communities in each province and territory.

[Join the challenge](#)

**Course series: Tackling Energy Use in Your Municipal and Community Building**

**Dates: Ongoing**

This free Green Municipal Fund course series offers four self-paced online courses on topics like municipal leadership, energy solutions, and community programs. Each course takes less than 10 hours, stays open for three months after registration, and can be taken in any order. Choose the courses that best fit your municipality's needs.

[Register now](#)

**Funding**

**June and July 2026**

**PlanH Grants (BC Healthy Communities)**

**Deadline: June 2, 2026**

Local and Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities can apply for two types of funding: 1) Community Connectedness grants of up to \$5,000 for projects that build relationships, and 2) Healthy Public Policy grants of up to \$15,000 for projects that develop or improve policies affecting community health and well-being.

[Read more and apply](#)

**Community Gaming Grants (Government of BC)**

**Deadline: June 30, 2026**

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Grants are available to parent led committees at public, group 1 independent, and First Nation schools across BC. District PAC Grants are also available to District Parent Advisory Committees.

[Read more and apply](#)

**IMAGINE Community Grants (Northern Health)**

**Deadline: July 5, 2026**

The Northern Health IMAGINE Community Grant supports community-based projects with a focus on mental wellness, community diversity, harm reduction, climate health action, food security, active living, and/or community safety. Northern BC community organizations, schools, Indigenous organizations, and local governments are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$10,000.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Transforming Systems Grants (Vancouver Foundation)

**Deadline: July 6, 2026**

Transforming Systems Grants support organizations addressing the root causes of inequality and allow those most affected by unfair systems to shape their own futures.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (Green Municipal Fund)

**Deadlines: June 16 and July 14, 2026**

This fund supports municipalities and Indigenous communities to plan, test, and carry out local climate adaptation projects. This can include climate-ready planning, feasibility studies, and implementation work. Deadlines vary by funding stream, with the next intakes closing on June 16 and July 14.

[Read more and apply](#)

## TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant (TD Bank)

**Deadline: July 15, 2026**

The Foundation funds environmental projects that support learning and improve green spaces, such as greener schoolyards, parks, community gardens, nature programs, and citizen science.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Ongoing intake



### Carter's Project (BC Lung Foundation)

**Deadline: Ongoing**

This program gives communities indoor and outdoor air quality monitors. It helps families get clear air quality information and offers simple tools to support lung health. You can apply on behalf of your community. Offering asthma education camps that travel to rural communities.

[Read more and apply](#)

### Student Summer Farm, Food & Fisheries Bursary (IAF30)

**Deadline: Ongoing**

The Student Summer Farm, Food and Fisheries Bursary Program supports summer labour needs, youth engagement and work experience in the agricultural sector in BC. Up to \$3000 bursary.

[Read more and apply](#)

### Local Community Accessibility Grant Program (Sparc BC)

**Deadline: Ongoing**

Up to \$25,000 is available for municipalities and regional districts in BC to help make things easier for people with disabilities. Projects must be chosen by local government Accessibility

### BC Community Climate Funding Finder (Clean BC)

**Deadline: Ongoing**

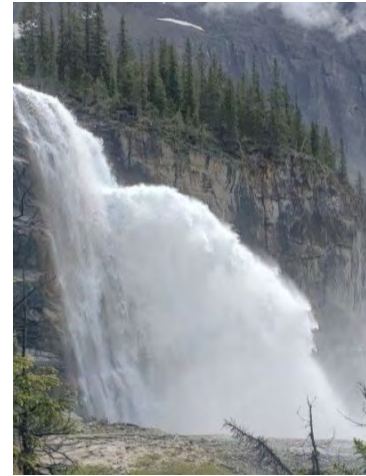
Looking for climate action funding? By answering a few questions, you'll be on your way to learning which programs fit your project best. And if you're still looking for project ideas, the Funding Finder can show you a

Committees or written in Accessibility Plans.

Read more and apply

range of possibilities to help spark your imagination.

Read more and apply



## Get to know us

This new section will help you learn more about the people and teams that work to strengthen health in your community.

Photo (left to right): Lise Luppens, Emilia Moulechkova, Amelia Cooper, and Flo Sheppard



The [Population Health Nutrition](#) team is a group of four dietitians with more than 70 years of collective work experience. We lead work in [early years](#), [school-age nutrition](#), [food security](#), and weight-inclusive approaches, to support [healthy eating](#) for Northern BC people. We all love connecting through food, whether that is growing or harvesting foods and preserving them to enjoy later, [eating together](#) with friends and coworkers, or celebrating our cultural food traditions with family. If your work involves food, nutrition, or food security at a community level, we're a great place to start! Email us at [PopHthNutrition@northernhealth.ca](mailto:PopHthNutrition@northernhealth.ca)

## Northern Health Stories



**Self-care for new parents: Physical activity can help**



**Now open! Vanderhoof Health Centre is NH's third collection depot for human**

While welcoming a new baby is a special time for parents and families, it isn't always easy. There's a lot to juggle in the early postpartum period (the first six weeks after childbirth), so it makes sense that new mothers/birthing parents may find it hard to prioritize their own self-care...[continue reading](#).

**milk**

I'm excited to share this update! When I was a primary care nurse (PCN), I heard from parents who wanted to donate milk to the provincial milk bank....[continue reading](#).

See the latest stories at [stories.northernhealth.ca](https://stories.northernhealth.ca)

**E-Brief information**

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Not on the E-brief mailing list? Send an email to [healthycommunities@northernhealth.ca](mailto:healthycommunities@northernhealth.ca)  
If you have any questions about our distribution list and your privacy, please phone 250-637-1615.

Northern Health acknowledges with gratitude that our work takes place on the territories of the Tlingit, Tahltan, Nisga'a, Gitksan, Tsimshian, Haisla, Haida, Wet'suwet'en, Carrier (Dakelh), Sekani (Tse'khene), Dane-zaa, Cree, Saulteau and Dene Peoples.



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## **COSCO News**

Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of B.C.

Number 136



[www.coscobc.org](http://www.coscobc.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/COSCOBC/>



June 2026

<https://ca.linkedin.com/company/council-of-senior-citizens-of-bc-cosco>

### **June 15<sup>th</sup> is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched on June 15, 2006, to raise awareness about elder abuse and neglect. The day promotes services and resources that support the safety and well-being of seniors. Twenty years later, elder abuse continues to rise.

The Seniors Abuse and Information Line (SAIL), operated by Seniors First BC (a charity established in 1994) receives more than 8,000 calls each year. Not all calls involve elder abuse; however, among those that do, financial and emotional abuse are identified most often. Although abuse can happen anywhere, it most often occurs at home, and the alleged abuser is frequently a family member or another person in a position of trust.

Elder abuse occurs when there is an imbalance of power and one person uses their power or influence to take advantage of, or control, an older adult. While it can be a single incident (e.g. a physical assault or a one-time scam), it more commonly develops over time. Several risk factors can contribute to elder abuse and neglect—especially isolation and dependence on others. Social isolation increases vulnerability because fewer people are present to notice and report warning signs. Dependence can occur when an older adult relies on someone else for care, or when someone else relies on the older adult for shelter and/or financial support. Other important risk factors include family dynamics, cultural values, communication barriers, and disability or health issues (including diminished cognitive capacity).

What can we do? Learn how to recognize elder abuse, where to report concerns, and ways to protect yourself and others—including through incapacity planning.

If you are concerned about the wellbeing of an older adult, please contact Seniors Abuse & Information Line (SAIL): Toll-free 1-866-437-1940. Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Language interpretation is available, including ASL.

Email: [info@seniorsfirstbc.ca](mailto:info@seniorsfirstbc.ca)  
Website: <https://seniorsfirstbc.ca>

**seniors first BC**

**Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO)**

Visit us at [www.coscobic.org](http://www.coscobic.org) &  
<https://www.facebook.com/COSCOBC/>

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[pres@coscobic.org](mailto:pres@coscobic.org)

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Disclaimer: Unless otherwise noted, opinions, viewpoints, accuracy of facts is the sole responsibility of the writer, and not necessarily the opinion of the Editor, Executive, or Membership of COSCO.



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## About COSCO

COSCO is an umbrella organization that brings together older adults to work on common issues. We now have 65 affiliate groups, representing over 85,000 seniors.

COSCO is affiliated with the 1,000,000-member National Pensioners Federation (NPF) which promotes these issues at the national level.

COSCO is a registered non-profit society. To join, contact [membership@coscobic.org](mailto:membership@coscobic.org)

Send your letters to the editor or other contributions to:  
[cosconews.editor@coscobic.org](mailto:cosconews.editor@coscobic.org)

## From the President's Desk

In June let's recognize Seniors Week along with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.



June is a time to reflect on the crucial role seniors play in our society across all generations. Looking back at the policies we advocate for at COSCO BC, many are promoted with younger generations

in mind. Seniors know what we've lived through and benefitted from (or not) and fiercely advocate for better retirements for all generations.

John Stapleton's blog (see below) points out that it is convenient to blame seniors hoarding wealth for the woes of the younger generation. But this distracts from the reality that income inequality is present in all generations. And further deflects attention from the structures in society that foster inequality – wealth is increasingly concentrated in a few multi-national corporations.

<https://openpolicyontario.com/category/blog/>

Let's look at policies we older adults advocate for the benefit of all ages: universal and public health care; pharmacare and dental care; increase in supply of social lower-cost housing; public and accessible transit; sustainable pensions for today's workers to support their retirement; the 2023 Pension Protection Act that gives pension obligations super-priority status; a review of Canada's income security system; and the recognition that seniors have rights, and need a UN convention to combat toxic ageism.

We've continued our advocacy on several fronts. We met with Opposition Health Critic Brennan Day, to discuss the private members bill on Long Term Care. We met

with George Anderson, Parliamentary Secretary for Transit, regarding the need to maintain the BC Rail line linking North Vancouver with Prince George. And we met with Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors and Long-Term Care, Susie Chant, to discuss a plan for health care for seniors that would expand and strengthen the continuum of care from primary care through home support, home care, assisted living, Adult Day programs and Long-Term Care.

We're excited about the launch on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 411 Seniors Centre of the 'Health Care Needs Home Care' campaign – see poster on back page. And we are just starting to collaborate on a campaign to reverse the increased interest rates now applied to the Property Tax Deferral Program to ensure lower-income seniors get a fair deal. We are now advocating for both federal and provincial governments to appoint a Minister for Seniors with full funding to develop a seniors' strategy with targets and timelines.

Elder abuse continues to proliferate. COSCO BC partnered with Langley Seniors in Action on a submission to the Federal Government's Status of Women Committee for their study on abuse of Senior women and supported the President of the National Pensioners' Federation in their virtual presentation. We applaud the Elder Justice Coalition for their successful lobby in February which resulted in a proposed amendment to Bill C-16, the Protecting Victims Act, regarding coercive control, now seen as a serious form of family violence. Look for other articles on Elder Abuse in this issue.

But now is the time to enjoy the many events taking place throughout the Province this Seniors Week. And don't forget to wear purple on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15. *Leslie Gaudette, President*

## **Building Community and Confidence in Retirement: The Work of the Public Sector Retiree Group (PSRG)**



Retirement marks an exciting new chapter—one filled with opportunity, reflection, and change. At the same time, it can bring unexpected emotional, social, and practical challenges. That's where the Public Sector Retiree Group (PSRG) plays an important role.

PSRG is a collaborative community representing nearly 43,000 members of four retiree organizations: the BC Retired Teachers' Association, the BC Government Retired Employees' Association, the Municipal Pension Retirees' Association, and the Association of BC College Pension Plan Retirees. Together, we provide a strong, unified voice for public sector retirees across British Columbia. By working collaboratively, our member organizations enhance advocacy efforts and help ensure that retirees' interests—today and in the future—are well represented.

With decades of collective experience, PSRG brings a deep understanding of the diverse needs of retirees throughout the province. From navigating pension systems and access to healthcare, to addressing the social and lifestyle realities of

retirement in urban, rural, and remote communities, our work is rooted in the lived experiences of our members. This insight allows PSRG to develop and support programs, services, and advocacy initiatives that are relevant, responsive, and truly member-focused.

Retirement is about more than finances—it is a significant life transition. To support members through this change, we invite you to watch our video presentation, [What They DON'T Tell You About Retirement - A PSRG Presentation • BC Retired Teachers' Association](#), which offers practical guidance and thoughtful insight into the emotional and social dimensions of retirement.

This year, PSRG is focusing on supporting members through voluntary health benefits, travel insurance, health and lifestyle resources, and timely pension news and advocacy. Through collaboration—including our valued partnership with COSCO BC—we strengthen our collective voice and expand our impact, ensuring retirees across British Columbia are informed, represented, and supported.

*Lisa Hansen, ED, BCRTA on behalf of the Public Sector Retiree Group*



Randy Dillon and Agnes Jackman participated on behalf of COSCO BC in the National Day of Action for Public Health Care rally in Vancouver in March.

## **Why is COSCO Actively Supporting a UN Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons?**



COSCO has focused very directly on getting a UN Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons since 2020 when COVID-19 exposed the terrible conditions in some long-term care homes in Canada, particularly in Ontario and Quebec where the Canadian army had to be called in to help the residents. The army's subsequent public report shocked the whole nation.

In 2020, some provincial governments reacted by preparing plans to contain rising COVID health care costs in hospitals by restricting access based on age or life expectancy to some in high-demand life-saving equipment such as ventilators. Some of our lawmakers jumped on that bandwagon right away and, among others, the government of Alberta prepared a 20+ page document with instructions on when to restrict health care based on age and included assumptions about the quality of life of older people.

This approach is clearly discriminatory and is not based on the values that are explicitly set out as the basis for our universal health care system. So, the idea was floated that older people need to be

protected against the arbitrary actions of governments by having a legally binding UN Convention that prohibits discrimination based on age has a lot of merit.

COSCO has hosted several webinars since 2021 on ageism and the need for a UN Convention. Our conference in 2025 included Human Rights as a key theme.

Leslie Gaudete and Kathleen Jamieson (for the National Pensioners Federation) attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing held in May 2024 at the UN in New York and spoke about the need for a Convention. Now the Convention is about to be drafted by the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and we are invited to submit our ideas about the principles that should be included in the document.

As part of responding to this opportunity, we have now set up a COSCO working group to focus on the issues and to make sure that the ideas of older people in BC are represented in this international work.

*Kathleen Jamieson, COSCO & NPF*

### **Are You Looking for a Family Doctor?**

A recent press release from the Ministry of Health announced that 600,000 people have been connected to a family doctor or nurse practitioner since 2023. The release also notes that B.C. now has the most family doctors per capita in Canada. There are more than 15,000 physicians which equates to 271 physicians per 100,000 residents, an increase of 23% from 2017 to 2024.

People are encouraged to register on the Health Connect Registry if they are looking for a physician. To register to get a family doctor or nurse practitioner see the link below:

- <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/find-care/health-connect-registry>

If you are having trouble doing this yourself, ask one of your children, grandchildren, neighbours or a seniors' centre volunteer to help you with it.

## **A Proposed Code of Conduct to End Frauds and Scams**

A webinar panel discussion co-hosted by Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario (EAPO), along with the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (CNPEA) and the Canadian Centre for Women Empowerment (CCWE) took place in February 2026. The purpose was to share insights into practices under the current Code of Conduct for the Delivery of Banking Services to Seniors.

The panel included representatives of the above agencies, several representatives from financial institutions, and survivors of financial abuse. They assessed the real-world impact of the current seniors' code, highlighted best practices, and identified lessons that can guide the development of the new **Code of Conduct on the Prevention of Economic Abuse** at the federal government level. The new Code recognizes that frauds and scams need to be prevented at the source (within our banking system). Key points in the new Code are public education and increased employee training. Staff learn to ask questions before the fraud takes place, be curious about certain withdrawals, and escalate if risk signals are seen.

When frauds and scams are reported after the fact, it is almost impossible to track and recover funds

especially with cybercrime or phone/online fraud. Fraudsters are international actors and money goes from a Canadian account to another country almost instantaneously.

Everyone has a fraud story, whether a romance scam, nephew in jail, Apple cards needed ASAP, etc. Fraudsters find older people easy targets because we may not be digitally literate, feel obligated to help, or are lonely or isolated with few social connections.

In 2024 alone, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre reported that Canadians lost \$640M to frauds and scams yearly, with about \$200M taken from seniors. By Sept 2025, \$540M had already been lost to fraud, a 300% increase since 2020. Banks figure only about 5-10% even report fraud due to stigma, shame, fear, or feeling there is no one who can help. Both Codes of Conduct are voluntary, so COSCO believes it is vitally important that our financial institutions sign on to the new code once it is developed. Stay tuned to updates on this. COSCO BC provided some input in the submission made by the National Pensioners Federation.

*De Whalen, COSCO Income Security Chair*



## The Connect!Age Project



The Connect!Age project, a five-year study supported by a major grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), examines co-produced knowledge and innovations to foster social connections and resilience among marginalized older adults (65+). The study involves 80 community organizations providing services to older adults and their caregivers in British Columbia (BC) and Quebec (QC). This article will summarize findings from the BC study arm reported in research abstracts submitted to the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Gerontology to be held in Prince Edward Island in October 2026.

In BC, the Connect!Age project research team is working with 40 organizations including a number of COSCO member groups, that were put into clusters (5-9 organizations each) based on size, location, and type. The priority was to develop resources for volunteers and to figure out how to connect with 'hidden' isolated seniors.

### Working with Volunteers

Community-based organizations across Canada provide services that promote health and well-being and prevent social isolation among older adults. These organizations rely heavily on volunteers to assist with their programs, yet often struggle with volunteer management, including volunteer recruitment, training, retention, and recognition.

The Connect!Age team explored these challenges and co-created supportive tools and resources, including volunteer satisfaction surveys, research summaries, collaborative discussion groups, and sharing pre-existing resources.

Community-based organizations require volunteers to function but often lack infrastructure to support them. Findings so far indicate that volunteers cannot be taken for granted which involves the need to develop volunteer programming (For example: province wide-

recruitment centres) and policies to incentivize volunteering.

### Building Organizational Capacity to Reach "Hidden" Populations

Community-based organizations play a critical role to address social isolation among older adults. Yet, many face challenges in reaching individuals who are disconnected from formal services. These "hidden" populations—including socially isolated older adults and caregivers—are often not identified through traditional outreach efforts. Organizations noted challenges in identifying those not already connected to services, over-reliance on passive communication strategies, and lack of capacity for targeted outreach. Limited finances constrain the ability to develop and sustain outreach programs.

Improving outreach to socially isolated populations requires a shift from service availability to active engagement strategies. Trust-based and place-based outreach, including engaging caregivers, were identified as ways to access hidden populations. Practical resources and applied tools (e.g., funding pitch templates, evaluation surveys) were co-developed to support these efforts. Strengthening the capacity of organizations through these practical tools, targeted approaches, and sustainable funding mechanisms will improve the ability of programs to connect hidden populations to appropriate services.

Note: The Connect!Age team is led by Principal Investigators Andrew Wister, Director of the Gloria Gutman Gerontology Research Centre, Simon Fraser University and Mélanie Levasseur, Professor, Université de Sherbrooke and Researcher, Research Centre on Aging. *COSCO members including Leslie Gaudette, Anthony Kupferschmidt and Kathleen Jamieson are collaborators with the research team on this study.*

For more information visit:

<https://www.sfu.ca/grc/research/projects/connect-age.html>

## International Conference on Deprescribing

Following the incredible success of the first two International Conferences on Deprescribing, the third conference held in Montreal April 27 to 29, offered great opportunities for learning, collaboration and inspiration. Co-hosted by the Canadian Medication Appropriateness and Deprescribing Network (CaDeN) and the US Deprescribing Research Network, planning committee members represented ten countries, with the more than 200 participants coming from many more. The conference included plenary speakers, panel discussions, poster sessions during extended break times and concurrent sessions.

In a pre-conference workshop on Understanding what Really Matters to Patients, presenter Jamie Hayes from Wales stressed that effective listening is an intervention in itself. His colleague, Johnathan Underhill observed that you “can only make a perfect decision if you have all the information, but most of the time you don’t. Therefore, listening to patients’ interests is essential”.

Keynote speaker Dr. Cynthia Boyd highlighted the importance of knowing what medications are really beneficial, noting that patients in home care take 17 medications on average. While there is always more evidence to start rather than stop, patient outcomes must be considered, and a pharmacist needs to be part of the medical team. Reducing the number of medications leads to fewer doctor visits, lower pharmacy costs and often a more alert patient.

Other conference speakers noted great strides have been made in guidelines for deprescribing since 2012 when there were none. There are up to seven today. Common sense opportunities should be leveraged with key stakeholders at the table to develop scientific consensus documents. While AI (artificial intelligence) can be helpful in deprescribing, caution is urged, due to biases that can crop in – ChatGPT can lie or hallucinate, so we humans must be vigilant. One seminar organized through the Public Awareness Committee of CaDeN, highlighted the positive impact of patient and community voices with examples of a study from Newfoundland. Another panel spoke of Canadian work on appropriate use for collaborative, evidence-based inclusive tools.



Billy Berryman, retiree (Nova Scotia Federation of Teachers),  
Leslie Gaudette (COSCO BC) and  
Louissette Hinton (CURC Québec)



Dr. Emily MacDonald, Scientific Director, presented Leslie Gaudette with a Certificate of Appreciation for contributions to the Public Awareness Committee from the Canadian Medication Appropriateness and Deprescribing Network (CaDeN) at the International Conference on Deprescribing (ICOD).

André Picard underscored the importance of advocacy in making change and provided a road map to communicate to those who shape policy, including

1. Know the facts on all sides of the issue
2. Ground the facts in reality
3. Develop a clear concise message
4. Nurture relationships with allies
5. Engage the public
6. Say thank you

Story telling is important to connect emotionally so that policy makers hear needs expressed by the public. We were encouraged to make a nuisance, and rally for a little bit. But then we must make ourselves useful and offer specific solutions that are doable in a short time frame. Finally, he pointed out that the \$44 billion we spend annually on drugs in Canada, mostly on older people, has an environmental impact, and that more is not always better.

In closing the conference, Claire Howard of the Health Innovation Network in the UK, spoke to getting the balance right, and promoted structured medication reviews built into primary care. I found the conference encouraging to see the progress being made internationally and within Canada, and especially in BC, where we see clinical pharmacists being integrated into Primary Health Networks to provide good communication among patients, primary care providers and pharmacists. It was great to connect with members of the Public Awareness Committee from across Canada and feel part of this wider international movement.

For more information visit <https://www.deprescribingnetwork.ca/icod2026>

*Submitted by: Leslie Gaudette, COSCO President*



Members of the Public Awareness Committee meet with patients. Committee members include Johanna Trimble, Louisette Hinton, Leslie Gaudette, Bill Berryman, Ken Fung and Nira Lalji.

## **Climate Change in an Ageing World**

The biggest climate issues facing British Columbians today boil down to fire, floods, and heat. For seniors, the effects can be catastrophic. Wildfires can kill, both humans and animals. They can also destroy the land that people use to grow crops and domestic animals, and they destroy the food that wild animals eat. And fire destroys homes and equipment. A less obvious outcome is the smoke, filled with tiny harmful particles, that is immediately seen at the fire site before it moves over continents. Breathing in this smoke can be particularly damaging to our lungs. Floods also can kill. They destroy people's lives and their livelihoods. Homes are often damaged or destroyed, roads impassable. The floods of 2021 in the Fraser Valley, covered lush farmland with water (some of it toxic), that took a few years to fix. The final threat is heat. Most of us recall the heat dome of 2021 where over 600 people in BC died, 70% of them seniors. Heat seems to be a constant problem in the summer months now. We see many drought-like conditions, which in turn sets up conditions for fires, or destroys crops and make it impossible to feed our domestic animals.



Robert Henderson (Burnaby Neighbourhood) with COSCO executive members Agnes Jackman, Linda Forsythe and Randy Dillon putting together a 'super fan' by adding an extra filter to collect air particles from smoke.

Given climate change, the experience of ageing has been reshaped for seniors. Our reality means that the effects of smoke and heat exposure are more extreme as we are more sensitive and vulnerable, especially in our ability to cope. People relying on a medical system often can't get their medicines or get to a doctor or hospital. Power outages make it more difficult to cook and to stay cool. People are often told to shelter in place, but that can mean more isolation and risk. People who don't speak or read the dominant language may be at a loss to help themselves.

With climate change in focus, the 2026 Friesen Conference, held at Simon Fraser University, addressed some of the problems seniors face. The 33<sup>rd</sup> John K. Friesen Conference is entitled "Climate Change in an Aging World." Climate change and population aging are two intersecting global trends that significantly impact the health and social experiences of older people, healthcare and community/social

systems, governments, the private sector, and social justice. The purpose of this conference was to bring together experts from academic, community, NGO, government, and private sectors to review emerging issues and share cutting-edge innovations to identify climate change adversities, and to enhance climate resilience among older adults and their families and communities, to overcome these challenges.'

One panel talked about barriers to help that seniors need, or adaptive actions seniors could take to prepare in advance. However, some face barriers to do so. These barriers include poor living conditions, limited support from family and increased social isolation. They also point out that people with limited English language skills also may face access to current information. Many non-profit seniors' centres try to fill the gap in government services, but they are often stretched to the breaking point.

Projects now taking place in Long-term Care facilities in BC look at power outages and what that means for heating and cooling, evacuations and the impact on mental and physical health.

For example, what happens when a facility is evacuated? This has happened in BC in recent years. Seniors are moved away from their homes, their communities, their family and friends. Mental health becomes an issue as more vulnerable people suffer greatly from anxiety and PTSD. Comments reported by these in workshops included, "there are fewer songbirds" or "my memories haven't lost their power, they still remain with me". They worry about the effects on their children and especially their grandchildren. Some mentioned the feeling of powerlessness at the apparent backpedaling over climate policies. They talked about how their perspectives have changed over time and wondered how to take positive action.

Panelists reported on residents of one centre who came up with a plan. Topics included environmental sustainability and stewardship, risk management initiatives, a climate adaptation plan, forming partnerships with external organizations, improvement in information and knowledge training, including risk assessment and vulnerability. They looked at upgrades and retrofitting of their centre. These included HVAC, electrical upgrades, kitchen and laundry upgrades, generators, water issues, windows, insulation, elevators and road access.

This plan came from workshops that included residents as full contributors. Other work and workshops are planned for this year.

No matter where seniors live in the province, there is a place for seniors to be able to speak up, ask questions, form a plan and move forward. If we wait for others to do it, we may not live to see it happen.

*Linda Forsythe, COSCO editor*

*Quotes and information taken from the Friesen Conference, 2026.*

*See: <https://www.sfu.ca/grc/events/friesen/2026.html>*

Barb Mikulec and Agnes Jackman flank Gloria Gutman at the celebration of renaming the SFU Gerontology Research Centre to the Gloria Gutman Gerontology Research Centre, in recognition of her years of work there.



-11-

## Construction Crisis in Home Building – A Fresh Approach to Solving This Problem

*Editor's note: I was delighted to see the following information on home building in the latest issue of the Nation Pensioners' Federation Newsletter. It made sense to me, where much of what is reported doesn't. Have a read.*

Canada is facing an unprecedented housing crisis. Addressing it will require more than doubling current housing production while significantly reducing costs. Add to this is the shortage of skilled trades workers.



According to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) forecasts Canada needs at least 250,000 additional housing units per year. At the same time housing starts are declining.

Prefab and modular construction are seen as essential to solving this crisis. These approaches offer the potential for lower costs, faster build times and higher numbers of units being built. However, current efforts are unlikely to unlock their full potential, as they largely build on an industry that remains fragmented and small in scale.

Today's prefab/modular sector in Canada consists primarily of low-volume producers, typically delivering between 25 and 1,000 units annually. Meeting national demand would require hundreds of these companies. Each would need to independently invest in design, manufacturing processes, supply chains and innovation. This would be done while operating with limited financial resources. And since 70-75% of total costs are at the design stage, this fragmented model would do little to reduce costs.

Canada needs to transform and consolidate the housing production model. It is possible, especially with the added advantage of modern Design for Assembly and Manufacturing (DfAM) principles. By integrating design, manufacturing and supply chains at scale, industries have demonstrated that substantial cost reductions and quality improvements are achievable. Instead of

relying on hundreds of small producers, Canada could leverage national demand (1/4 million annually) to support coordinated, large-scale manufacturing. Standardized designs, unified production systems and integrated supply chains would allow for automation and efficiency gains that are currently out of reach.

Developers would select from pre-defined designs and configurations – such as units for students, accessible housing for handicapped and seniors, northern communities and Indigenous populations, along with various layouts and features. A project would simply order the required number and type of units, which factories would then produce and deliver. This approach would streamline approvals, reduce development complexity and significantly accelerate delivery timelines. Standardization and automation would lower both fixed and variable costs, while improving quality and consistency. Importantly this would NOT mean a single centralized factory. Rather, multiple large-scale factories would operate across the country all using common designs, manufacturing processes and supply chains – capturing benefits of scale while maintaining regional capacity and specific needs.

The key challenge is how to enable this level of consolidation and coordination. One potential solution is the creation of a Crown Corporation, modelled in part on Atomic Energy Canada, to provide strategic oversight and direction. A consortium of public and private partners could be organized to bring it up to scale.

Transforming Canada's housing industry is not option – it is essential. Without a fundamental shift in how housing is designed, produced and delivered, the country will not meet its housing needs.

*Michael Powell, President, Canadian Federation of Pensioners. Information taken from NPF Newsletter, Vol 31, Issue 1, page 12.  
Edited and reduced by COSCO*

## Property Tax Deferral Changes

BC's Property Tax Deferral Program managed by the provincial government allows eligible homeowners to defer annual property taxes that are repaid with interest when the property is sold. The groups eligible to use this program include seniors over 55, surviving spouses, persons with disabilities and families with children under 18.

In the latest budget, the government has changed the program significantly. The old deferment interest rate was Prime minus 2%, simple interest. The new deferment rate, starting in 2026, is Prime plus 2%, with interest compounding monthly. The change in rate, combined with monthly compounding, will result in a much larger deferment interest repayment. After 15 years, under the new rate, a homeowner could be paying back the principal itself plus up to 4 times the interest they would have paid with the previous rate. Understandably, many seniors are alarmed by this prospect.



COSCO BC is collaborating with a team of financial professionals who have done in-depth analyses of the changes to the program. We are looking into what you can do and what we can do.

### What you need to know:

First, please understand that your existing deferrals are grandfathered at the previous rates, so there is no need for you to repay any existing deferment balances. The new interest rate regime will apply only to new deferred taxes for 2026 and onward.

Second, if you do not have the funds to meet your basic needs or to deal with other cash flow concerns, COSCO BC agrees with the BC Seniors

Advocate who observed that “the program still provides significant support for seniors needing extra money.” You may also wish to consult a trusted financial advisor for advice for more complex decisions.

The third point is to be assured that a decision to defer your taxes this year will not cause you to lose your home.

### What COSCO BC is doing:

COSCO BC will work with our collaborators on an open letter to the BC government calling for a reversal of the program's changes. We will be posting this open letter on our website, for all to use, or to copy and be reaching out to other groups to join with us in this campaign.

We are looking at a media campaign to let everyone know how this will mainly impact those who can least afford it.

### How you can help:

We suggest you speak with your MLA about the changes in the program. Write a letter to your local newspaper. Bring up this topic at any meeting you attend. We need a groundswell of people to make the government drop these changes. Ask your group to support the open letter.

### More information on opting out:

Note that if you want to opt out of the program altogether and have not done so by June 1, you will be automatically renewed for 2026 and will have to wait until next year to opt out.

Opting out does not mean you need to repay the existing balance immediately. As stated previously existing balances will retain the grandfathered interest rate. Repayment is done when the property is sold.

*Linda Forsythe, COSCO communications chair*

## **Time to Increase CPP Benefits**



For decades there was an assumption that the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) would act as an adjunct to workplace pension plans.

If you weren't fortunate to have a union in your workplace, you were unlikely to have a workplace pension plan and you relied largely on meagre CPP and OAS benefits for your retirement. And for a decade, the Canadian Labour Congress pressed the federal government to double the CPP from 25% to 50% of earnings after a lifetime of work.

In 2016, the provincial and federal finance ministers finally agreed to a modest 33% increase to the CPP benefit. The CPP is funded by premiums split evenly between employees and employers, and it invests our deferred earnings prudently so we can rely on the actuarial assumptions that our pension plan will be there in retirement.

Last week for the first time in CPP history, the federal government announced a premium cut from 9.9% to 9.5%. For a person earning \$54,600, the premium reduction is \$109 a year or \$4.20 every two weeks. By contrast, the big five banks will save an estimated \$40 million, telecoms an estimated \$19 million, Walmart an estimated \$14 million, Amazon \$6 million etc. In total, \$3 billion will be lost to the plan, money which is meant to secure retirement benefits for Canadians. Actuarial reports today suggest CPP is adequately funded for some decades, so now is the time to increase the benefits to 50% for future retirees. Instead, Prime Minister Mark Carney feels comfortable cutting premiums for all these profitable corporations. This is the banker Carney acting, not the prime minister who should be looking out for our future retirees who right now are working hard every day, many in multiple precarious jobs, keeping our economy running.

Putting money back in the pockets of the already rich is risky and wrong-headed.

*Ken Georgetti, president emeritus of the Canadian Labour Congress. Published in the Vancouver Sun, May 9, 2026, P A14.*



### **Where Is the Plan for Seniors' Care?**

February's Budget for BC indicated that seven Long-Term Care (LTC) homes previously budgeted for would be re-paced. Now these projects have been suspended and a number of contracts cancelled. We are told that new contracts will be issued with revised specifications due to changed timelines and construction requirements. It is an attempt to reduce rapidly escalating construction costs.

These suspensions are a serious concern for seniors awaiting space in LTC. Hospitals will face more overcrowding as seniors wait in hospital for access to LTC. The suspension of Phase 2 of the Burnaby Hospital and cancer centre expansion will add to the bed shortage and along with less capacity for cancer care, much-needed in the province.

The provincial government says these projects are too expensive. An alternative would be to put more money into home support which is less expensive to provide. COSCO is a proud partner in a coalition - Health Care needs Home Care – see poster elsewhere in this issue for more information and watch for the campaign launch on Tuesday June 2.

Since there already is a long waitlist for LTC in the province, seniors can now look forward in desperation to an even longer one. All this is taking place as the numbers of seniors presently at 20% of the population is expected to be at 25% within the next decade. COSCO urges the provincial government to develop a sustainable plan.

*Linda Forsythe, COSCO Communications Chair.*



**COSCO Associate Membership**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
**COSCO does not share mailing lists with third parties unless we are required by law to do so.**  
Associate Membership is \$25 a year. Join on the COSCO website:  
or make cheques payable to **COSCO** and mail with this application form to:  
Membership Secretary, Box 228, Mountainview Plaza, #505-8840 210 St.  
Langley, BC V1M 2Y2  
For information about **Affiliate (organizational) Membership**, please contact the  
Membership Secretary at [membership@coscobc.org](mailto:membership@coscobc.org)



# Health Care Needs Home Care

**Working Together**  
to Ensure Better  
Health Outcomes  
for Seniors

Supporting people at home  
strengthens families,  
communities, and our  
healthcare system.



 **Make Home Support Affordable. Let People Stay at Home.**

## THE PROBLEM

**Home Support in BC Is Failing Families**

-  Many seniors pay too much out of pocket
-  The system is difficult to access and understand
-  Families are left to navigate care alone
-  People need long-term care earlier than necessary

**Home support exists— but it's not accessible when people need it most.**

## WHY THIS MATTERS

**When Home Support Fails, Everyone Pays**

-  Seniors lose independence and quality of life
-  Families face emotional and financial strain
-  Hospitals become overcrowded with avoidable cases
-  The healthcare system absorbs higher long-term costs

**This is not just a family issue— it's a system-wide problem.**

## WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

**We Need Immediate Action**

-  Eliminate co-payments for all seniors
-  Invest in accessible, reliable home support services
-  Ensure consistent, quality support across BC
-  Make the system easier to understand and navigate

**Home support must be treated as essential support— not optional support.**



### THE SOLUTION IS CLEAR

Investing in home support:

- ✓ Keeps seniors where they want to be
- ✓ Reduces pressure on hospitals and long-term care
- ✓ Supports families and caregivers
- ✓ Builds a more sustainable healthcare system



Scan me!

“For campaign details, and to email your MLA, scan here”

[healthcareneedshomecare.ca](http://healthcareneedshomecare.ca)





**REQUEST FOR DECISION**

**File # 4200-20**

**Report To: Mayor and Council**  
**From: Bonnie McCue, Corporate Officer**  
**Subject: Administration Report No. 0103/26**  
**2026 Local General Election and Assent Vote**  
**Meeting: Regular Council**  
**Meeting Date: June 8, 2026**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

"THAT, Bonnie McCue, Corporate Officer, be appointed as the Chief Election Officer for the 2026 General Local Election, to be held on Saturday, October 17, 2026, including any assent voting proceedings;  
AND THAT, Christina Brace, Deputy Corporate Officer, be appointed as the Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2026 General Local Election, including any assent voting proceedings;  
AND FURTHER THAT, the Chief Election Officer be authorized to appoint additional Election Officials as required to conduct the election and any assent voting proceedings in accordance with the *Local Government Act*."

**CAO'S COMMENTS:**

The appointment of the Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer is one of the steps that is required as the municipality prepares for elections this fall.

**ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION:**

"THAT, **\*\*insert name\*\*** be appointed as the Chief Election Officer, and **\*\*insert name\*\*** be appointed as the Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2026 General Local Election being held on Saturday October 17, 2026,  
AND THAT, the Chief Election Officer be authorized to appoint additional Election Officials as required."

---

**KEY ISSUES(S)/ CONCEPTS DEFINED:**

The purpose of this report is to appoint a Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer in accordance with section 58 of the *Local Government Act*, which requires every local government to make these appointments to administer the election process.

The Chief Election Officer is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the election, including appointing election officials, establishing voting opportunities, administering candidate nominations, and ensuring compliance with applicable legislation.

**RELEVANT POLICY:**

*Local Government Act* Section 58

<b>IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION</b>
---------------------------------------

**COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PILLARS:**

*Vibrant Community – Invest in community safety, social, cultural, and recreational programs.*

*Relationships & Advocacy – Initiate and foster relationships and advocate to decision makers on the issues that impact our community and our neighbours.*

*Economic Development – Enhance community economic development to provide opportunities and sustainability for Fort St. John.*

*Organizational Excellence – Provide a healthy workplace that is inclusive and builds on our diversity, engagement, and sense of community.*

*Managing Assets – Build and manage assets that support the current and future needs of the community.*

**COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**

N/A

**GENERAL:**

The 2026 General Local Election is scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2026.

Initial preparatory work has been undertaken to support the upcoming election; however, formal appointment of a Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer is required to carry out statutory responsibilities.

The City will also be seeking approval of electors for a proposed borrowing initiative for a new aquatics facility through an assent vote to be conducted in conjunction with the 2026 General Local Election.

Following the appointment of Officers, election planning and administration activities will continue, including confirming voting opportunities, preparing materials, coordinating staffing, and ensuring legislative compliance.

Preliminary administrative preparations are already underway, including a review of election procedures and coordination of internal requirements.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL:**

Key dates for the 2026 General Local Election include:

- March 10, 2026 – Last possible date to meet the 6-month BC residency requirement for candidates seeking nomination (unless the nomination period is extended)
- March 13, 2026 – If nomination period is extended, last possible date to meet the 6-month residency requirement
- April 17, 2026 – Last possible date to meet the 6-month BC residency requirement for registering on General Voting Day
- September 1, 2026 – Nomination period begins (9:00 a.m.)
- September 11, 2026 – Nomination period ends (4:00 p.m.)
- September 15, 2026 – Deadline for challenge of nominations (4:00 p.m.)
- September 16, 2026 – Last possible date to meet 30-day property ownership requirement for non-resident property electors
- September 19, 2026 – Campaign period begins
- October 7, 2026 – Required advance voting opportunity
- October 14, 2026 – Additional advance voting opportunity (as required by bylaw)
- October 17, 2026 – General Voting Day

## **FINANCIAL:**

Funding for the 2026 General Local Election, including any assent voting proceedings, has been incorporated within the City's approved operating budget.

All costs associated with election administration will be managed within existing budget allocations.

## **FOLLOW UP ACTION:**

Upon Council approval, staff will proceed with formal notification to Elections BC of the appointments and continue implementation of the election workplan.

## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:**

Community Consultation is not required for this report.

## **COMMUNICATION:**

Mandatory advertising is required for local government elections.

In addition to statutory requirements, staff are developing a communications plan to promote awareness of voting opportunities and to encourage voter participation.

## ***AGENDA ITEM #12.1.***

Staff will consider opportunities to enhance accessibility and voter participation, including advance voting and mail ballot options.

**DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED ON THIS REPORT:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Bonnie McCue, Corporate Officer



**REQUEST FOR DECISION**

**File # 1220-20**

**Report To: Mayor and Council**  
**From: Darrell Blades, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer**  
**Presenter: Jim Stewart, Capital Projects Manager**  
**Subject: Administration Report No. 0104/26**  
**Tender Award - Lower Bouffieux Coulee Dike Armouring**  
**Meeting: Regular Council**  
**Meeting Date: June 8, 2026**

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

"THAT, Council award the Lower Bouffieux Coulee Dike Armouring Project to Knappett Industries (2006) Ltd. of Fort St. John, BC, for the unit rates in their tender submission dated April 20, 2026, totaling \$2,418,875.00.

AND THAT, any un-allocated Grant Funds, if necessary, be used to pay for additional costs associated with accessing the site through or around the slide on the Old Fort Road."

**CAO'S COMMENTS:**

This project has been tendered, and Staff are recommending award to Knappett Industries (2006) Ltd. as the preferred bidder. This project is being awarded well within the authorized budget, funded entirely by a UBCM grant, and makes our storm drainage infrastructure more resilient against damage by major climate events.

**ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION:**

"THAT, Administration Report No. 0104/26 - Tender Award - Lower Bouffieux Coulee Dike Armouring, be received for information and discussion."

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**KEY ISSUES(S)/ CONCEPTS DEFINED:**

The City of Fort St. John received \$4,207,300 from the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Disaster Risk Reduction Grant. The grant was awarded in three separate categories with a total of \$4,207,300 grant in 24/25, which included the work to repair the armoring on the sewage outfall that runs alongside properties in the Old Fort Community.

This work has been tendered; the submissions have been assessed and the tender needs to be awarded.

**RELEVANT POLICY:**

Council Policy No. 22/22 - City Purchasing and Tendering Policy

<b>IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION</b>
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**COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PILLARS:**

*Vibrant Community – Invest in community safety, social, cultural, and recreational programs.*

*Relationships & Advocacy – Initiate and foster relationships and advocate to decision makers on the issues that impact our community and our neighbours.*

*Economic Development – Enhance community economic development to provide opportunities and sustainability for Fort St. John.*

*Organizational Excellence – Provide a healthy workplace that is inclusive and builds on our diversity, engagement, and sense of community.*

*Managing Assets – Build and manage assets that support the current and future needs of the community.*

**COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**

Improvement to the City's infrastructure directly aligns with Council's strategic priority to Manage Assets. This project was approved in the Capital Budget.

**GENERAL:**

A portion of the City's stormwater drainage area in and around the Bouffieux Coulee has been experiencing landslide and erosion issues for decades, which has been documented in multiple reports in the area. One area that has seen erosion and scouring is the Gabion Basket armoring that was installed by the City in the Mid 1980s. This Gabion Basket armoring protects the City's sewage effluent outfall line where it is adjacent to and crosses the channel at the bottom of the Bouffieux Coulee.

The work required is relatively simple civil construction work but is located in a sensitive ecological area, therefore, the tender for this project was issued using the Best Value Procurement Model.

The work to be undertaken consists of:

- Removal of existing gabions and concrete rubble from the creek,
- Restoration of existing dike face with crushed granular gravel, and
- Installation of approximately 2,000 m<sup>3</sup> of grouted and 2,200 m<sup>3</sup> of un-grouted rip-rap.

## AGENDA ITEM #12.2.

A tender for the project was issued on March 31, 2026, and closed on April 20. There were four submissions received and these were reviewed April 21 and subsequent interviews were held with the top two submitters. The review team consisted of two members of City Staff and three key members of the City's Civil/Environmental and Geotechnical consulting teams.

The bid submissions and rankings are summarized below:

Ranking	Company Name	Location	Tender Price
1	Knappett Industries (2006) Ltd.	Fort St. John, BC	\$2,418,875.00
2	S. Young Enterprises Ltd.	Fort St. John, BC	\$2,185,140.00
3	Swamp Donkey Oilfield Services	Dawson Creek, BC	\$3,541,073.13
4	Brocor Construction Ltd.	Dawson Creek, BC	\$2,167,836.19

Based on the bid submitted by Knappett Industries (2006) Ltd. project costs are identified below:

Budget Summary	
Total Tender Price (no GST)	\$ 2,418,875.00
Engineering Fees	\$ 314,600.00
Geotechnical Fees	\$ 367,200.00
Total Cost	\$ 3,100,675.00
Total Budget	\$ 3,800,000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 699,325.00

### ORGANIZATIONAL:

N/A

### FINANCIAL:

This project is funded through a UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Disaster Risk Reduction Grant and the work called for within this tender is anticipated to be completed within budget.

If the resolution is passed, un-allocated grant funds will be used, if required, to pay for any additional costs associated with accessing the site through or around the slide on the Provincial Old Fort Road.

### FOLLOW UP ACTION:

If the recommended resolution is passed, a tender award letter will be issued, and construction will commence in mid-August.

### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Community consultation for these projects occurred during the 2025 and 2026 Capital Budget discussions.

**COMMUNICATION:**

For this project, communication to the community will be made through the City's web page and social media, and meetings will be held with the immediately neighbouring residents prior to the commencement of construction.

**DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED ON THIS REPORT:**

Public Works and Utilities  
Engineering

**ATTACHMENTS:**

USL - Lower Bouffieux Coulee Armouring - Tender Summary Letter  
Lower Bouffieux Coulee Armouring - Site Location Plan

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Jim Stewart, Capital Projects Manager



April 30, 2026

File: 1958.0472.22

City of Fort St. John  
10631 100 Street  
Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Z5

**Attention:** Jim Stewart, Capital Projects Manager

**RE: City of Fort St. John – Lower Bouffieux Coulee Armouring  
TENDER SUMMARY**

Four (4) tenders were received at the City of Fort St. John, via an online bidding system Bids & Tenders, by 2:00:00 PM on April 20, 2026, for the above referenced project. We have reviewed the tender submissions for completeness of submittals required by tender documents. All four (4) submitted tenders listed below passed this review and proceeded to the Best Value Procurement evaluation process per the tender documents.

Please find below a summary of the tender submissions following the evaluation process ranking from highest to lowest:

Rank	Submitted By	Tender Price (GST excluded)
1	Knappett Industries (2006) Ltd.	\$ 2,418,875.00
2	S. Young Enterprises Ltd.	\$ 2,185,140.00
3	Swamp Donkey Oilfield Services	\$ 3,541,073.13
4	Brocor Construction Ltd.	\$ 2,167,836.19

### Tender Evaluation

This tender was created to be evaluated using the Best Value Procurement process as detailed in the tender documents and per the criteria and weighting listed in the table below:

Evaluation Criteria	Points
<i>Tender Price</i>	150
Project Plan	250
Risk Assessment Plan	250
Previous Applicable Experience	200
Value Assessment Plan	50
Interviews	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

The evaluation team consisted of the following people:

1. Jim Stewart, City of Fort St. John
2. Britney Carlstrom, City of Fort St. John
3. Andrew Mitchell, BCG Engineering
4. Beatrice Collier-Pandya, BCG Engineering
5. Chad Carlstrom, Urban Systems

10808 100<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort St. John, BC V1J 3Z6 | T: 250.785.9697

[urbansystems.ca](http://urbansystems.ca)

Date: April 30, 2026  
File: 1958.0472.22  
Attention: Jim Stewart, Capital Projects Manager  
Page: 2 of 2



On April 21, 2026, the evaluation team evaluated the following submissions from each of the four tenderers on the following criteria:

1. Project Plan
2. Risk Assessment Plan
3. Value Assessment Plan
4. Previous Applicable Experience

The scores provided by the evaluation team were scaled to the evaluation scoring matrix provided in the tender documents. These scores were added to the scoring of the tender prices. After this scoring process, tenderers were selected for interviews based on the ability of the tenderers to earn enough points in the interview to potentially be successful in the overall process. As a result, only two of the highest scoring tenderers were invited to interview.

The evaluation team conducted the interviews of the two tenderers on April 27, 2026. The final scores of the tenderers after the interviews, ranked from highest to lowest based on the evaluation criteria, are as follows:

Rank	Submitted By	Tender Price (GST excluded)
1	Knappett Industries (2006) Ltd.	\$ 2,418,875.00
2	S. Young Enterprises Ltd.	\$ 2,185,140.00

#### Recommendation

After completion of the tender evaluations, interviews, and cost reasonableness assessment, it is the unanimous recommendation of the evaluation team that the City of Fort St. John proceed to the clarification period with the tender submission by Knappett Industries (2006) Ltd. as the preferred tenderer.

Upon completion of your own review of these tender submissions, and of your satisfaction with the preferred tenderer during the clarification period, please notify the undersigned, in writing, with how you would like to proceed.

Sincerely,

**URBAN SYSTEMS LTD.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Carlstrom".

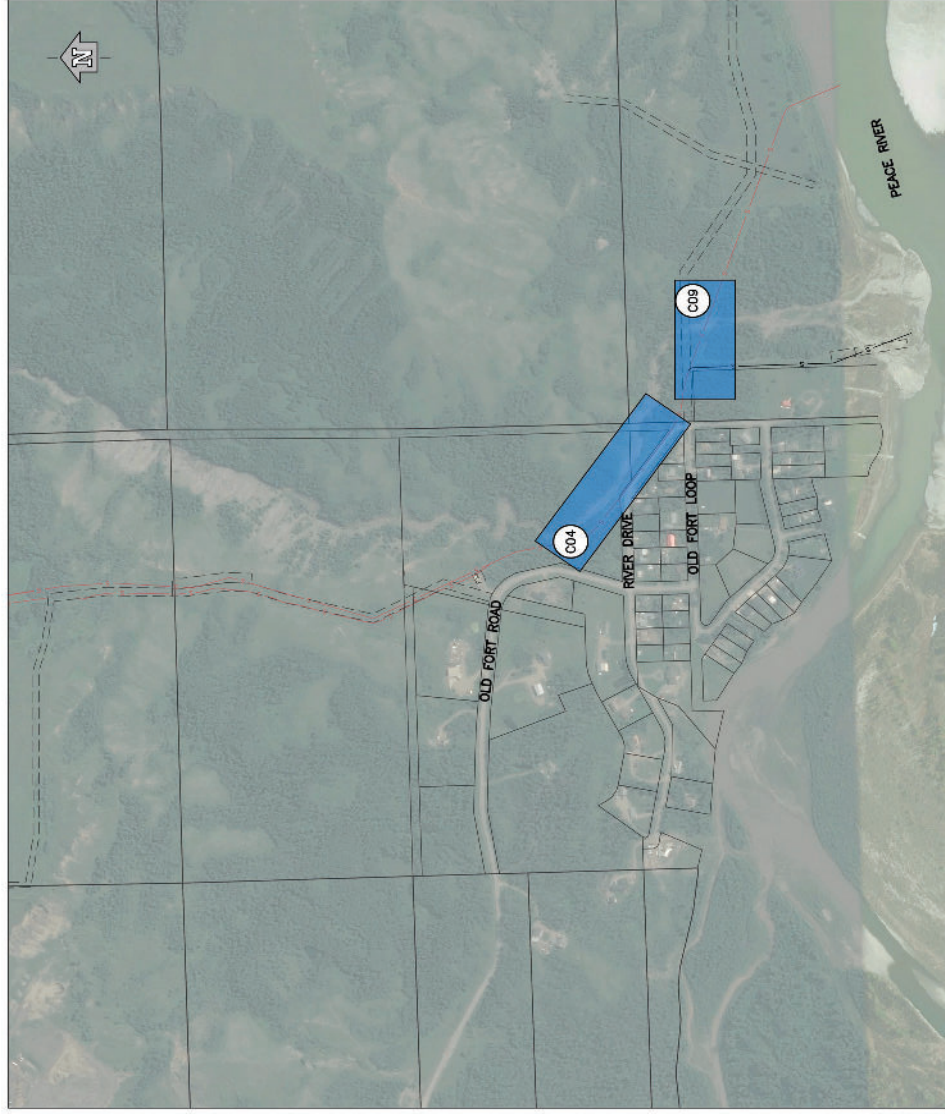
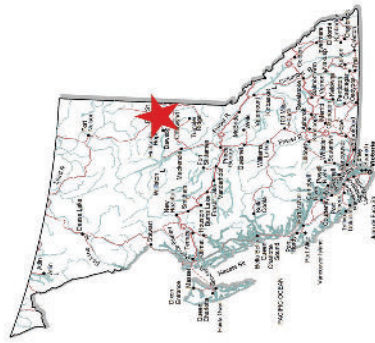
Chad Carlstrom, P.Eng.  
Contract Administrator

/rf

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[urbansystems.ca](http://urbansystems.ca)

# Lower Bouffieux Coulee Armouring



SITE LOCATION  
1:5000  
0 50 100  
M

CITY OF FORT ST JOHN / LOWER BOUFFIOUX COULEE ARMOURING / 1958.0472.22 / MARCH 25, 2026

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

ISSUED FOR  
TENDER  
March 25, 2026  
urbanstjohn.ca

## List of Drawings

Civil	
C01	Legend
C02	Cadastral Information
C03	Existing Conditions and Removals
C04	Channel & Dike Armouring Plan & Profile
C05	Details
C06	Cross Sections
C07	Cross Sections
C08	Cross Sections
C09	Channel Armouring Plan & Profile
C10	Details



Project: J:\19580472\22\CD-Design\CAD201\_Proposed\TYCO-1958047222-111.Fwg, C:\00\_2026-03-24 14:51 pm vwebster

**CITY OF FORT ST. JOHN**

**BYLAW NO. 2634, 2026**

A Bylaw to Provide for the Administration of Local Government Elections, Assent Voting, Automated Vote Counting, and Mail Ballot Voting

WHEREAS under the *Local Government Act*, Council may, by bylaw, determine various procedures and requirements to be applied to the conduct of local government elections and assent voting;

AND WHEREAS Council wishes to establish voting procedures and requirements under that authority;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the City of Fort St. John, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

PART 1 – CITATION AND INTERPRETATION

**1. CITATION**

1.1 This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as “**City of Fort St. John Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 2634, 2026.**”

**2. DEFINITIONS**

2.1 In this Bylaw the following terms have the following meanings:

**Acceptable mark** means a mark as defined in section 139 of the *Local Government Act* and which the vote counting unit is able to identify, which has been made by an *elector* in the space provided on the ballot opposite the name of any candidate, or opposite either “yes” or “no” on any other voting question.

**Assent voting** means voting under Part 4 of the *Local Government Act* on a bylaw or other matter for which the assent of the electors is required or may be obtained.

**Automated vote counting system** means a system that counts and records votes and processes and stores election or any voting results which comprises:

- (a) a number of ballot scan vote counting units, each of which rests on a two-compartment ballot box, one compartment of which is for:
  - (i) voted ballots; and
  - (ii) returned ballots which have been reinserted using the ballot override procedure;and the other compartment is for the temporary storage of voted ballots during such time as the vote counting unit is not functioning; and
- (b) a number of storage ballot compartments into which voted ballots are deposited where a vote counting unit is not functioning or being used, which will therefore be counted after the close of voting on general voting day.

**Authorized drop-off location** means a location specified by the chief election officer in accordance with section 110 (5.1) of the *Local Government Act*.

**Ballot** means a single ballot card designed for use in an automated vote counting system, which shows:

- (a) the names of all of the candidates for each of the offices to be filled; and
- (b) all of the choices on all of the bylaws or other matters on which the opinion or assent of the electors is sought.

**Ballot return override procedure** means the use, by an election official, of a device on a vote counting unit, which causes the unit to accept a returned ballot.

**Election headquarters** means the City of Fort St. John City Hall located at 10631 – 100 Street, Fort St. John.

**Elector** means a resident or non-resident property elector qualified under the *Local Government Act*.

**General voting day** means the day defined by the *Local Government Act* for general local elections or assent voting.

**Memory pack** means a computer software cartridge which is inserted into the vote counting unit and into which is pre-programmed the names of all the candidates for each of the offices to be filled, and the alternatives of “yes” or “no” for each question on the ballot, and which records and retains information on the number of acceptable marks made for each.

**Portable ballot box** means a ballot box, for use in an election, where a vote counting unit is not being used at the time of voting.

**Register of mail ballots** means the records maintained by the chief election officer for mail ballot administration and challenges.

**Results tape** means the printed record generated from a vote counting unit at the close of voting on general voting day, which shows the number of votes for each candidate for each of the offices to be filled, and the number of votes for and against each bylaw or other matters on which the opinion or assent of the electors is sought.

**Returned ballot** means a voted ballot which was inserted into the vote counting unit, but which was not accepted and which was returned to the elector with an explanation of the ballot marking error which caused the ballot not to be accepted.

**Secrecy enclosure** means an open-ended folder or envelope used to cover ballots to conceal the choices made by each elector.

**Storage ballot compartment** means a ballot box under each vote counting unit into which voted ballots are temporarily deposited in the event that the unit ceases to function.

**Vote counting unit** means the device into which voted ballots are inserted and which scans each ballot and records the number of votes for each candidate and for and against each question on which the opinion or assent of the electors is sought.

- 2.2 A reference to the chief election officer in this bylaw includes the deputy chief election officer acting in their absence, and a person who has been delegated a duty or power of the chief election officer under Part 3 of the *Local Government Act*.

**PART 2 – NOMINATIONS AND ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS**

**3. NOMINATION DEPOSITS**

- 3.1 A person who wishes to be nominated for mayor or councillor in an election shall pay a nomination deposit in the amount of \$50.00.

**4. ACCESS TO NOMINATION AND ENDORSEMENT DOCUMENTS**

- 4.1 Nomination documents and elector organization endorsement documents may be inspected in person at City Hall during regular business hours.
- 4.2 The chief election officer is authorized to publish nomination and endorsement documents on the city’s website from the time of filing until 30 days after the declaration of results.
- 4.3 Residential addresses will be redacted from documents published online, other than municipality or electoral area, and additional personal information may be redacted at the discretion of the Chief Election Officer.

**5. ELECTOR REGISTRATION**

- 5.1 As authorized under section 69 of the *Local Government Act*, a person may register as an elector only at the time of voting for all elections and assent voting.

**PART 3 – VOTING OPPORTUNITIES**

**6. ADVANCE VOTING OPPORTUNITIES**

- 6.1 Pursuant to section 107 of the *Local Government Act*, advance voting opportunities will be held:

- (a) on the 10<sup>th</sup> day before general voting day; and
- (b) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day before general voting day unless that day is a holiday, in which case the required advance voting opportunity will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> day before general voting day;

and voting hours on those days will be from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at locations designated by the Chief Election Officer.

**7. SPECIAL VOTING OPPORTUNITIES**

- 7.1 As authorized under section 109 of the *Local Government Act*, special voting opportunities will be provided, and the chief election officer is hereby authorized to establish the dates, locations, and voting hours within the limits set out in section 99 of the *Local Government Act*, for the special voting opportunities.

- 7.2 The number of candidate representatives who may be present at a special voting opportunity is limited to one.

## 8. ADDITIONAL GENERAL VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

8.1 The chief election officer may establish additional voting opportunities for general voting day and for this purpose may designate the voting places and set the voting hours, subject to the voting hours closing at 8:00 pm on that day. Notice of the date, places, and voting hours for these additional general voting opportunities may be given in any manner the chief election officer considers appropriate.

## 9. CURBSIDE VOTING

9.1 Pursuant to section 132 of the *Local Government Act*, an elector who attends a voting place but is unable to enter the voting place because of physical disability or impaired mobility may request to vote at the nearest location to the voting place, within the grounds of the voting place, to which the elector has access.

9.2 Upon receiving a request for curbside voting, the presiding election official or another election official must attend the elector at the nearest accessible location for the purpose of permitting the elector to meet the requirements of section 125 of the *Local Government Act* to obtain a ballot.

9.3 After the ballot is issued, the elector must:

- (a) sign the voting book or otherwise meet the applicable statutory voting record requirements;
- (b) mark the ballot in private; and
- (c) place the marked ballot in a secrecy enclosure or secrecy sleeve, if applicable.

9.4 The presiding election official must immediately return the ballot to the voting place and insert the ballot into the vote counting unit in accordance with the automated vote counting procedures set out in this Bylaw.

9.5 The presiding election official must announce that a curbside ballot has been received before inserting the ballot into the vote counting unit.

9.6 At the elector's request, a person who accompanied the elector may observe the presiding election official returning to the voting place and inserting the ballot into the vote counting unit.

## PART 4 – MAIL BALLOT VOTING

### 10. AUTHORIZATION

10.1 Subject to section 110 of the *Local Government Act* and the restrictions and requirements of this Bylaw, voting by mail ballot is permitted. Accordingly, the chief election officer is authorized to establish dates, time limits, authorized drop-off locations, and procedures in relation to voting by mail ballot.

10.2 In accordance with section 110(9) of the *Local Government Act*, a mail ballot must be received by the chief election officer or designate before the close of voting on general voting day in order to be counted for the election.

## **11. MAIL BALLOT APPLICATION AND ISSUANCE**

- 11.1 An elector wishing to vote by mail ballot shall apply by giving their name and address to the chief election officer during the period:
- (a) commencing 30 days before general voting day; and
  - (b) ending at 4:00 pm on the Wednesday before general voting day.
- 11.2 Upon receipt of a request for a mail ballot, the chief election officer will, between the day following the receipt of the ballots and 4:00 pm on the Wednesday before general voting day, make available to an elector, a mail ballot package as specified in section 110 (7) of the *Local Government Act*.
- 11.3 As per the electors direction, the chief election officer may distribute the mail ballot package in any of the following ways:
- (a) sending the mail ballot package by Canada Post;
  - (b) sending the mail ballot package by courier at the expense of the elector;
  - (c) having the mail ballot package picked up by the elector at a location designated by the Chief Election Officer;
  - (d) having the mail ballot package picked up by a person authorized in writing by the elector at a location designated by the Chief Election Officer. The authorized person must show identification and sign a declaration before the mail ballot package will be released.
- 11.4 The chief election officer may establish authorized mail ballot drop-off locations.
- 11.5 The chief election officer shall keep a register of mail ballots which includes:
- (a) the name and address of all electors who request and are issued a mail ballot; and
  - (b) any other information that the chief election officer deems appropriate.

## **12. MAIL BALLOT VOTING PROCEDURE**

- 12.1 To vote using a mail ballot, the elector shall mark the ballot in accordance with the instructions contained in the mail ballot package provided by the Chief Election Officer.
- 12.2 After marking the ballot, the elector shall:
- (a) place the ballot in the secrecy enclosure provided and seal the secrecy enclosure;
  - (b) place the secrecy enclosure in the certification envelope, and complete and sign the certification printed on such envelope, and then seal the certification envelope;
  - (c) place the certification envelope, together with a completed elector registration application, if required, in the outer envelope, and then seal the outer envelope;
  - (d) mail, or have delivered, the outer envelope and its contents to the chief election officer so that it is received no later than the close of voting on general voting day.

## **13. MAIL BALLOT ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION**

- 13.1 Where a mail ballot and its contents are received by the chief election officer before general voting day, the chief election officer shall, upon receiving the mail ballot envelope and its contents:

- (a) immediately record the date of receiving the returned mail ballot in the register of mail ballots;
- (b) open the outer envelope and remove and examine the certification envelope; and
- (c) if satisfied as to:
  - (i) the identity and entitlement to vote of the elector whose ballot is enclosed, and
  - (ii) the completeness of the certification,

the chief election officer will mark the certification envelope as “accepted” and place the accepted and unopened certification envelope with the other certification envelopes in a designated mail ballot box.

- (d) the accepted certification envelopes will be secured in a mail ballot box marked “accepted certification envelopes”. The chief election officer will retain such mail ballot boxes in a secure location.

13.2 The unopened certification envelopes shall remain in the custody of the chief election officer or designate until 4:00 pm on the Thursday two days before general voting day, at which time the certification envelopes containing the secrecy enclosures shall be opened in the presence of at least one other person, including any scrutineers present.

13.3 At 4:00 pm on the Thursday two days before general voting day, the chief election officer or designate shall place all secrecy enclosures received up until that time into a ballot box specified for such purposes, where such secrecy enclosures were received from persons whose right to vote using a mail ballot has not been challenged, or where such challenge has been resolved and the challenged person permitted to vote.

13.4 Where an outer envelope and its contents are received by the chief election officer or designate between 4:00 pm on the Thursday two days before general voting day and the close of voting on general voting day, the provisions of section 13.1 of this Bylaw with regard to ballot acceptance shall apply and the chief election officer or designate shall retain such envelopes in their possession until the close of voting and at that time shall open such certification envelopes in the presence of at least one other person, including any scrutineers present, and place the secrecy enclosure containing the ballot into the ballot box containing the other unopened secrecy enclosure.

13.5 As soon as possible after all of the secrecy enclosure have been placed in the ballot box designated for that purpose, the ballot box shall be opened under the supervision of the chief election officer or designate, and in the presence of at least one other person and any scrutineers present, the secrecy enclosure shall be opened and the ballots contained therein counted in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act*.

13.6 Where:

- (a) upon receipt of an outer envelope, the chief election officer is not satisfied as to the identity of the elector whose ballot is enclosed; or
- (b) in the case of a person required to complete an application for registration as an elector, such application has not been completed in accordance with section 70 of the *Local Government Act*; or

(c) the outer envelope is received by the chief election officer or designate after the close of voting on general voting day, the certification envelope shall remain unopened, and the chief election officer shall mark such envelope as “rejected”, and shall note the reasons therefore, and the ballot contained therein shall not be counted in the election.

13.7 Any certification envelopes and their contents rejected in accordance with section 13.6 of this bylaw shall remain unopened and shall be subject to the provisions of section 160(2) of the *Local Government Act* with regard to their destruction.

**14. CHALLENGE OF ELECTOR**

14.1 A person exercising the right to vote by mail ballot may be challenged in accordance with and on the grounds specified in Section 126 of the *Local Government Act*, until 4:00 pm on the Thursday two days before general voting day.

14.2 The provisions of sections 126(2) to (5) inclusive of the *Local Government Act* shall apply where a challenge of an elector using a mail ballot has been made.

**15. ELECTOR’S NAME ALREADY USED**

15.1 Where, upon receiving a request for a mail ballot, the chief election officer determines that another person has voted or has already been issued a mail ballot in the elector’s name, the provisions of section 127 of the *Local Government Act* shall apply, so far as applicable.

**16. SPOILED MAIL BALLOT**

16.1 Where an elector unintentionally spoils a mail ballot before returning it to the Chief Election Officer, the elector may request a replacement ballot by advising the chief election officer or designate of the ballot spoilage and by mailing or otherwise delivering by any appropriate means, the spoiled ballot package in its entirety to the chief election officer or designate.

16.2 The chief election officer shall, upon receipt of the spoiled ballot package, record such fact, and proceed in accordance with section 11.2 of this Bylaw.

**PART 5 – AUTOMATED VOTE COUNTING SYSTEM**

**17. AUTHORIZATION**

17.1 Council authorizes the use of an automated vote counting system for the conduct of elections and assent voting in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and this Bylaw.

**18. AUTOMATED VOTING PROCEDURES**

18.1 The presiding election official for each voting place shall offer, and if requested, ensure that a demonstration of how to vote using a vote counting unit is provided to an elector, as soon as such elector enters the voting place and before a ballot is issued.

18.2 Upon completion of the voting demonstration, if any, the elector shall proceed as instructed, to the election official responsible for issuing ballots, who, upon fulfilment of the requirements of the *Local Government Act*, shall then provide a ballot to the elector, a

secrecy enclosure if requested by the elector, the ballot marking instrument, and any further instructions the elector requests.

- 18.3 Upon receiving a ballot the elector shall immediately proceed to a voting compartment to vote.
- 18.4 The elector may vote only by making an acceptable mark on the ballot:
  - (a) beside the name of each candidate of choice, up to the maximum number of candidates to be elected for each of the offices to be filled; and
  - (b) beside either “yes” or “no” in the case of each bylaw or other matter on which the assent or opinion of the electors is sought.
- 18.5 Once the elector has finished marking the ballot, the elector must either place the ballot into the secrecy enclosure, if one has been requested, or turn the ballot upside down and proceed to the vote counting unit, and under the supervision of the election official in attendance, insert the ballot directly from the secrecy enclosure, if applicable, into the vote counting unit without the acceptable marks on the ballot being exposed.
- 18.6 If, before inserting the ballot into the vote counting unit, an elector determines that a mistake has been made when marking the ballot, or if the ballot is returned by the vote counting unit, the elector may return to the voting compartment to correct the ballot or request a replacement ballot by informing the election official in attendance.
- 18.7 Upon being informed of the replacement ballot request, the presiding election official shall issue a replacement ballot to the elector and mark the returned ballot “spoiled” and shall retain all such spoiled ballots separately from all other ballots, and they shall not be counted.
- 18.8 If the elector declines the opportunity to obtain a replacement ballot and has not damaged the ballot to the extent that it cannot be reinserted into the vote counting unit, the election official shall, using the ballot return override procedure, reinsert the returned ballot into the vote counting unit to count any acceptable marks which have been made correctly.
- 18.9 Any ballot counted by the vote counting unit is valid and any acceptable marks contained on such ballots will be counted, subject to any determination made under a judicial recount.
- 18.10 Once the ballot has been inserted into the vote counting unit and the unit indicates that the ballot has been accepted, the elector must immediately leave the voting place.
- 18.11 During any period that a vote counting unit is not functioning, the election official supervising the unit shall insert all ballots delivered by the electors during this time, into the storage ballot compartment, on the understanding that if the vote counting unit:
  - (a) becomes operational, or
  - (b) is replaced with another vote counting unit,the ballots in the storage ballot compartment shall, as soon as reasonably possible, be removed by an election official and, under the supervision of the presiding election official, shall be inserted into the vote counting unit to be counted.

- 18.12 Any ballots which were temporarily stored in the storage ballot compartment during a period when the vote counting unit was not functioning, which are returned by the vote counting unit when being counted shall, through the use of the ballot return override procedure and under the supervision of the presiding election official, be reinserted into the vote counting unit to ensure that any acceptable marks are counted.

**19. ADVANCE VOTING OPPORTUNITY PROCEDURES**

- 19.1 Vote counting units shall be used at all advance voting opportunities and voting procedures at the advance voting opportunities shall follow, as closely as possible, those described in Section 18 of this Bylaw.
- 19.2 At the close of voting at each advance voting opportunity, the presiding election official in each case shall ensure that:
- (a) no additional ballots are inserted in the vote counting unit;
  - (b) the storage ballot compartment is locked to prevent insertion of any ballots;
  - (c) the results tapes in the vote counting unit are not generated; and
  - (d) the memory pack of the vote counting unit is secured.
- 19.3 At the close of voting at the final advance voting opportunity, the presiding election official shall:
- (a) ensure that any remaining ballots in the storage ballot compartment are inserted into the vote counting unit;
  - (b) secure the vote counting unit so that no more ballots can be inserted; and
  - (c) deliver the vote counting unit together with the memory pack and all other materials used in the election to the chief election officer at election headquarters.

**20 SPECIAL VOTING OPPORTUNITY PROCEDURES**

- 20.1 Unless the chief election officer determines it is practical to use a vote counting unit, a portable ballot box as defined herein, shall be used for all special voting opportunities. The presiding election official appointed to attend at each special voting opportunity shall proceed in accordance with Sections 18.2, 18.3, 18.4 and 18.5 of this Bylaw so far as applicable, except that the voted ballots shall be deposited into the portable ballot box supplied by the presiding election official.
- 20.2 Voting may be conducted by carrying the portable ballot box to the bedside, workstation, or other location of the patient, resident, and staff of the location.
- 20.3 The presiding election official at a special voting opportunity shall ensure that the portable ballot box is secured when not in use and at the close of voting at the final special voting opportunity, the presiding election official shall seal the portable ballot box and return it together with all other election materials to the custody of the chief election officer.
- 20.4 If a vote counting unit is in use at a special voting opportunity, the presiding election official appointed to attend the special voting opportunity shall follow the procedures outlined in Section 19 of this Bylaw as if it were an advance voting opportunity.

## **21. PROCEDURES AFTER CLOSE OF VOTING ON GENERAL VOTING DAY**

- 21.1 After the close of voting on general voting day, each presiding election official, except those responsible for advance and special voting opportunities, shall undertake all of the following, generally in the order stipulated:
- (a) ensure that any remaining ballots in the storage ballot compartment are inserted into the vote counting unit;
  - (b) secure the vote counting unit so that no more ballots can be inserted;
  - (c) generate three copies of the results tape from the vote counting unit;
  - (d) communicate the result to election headquarters immediately;
  - (e) account for the unused, spoiled, and voted ballots and place them, packaged and sealed separately, together with the memory pack from the vote counting unit and one copy of the results tape, into the ballots and results box;
  - (f) complete the ballot account and place the duplicate copy in the ballots and results box;
  - (g) seal the ballots and results box;
  - (h) place the voting books, list of electors, the original copy of the ballot account, one copy of the results tape, completed registration cards, keys, and all completed forms into the election materials box; and
  - (i) deliver, or have available for pick-up, the sealed ballots and results box, vote counting unit, and the election materials box, to the chief election officer at election headquarters.
- 21.2 At the close of voting on general voting day, the chief election officer shall direct the presiding election official for the advance voting opportunity and any special voting opportunities where vote counting units were used, to proceed in accordance with Section 21.1 of this Bylaw.
- 21.3 All portable ballot boxes used in the election will be opened under the direction of the chief election officer at the close of voting on general voting day and all ballots shall be removed and inserted into a vote counting unit to be counted, after which the provision of Sections 21.1 (a) to (h), so far as applicable, shall apply.
- 21.4 Upon the fulfilment of the provisions of Section 21.1 to 21.3 inclusive, the chief election officer shall, to obtain the election results, direct an election official to place the results in a spreadsheet, which may be used for display in the voting place, indicating the total results.

## **22. RECOUNT PROCEDURE**

- 22.1 If a recount is requested by a candidate after the preliminary election results are announced, it shall be conducted under the direction of the chief election officer using the automated vote counting system and generally in accordance with the following procedure:
- (a) the memory packs of all vote counting units will be cleared;
  - (b) a vote counting unit will be designated for each voting place;
  - (c) all voted ballots will be removed from the sealed election materials boxes, except spoiled ballots, and reinserted in the appropriate vote counting unit under the supervision of the chief election officer;

- (d) any ballots returned by the vote counting unit during the recount process shall, through the use of the ballot return override procedure, be reinserted in the vote counting unit to ensure that any acceptable marks are counted; and
- (e) to obtain election results, the chief or deputy chief election officer shall place the results of each voting place on spreadsheets so as to tally the total election results.

**23. TIE VOTES**

23.1 A tie vote after a judicial recount will be resolved by lot in accordance with the *Local Government Act*.

**24. ORDER OF CANDIDATES ON BALLOTS**

24.1 The order of names of candidates on the ballot for each office must be determined by lot in accordance with section 117 of the *Local Government Act*.

PART 6 – GENERAL AND REPEAL

**25. SEVERABILITY**

25.1 If any portion of this Bylaw is held invalid, the remainder continues in force.

**26. REPEAL**

26.1 The following bylaws are repealed:

- (a) Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 2413, 2018;
- (b) Automated Vote Counting System Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 2415, 2018; and
- (c) Mail Ballot Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 2416, 2018.

READ FOR THE FIRST THREE TIMES THIS 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2026

ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

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LILIA HANSEN

MAYOR

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BONNIE MCCUE

CORPORATE OFFICER

## COUNCIL CALENDAR

June 8, 2026 – June 21, 2026

### CURRENT EVENTS

(June 8, 2026 – June 21, 2026)

#### June 8, 2026

2:30PM – 3:00PM  
Committee of the Whole  
Council Chambers

#### June 8, 2026

3:00PM – 5:00PM  
Regular Council  
Council Chambers

#### June 8, 2026

4:00PM – 6:30PM  
EX SITU 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Filipino Canadian Art-Photography  
Exhibit  
Peace Gallery North

#### June 9, 2026

3:00PM – 3:30PM  
Meeting with NH Health Services Administrator  
City Hall

#### June 11-13, 2026

BC Women's Institute Triennial Convention  
Ramada by Wyndham Northern Grand

#### June 11, 2026

11:00AM – 9:00PM  
FIFA Canada Celebrates: World Cup Viewing Festival  
Day 1  
Centennial Park

#### June 12, 2026

10:00AM – 4:00PM  
Grand Opening of Naache Commons  
Naache Commons

#### June 12, 2026

11:00AM – 7:00PM  
FIFA Canada Celebrates: World Cup Viewing Festival  
Day 2  
Centennial Park

#### June 14, 2026

11:00AM – 12:00PM  
Pista Sa Park – Filipino Street Food Festival  
Festival Plaza

#### June 15, 2026

3:30PM – 4:30PM  
Chamber of Commerce and Council Quarterly Meeting  
City Hall

#### June 17, 2026

10:00AM – 3:00PM  
Leaders Table  
Halfway River First Nation

#### June 18, 2026

1:30PM – 2:30PM  
Quarterly Meeting with Northern Health  
Virtual / City Hall

#### June 21, 2026

2:30PM – 6:30PM  
Spirit of Treaty 8 Documentary Premiere  
North Peace Cultural Centre

### ACTING MAYOR APPOINTMENTS

January / February – Councillor Bolin  
March / April – Councillor Klassen  
May / June – Councillor Lequiere  
July/ August – Councillor MacDougall  
September / October – Councillor Stewart  
November / December - Councillor Zabinsky

**\*The Council Calendar has been updated with events / confirmations received by June 1, 2026**

**COUNCIL CALENDAR**

**June 8, 2026 – June 21, 2026**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

June 22, 2026

**3:00PM – 5:00PM**

**Regular Council**  
Council Chambers

June 24-25, 2026

**BCAC Agricultural Forum**  
Penticton, BC

June 25, 2026

**10:00AM – 5:00PM**

**PRRD Board Meeting**  
Dawson Creek, BC

June 30, 2026

**1:30PM – 3:00PM**

**Meeting with Blueberry River First Nation Council**  
Blueberry River First Nation

June 30, 2026

**11:00PM – 11:30PM**

**Drone Show**  
Centennial Park

July 1, 2026

**10:00AM – 4:00PM**

**Canada Day Parade & Celebrations**  
100 St & Centennial Park

**ACTING MAYOR APPOINTMENTS**

January / February – Councillor Bolin

March / April – Councillor Klassen

May / June – Councillor Lequiere

July/ August – Councillor MacDougall

September / October – Councillor Stewart

November / December - Councillor Zabinsky

**\*The Council Calendar has been updated with events / confirmations received by June 1, 2026**

**COMMUNITY CHARTER  
PART 4: DIVISION 3 – OPEN MEETINGS**

Section 90 – Meetings that may or must be closed to the public

- 1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:
  - (c) Labour relations or other employee relations;
  - (e) The acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interest of the municipality;
  - (i) The receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communication necessary for that purpose;