

CITY OF QUESNEL



2014 Annual Report **for the year ended December 31, 2014**

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Mayor and Council

Mayor Bob Simpson

**Council Committees:**

Financial Sustainability & Audit Committee [Chair], Executive Committee, and Policy & Bylaw Committee

Representative:

Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation, First Nations, Quesnel Healthier Communities' Committee, Health Committee, Community Connections, Neighbourhood Associations, Shiraoi Twinning, Mayor's Task Force on Seniors, and Parks Committee

External:

NDIT, CCLRAC, CRD, and CCBAC [Chair]

Councillor John Brisco

**Council Committees:**

Policy & Bylaw Committee

Representative:

North Cariboo Recreation & Parks Commission, Accessibility & Inclusion Advisory, Mayor's Task Force on Seniors, Air Quality Roundtable, Parks Committee, and Environmental Advisory

Councillor Ron Paul

**Council Committees:**

Executive Committee [Alternate] and Policy & Bylaw Committee [Chair]

Representative:

Museum & Heritage Commission, Volunteer Citizen of the Year Committee, Health Committee, and Mayor's Task Force on Seniors

Councillor Ed Coleman

**Council Committees:**

Executive Committee [Co-Chair]

Representative:

ourQuesnel Task Force, Post-Secondary Education, and Training Council

External:

NDIT and CCLRAC [Alternate]

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg

**Council Committees:**

Executive Committee [Co-Chair]

Representative:

North Cariboo Recreation & Parks Commission, Emergency Services, Community Connections, Council Task Force on Public Safety [Lead], and Canada Day

External:

CCBAC [Alternate] and CRD [Alternate]

Councillor Scott Elliott

**Council Committees:**

Financial Sustainability & Audit Committee

Representative:

Business Improvement Associations, Tourism & Civic Pride Committee, Council Task Force on Public Safety, and Airshow

Councillor Sushil Thapar

**Council Committees:**

Financial Sustainability & Audit Committee

Representative:

West Quesnel Land Stability, Affordable Housing, Council Task Force on Public Safety, and Parks Committee

Council portraits courtesy of Ross Mitchell Photographics

Message from the City Manager

2014 In Review

2014 was an interesting year in the City of Quesnel, in which change seemed to be the recurring theme. Quesnel experienced the closure of a sawmill, signalling a change in our long-standing forest dependent economy. We moved the new Public Works Facility project into an active stage, to help our Public Works department be more able to respond to any emergencies. The civic election in late 2014 resulted in a leadership change for the City, which resulted in a change in strategic focus.

The shutdown of the local Canfor operations was announced in late 2013 with the closure occurring in March 2014. Working with the Province, the City took a lead role in trying to support worker transition activities in Quesnel. This included organizing a job fair for displaced workers, developing a local workers' resource manual and working with all of the community support agencies to assist workers and families who were impacted. In order to help support the small businesses in Quesnel an enhanced shop local program was also instituted.

After many years of exploring alternative sites, the City purchased property for a new Public Works facility on Sword Avenue. The new site is large enough for all City Public Works operations to operate from one location, and is centrally located. The basic principle behind

this project is that our key people who respond to emergencies in the City should not be located in the area most susceptible to flooding.

The City also purchased Cariboo Field from the Quesnel School District #28. This is an important recreational area in West Quesnel which has been used for many years as a park. It is identified in our Official Community Plan as parkland and it was important to retain the use of that park.

2014 was the first full year of monitoring of the impact of the significant capital investments made to help reduce the movement of the West Quesnel Land Stability area. After one year of collecting data, it appears that the dewatering work that has been undertaken is achieving its goal of reducing land movement. The City applied for more grant funding to continue the dewatering work with the next focus being on storm water drainage systems in West Quesnel and possibly for more drainage structures.

A new Accessibility and Inclusion Committee of Council was formed in 2014 and has already made an impact by helping our Public Works department prioritize its Accessibility Projects spending. This highly motivated group will continue to have a positive impact on everything we do at the City.

Byron Johnson, City Manager



Public Works Office

Message from the Mayor

Looking Forward

Council recognizes that Quesnel is a community in transition and we are committed to ensuring our City remains vibrant and resilient through this challenging period. In order to achieve this vision, we are working to ensure the City's financial house is in order by taking deliberate steps to reduce operating costs and to address a long-standing annual infrastructure deficit. We recognize that Quesnel will only retain and attract residents and investment if its infrastructure and amenities are well-maintained and it remains an affordable place to live.

While our short term focus is on the City's finances, Council's ultimate goal is to use this transition period

to rethink and re-invent our community; to use this challenging time as an opportunity to enhance what we have and to add new and more innovative opportunities for people to recreate, to work, to raise a family, and to age gracefully in our community. We believe we can achieve this goal by creating proactive partnerships with community groups, business and not-for-profit organizations, local industry, and the provincial and federal governments.

We will need your insights and energy to achieve our vision for Quesnel. Over the coming year, Council will be engaging the community at many levels and it is my sincere hope that you will help us to ensure that our community remains a vibrant and resilient place to call home.



Mayor Bob Simpson



A frosty morning on the Quesnel River



View from the River Walk of the Moffat Bridge



Downtown Quesnel in the Fall

A Closer Look at the City

Quesnel is located in the central interior of British Columbia, at the confluence of the Quesnel and Fraser Rivers. It is the commercial centre of the North Cariboo and is well served by rail, road and air connections to major centres in BC, Alberta and beyond.

Quesnel acts as a service centre to approximately 23,000 people and is home to 10,000 residents that enjoy an enviable quality of life with affordable real estate, indoor and outdoor sports within the community and wilderness adventures minutes from downtown.

Our area is rich in natural resources, complemented by a strong agricultural community. As a stopping point for the Rocky Mountaineer, our community prides itself on its hospitality and community spirit. Quesnel is also home to the North Cariboo Community Campus, offering a wide range of courses and trades training from the College of New Caledonia and the University of Northern British Columbia.

The Quesnel Regional Airport is your starting point for travel. In 2014, the airport underwent a major apron expansion. In 2015, the airport's business plan is being updated to explore new opportunities for development on the available airport land. Its proximity to the city centre makes it a prime location, opening Quesnel up to the rest of the world. Quesnel's air service provider, Central Mountain Air, provides daily scheduled service to Vancouver.

Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation, three Business Improvement Areas, Community Futures North Cariboo and a strong, long-standing Chamber of Commerce support Quesnel's vibrant business community. Quesnel welcomes businesses of all shapes and sizes. More than 80 new businesses chose to call Quesnel home last year and for good reason.

Quesnel is a beautiful, affordable city, perfect for families to grow and be nurtured in. We invite you to visit us online at www.quesnel.ca.



Quesnel is home to one of the most beautiful rose gardens, located right outside the Quesnel and District Museum and Visitor's Information Centre. A plaque on the arbour reads: "Dedicated to Quesnel's gardening pioneers who designed and planted this garden in 1967 - 1968."

2014 Highlights

2014 Local Government Elections

2014 - 2018 Mayor and Council



On November 15, 2014 a new Mayor and Council was elected. Bob Simpson was elected Mayor, and Ed Coleman, Scott Elliott, Ron Paull, John Brisco, Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, and Sushil Thapar were elected Councillors.

Public Presentation to Past Council Members



On January 12, 2015 Council made a public presentation to both Mary Sjostrom and Mike Cave in honour of their service to the City of Quesnel.

Mary Sjostrom, Mayor

Mary Sjostrom served this community for 15 years. She served 9 years as Councillor and 6 years as Mayor of the City. Her leadership is recognized throughout British Columbia due to her various affiliations and board presence.

Mary served as Director on the BC Transit Board, Director of the Cariboo Regional District, Vice-Chair of the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Board and on the Member Minister's Council which was directed at employment for persons with disabilities. Mary was one to embrace challenges. Her actions, always putting the community first. She set an example for the rest of Council.

The City thanks her for her leadership, kindness and dedication to the City of Quesnel.

Mary is proud of the successes that were achieved with our partnerships and with Council.

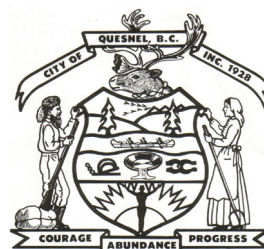
Mike Cave, Councillor

Mike Cave spent 6 years as Councillor for the City of Quesnel. Mike served as Chair of the West Quesnel Land Stability Advisory Committee and the Environmental Advisory Committee and was a member of the Audit Committee.

Mike was a calm, insightful and rational Councillor which accurately reflected his Quesnel roots.

He was strong in his voice and never wavered when it came to a decision.

Mike appreciates the learning experience and growth during his term on Council and would like to thank the



2014 Highlights

Sustainability in all Planning

ourQuesnel: Sustainability in Action

ourQuesnel sustainability initiatives undertaken in 2014 included: hosting an Economic Development Forum in April, starting an inventory of the Environmental Sensitive Areas, and initiating a Green Spaces, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan.

Economic Development Forum

In April, an Economic and Innovations Forum was hosted by the ourQuesnel Sustainability committee. The objective of the forum was to explore economic diversification opportunities in Quesnel in both traditional and new sectors. The need to focus on a transitioning forest based economy was emphasized with presentations from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations on the area's Fibre Supply and a presentation from Steve Thomson Minister of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations discussion. Ninety-six local business people attended to discuss ideas for Economic and Community Projects. Eleven presentations from local businesses provided examples of strategic initiatives currently being undertaken by business and activated group discussion on community projects which may help to foster business growth.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas Inventory

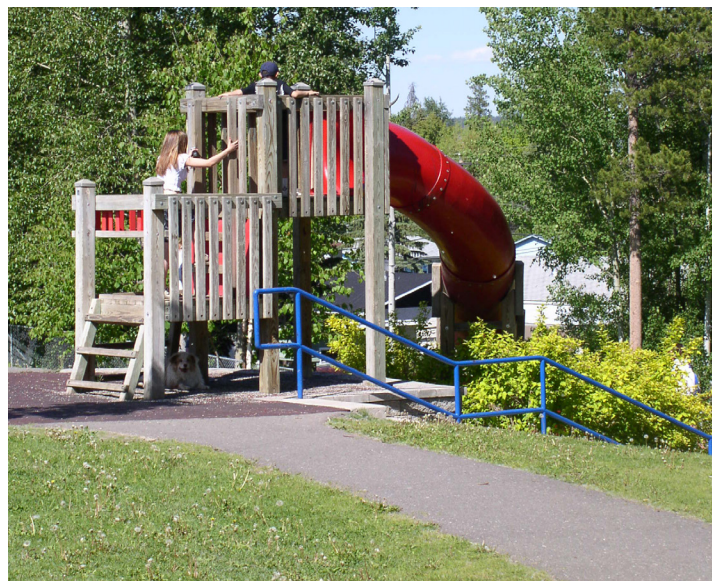
A long time objective of the City to complete an Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Inventory was undertaken. The ESA will provide clear information on identifying environmentally sensitive areas and the management strategies to retain Quesnel's natural assets. This work will inform parks planning in the community and provide essential information for the upcoming revision of the City's Official Community Plan in 2016.

Green Spaces, Parks, and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

The City initiated a Green Spaces, Parks, and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan in 2014. This plan will develop a sustainable City-wide vision for parks and recreational services in the community that builds on and emphasizes the existing assets in our community. Park inventory work completed in 2014 will provide a foundation for the plan expected to be completed in September of 2015.



Economic Development Forum, April 2014



The big red slide at Uplands Park

2014 Highlights

Community Health and Safety

West Quesnel Land Stability Program

The City continued to work aggressively in 2014 on the full-scale dewatering program. The Environmental Assessment (“EA”) process, required as part of the funding mandate, remains ongoing. The EA work includes the continuous monitoring of water quality and the effects of the horizontal drains (“HD”) and pumping wells (“PW”) on surrounding ponds and wetlands. Also monitored are the effects on vegetation and amphibian, bird and dragonfly habitation.

Flows from both the HDs and PWs were monitored and recorded. The total flows in 2014 for the HDs was 117,000,000 litres and 16,000,000 litres for the PWs which exceeds our expectations.

The major project for the West Quesnel Land Stability Program in 2014 was the design, tender and construction of two wetlands at the bottom of Healy Street. These were constructed to replace the two wetlands in the study area that were dried up due to the dewatering. This construction was completed in November. The filling of water, seeding and planting of wetland vegetation will take place in 2015.

The Phase I Final Report was completed by Amec Foster Wheeler (formerly Amec Environment & Infrastructure) and analyses the effects of the dewatering infrastructure (installed in 2012) on the land movement in the area. The results of the report are positive and land movement has slowed. It is still early in the project however, we continue to look for positive results. This report, along with an update of the complete project was presented to the public in a meeting held on October 2, 2014 at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall.



One of the two new wetlands at the bottom of Healy Street.

2014 Highlights

Community Health and Safety

West Fraser Centre



West Fraser Centre Architect drawing

A successful referendum was held by the Cariboo Regional District (“CRD”) in June 2014 to authorize the borrowing to allow for the construction of a new spectator arena for the North Cariboo.

In partnership with the CRD, the City has retained the services of an architect for the project and construction of the new West Fraser Centre and is expected to start in the spring of 2016.

Social Media

In January, 2014, the City of Quesnel launched its Facebook and Twitter pages. The City is continually seeking opportunities to employ strategies that are both efficient and effective and are committed to the principles of continuous improvement in its communications strategies. By incorporating social media, the City of Quesnel is able to connect with more residents, faster. This is particularly useful in an emergency situation.

Facebook and Twitter are used as an “Information Distribution” tool, providing the public with daily/hourly updates on emergency and department events i.e. bridge delays due to cleaning, special meetings, schedules, and holiday department closures or hours.

Our goal is to maintain our social media presence by posting information on a regular basis. Hootsuite Pro is used as our content management system allowing us to schedule postings directly to both Facebook and Twitter. We can also generate a post/tweet each time

an event is placed on our website or a notice is issued. We can schedule Council meeting notices, publication of the new Leisure Guide, issuance of tax and utility bills, deadline dates for the payment of bills to meet discount requirements and bill deadlines, etc.

New Accessibility Committee

A new Quesnel Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee was formed in the fall of 2014. This Advisory Committee, established by Quesnel City Council, will provide advice to Council to ensure the following goals from our Quesnel (p. 15) occur:

- Buildings and sites are accessible and safe;
- The community is inclusive and supportive and is accessible, affordable and safe; and
- Natural areas and parks are easily accessed by members of the public and parks are accessible to all.

Their role includes: developing a prioritized 5-year capital plan for accessibility improvements to sidewalks, trails, parking, and roads; review accessibility plans for new City projects and improvements to existing facilities and infrastructure; provide leadership on new initiatives to improve accessibility in Quesnel; and liaise with other governments and agencies to improve accessibility outcomes for Quesnel.



The Accessible Parking Awareness Campaign is a project coordinated through this Committee.

2014 Highlights

Infrastructure Re-Investment

New Public Works Facility

In 2013, Council approved funding to start the design process for building a new Public Works facility and to purchase land for the relocation of the City's Public Works buildings and yard. Last year, the old soccer fields on Sword Avenue (across from United Concrete) were purchased for this purpose with funds from a Public Works Relocation Reserve.

The current Public Works facility is beyond its lifespan and is located within the 200 year flood plain (between the BC Rail Yard and the Quesnel River). Being on the floodplain creates a significant risk; when the City's services are needed most they may be partially or fully compromised. Council decided that renovating or re-developing the aging infrastructure at the current site is not a prudent use of tax dollars due to its location on the floodplain.

One-third of the City's workforce (approx. 55 employees) are in the Public Works department and work out of the Public Works Yard, a facility that has not had significant investment and upgrades since Council started to debate moving the facility out of the floodplain in 2001.

The current Council believes that the City's Public Works employees and the Public Works equipment that taxpayers have invested in need a new home as soon as possible.

The new Public Works facility will be funded by long-term borrowing and Elector Assent will be sought in 2015. Council will present conceptual drawings and cost estimates to the community as part of the public engagement in advance of seeking permissive authority to proceed with this capital project.

On Thursday, May 21, 2015 during Public Works Week, an organized public tour of the existing facility to enable citizens, major ratepayers and the media to see for themselves why the Public Works Yard needs to be relocated.

A full presentation of the project with key dates and planned events will be brought before Council in a public meeting in the early fall and the Elector Assent process will be discussed at that time. Advance notice of this meeting will be provided on the City's website.



Public Works Day, May 21, 2015 .

2014 Highlights

Financial Stability of the Corporation

Financial Sustainability and Audit Committee

In order to deepen Council's strategic governance and enable Council to make more proactive and informed decisions, Mayor Simpson appointed three permanent standing Committees: the Financial Sustainability and Audit Committee (FSAC), the Policy and Bylaws Review Committee (PABCOM), and the Executive Committee (ECOM). These three working committees hold bi-weekly meetings that are open to the public.

All of the Committee recommendations are made to the full Council, with Council making all of the final decisions in open, public meetings.

The Financial Sustainability and Audit Committee is responsible for the development of the City's budget and is the reference point for all budget submissions and spending requests from the public.

This Committee will always have access to the most up-to-date budget information and will have the most comprehensive understanding of all the internal and external pressures on Council's annual and five-year budget.



Council Chambers, City Hall

2014 Highlights

Governance

Volunteer Citizen of the Year



Florence White

Florence was born in Springhill, Nova Scotia where she married and moved to Montreal, Quebec. In 1956 the White family moved to Kersley with their first born son. Through the years, relocation and six children later, Florence returned to Quesnel where she has lived for over 50 years.

Florence has dedicated over 35 years to serving as a volunteer in our community. She started her volunteer efforts as a Brownie leader to the Red Rock Brown Pack, became a member of the Orange Lodge, coordinated the hospital candy striper program for 5 years, was instrumental in establishing the Gold Pan Home Emergency Response 'Lifeline' network, is a 10 year member of the Lion's Club and, has volunteered with the Hospital Auxiliary to G.R. Baker Memorial Hospital since 1979!

Not that this left much time to spare, but Florence dedicated her spare time volunteering at her children and grand-children's schools.

"Doing unto others as you would have them do unto you has always been a code I've lived by", says Florence.

Orange Shirt Day



September 30, 2014 was Quesnel's second annual Orange Shirt Day. We were proud to recognize the residential school survivors by unveiling this monument in Lebourdais Park last year. The City plans to continue their support for the St. Joseph's Commemoration Project

The inscription on the plaque in the photo reads:

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

"In honour of the generations of Carrier, Chilcotin and Shuswap children who attended St. Joseph's Mission Indian Residential School (1886 - 1981) and those who died there. This history belongs to all of us because it continues to affect our communities today. Reconciliation starts when we listen with open hearts to the stories of residential school survivors."

Reconciliation starts when we listen with open hearts to the stories of survivors and those affected by residential schools."

2014 Strategic Plan

Introduction

Quesnel City Council has adopted a long-term, visionary approach to strategic planning. While annual strategic plans are completed, longer plans that coincide with the Council's term of office are also created.

The goal of the strategic planning process is to guide the City's short and long term corporate management, decision making, and implementation.

2014 Strategic Objectives

The 2012-2014 City of Quesnel Corporate Strategic Plan integrated the priorities of Council for its 3-year term. The 2012-2014 Plan was developed in 2012 and was updated annually with both Council and staff participation. The City of Quesnel identified the following key strategic objectives for the corporation.

- Sustainability in all Planning and Operations
- Infrastructure Re-investment
- Community Health and Safety
- Environmental Stewardship
- Financial Stability of the Corporation
- Governance
- Economic Stability and Diversification

Ongoing operational activities of the municipality consume the vast majority of the municipality's staff and financial resources.

Although the strategic objectives are intended to guide all of the work of the municipality, the ongoing operational work of the municipality is not detailed here. Only a relatively small proportion of the municipality's work, specifically new, special, or one-time initiatives, are noted.

For the purpose of the 2014 Annual Report, only sections pertinent to 2014 action items have been included in this section.

The strategy areas noted in our Quesnel on the page, as well as the proposed actions, were endorsed by City Council.

A summary of progress made in 2014 follows each action.

The entire strategic plan is available on the City's website at www.quesnel.ca/Reports2014.



Winter sunset lighting up downtown Quesnel

2014 Strategic Plan

Incorporating ourQuesnel



The City of Quesnel has long recognized the need for integrated planning and has been undertaking sustainability planning initiatives for the past 20 years. Some of the past work included the Quesnel Green Initiative (2006), Quesnel Sustainability Indicators (2002), and Quesnel Prosperity Plan (2008). In 2010, the ourQuesnel Sustainability Task Force (STF) was created to help guide and develop how integrated community sustainability planning would begin in our community. During the course of a year, the STF met monthly to start identifying the key issues that needed to be addressed with a community sustainability plan, and to start developing a process.







In January 2012, the City had the opportunity to work with the *Whistler Centre for Sustainability* on a QuickStart *Integrated Community Sustainability Plan* (ICSP) process that was grant-supported by the Real Estate Foundation of BC.

An ICSP is as much a process as it is a plan; it is an ongoing process of engaging the community in co-creating and updating a community vision and linking that to realistic planning and collaborative action today. ICSPs emphasize long-term thinking, collaboration between community residents and stakeholders, creating partnerships, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure success. Quesnel's ICSP is called ourQuesnel.

The Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) is the document that was written to help guide the process of moving the community toward a desirable and sustainable future. The ICSP identifies strategies and actions for implementation, monitors progress, and is reviewed and updated every year. An ICSP is the community's highest level policy document which is intended to give direction to all future initiatives, provide a comprehensive framework for community decision-making and ultimately integrate all existing plans and policies.

For Quesnel, 10 strategy areas were identified that broadly address all the community systems and the broad range of issues within them. These are the 10 strategy areas of ourQuesnel.

In the following pages on the 2014 Strategic Plan, when strategic actions fall into one or more of these ten areas, the icons below are used to illustrate that fact.

-  Economy, work, education and skills training
-  Transportation and mobility
-  Energy, water, resources and waste
-  Food
-  Social and community well-being
-  Ecosystems, natural areas and parks
-  Communications and connectivity infrastructure
-  Buildings and sites
-  Arts, culture, recreation and leisure
-  Housing and land use



Deep Water Running at the Quesnel and District Arts and Recreation Centre.

2014 Status Updates

Sustainability in all Planning and Operations



Action: Develop a strategy with property owners and key stakeholders regarding the brownfield sites in which the City is a stakeholder.

The strategy for the BC Rail lands and City-owned lands adjacent to the Public Works facilities will need to be further developed as the relocation of the proposed Public Works facility progresses.

Action: Meet with various re-use groups to understand the re-use cycle and identify service gaps.

After phone interviews with re-use groups/organizations, we have a better understanding of the variety of organizations involved in the re-use process in Quesnel.

Action: Complete a sensitive areas inventory for Quesnel.

This tender for this work was issued in 2014, with project completion in March 2015.

Action: Hold first annual ourQuesnel Economic Forum.

Kickoff event held on April 11 with MLA Minister Oakes and Premier Clark, main forum event held on April 15, with 96 attendees, presentations from 11 local businesses and included guest speakers Minister Steve Thomson and Chief Forester Dave Peterson.

Action: Update the ourQuesnel website with sustainability indicators developed in the Community Sustainability Plan development process.

This is an ongoing initiative.

Action: Complete a Parks Plan for Quesnel.

The tender was issued for this work in 2014 with public input sessions scheduled for March and June 2015, and a final report to Council in September 2015.

Infrastructure Re-investment



Action: Update the Quesnel Works: Capital Reinvestment Program model work to a 20 Year Asset Plan.

Completed and presented to Council by Urban Systems on October 6.

Action: Develop and launch a comprehensive public information campaign dealing with the Quesnel Works: Capital Reinvestment Program.

The information campaign will be developed as the 20- Year Asset Plan is rolled out.

Action: Develop plans for a new Public Works facility.

A 2.9 hectare parcel on Sword Avenue has been purchased. Next steps include developing a concept drawing and budget estimate for the facility. This will be brought back to Council the first half of 2015.

Action: Develop a phased, risk-based approach for North Quesnel storm water system upgrades.

This project will be prioritized and scheduled as part of the Capital Reinvestment Plan.



Aerial view of downtown Quesnel

2014 Status Updates

Community Health and Safety



Action: Monitor and report the results of the West Quesnel Land Stability dewatering program.

A public meeting was held on October 2 to provide an update on progress to date after one full year of dewatering and monitoring.

Next steps were also discussed.

Action: Develop a workplan/lobbying strategy for the next phase of the West Quesnel Land Stability work program.

A formal submission to the Build Canada Fund was submitted in December for a total project of \$7.2 million split between the Federal, Provincial and City funding partners. We have met with federal representatives to further outline the need for this funding.

Action: Ask RCMP to consider the issue of drug-related dwellings and report to Council with options and if there are specific actions the City can take to support the RCMP.

Continue to monitor the successes and challenges faced by other communities on this issue, trying to understand “best practices” in this evolving area. The City is working on problem dwellings on a case-by-case basis; legal and privacy concerns prevent discussion of individual cases in public.

Action: Work with the Bylaw Department to identify the number of vacant/unsightly properties and review policy around these, including best practices from other communities.

Preliminary inventory work is completed; a report is being prepared for review by Council.

Action: Continue work to improve accessibility for all residents including public washroom space.

Council has approved the formation of an Accessibility Committee including their Terms of Reference and the membership to serve on this committee.

The Arena architects presented the accessibility features of the West Fraser Centre to the committee and received useful input regarding this project.

Public Works completed a workplan for accessibility items based on a project list brought forward by community accessibility representatives. Scoping work for an accessible washroom downtown is continuing.

Action: Work with the Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation (“QCEDC”) and community stakeholders to develop a strategy and initiate a process to better meet the volunteer needs of community service providers.

Maintaining Fire Department volunteer base is important; work is ongoing. QCEDC has hosted meetings with interested community members who have formed their own steering committees. This group is in the process of reviewing options and potential sources of funding to develop a Volunteer Strategy that will meet the needs of local non-profit organizations.

Action: Work with Council and the Cariboo Regional District Northern Directors to develop a plan to replace Arena 1.

This item is complete. A plan has been developed to replace Arena 1 with the construction of a new facility. A successful referendum was held in June and an architect has been hired to design the facility.

Action: Review options regarding the potential development of a City-owned RV campsite near downtown Quesnel.

The Tourism and Civic Pride Committee has included this project as one of the goals in their Strategic Plan. Staff is reviewing possible site options.

Action: Review and provide recommendations to Council on improving City snow clearing operations. Reported results on May 12, changes to practices are being implemented this winter season.

2014 Status Updates

Community Health and Safety



Action: Continue to work with the Ministry of and Infrastructure as a key partner with regards to development and long-range transportation infrastructure planning.

Met with Minister Todd Stone at UBCM conference, met with Ministry staff in January 2015 to discuss community road safety.

Action: Consider the City's role in the re-development of Cariboo Field.

The purchase from the Quesnel School District #28 of Cariboo Field is complete. The Parks Plan will further inform Council regarding this site.

Action: Develop and implement a strategy regarding the use of social media for city communications, with an emphasis on emergency management.

Facebook and Twitter are both implemented and in daily use by the Communications department. Working on more effective distribution of construction information that will be useful to residents and businesses during the public works construction season.

Environmental Stewardship



Action: Develop a fleet management plan focused on increasing the efficiency of operations balanced with a greener fleet.

This is an ongoing initiative.

Action: Continue feasibility work on the Quesnel Community Energy System, including the impact on and interaction with City facilities.

After an extensive due diligence process by Fortis, the City of Quesnel and West Fraser Mills, it was determined this project cannot proceed. The project is technically feasible but not financially viable. The Innovative Clean Energy Grant funding offer has been withdrawn.



Cariboo Field



Quesnel Transit Bus

2014 Status Update

Financial Stability of the Corporation



Action: Create a plan that discusses service prioritization and options for when assessment losses occur.

The new Council has created a Financial Sustainability & Audit Committee. One of the roles of this committee is to do in-depth analysis of service prioritization and rationalization and make recommendations to Council.

Action: Continue to revise Council's "Top 20" list of projects that require funding from external sources.

This is an ongoing initiative.

Action: Work with the Regional Economic Collaborative and other community stakeholders to achieve Economic and Community Development goals.

This is an ongoing initiative.

Action: Stimulate further development at the Quesnel Airport as a key link in positioning Quesnel as a service hub for the North.

Possible tools include a revised airport business plan and consideration of a Revitalization Exemption program.

The apron expansion is complete. The lease for a new hangar has been completed. The Airport Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw is completed; awaiting applicants. An update to the airport business plan is currently being developed.

Governance



Action: Continued support for the St. Joseph's Commemoration project.

Completed, on September 30 a local monument was unveiled in LeBourdais Park. An event was held by the organizing committee commemorating Orange Shirt Day, with logistical assistance provided by the City.

Action: Continue to develop a workforce succession plan.

This is an ongoing initiative.

Action: Review department capacity and structure of departments, including Public Works.

This is an ongoing initiative.

Action: Review committee structure, including Terms of Reference, staff involvement, and overall effectiveness.

The committee structure has been revised as per the direction of the new Council.

Economic Stability and Diversification



Action: Ensure mutual alignment of City of Quesnel and Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation Strategic Planning processes.

The new City Council has resolved strategic alignment issues.

Action: Work with local First Nations with the goals of improving relationships and working closely on areas of mutual concerns. A key focus will be on economic development projects.

Met with Lhtako First Nation regarding potential Transit Service Agreement. Also in preliminary discussions regarding a joint Community Forest Allocation.

Moving Forward in 2015

Introduction

The City of Quesnel has committed considerable resources to strategic planning, resulting in a focused plan that can guide the work of the City over the next Council term (4 years) and beyond.

Staff will provide quarterly progress updates to Council on the status of the projects outlined in the plan. These reports will provide high-level points with sufficient detail to communicate essential information. This new way of reporting will make the Corporation consistent across departments.

Quesnel City Council has re-affirmed the key strategic objectives from the Corporation's previous strategic plan. This report contains strategic actions which will be undertaken by City staff in 2015 to help achieve Council's objectives. The goal of the strategic planning process is to guide the City's short and long term corporate management, decision making, and implementation. The ourQuesnel Integrated Community Sustainability Plan is the longest term strategic document of the City. This important community visioning process is reflected in both the Strategic Objectives of Council and the Strategic Actions which Council endorses for 2015.

The Vision, Mission, Values, and Principles of Council have been updated as well. These will become part of the City's Official Community Plan when it receives its next update.

2015-2018 Corporate Strategic Plan and Proposed 2015 Actions

Sustainability in all Planning and Operations

Action: Develop a strategy for the BC Rail lands and City-owned lands which will be vacated with the relocation of the proposed Public Works facility.

Action: Complete a Master Parks Plan for Quesnel. Estimated completion is September 2015.

Action: Complete an Official Community Plan update for Quesnel. This will be a multi-year project starting in 2015 involving significant community consultation on a wide variety of planning topics.

Action: Work with the Cariboo Regional District to develop a more comprehensive vision of shared services, including completion of a Recreation Master Plan.

Infrastructure Re-investment

Action: Work with the Cariboo Regional District to finalize the Arena Replacement Project scope and complete the necessary steps to facilitate the start of construction in the spring of 2016.

Action: Develop plans for a new Public Works facility. This will include development of concept drawings and budget estimates and considerable consultation with the public, culminating in elector assent of the borrowing for the project.



Public Works Maintenance Yard

Moving Forward in 2015

Community Health and Safety

Action: Complete the West Quesnel dewatering project; this is the first year of Phase 2, a new multi-year program. The work program will include significant storm drainage work, more wells and horizontal drains, and a full leak detection program for the sewer and storm piping along with repairs to any problems which are detected. The full scope of this project will not proceed until significant grant funding is confirmed.

Action: Working with the RCMP, develop a strategy to deal with known drug houses in town. An understanding of the current developing legal framework around this issue is needed.

Action: Continue work to improve accessibility for all residents including consideration of downtown public washroom space.

Action: Continue to work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as a key partner with regards to development, and long-range transportation infrastructure planning. Concerns include safety improvements to our highways and arterial roads in addition to regional impacts of the 10 Year Provincial Transportation Plan.

Action: Develop and implement a strategy regarding the use of social media for City communications, with an emphasis on community notification in emergencies. This will include a website rebuild and a search for innovative best communications practices of other municipalities.

Action: Continue to participate with and advocate for Affordable Housing in Quesnel. This will include holding an Affordable Housing Forum, development of planning approaches and policies which encourage investment in this sector, and working with community and provincial agencies.

Environmental Stewardship

Action: Improve the environmental impact of City-owned buildings, and in particular for 2015, by incorporating energy efficient technology and/or equipment at the Museum (replace three furnaces) and the Soccer Complex (upgrade lighting).

Financial Stability of the Corporation

Action: Create a plan that considers prioritization of capital spending, proactive planning and enhanced funding to close the infrastructure deficit and position Quesnel better for property assessment losses.

Action: Continue with in-depth cost review of all City operations lead by Financial Sustainability & Audit Committee ("FSAC") with the goal of achieving continuous efficiency improvements.

Action: Work with the Regional Economic Collaborative and other community stakeholders to achieve Economic and Community Development goals.

Action: Stimulate further development at the Quesnel Airport as a key link in positioning Quesnel as a service hub for the north.

Governance

Action: Review all Council committees over 2015/16, ensuring Terms of Reference are updated. Establish standing committees as required for governance of City policies and functions.

Economic Stability and Diversification

Action: Transition the Economic Development functions into an internal City department. The goal is to still maintain a North Cariboo focus, with the City and North Cariboo Electoral Areas partnering to provide strategic direction and funding for the function.

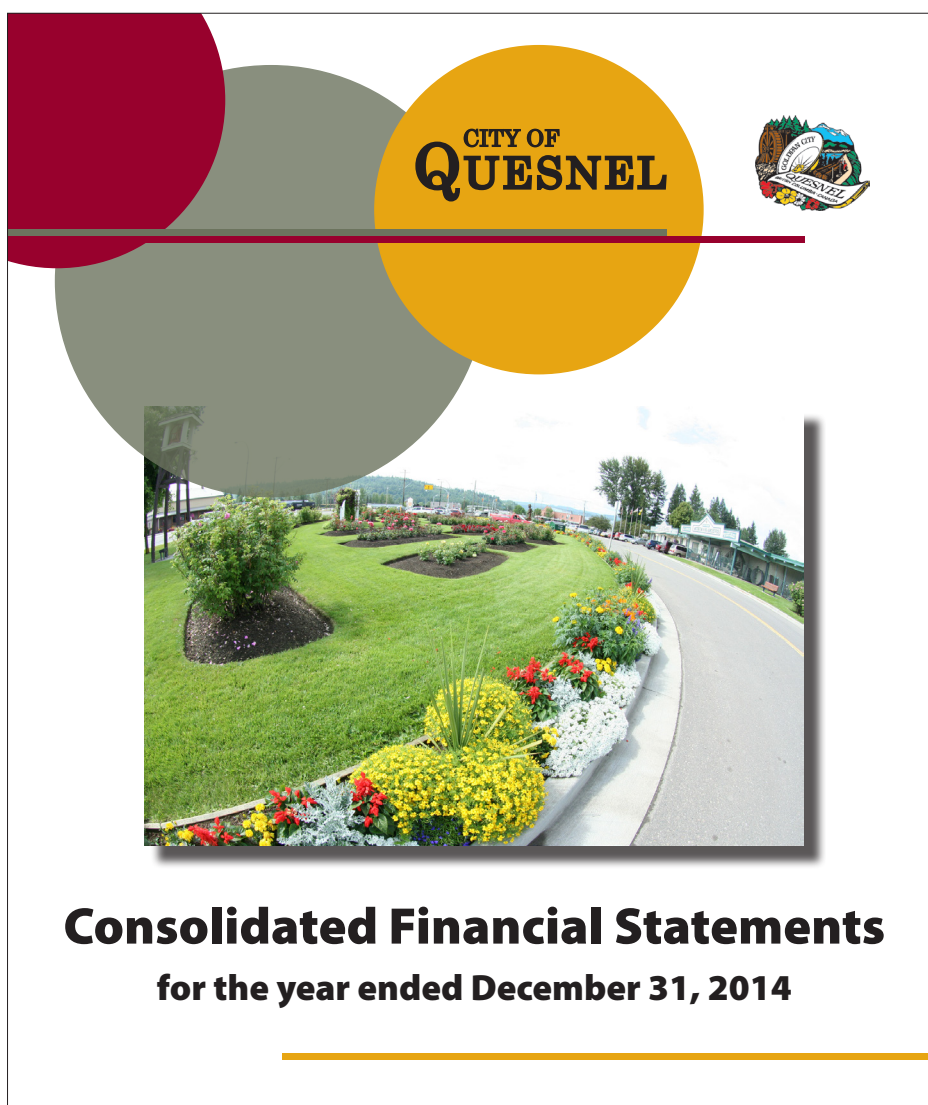
Action: Work with local First Nations with the goals of improving relationships and working closer on areas of mutual concerns. A key focus will be on economic development projects.



Ceal Tingley Park garden

2014 Financial Statements

A complete copy of the audited
Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2014
is available on the City's website at
www.quesnel.ca/Finance.html#AnnualReports.



2014 Property Tax Exemptions

Charitable, Philanthropic or Other Not-For-Profit Corporations

Roll #	Organization	Total Exemption Amount
87.000	Quesnel Masonic Temple Society	\$2,568
206.00	Salvation Army	5,470
218.000	Quesnel & District Child Development Centre	13,585
247.000	Quesnel Women's Resource Centre	1,991
248.000	Quesnel Women's Resource Centre	480
257.500	Quesnel Lions Society	1,375
267.000	Amata Transition House Society	2,859
314.000	Fraser Village Homes Society	1,611
332.000	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 94	9,130
418.010	Quesnel & District Seniors Society	28,761
419.000	Quesnel Curling Club	14,491
1550.080	Quesnel & District SPCA	3,167
2189.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	3,393
2193.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	274
4013.083	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 94	5,608
4208.000	Quesnel Elks Club	1,390
4209.000	Quesnel Elks Club	751
4210.000	Quesnel Elks Club	1,777
5862.500	Quesnel Auto Racing Association	8,276
		\$ 106,956

Church Land and Land Surrounding Statutory Exemptions

Church Owned Lands - 224 (2)(f)

220.000	Fraser Basin	3,430
328.000	United Church of Canada	813
329.000	United Church of Canada	1,691
961.000	Roman Catholic Bishop	853
1200.890	Northstar Fellowship Baptist Church	1,550
2025.000	Trinity Lutheran Church	327
2602.000	Cariboo Gur Sikh Temple Society	456
2703.000	Guru Darbar Society	303
3600.000	Congregation of Quesnel Jehovah's Witnesses	742
4211.000	Victory Way Baptist Church	276
4659.000	Lighthouse Pentecostal Church of Quesnel	310
5047.309	Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle of Quesnel	2,450

Lands surrounding statutory exemptions - 224 (2)(h)

314.000	Fraser Village Homes Society	1,962
961.000	Roman Catholic Bishop	179
		\$ 15,342

Revitalization Tax Exemptions - 226

06291.000	West Fraser Mills Ltd.	600,000
		\$ 600,000