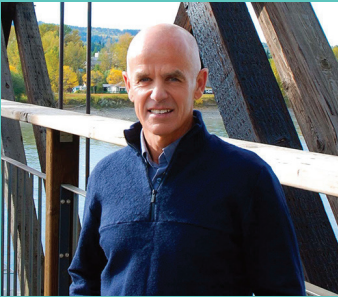


City News

Message from the Mayor



There has never been a more difficult time to plan for and undertake construction projects of any size. Particularly for the public sector, as the rapidly increasing costs of these projects cannot simply be passed on to “consumers” through price increases but must be incorporated into a

long-term capital plan and taxation framework.

With construction inflation currently running anywhere between two and five percent per month, significant supply chain issues (i.e. availability of materials and supplies), a shrinking workforce, and the limited availability of qualified contractors, planning a single construction project is extremely complex – trying to develop a meaningful and reasonably accurate and affordable five-year capital plan for the City is almost impossible.

Despite these challenges, as you’ll see in this householder, Council continues to be able to attract significant grant funding and has created a fiscal framework for the City that enables us to continue to put your tax dollars to good use across a diverse range of capital projects. These projects will not only improve the livability and attractiveness of our community, they will also directly benefit the local economy by supporting local businesses and local jobs

However, on top of the significant challenges listed above, local governments in British Columbia have an additional constraint on their ability to undertake capital projects, in both the short and long term and regardless of how time-sensitive or how necessary the project might be. That constraint is the inability to either deficit finance or to borrow large sums of money without first obtaining voter approval. Johnston Bridge is a classic example of such a challenge.

While there are lots of opinions about how Council should have dealt with the Johnston Bridge “already,” the reality is that this bridge project exceeded Council’s ability to capitalize without either going to referendum or obtaining a significant grant from either the provincial and/or the federal government. All-in, restoring the Johnston Bridge to its rated weight loading is roughly an \$11.4 million project, and up until very recently no grant programs were available to assist local ratepayers to undertake this project. We’ve now applied for a recently opened federal grant for half of the costs of this project and have the reserves for the other half, although Council will be asking the provincial government to fund that portion of the project.

Capital planning is a challenge at the best of times, and this is certainly not the best of times for making large scale investment decisions for our community. But, as you’ll see in the pages that follow, Council continues to find creative and cost-effect ways to make those investments.

- Mayor Bob Simpson



Child Care Centre

The Child Care Centre will be constructed on Webster Ave in 2022. The City plans to partner with the Quesnel & District Day Care Society (QDDCS) to operate the facility. The approximately 4,800 sq ft facility will provide 8 infant, 25 preschool, and 24 school age spaces. Of these, 23 are existing QDDCS spaces and 34 are new spaces being added to the community, creating new jobs, and supporting families. Construction is expected to begin in the fall of 2022 and be complete in the spring of 2023.

Project cost: \$2,618,904

Funded by: ChildCare BC New Spaces



Airport Improvements

The Runway Rehabilitation Project includes repaving the runway, realigning runway lighting and electrical work, upgrades to the existing storm drainage system, concrete repairs, and paint markings. The airport is an essential transportation link for the economic development of our region and critical infrastructure for health and safety, supporting the air ambulance service and wildfire management.

Project cost: \$8,789,000

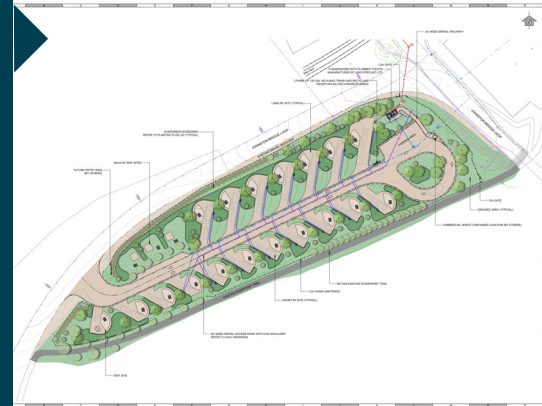
Funded by: Canada Airports Capital Assistance Program

RV Park and Campground

The City RV and Tenting Campground is located by the Quesnel River. It is anticipated to operate from late spring to early fall for short term stays. This municipal RV Park is unique in our region for its proximity to downtown and access to our trail networks and other amenities. It will encourage visitors to stop within City limits to spend time in our community.

Project cost: \$1,210,500

Funded by:	City of Quesnel	\$195,000
	Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program	\$515,500
	Northern Development Initiative Trust	\$300,000
	Gas Tax Funding	\$200,000



Sprout Kitchen - Phase II

Sprout Kitchen is a food hub and small business incubator which opened at 101 Marsh Drive in 2021. Phase II builds on the available freezer and cooler storage and basic commercial scale cooking equipment available to food entrepreneurs. This phase adds specialty equipment which will further expand capacity, increase service levels, and support a broader range of entrepreneurs.

Phase II involves the purchase of further equipment including:

- food lab testing equipment and swabs;
- additional smallwares, work tables, and shelving
- specialized equipment for food processing, including an industrial dehydrator, grain mill, induction cooktop burners, and proofer cabinet.

Sprout Kitchen serves the region from Vanderhoof to 100 Mile House, with a physical location in Quesnel. Additional funding is pending to support a delivery service throughout this region.

Project cost: \$158,854

Funding sources: Province of BC \$32,488 | Northern Development Initiative Trust \$100,000
United Way \$26,366

Quesnel Bike Park - Phase II

Located behind the Arts & Recreation Centre, the Quesnel Bike Park phase II will allow riders to transition from the pumptrack area to confidently ride flow trails as their skills increase. The area is a series of flow trails accessed off of a traversing green singletrack trail. The trails in phase II are predominantly green flow trails. There is one progressive blue and one progressive black flow trail to act as a stepping stone for beginner riders to confidently progress their skill set.

The new bike park and trails will help to increase tourism and resident recruitment while providing free, enjoyable outdoor recreation amenities for locals.

Project Cost: \$292,800

Project funding: Canada Community-Building Fund





Quesnel Firehall Renovation

Renovations at the Quesnel Fire Hall No. 1 have begun! The renovation priorities include improving accessibility both entering the building and inside the building, providing amenities for female firefighters, undertaking essential seismic upgrades to the apparatus bays, and making the space function better to meet the needs of the department. This project will extend the life of Fire Hall No. 1 for decades. The project also addresses the fire department's needs for considerably less money (than building a new firehall) with no requirement for long-term borrowing.

Project Cost: \$5 million

Project funding: City of Quesnel \$2.5 million
 COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure grant: \$2.5 million

More projects

Neighbour Rd from Brears Rd to Enemark Rd \$166,000
 Road widening and paving

Hartley St from Baker St to Harper Ave \$165,000
 Overlay paving and sidewalk replacement

Road paving \$550,000

- Baker Dr
- Kinchant St
- Shepherd Ave
- Perry St
- Hartley St
- Reid St

Avison Storm mainline replacement \$640,000
 A new storm mainline will be installed along with additional storm drains to improved drainage. The City will replace sections of the sidewalk and pave the roadway. This project supports dewatering the West Quesnel Land Stability area.

Trail paving \$140,000
 Overlay paving throughout the Riverfront Trail Network

Baseball field backstop and dugouts \$100,000
 Backstop fencing will be replaced and dugouts repaired on the largest field in West Fraser Timber Park.

Dragon Hill Reservoir replacement \$2,100,000
 A newly designed reservoir will improve water temperature, quality, and provide storage of potable water. The fire flows and system pressure to Sword Ave, Carson Pit Rd and North Star Rd will also be improved. This project will start in the spring and be complete in late fall.

Johnston Bridge Rehabilitation

The City is applying for grant funding to repair the Johnston Bridge. The updated costs to repair the bridge is approximately \$11.4 million. If the grant is successful, remaining funding will come from the Utility Reserve Funds and the Capital Reinvestment Reserve. The current five-year capital plan will need to be adjusted to make room for the required funding for this project, which may include delaying other projects and increasing funding to this reserve.

Riverfront Trail signage

The interpretive signage around the Riverfront Trail system is getting a much-needed update. The new signage will feature some of the existing content as well as new signs relating to local history, culture, and natural highlights.

Project cost: \$110,000

Project funding: Heritage BC: \$40,000
 City of Quesnel: \$70,000

West Fraser Timber Park Trails

WFTP will see improvements on 2,600 meters of trail, including realignments, point of interest construction, and new trail alignments. The project will increase access and safety of community recreation by making necessary improvements to this multi-use trail network.

Project cost: \$200,072

Project funding: Investing in Canada Infrastructure

Revitalization Plans

The Revitalization Plans for Davie St and North Fraser Drive Landing will direct growth, attract investment, and help to continue to create a resilient and vibrant downtown.

We are looking for your feedback on the draft revitalization plans!

Learn more: www.letsconnectquesnel.ca



Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Development

Interested in housing a loved one, expanding your revenue opportunities or attracting new investment within the City?

To support development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs), the City is creating designs for energy-efficient carriage houses and secondary dwellings and we want to make sure they meet your building needs.

See the designs and share feedback at City Hall or www.letsconnectquesnel.ca/adus.



ARC Swimming Pool Consultation

The City of Quesnel and Cariboo Regional District are prioritizing a renovation to the Quesnel Arts and Recreation Centre swimming pool. The swimming pool is 40 years old and needs architectural, mechanical and electrical upgrades, and upgrading the existing pool is a better strategic investment than building a new facility.

We're consulting the community on four possible options.

Learn more: www.letsconnectquesnel.ca/pool



LeBourdais Park Improvements

LeBourdais Park is a centrepiece gathering place for the community and is due for some dynamic upgrades.

The community gave their insight into potential upgrades in late 2021. One issue raised was lack of shade, the City is currently investigating options to add shaded areas to the park..

Learn more:

www.letsconnectquesnel.ca/lebourdais-park

