

2024 Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

Prepared and produced by *Corporate Services of the City of Quesnel* | Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada

The City of Quesnel is located on the traditional territory of the Lhtako Dene.



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Message from the Mayor



City Council, with the guidance and support of our dedicated staff and our community, is living up to our corporate vision - *A naturally vibrant, accessible and innovative community.*

Reflecting on our second year of Council's four year term, this 2024 Annual Report is filled with so many positives! The shining positive for 2024 was our partnership with Lhtako Dene Nation in jointly hosting the very successful Lhtako Quesnel 2024 BC Winter Games (page 11). Another first in our ongoing reconciliation effort is that with our Indigenous and community partners, we were the first of any BC Games ever to officially co-name our Games with the First Nation on whose traditional territory we share residency. As well, approximately \$200,000 in legacy funding was granted back into our community! We continue to move forward in meaningful reconciliation and partnerships with our First Nations neighbours. Look for major new developments at Lhtako Dene Park at the confluence of our two great rivers.

A second shining feature for 2024 was final acquisition in licensing our Three Rivers Community Forest (page 14) in partnership with our neighbouring First Nations communities, Lhtako Dene Nation, ?Esdilagh First Nation, and Nazko First Nation. Also, on the forestry side, read page 22 about our forestry initiatives as Quesnel and area forest companies continue, through ongoing climate change challenges, to seek sustainable fiber supply as they transition from a volume-based to a value-based model. Our periodic Forestry Think Tank sessions seriously seek solutions to these transitional changes.

Take a little time to read on page 12 of how our new hotel revitalization tax exemption has helped advance a future new hotel for our city and also on page 12 find the latest on the much needed Highway 97 Quesnel Interconnector project. Explore our advancements on the Johnston Bridge upgrade and our Infrastructure Master Plan (page 13). That plan is fully funded by the Rural Economic Diversification Program (REDIP) at a cost of \$500,000. There is progress on our growing, multi-faceted housing file (page 17), how we are moving forward on community development initiatives and efforts in community health and safety (page 18), environmental leadership and governance (page 19), our advancing economic development opportunities (page 20), and an impressive list of completed and in-progress infrastructure renewal projects (page 21).

Council's 2025 – 2026 Strategic Plan (pages 23 – 30) is our unanimously crafted document that guides us through these incredibly challenging times, as our work is so demandingly different than ever before. We are driven to confront our challenges with care, purpose and innovation.

I could go on... about how we continue to ensure viability of our airport, how good we are at attracting grant funding, extending the life of our landfill, attracting, retaining and appreciating healthcare workers, road and bridge improvements, water treatment and so much more! Oh yes... our 2028 City of Quesnel Centennial year is coming up fast!

- Mayor Ron Paull

City Council | 2022 – 2026

QUESNEL CITY COUNCIL



*Back L-R: Councillor Scott Elliott, Councillor Tony Goulet, Councillor Martin Runge, Councillor Mitch Vik
Front L-R: Councillor Debra McKelvie, Mayor Ron Paull, Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg*

Mayor and Council were elected in the 2022 Local Government Election for a 4-year term to provide leadership and establish priorities for the community.

In 2024, past and present Council represented our community at the following tables

- Regular Council Meetings
- Accessibility Committee
- Financial Sustainability & Audit Standing Committee
- Policy and Bylaws Standing Committee
- Public Safety and Policing Standing Committee
- Cariboo Regional District Board
- Airport Advisory Committee
- NDIT Regional Advisory Committee
- Chamber of Commerce
- Housing Committee
- Business Improvement Associations
- North Cariboo Joint Advisory Committee
- Indigenous Partnerships

Our Vision and Mission

COMMUNITY VISION

"A naturally vibrant, accessible, and innovative community"

CORPORATE MISSION

The City of Quesnel delivers responsive, dynamic, and cost effective public services and programs which serve as the foundation for a resilient and accessible community that retains and attracts residents, visitors, and investment.

PRINCIPLES

- Sustainability in all areas of governance
- Proactive and innovative responses to transition challenges
- Open and responsive government
- Quality municipal services and infrastructure
- Indigenous Reconciliation and Relations
- Cultural diversity and heritage
- Active and livable neighbourhoods
- Economic vitality
- Environmental protection and preservation
- Community based solutions
- Public safety and security
- An accessible and inclusive community

VALUES

- Fiscal prudence
- Proactive planning
- Accountability
- Openness and transparency
- Responsiveness
- Partnerships
- Creativity and innovation
- Integrity and respect
- Fairness and inclusivity

Message from the City Manager



2024 was another successful year for the City as we made progress on key Council initiatives that continue to strengthen our community. The year kicked off with nearly 3,000 people visiting our beautiful community for the Lhtako Quesnel 2024 BC Winter Games, which were held February 22 to 24.

Several strategic investments were made in local facilities in the lead up to the games to ensure they were operationally ready for the influx of athletes to the community, notably the Hallis Lake biathlon ranges, gymnastics club, curling club and others. Overall, the City was able to scale and adjust to host the games, proving that Council's long-held strategy to position Quesnel as a host community for sports tourism and other events was a worthwhile endeavor not only for excellence in athletics, but also to support small businesses.

Administration continued to make progress on Council's desire for long-term asset management and forward thinking infrastructure reinvestment. The Province of BC provided \$500,000 through the Rural Economic Diversification program for the development of the City's Infrastructure Master Plan. The plan helps the City strategize and plan for key reinvestments that need to be made in the years ahead and also provides critically important information to developers. The plan also sheds light on areas where renewed investment might drive development. The plan was completed in the spring of 2025 and provided to Council.

Elsewhere, work on the Johnston Bridge rehabilitation continued in 2024 with the installation of 90 metres of water and sanitary mains, a new fire hydrant and road restoration. This work helps to ready the area for the planned bridge rehabilitation in 2026.

Council also renewed its focus on the proposed Highway 97 Interconnector project, indicating to administration that it remained a priority and laying the groundwork for research and advocacy work in 2026.

As well, after five years of multi-government collaboration, the Three Rivers Community Forest (TRCF) was awarded in late 2024 to a limited partnership between the City of Quesnel, Lhtako Dene Nation, Nazko First Nation, and ?Esdilagh First Nation.

The purpose of the community forest is to support recreation, wildfire resiliency, wildlife enhancement, and watershed management, First Nations stewardship, and to contribute to a diversified forest economy.

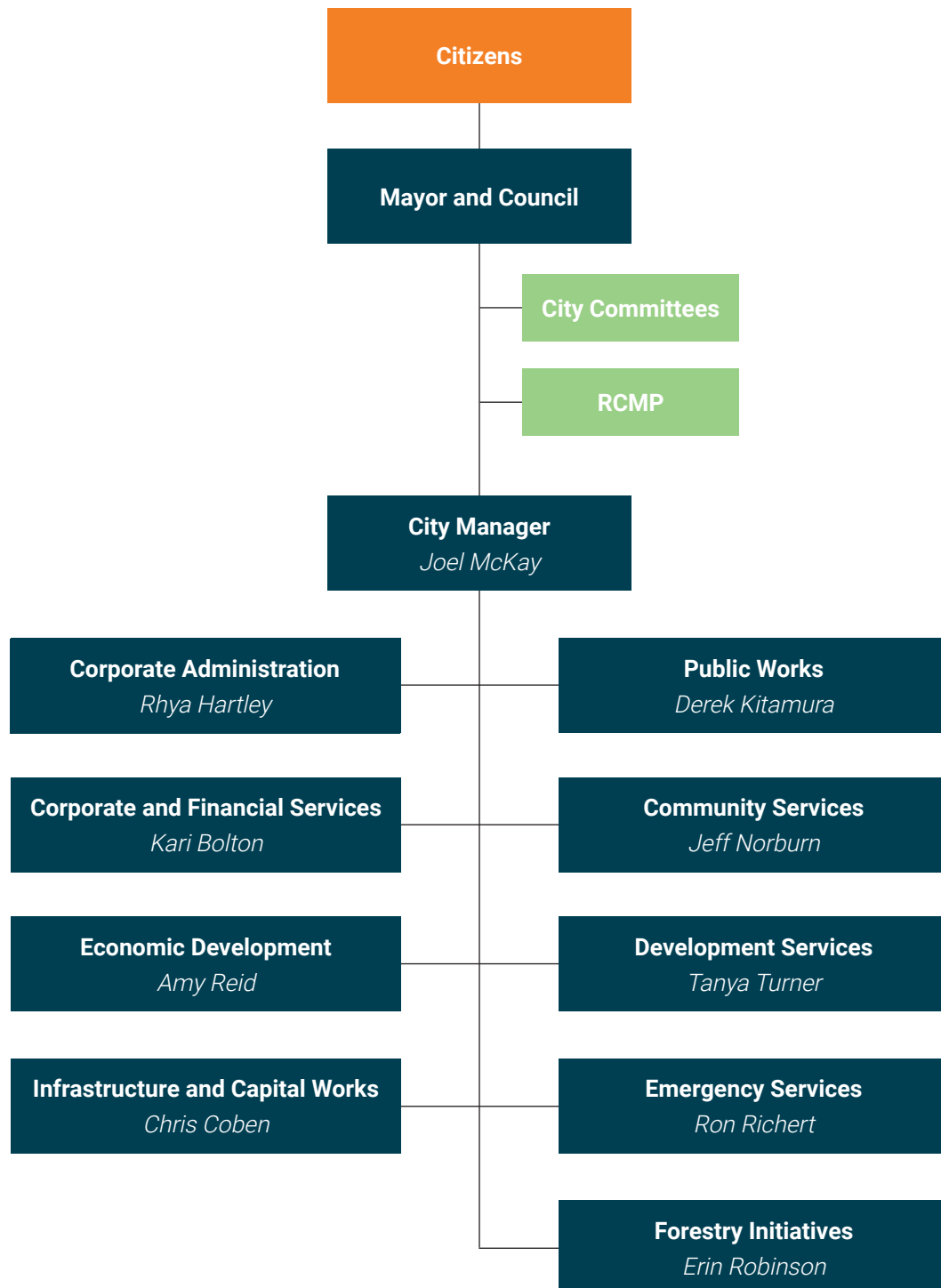
Situated in the North Cariboo and spanning a diverse area in and around Quesnel, the community forest extends north of the city to the Fraser River, south to Dragon Mountain and east to the Quesnel River. This new community-based asset will not only promote biodiversity, but also generate revenue that can be used in future years to support important community initiatives.

Lastly, I want to thank Council for their continued efforts to advance key priorities here in the City. And I also want to thank all City staff for their commitment to excellence, professionalism and public service. We have one of the most attractive communities to call home in B.C. because of the efforts of our elected officials, staff and community members.

Onward to 2025.

- Joel McKay

Organization



City Services



Arts and
Recreation*



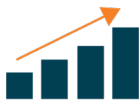
Airport



Bylaw
Enforcement



Cemetery



Economic
Development



Emergency
Management



Fire/Rescue



Garbage and
Recycling
Collection



Landfill



Museum and
Heritage



Parks and
Playgrounds



Planning and
Development



Policing



Public Transit



Snow Removal



Streets and
Sidewalks



Storm water,
Sewer and
Water

** Funded through North Cariboo Parks and Recreation*

2024 City Stats



WATER CONSUMPTION
2023: 2.4 BILLION LITRES
2024: 2.3 BILLION LITRES



FIRE CALLS
2023: 745
2024: 825



BUILDING CONSTRUCTION VALUES
2023: \$11,645,460
2024: \$50,684,522



8.8% INCREASE IN TRANSIT RIDERS



BUILDING PERMIT FEES
2023: \$86,600
2024: \$151,231



8,679 PEOPLE ACCESSED THE VISITOR CENTRE VS 8,156 IN 2023.



223,529
FACEBOOK PAGE REACH IN 2024



7% DECREASE IN AIRLINE PASSENGERS



\$4.3 MILLION GRANT FUNDING RECEIVED

BYLAW STATS

COMPLAINTS

	2023	2024
Dogs	124	88
Noise	30	28
Sign	5	6

NUISANCE RESPONSES

Unsightly properties	111	69
Nuisance behaviour	543	565

TICKETS

Municipal	5	10
Parking	361	320



PROPERTY FOLIOS
2023: 4773
2024: 4785



INVESTED IN CITY INFRASTRUCTURE
2023: \$13.2 MILLION
2024: \$7.48 MILLION

2024 Highlights

Lhtako Quesnel 2024 BC Winter Games

The Lhtako Quesnel 2024 BC Winter Games was a remarkable success! The collaboration between Lhtako Dene Nation, Cariboo Regional District, School District 28, and the City of Quesnel united our community and created a lasting impact on athletes, visitors, local businesses, and residents. Held from February 22-25, 2024, the Games attracted nearly 3,000 attendees to Quesnel. The event also showcased the strength of local volunteer support, with over 1,200 volunteers contributing their time and energy to ensure its success. Their dedication helped foster a sense of camaraderie, turning the Games into a true celebration of community spirit.

Leading up to the Games, many local clubs and facilities received funding from the Powering Potential fund, which supported:

- Troll Ski Resort
- Hallis Lake (permanent biathlon range and other trail improvements)
- Quesnel Technics Gymnastics Club (coaching courses)
- Quesnel Curling Club (elevator certification and accessibility upgrade)
- Quesnel and District Arts and Recreation Centre (Wibit pool play equipment)

- Troll Freestyle Club (new club established with support from Freestyle BC, onboarding 30 members this season)
- Nechako Karate Club (mats)
- Kokoro Judo Club (mats)

The Games also had a positive economic impact. Many local businesses saw increased traffic, with 39% reporting more visitors during the event. In addition, the event drew many first-time visitors to Quesnel, with over 55% of attendees exploring the community for the first time. This surge in tourism is expected to continue, with 39% of visitors indicating they would return.

The Games generated approximately \$200,000 in legacy funds, which were allocated to support community initiatives and foster long-term growth in local sports and infrastructure.

Overall, the event not only showcased the athletes' achievements but also highlighted the strong sense of what's possible when we work together. The success of the Games, driven by volunteers and resulting in a significant legacy fund, ensures that Quesnel will continue to benefit from the event for years to come.



Photos courtesy of BC Games

Hotel Revitalization Tax Exemption

The City of Quesnel introduced a new tax exemption to encourage new hotel development or major renovations to existing hotels and motels within the city. The tax exemption will apply to 100% of the municipal portion of the property taxes on the assessed value of improvements over a period of ten years. The incentive aims to improve the standard of accommodations and overall impression of Quesnel for visitors, while supporting efforts to increase tourism and overnight stays in Quesnel. For details: quesnel.ca/city-incentives



Rendering of the Fairfield by Marriott Hotel

Highway 97 Interconnector

The Highway 97 Interconnector project aims to improve Highway 97, a vital transportation corridor through the province of British Columbia. Despite significant upgrades to Highway 97 since 2007, the Quesnel section remains a major bottleneck due to 11 controlled intersections, an aging Rail Overhead bridge, and a restricted Quesnel River Bridge.

Key benefits of the North-South Interconnector include:

- Reduced travel time with improved traffic flow
- Reduced emissions through more efficient travel
- Elimination of 7 controlled intersections, reducing braking and improving safety

- Increased capacity on the Quesnel River Bridge with higher width and height limits
- Support for major regional projects by lowering transportation costs

While no official progress was made in 2024, discussions were held, focusing on advocating for the project's progress in 2025.

Visit letsconnectquesnel.ca/admin/projects/highway-97 to stay engaged and write a letter of support.



Rendering of the proposed Interconnector route

Johnston Bridge Rehabilitation Project

In 2024, the City successfully completed Phase I of the Johnston Bridge Rehabilitation Project, marking a key milestone in the long-term preservation and functionality of utilities adjacent to the Johnston Bridge. Key components of this initial phase included the installation of approximately 90 metres of new watermain and sanitary main under the railway approaching the bridge to improve service reliability followed by road restoration.

Telus is underway with moving their infrastructure clear

of the bridge, projected to be completed in spring 2025.

Looking ahead, Phase II of the rehabilitation is scheduled to begin in 2026 and will address critical structural and safety enhancements. Planned work includes the replacement of bridge bearings and plates, installation of new light bracing, updates to the railing and sidewalk for improved accessibility and safety, and structural repairs to the girders and cross bracing to extend the bridge's service life.



Johnston Bridge

Infrastructure Master Plan

The City of Quesnel secured a \$500,000 grant from the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) to fully fund the development of an Infrastructure Master Plan. This plan updated critical infrastructure modeling for water, stormwater, sewer, and transportation systems, addressing both current needs and future development.

Key components of the plan include:

- Hydrant flow testing
- Topographic survey
- System modeling (water, stormwater, sewer)
- Infrastructure capacity assessments
- Traffic planning for targeted areas
- Project descriptions and cost estimates for system replacements and improvements looking forward twenty years

The plan focused on areas expected to see the greatest pressure for development, including the South Quesnel commercial area, former QJS lands in North Quesnel, Cariboo Field, and Carson Bench.

In addition to current condition analysis this project provided the City with information on system capacities for water, sewer, drainage and transportation providing the ability to understand the impact of new developments on these systems and whether or not upgrades will be required to support new developments.

The updated information will streamline the approval process for developers, reducing costs and delays, and fostering economic growth. It also aligns with the City's goals to enhance infrastructure sustainability, encourage growth, and attract investment.

The Infrastructure Master Plan was completed in early 2025.

Three Rivers Community Forest

After 5 years of multi-government collaboration, the Three Rivers Community Forest was awarded in late 2024 to a limited partnership between: the City of Quesnel, Lhtako Dene Nation, Nazko First Nation, and ʔEsdilagh First Nation. A community forest is an area-based tenure that is established for the benefit of the communities and supports opportunities such as: recreation, wildfire resiliency, wildlife enhancement, watershed management, First Nations stewardship, and contributes to a more diversified forest economy.

The Three Rivers Community Forest is located within the Quesnel Timber Supply Area and the Cariboo Forest Region. It is situated in the North Cariboo and spans a diverse area in and around the City of Quesnel. Geographically, the TRCF extends north of the City of

Quesnel to the Fraser River and extends as far south as Dragon Mountain. In the east, TRCF extends to the Quesnel River and extends beyond Hangman's Trail network in the west. This area is ecologically diverse and provides a multitude of values for a variety of user groups.

The mission of the Three Rivers Community Forest is "To enable ecosystem resiliency and community protection through innovative land practices, foster well-being and collaboration between the five partner communities, and contribute to a collective prosperity through meaningful training and employment opportunities."

For more information, please visit: threeriverscomfor.ca



Three Rivers Community Forest

Ritchie Avenue Park Playground Upgrade

Ritchie Avenue Park has received a major upgrade with the installation of new playground equipment, marking a significant improvement for families and children in the community. The new play structures, which cost \$190,000, were funded through the City's capital budget and the Canada Community Building Fund. This investment replaced the park's old equipment, which had been in place since 1993 and was the oldest playground structure in the city.

The updated playground offers a modern, safe, and engaging space for children of all ages. With a variety

of play features designed to encourage active play and creativity, the new equipment is sure to become a popular destination for local families. The project not only enhances the recreational options available to residents but also supports the City's commitment to maintaining and improving public spaces for future generations.

This upgrade at Ritchie Avenue Park is part of a broader effort to revitalize city infrastructure and ensure that our parks remain welcoming and safe for everyone in the community.



Ritchie Avenue Park playground

2024 Strategic Plan and Measures

Housing Initiatives

	STRATEGIC ACTION	PROGRESS
1.1	Facilitate the development of new housing	
1.1.1	Review municipal best practices	Housing Needs Assessment completed. Applied for Housing Accelerator fund. Initiated SSMUH zoning policy.
1.1.2	Work with local stakeholders to understand the projected job growth & housing demand growth.	Housing solutions table identified need to establish additional workforce housing opportunities in South Quesnel.
1.1.3	Encourage the development of vacant parcels of land within City boundaries	Master Infrastructure Plan 80% - Completion anticipated in March 2025.
1.1.4	Consider the development opportunities for City-owned lands.	Identified lot on Anderson Drive to partner with BC Housing on Women's Transition facility.
1.1.5	Consider how to encourage infill development in established neighbourhoods.	Completed zoning amendment required by province to permit Small Scale Multi-Unit Housing
1.2	Facilitate connected, walkable, low carbon footprint neighbourhoods.	It was determined this assessment process should be evaluated following completion of the IMP.
1.2.1	Assist with the rollout and adoption of the BC Building Code step code	Step Code 3 being implemented - policy conflicting with Housing Targets leading to not recommending advancing Step Code beyond BCBC requirements.
1.3	Encourage the development of innovative housing technologies	Mass Timber likely to be removed from identified project - need to confirm.
1.4	Work with the Province to maximize housing opportunities in Quesnel.	Continued to work and encourage the development of three new housing developments.

Community Development

	STRATEGIC ACTION	PROGRESS
2.1	Continue to research and develop new recreation amenities, working with the Cariboo Regional District, to attract and retain residents.	Grant application to the Strategic Priorities Fund for the Gymnastics facility was not successful. No applications were submitted for the proposed indoor court facility. Funding support through North Cariboo Recreation and Parks has been provided to support the development of disc golf in Bouchie Lake and 10 Mile Lake and the City entered into a License of Occupation with Quesnel Disc Golf Association to develop a course on the Fuel Management Trails site.
2.2	Community trails development.	WFTP trail development complete. Feasibility planning for link between WFTP and Rec Center is in progress. Completed Pioneer Park, Claymine and WFTP trail development. Trail Maintenance policy drafted. Continuing with trail maintenance contracts.
2.3	Continue with Bike Park development	Phase 3 is 95% complete.
2.4	Develop and Implement a new process for recognizing and energizing volunteers.	Take learnings from the success of the BC Winter Games that rallied 1200 volunteers in 2024 and apply to future volunteer events.

Governance

	STRATEGIC ACTION	PROGRESS
5.1	First Nations partnerships	
5.1.1	Work with Lhtako Dene Nation to find funding for Lhtako Dene Trails Master Plan.	Funding was successful via a partnership application with Gold Rush Cycling Club and Lhtako Dene First Nation. The Lhtako Dene Trails Master Plan is expected to be complete early 2026.
5.1.2	Working with Tsihlot'in National Government and Lhtako Dene Nation, develop a concept for a commemorative site for the War Chiefs.	On hold until land transfer is complete. Need to revisit design with Tsihlot'in National Government.
5.1.3	Working collaboratively with local Indigenous communities, develop a Residential School commemorative site.	This remains an important reconciliation project. No progress was made in 2024.
5.1.4	Work collaboratively with LDFN to develop Lhtako Dene Park into a park that showcases First Nations culture.	Sculptures and cultural perennial garden beds installed. Benches, interpretive monuments and electrical upgrades are expected to be complete in Fall 2025.
5.2	Continue with the First Nation Leadership Roundtable meetings. Identify with this group how reconciliation can be meaningfully implemented at a local level.	Continue to build closer Council to Council relationships with local Chiefs, Council, managers, and Elders.
5.3	Succession Planning for the Corporation	Succession planning is ongoing with a focus on internal professional development.

Environmental Leadership

	STRATEGIC ACTION	PROGRESS
4.1	Complete a strategic review of landfilling and recycling practices.	Strategic Plan has been updated and capital costs have been added to the 5 year capital plan. This includes extending the existing berm, installing methane gas mitigation system and building a new "drop off" area.
4.1.1	Working with the CRD, start planning the development of an Waste Diversion Centre facility in Quesnel.	Met with Cariboo Pulp (West Fraser) and discussed a long term lease for using their property for a new recycle depot and waste diversion area.
4.2	Local climate change strategy	Continuing projects identified in Climate Action Plan. Grant application being prepared for GHG Reduction Feasibility grant for a portfolio of community buildings. Published inaugural Climate Action newsletter.
4.3	Active Transportation Planning	Active Transportation Plan 95% complete. City led community participation in GoByBike week.
4.4	Actively participate in the District Heating System study	Phase 3 of the Heat Quesnel feasibility study was wrapped up in 2024 and the project is "shelf-ready" for future opportunities if the economic, political and funding landscape become favourable for advancing.

Community Health and Safety

	STRATEGIC ACTION	PROGRESS
3.1	Emergency Services	
3.1.1	Emergency Management	Complete
3.1.2	Increased RCMP / Bylaw enforcement	Reviewed Local Government Compliance and Enforcement Association (LGCEA) RISK ANALYSIS REPORT
3.1.3	Safer Quesnel Initiative	Attended Business Safety Meeting hosted by the BIA. Sent out communications to the Business Community to encourage reporting of garbage and recycling storage.
3.2	Manage Homelessness / Services to Vulnerable Populations	Identified a site for a new Supportive Housing Facility.
3.2.1	Manage and Participate in RFP re: Servicing and Housing Options for Vulnerable Population	Housing Solutions Table reviewed Quesnel Services and Housing Options Review for Vulnerable Populations.
3.2.2	Determine long term sustainability for Clean Team	Obtained commitment from Northern Health to fund program position until January 2026. There has been a decrease in needles collected from 2022 and 2023 but numbers continue to average about 100 needles collected/ month.

Economic Development & Transition Planning

	STRATEGIC ACTION	PROGRESS
7.1	Destination Development	Hotel Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw is in place. Communication sent to all existing accommodation properties. Applied to REDIP for a project focused on destination/tourism package development.
7.1.1	Ensure the regional MRDT is working effectively for Quesnel and area.	Received CCCTMA MRDT funds to support co-operative marketing via BC Ale Trail and MBBC, Explore Cariboo, 2024 Consumer Show, and Mountain Biking Influencer.
7.1.2	Trail Marketing	Trail map update complete. Mountain biking influencer visited Quesnel with strong engagement. Ran seasonal campaigns promoting bike rentals and bike park.
7.1.3	Focus on Economic Development through hosting events and tournaments	Hosted BC Winter Games in partnership with Lhtako Dene, CRD, SD28; partnered with Business Support Team on marketing campaign to attract return visitors during the Games; successful follow up survey for visitors to gauge spending and interest in returning to Quesnel. Provided support to Woodlot Association Conference.
7.1.4	Plan waterfront development including First Nations Cultural Centre	Campaigns ran through the summer months. Print media purchases completed for 2025 publications.
7.1.5	Wayfinding	Historical walking tour signs and additional interpretive signs completed. Working with MOTI on highway wayfinding prior to completing vehicular wayfinding for new assets.
7.2	Innovative Resource Industries	
7.2.1	Agriculture sector development	Purchase of 101 Marsh Drive was completed. Grant funding pending for further building improvements. Three year operating agreement renewed with Sprout Kitchen Society.
7.2.2	Mining Sector	Continued participation in Blackwater CLC meetings. Ongoing communication with Osisko Development.
7.2.2	Forestry Sector	Completed Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone project.
7.3	Resident & Investment Retention and Attraction	
7.3.1	City brand development	Digital community profile completed. Updated visitor guide delayed to 2025.
7.3.2	Business Retention, Expansion, and Attraction	CRM research complete. Launching communication tool in 2025. BRE Survey completed as part of economic development strategy update. Love Quesnel continuing with new members and renewal fees beginning in 2025. One community visit through PNP program. Participated in Business Walks led by Chamber of Commerce.
7.3.3	Health Care Recruitment	Program continued. Monitoring provincial changes to recruitment practices.
7.4	Update the Economic Development strategy	Consultants hired through RFP process; Reference group convened. Focus groups, community survey and BRE survey completed. Strategy will be completed in early 2025.

Infrastructure Reinvestment

STRATEGIC ACTION		PROGRESS
6.1	Water system sustainability initiatives.	Treatment predesign with costs updated.
6.1.1	Planning for higher capacity wells to meet objectives of sustainability, population growth, and redundancy)	Well drilled and pump testing completed.
6.2	Downtown Fire Hall Rebuild	Complete
6.3	Johnston Bridge Rebuild	Telus relocation 80% complete. Phase 1 of water and sanitary crossing under railway north side of bridge complete.
6.4	Continue to work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to move the Interconnector project forward.	In progress
6.5	Upgrading of RCMP building	Council passed a resolution identifying a 553 m2 expansion and upgrade of the existing building as the preferred option to address the space requirements and operational needs of the Quesnel RCMP Detachment. Staff are working with the RCMP to secure a commitment for pro-rate funding for the project. The RCMP are conducting a business plan review of the preferred option.
6.6	Develop long range plan for Moffat Bridge	In progress
6.7	Secondary Sewage treatment long range planning	Identified option of using CPP lagoons and also new locations. Established order of magnitude costs estimates for capital and operating.
6.8	Review funding for capital replacements with consideration for the addition of buildings upgrades from reserves, and the additional new infrastructure that has been added.	Infrastructure Master Plan with focus on development field work, technical investigations, and modelling completed.
6.9	Review the fleet replacement plan.	In progress

Forestry Initiatives

STRATEGIC ACTION		PROGRESS
8.1	Community Forest	CFA Licence received November 2024. Manager was hired December 2024. Fuel Management in the CFA area will be overseen by the TRCF Manager. The landbase of the TRCF has been included in the Province's Wildfire Risk Reduction Tactical Plan so that Provincial funding can be accessed for fuel management through WRR and FES funds.
8.2	Community Wildfire Protection Plan and FireSmart	Completed final prescriptions for the current CWPP and began hand treatments at Wonderland Trails. Continued collaborating at the Quesnel and Area Community Wildfire Protection Roundtable to ensure the "all hands on deck approach" is moving as quickly as possible. Received funding for Community Wildfire Resilience Plan (CWRP) development in collaboration with Province's Tactical Plan, Lhtako's CWRP and the CRD's multiple upcoming CWRPs.
8.3	Landscape Management and Ecosystem Restoration	1) FLP: City staff participated in full day, monthly FLP Planning Group meetings and several Advisory Group meetings and the Wildfire Technical Working Group. 2) Research through TRIA-FoR (Carleton University) and Silva21 and U of A continued in the Quesnel Area.
8.4	Labour Force re-development	Partnered with COFI and SD 28 to host 30 grade 11 and 12 students at the Forestry Innovation Centre; students learned to operate single grip harvester and forwarder on the Ponsse simulator. Hosted 1 local machine operator for 1 week on the simulator and now they are employed full time in Quesnel by a local contractor to operate forwarder. City staff continued to collaborate with Three Rivers Community Forest and UBC, along with many other collaborators and partners, on a training school for innovative forest harvesting machines.
8.5	Manufacturing analysis and business case development	1) District Heat: Phase 3 "Heat Quesnel" report found that a community-wide district heating system can be economically competitive in Quesnel with either a biomass CHP or a new steam turbine at CPP. 2) Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone (BDO) was published and City Staff met with several investors. 3) Collaborated with TRCF on the Lignin relocation plant from Hinton to Quesnel through both technical and financial feasibility studies.



City of Quesnel
Strategic Plan
2025 - 2026



A Community Driven Strategic Plan

The Mayor and Council of the City of Quesnel participated in strategic planning to identify priorities for the community. With the many challenges the community faces, Council recognizes its role in providing strong leadership and direction.

Strategic planning is an essential step for Council to establish its Vision, Mission, and Values, which will guide the organization. To focus on the most important work and ensure its completion, not everything can be started and finished at once. With limited resources, capacity, and funding, it is vital that we manage these effectively.

The Strategic Plan does not detail the day-to-day operations of the organization; instead, it identifies key priorities that go beyond the regular operating work of the municipality. At a broad level, these priorities will guide the expenditure of funds and decision-making moving forward.

The development of annual work plans for each department will operationalize Council's key priority actions. Some actions will require new resources, and Council can expect to receive reports outlining the work and additional resources needed (e.g., staffing, funding, etc.).

The key elements of the Strategic Plan include:

- **Council's Vision** – Where do we see ourselves in the future?
- **Council's Mission** – This describes the fundamental purpose of the municipality as regulated by the British Columbia Community Charter.
- **Council's Values** – These are the ethics and standards that Council and staff are guided by in conducting their work and in providing services to Quesnel residents.
- **Strategic Priorities** – These identify the key areas of focus for Council.
- **Strategic Actions** – These identify specific actions Council desires to take in order to make progress towards accomplishing strategic goals.
- **Strategic Goals** – These are the measures that tell us if we are successful.

Our Strategic Priorities



SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

We will maintain and improve services and infrastructure.



HEALTH & SAFETY

We will prioritize community safety and the well-being of our residents.



DEVELOPMENT & RESILIENCY

We will maintain, grow, and diversify the community.



GOVERNANCE & STRATEGY

We will provide good governance to build a cohesive community.



FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

We will continue to provide cost effective services, manage limited resources, and invest in future governance capacity.



Services & Infrastructure to 2026

Goal

We will maintain and improve services and infrastructure.

Action

- Review the Airport Business Plan with a focus on sustainability and future development.
- Finalize plans for and rehabilitate the Johnston Bridge.
- Determine and commit to the cost and time for the upcoming capital projects at the landfill, including the expansion, methane gas capture, new residential drop off and anticipated first phase closure.
- Determine a course of action for long-term water treatment in Quesnel to meet Northern Health regulations.
- Work with the RCMP to finalize plans for and commit to an expanded detachment building to better house and secure policing resources.



Health & Safety to 2026

Goal

We will prioritize community safety and the well-being of our residents.

Actions

- Determine the extent of Quesnel and the surrounding area's vulnerable populations and benchmark against other similarly sized communities.
- Identify and address gaps in healthcare recruitment and retention in collaboration with Northern Health and other partners.
- Continue working with local First Nations and the regional district to update emergency plans to include risk assessments.
- Inventory and address unsightly properties to maintain and improve property values and support community safety.



Development & Resiliency to 2026

Goal

We will maintain, grow, and diversify the community.

Actions

- Review and optimize business retention and expansion to support small and medium-sized enterprise development.
- Strengthen relationships with key economic sectors such as forestry, mining, agriculture, tourism, and transportation, and seek opportunities to support their development.
- Continue supporting the development and growth of the Three Rivers Community Forest.
- Review and optimize the Revitalization Tax Exemption program to incentivize investment in business areas.
- Explore every opportunity to incentivize and attract housing that aligns with the City's Housing Needs Assessment strategy and renewed Official Community Plan.
- Determine the best approach to work with landowners to manage unsightly properties throughout the city, maximizing development opportunities, and maintaining or improving property values.
- Work with Providence Living, Northern Health, post-secondary partners, and the community to support the effective development of the long-term care facility, and spur commercial revitalization efforts in West Quesnel.



Governance & Strategy to 2026

Goal

We will provide good governance to build a cohesive community.

Actions

- Council will develop an approach to improved governance and advocacy on behalf of the City, including the implementation of a Governance and Strategy Committee.
- Complete an economic impact study for the proposed Highway 97 Interconnector, and work with the Province of B.C. to move the project to the functional design stage.
- Work alongside other B.C. local governments to effectively advocate for resources, legislation, and changes to the justice system to target repeat offenders and support community safety.
- Develop meaningful partnerships that address housing, homelessness, development, and other issues affecting our community.
- Strengthen relationships with First Nations and seek opportunities for collaboration that benefit the community.
- Work with partners and the Province of B.C. to advance the effective development of key properties in the city for needed housing (i.e. Cariboo Field, Quesnel Junior School properties).



Fiscal Sustainability to 2026

Goal

We will continue to provide cost effective services, manage limited resources, and invest in future governance capacity.

Actions

- Invest in systems and procedures that support record-keeping and information management, and create cost efficiencies.
- Recommend to Council, on an ongoing basis, cost saving initiatives that balance high-value services with value for taxpayer money.
- Formalize a policy to support the continuous review of agreements with third parties, ensuring a balance between community benefit and financial outlay.
- Develop a 20-year financial and capital plan to support predictive reinvestment and financial management.

Consolidated Financial Statements 2024

Find the full report at quesnel.ca/financial-statements



FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

PREPARED BY THE CITY OF QUESNEL FINANCE DEPARTMENT
QUESNEL, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

2024 PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTIONS

Charitable, philanthropic or other not-for-profit corporations

ROLL #	ORGANIZATION	EXEMPTION AMOUNT
87.000	Quesnel Masonic Temple Society	\$1,545
135.000	City of Quesnel (Spirit Centre - Bylaw/Non Profits)	\$2,624
218.000	Quesnel & District Child Dev Centre	\$20,396
247.000	Quesnel Womens Resource Centre	\$1,516
248.000	Quesnel Womens Resource Centre	\$2,291
267.000	Amata Transition House Society	\$4,527
332.000	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 94	\$12,164
418.010	Quesnel & District Seniors Society	\$24,485
419.000	Quesnel Curling Club	\$15,598
1550.080	Quesnel & District SPCA	\$7,728
2147.001	Echen Healing Society	\$1,982
2148.000	Echen Healing Society	\$63
2189.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$11,440
2193.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$296
2194.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$278
2195.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$140
2197.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$2,076
2205.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$3,775
3944.000	Sprout Kitchen	\$5,204
4013.083	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 94	\$4,139
4210.000	Quesnel Elks Club	\$1,347
5862.500	Quesnel Auto Racing Association	\$3,503
4045408.094	Crown Provincial/Royal Canadian Legion Branch 94	\$673

Church, land and land surrounding statutory exemptions

ROLL #	ORGANIZATION	EXEMPTION AMOUNT
<i>Church Owned Lands - 224 (2)(f)</i>		
220.000	Fraser Basin	\$2,825
328.000	United Church of Canada	\$2,324
961.000	Roman Catholic Bishop	\$2,045
1200.890	Northstar Fellowship Baptist Church	\$944
2025.000	Trinity Lutheran Church	\$1,122
2602.000	Cariboo Gur Sikh Temple Society	\$86
2703.000	Guru Dabar Society	\$229
3600.000	Congregation of Quesnel Jehovah's Witnesses	\$278
4211.000	Victory Way Baptist Church	\$136
4659.000	Lighthouse Pentecostal Church of Quesnel	\$293
5047.309	Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle of Quesnel	\$3,729

Revitalization Tax Exemptions

ROLL #	ORGANIZATION	EXEMPTION AMOUNT
214.000	Dakelh & Quesnel Community Housing	\$6,129
257.550	Quesnel Lions Housing Society	\$6,071
850.500	Dakelh & Quesnel Community Housing	\$4,122