

Summer 2026

# City News

## Message from the Mayor



On behalf of my City Council colleagues, I'm delighted to present our 2026 initiatives. Please find a few minutes to see how your hard-earned tax dollars are being diligently directed to fund needed projects for the betterment of our great little City.

### Capital Projects

Capital improvements this year include roads, streets, sidewalks and crosswalks,

and the long-awaited rehabilitation of the Johnston Bridge, where Ruskin Construction crews are now mobilizing on site. Once scaffolding work is complete, the construction zone will become increasingly active including bridge jacking, welding, sidewalk replacement, railings and lighting renewal. In addition, both ends of the bridge will see replacement of a 75-year-old water main serving areas of Johnston neighbourhood. This vital community project is supported in part by funding from the Canada Community Building Fund and the B.C. Growing Communities Fund. Upon completion, the bridge will have refreshed paint, renewed components and most importantly, a longer service life. Construction updates are on the [City of Quesnel's website](#).

Street lighting upgrades include many new LED fixtures being installed on existing poles to improve reliability and long-term maintenance. These new units improve safety for both pedestrians and motorists. A new push-button crosswalk will soon be installed near the intersection of Quesnel-Hydraulic Road and Juniper Road, which is designed to enhance pedestrian safety with clearly marked, signal-controlled crossing for residents and visitors in the area. In addition to improving safety, the new crosswalk expands the City's commitment to providing new active transportation in South Quesnel. We will also undertake refreshed roadway

line and crosswalk painting this summer. The Callanan Street revitalization project is progressing well and is on schedule. This work includes sidewalk removal, road preparation, and storm drainage upgrades. Crews are now preparing the base for new curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. The 300-block Vaughan Street sanitary and storm replacement project is scheduled to follow this year's Billy Barker Days festival.

### Improved Permit System

Last year, our development services department initiated Cloudpermit, a streamlined online platform to simplify building permits and inspections. Users can apply for permits, track progress with automatic updates, schedule or cancel inspections, communicate with staff, and submit revisions all in one place. Online permitting launched in January 2026, with full rollout expected in September 2026. For details, please visit our [Building Permits page](#).

Remember that planned capital improvements to our recreation facilities and some parks are not covered in this report, as they are shared with the Cariboo Regional District through North Cariboo Sub-Regional Recreation.

I have exceeded my allocated space but I encourage you to search the [City of Quesnel's website](#) for updates on so much more, like a wide diversity of housing projects and initiatives (with 174 new housing units permitted so far this Council term!), FireSmart programs, tourism news, labour market and business outreach, industrial land inventory, Voyent Alert! Emergency Notification System, Highway 97 North-South Interconnector project, and our City's Centennial year 2028 coming up very fast!

In closing, Council and I thank our hard-working staff and workers in all departments, because without their dedicated service, the projects and services we so proudly provide would not be possible. Thank you all. Well done!

Mayor Ron Paull

## Protect Your Home from Wildfire

The City of Quesnel continues to support FireSmart initiatives in our community, sharing simple and effective practices to reduce wildfire risk. Small changes can have a big impact!

FireSmart the first **1.5 metres (5 ft)** around your home. Remove cedar, pine, spruce, juniper, firewood, and other flammable materials away from your structure—these can easily ignite from wind-blown embers. Take action today!

FireSmart your property and improve its resilience to wildfire.

Visit [firesmartbc.ca](https://firesmartbc.ca) for more FireSmart tips!

Sign up for a free **FireSmart home assessment** at

[firesmartbcplatform.ca/request-home-inspection](https://firesmartbcplatform.ca/request-home-inspection)



# Housing Updates

The City of Quesnel is committed to expanding and improving housing options. Several projects are well underway around the community with more breaking ground in the coming months and years.



## Quesnel Tillicum Society Housing Project

The Quesnel Tillicum Society Housing Project, located at 319 North Fraser Drive in West Quesnel, will bring new affordable housing to the community in partnership with BC Housing and the Province of BC, which has contributed \$23 million. The five-storey building will offer approximately 34 rental units, including accessible options for seniors and those with mobility needs.

Designed for low- to moderate-income residents, with priority for Indigenous households, the development will emphasize cultural connection and community. Features will include shared gathering spaces, energy-efficient design, and close proximity to the Quesnel Tillicum Society, providing residents with convenient access to programs and services.

## Women's Transitional Housing

Council has approved a new three-storey, 26-unit women's transitional housing development at 230 Anderson Drive. Owned by BC Housing, this new development will be operated by the Women's Resource Centre, and will provide safe, affordable housing for women and children fleeing violence. In addition to safe and secure housing, residents will also have access to on-site supports and programming to help them rebuild and move forward.



## Seniors' Long-Term Care Facility

Schematic design of a new seniors' long-term care home in Quesnel is set to begin in summer of 2026, marking a major step toward expanding care for seniors in our community.

The facility will include 288 beds, adding 221 new spaces while replacing 67 at Dunrovin Park Lodge, and will be built at the Cariboo Field site by Providence Living under contract with Northern Health on land provided by the City. The design concepts include modern, home-like spaces and private rooms, the care home will also feature adult day programming, helping seniors access high-quality care close to home while staying connected to their community. Construction is anticipated to begin the fall of 2026 with completion in 2028.



## Fairfield by Marriott Hotel

Work is underway on the new Marriott Hotel, located at 720 Rita Rd.

This modern hotel will feature a four-storey building with approximately 79 guest rooms. Designed by IBA Architecture in partnership with the Lhtako Dene Nation, who are pursuing ownership.

The project is expected to open in 2028.



## Former Grace Inn To Become Supportive Housing

The former Grace Inn site is being redeveloped into a new 50-unit supportive housing facility. The new facility will provide studio homes with on-site supports for residents who are at risk of experiencing homelessness, which can include seniors and people with disabilities. Planning and zoning began in 2024, followed by temporary housing installation later that year, and early construction underway in 2026. The project is expected to be completed in 2028.

Once complete, the facility will include indoor and outdoor common areas, a central kitchen and laundry, and dedicated space for staff. It will be operated by the Quesnel Shelter & Support Society in partnership with BC Housing, with input from the City of Quesnel, the Housing Solutions Table, and local First Nations.

## Cloud Permit

In 2025, the Development Services Department began adopting Cloudpermit, a streamlined online platform that simplifies building permits and inspections.

The system lets applicants manage the entire process from any device, anytime. Users can apply for permits, track progress with automatic updates, schedule or cancel inspections, communicate with staff, and submit revisions all in one place. Cloudpermit has improved efficiency, transparency, and customer service.

Online permitting for building inspections launched in January 2026, with full Development Services rollout expected in September 2026.

For additional details, please visit our [Building Permits page](#).



## Voyent Alert! Emergency Notification System

The City of Quesnel uses Voyent Alert! as its platform for emergency alerts and notifications. This service is free, easy to use, and most importantly, secure. With this system, we can provide access to trusted, timely, and accurate information about emergency incidents impacting your property, and you can list important addresses to receive notifications about emergencies impacting other places, including your home, work, school, cabin, or a relative's address. Our emergency notification system works across multiple devices such as your mobile device, computer, or landline.

Learn more and register:

[www.quesnel.ca/notification](http://www.quesnel.ca/notification)

## Labour Market Study

The City of Quesnel is advancing a comprehensive Labour Market Study to better understand local workforce needs and support economic growth. The study includes targeted outreach to major employers, along with an analysis of workforce supply and demand, industry trends, and current labour market conditions.

It will also examine skill gaps, labour shortages, population and demographic trends, and alignment with education and training opportunities. With a current workforce of approximately 10,460, the study will provide valuable insights to help attract talent, support employers, and strengthen the long-term resilience of the local economy.



## Workforce Housing Forum

A forum focused on workforce housing will take place in September, bringing together local employers, developers, realtors, property managers, and contractors to share insights and explore solutions to local housing needs for skilled workers.

Funded through the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP), the forum will support collaboration, encourage new ideas, and help identify practical actions to expand housing options and support a growing workforce in our community.

By bringing key industry partners together, the forum will play an important role in supporting our community's largest employers including forestry, health care, mining, and construction. Access to suitable and attainable housing is a critical factor in attracting and retaining a strong, skilled workforce. The forum will help identify ways to better align housing supply with employment needs, strengthening local businesses and supporting continued economic growth.



## Business Outreach

Outreach to local businesses is ongoing. The purpose of this outreach is for the City to update and maintain better local business contact information to support visitors and the overall local economy.

Are you a local business owner?

Sign up for pertinent email communications from Economic Development through

[quesnel.ca/registermybusiness](https://quesnel.ca/registermybusiness)



# All things events



## Plan your event

Make planning your event easier with our online toolkit.



## Submit your event

Add your event to the community events calendar.



## Events calendar

Visit the events calendar to see what's happening in Quesnel and area.

[www.tourismquesnel.com/events](http://www.tourismquesnel.com/events)



## North Cariboo Tourism Forum

The City of Quesnel hosted its inaugural North Cariboo Tourism Forum in February 2026, drawing more than 90 participants from across the tourism and hospitality sector. The event featured a panel of industry leaders, engaging discussions, and strong networking opportunities that have continued beyond the forum itself. The forum was hosted by the City of Quesnel in partnership with the Cariboo Regional District and demonstrated strong community interest in collaboration and highlighted exciting opportunities for future tourism growth.

The resulting report, published in April 2026, highlighted over 250 tourism assets and nearly 30 annual events hosted in and around Quesnel. The key takeaway from the report was a need to better connect tourism stakeholders and promote existing assets and events to strengthen the visitor economy.

## Industrial Land Inventory

The City of Quesnel is undertaking a comprehensive Industrial Land Inventory and Analysis to support future industrial growth. The project will assess light and heavy industrial lands, capturing key information such as available utilities and services, land ownership, and current uses classified by NAICS, while identifying properties best suited for development.

This project is a partnership between the City of Quesnel and the CanExport Community Investment Program.

This initiative will provide valuable insights to attract investment, strengthen local industry, and guide long-term economic development.

# Capital Projects

As part of the City's ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving community infrastructure, the following updates provide a snapshot of several capital projects currently in progress.



## Callanan Revitalization

The Callanan Revitalization Project is progressing well and remains on schedule. This project reflects collaborative work between the City of Quesnel and project contractors.

Completed work includes sidewalk removal, road preparation, and storm drainage upgrades. Crews will then prepare and install new curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. Project completion is expected in July 2026.

## Johnston Bridge Rehabilitation

Progress continues on the Johnston Bridge Rehabilitation Project as Ruskin Construction crews begin mobilizing on site. Project preparation has included assembling scaffolding and installing containment barriers to allow crews to work safely, and to protect the surrounding environment from construction debris.

Once scaffolding work is complete, the construction zone will become increasingly active including bridge jacking, welding, sidewalk replacement, railings and lighting removal and reinstallation. In addition, both ends of the bridge will be excavated to allow for the replacement of a 75-year-old water main serving Johnston and Moffat areas.

Upon completion, the bridge will have refreshed paint, renewed components and most importantly, a longer service life.

Major construction updates available on the [City of Quesnel's website](#).



## New Spray Park Slide

Get ready for even more fun in the sun! A brand-new slide has arrived at the Spray Park in LeBourdais Park, adding an exciting new way for children and families to stay cool this summer.

Whether you're racing down the slide, splashing through the water features, or enjoying a day at the park, this newest addition is sure to bring extra smiles and laughter to every visit.



## Street Light Upgrades

New LED top-hat fixtures have been installed on existing poles to improve reliability and long-term maintenance.

A total of 22 fixtures were replaced on Nickel Ridge and 15 in the Uplands area, including 5 on Dawson Street, and 10 on Donnelly Street and Dodds Avenue.

## Quesnel-Hydraulic Road Crosswalk

A new push-button crosswalk will soon be installed near the intersection of Quesnel-Hydraulic Road and Juniper Road.

This improvement is designed to enhance pedestrian safety by providing a clearly marked, signal-controlled crossing point for residents and visitors in the area. The upgrade will make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to cross safely, particularly during periods of heavier traffic.

In addition to improving safety, the new crosswalk supports the City's commitment to promoting active transportation in South Quesnel. By creating a more accessible and pedestrian-friendly environment, the project encourages walking and helps connect neighbourhoods, services, and amenities more effectively.

Project completion, including LED light installation and line painting, is expected in July.

## Vaughan Street Sewer Project

Construction on the Vaughan Street Sanitary and Storm Replacement project is scheduled to begin later this July, following the Billy Barker Days celebrations. This important Capital Works infrastructure upgrade will focus on the 300 block of Vaughan Street, where crews will replace 100 m of the existing sanitary sewer main to improve reliability and service in the area. This project is expected to wrap up in early September.



QDMA 2020.14.5

## Quesnel's Centennial in 2028

Planning is already underway for Quesnel's upcoming 100th anniversary in 2028, and the City is taking early steps to ensure a meaningful and inclusive celebration.

Council has endorsed the formation of a Centennial Advisory Committee, which will bring together representatives from local organizations, businesses, cultural groups, and the broader community. The goal of the committee is to guide event planning including partnerships, community engagement, and funding strategies to put forward a celebration that will reflect Quesnel's rich history. The Committee is slated to start meeting and planning in the Fall of 2026. In 2028, residents can expect to see a variety of events throughout the Centennial year at various locations around the community.

As part of the centennial celebrations, work is also beginning on a commemorative community history book. Supported through the City's 2026 budget and potential grant funding, the project will document 100 years of Quesnel's growth, achievements, and stories. The book is expected to take approximately two years to complete and will involve community input and collaboration with local heritage organizations, including the Quesnel Museum. Residents will have opportunities to contribute their perspectives as this legacy project takes shape for 2028.

## Local General Election 2026

Local government elections for Mayor, Councillors and School Trustees are held every four years. The next General Voting Day for the local government election is October 17, 2026.

Voters will elect one Mayor, six City Councillors and seven School Trustees.

The City of Quesnel will be accepting Expressions of Interest for Contracted Services ("Applications") to work the 2026 General Local Election.

### To apply:

Applications are currently available, and will be accepted until 4:00 pm, Wednesday, August 12, 2026.

Applicants may choose to complete a paper application (available for pick up at City Hall), or online through the City of Quesnel's [2026 Local Government Elections page](#). The application form, along with additional information can be found under the "Working the Election" section.

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