

Council's Inaugural Speeches - Monday, Dec. 1, 2014

Councillor Sushil Thapar



Thank you for supporting and trusting me for the fifth term as your privileged Councillor. I am here to serve and listen and act accordingly. Public input will always be a factor in the decision-making process as it is our City.

I would like to thank our local media and of course staff who make this City a great place to live. Thank you as well to the RCMP and the Fire Department for the service they provide.

Let's get down to business:

- West Quesnel Land Stability - the restrictions for construction lifted and to deal with the homes that need assistance as well as the City's infrastructure.
 - A new hockey arena built in a financially responsible manner and the repair and safety of our existing facilities.
 - Our roads, water and sewer systems to have a sustainable fund to look after them.
 - The Youth Centre and public washrooms in the downtown area are very important needs.
 - The College of New Caledonia and UNBC have been a great asset to Quesnel. We need to revamp to retain and attract families.
 - Improved health care and senior housing needs.
 - Encouraging new business and helping the businesses that already exist.
 - The examination of our transit efficiency.
 - Continually build relationships with our Regional District colleagues.
- Encourage the public to watch how we spend taxpayer money and welcome suggestions.

Sushil Thapar

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg

Another term is about to start for this Council and I look forward to working with a group of committed people who want to move Quesnel forward to a sustainable future.

I want to see this Council be a strong advocate for our forest industry, always seeking opportunities to help keep our major industrial base viable.

We need to take a good look at our labour market priorities, and assist our community



in developing strong links with the procurement and supply connector chain to take advantage of the expanding resource developments that are happening throughout the north.

Budget 2015 Timetable

The following is an outline of the City's 2015 Budget Timetable. Please note that dates are subject to change and will be posted on the City's website.

All of the meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are open to the public. We encourage everyone to attend and participate in the process.

If you cannot attend a public meeting and wish to provide your input with respect to the budget, please e-mail the Director of Corporate and Financial Services Kari Bolton at kbolton@quesnel.ca.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Jan 26	Preliminary Operating Budget
Feb 16	Preliminary Capital Budget
Feb 23	PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING
May 04	Final Budget and Tax Bylaws

I will continue to support the health and safety of our community and remain committed to building partnerships with our various social service agencies. Mental health and addiction issues in our community need an assertive and collaborative approach in order for us to work together to support children, youth and families who live with these issues.

Our community needs to continue with it's strategy to replace ageing infrastructure while seeking out opportunities to apply for grants from higher levels of government to help offset the growing deficit we face in the timely replacement of our roads, water and sewer systems.

We as a Council will build on the current positive, successful working relationships with all levels of government including our First Nations.

I will continue to build on my sense of community, one that acknowledges differences, one that values volunteerism, and one that will continue to be the place that we can proudly call home.

Thank you to all of our staff who work so hard and diligently for this community. Your guidance and support is always appreciated.

Laurey-Anne Roodenburg

Q-City News

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January, 2015

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Upcoming Events:

Torch Relay January 17 5 - 9 p.m.

Relay starts at 5 p.m. from the Arts and Rec Centre. Torch Celebration begins at 7 p.m. in the Twin Arenas - fireworks at 9 p.m. in Lebourdais Park. Contact Charlene at 250-992-3522 or clawrence@quesnelinfo.com for details.

Winter Carnival February 7 noon - 5:30 p.m.

Join us at the West Fraser Timber Park for some winter family fun! Call 250-992-8200 or check out the Quesnel Winter Carnival Facebook page at www.facebook.com/quesnelwintercarnival.

WELCOME TO THE 2014 - 2018 COUNCIL



Top row: Councillors Ed Coleman, Scott Elliott, Ron Paull, and John Brisco. Bottom row: Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Mayor Bob Simpson, Councillor Sushil Thapar.

Council's Inaugural Speeches

A message from our Mayor, Bob Simpson

Our responsibility as citizens does not begin and end at the ballot box. We all need to inform ourselves and remain engaged in all aspects of our governance. I hope to see our residents here in Council Chambers when we have our working meetings, especially when we have to make some of the courageous decisions that our community's challenges will require of us.

Thank you to former Mayor Sjostrom and Councillor Cave for their years of service to our community.

I want to thank my wife for allowing me to pursue my passions - wherever they lead us.

I thank each of the Councillors for running again in this election and for their patience with me as we've met over the past few weeks to discuss our

community's future and how Council can change the way it does business. They gracefully answered my questions and I'm confident that we'll quickly become a team that can tackle the challenges confronting us and seize any opportunities available to us.

I want to make three brief points tonight:

First, our initial focus as a Council will be internal; cleaning up and streamlining the way we do business.

We need to work more collaboratively and our meetings and planning processes must become more efficient and effective. We must be more open to contrary opinions and must actively seek out the views of the community before making decisions.

In my recent meetings with Councillors, we've mapped out some changes that need to be made to our policies and procedural bylaws so we can work more transparently and effectively together. You will see the results of that work when we have our first formal meeting in December.

Second, Council will immediately be immersed in our strategic planning and budgeting processes. In advance of those processes I've asked our industrial partners, our major taxpayers, to make public statements about what they believe are the key challenges our community will face over the next four years. The context is essential for Council to start making the difficult decisions that must be made.

Council will be conducting its planning in the public domain and we will be looking to use all of the tools available to us to both inform you about what the future holds and to engage you in the decision-making process.

Which brings me to my last point: we need you as our partners in creating a sustainable community. *Partnerships will be essential to our success as a Council.* Council also needs to create proactive partnerships with our major industrial ratepayers, our commercial enterprises through the Chamber and the three BIAs, and with our residential taxpayers. We also need strong partnerships with all levels of government: the CRD, the province, and the federal government.

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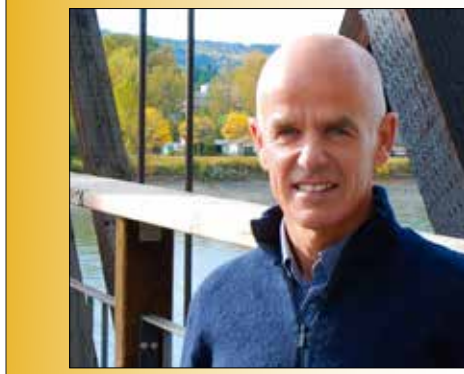


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Mayor Simpson continued...



The City of Quesnel is at a crossroads and we have many challenges that will require the courage from Council to tackle effectively. I'm convinced that Council is ready and willing to take on these challenges. I'm also convinced that you, the citizens of Quesnel, want us to address these challenges and that together we will build a sustainable community.

Bob Simpson

Councillor Ed Coleman

Respect, Action, and Community are key words for me in the next four years.

Thank you to out-going Councillor Mike Cave and out-going Mayor Mary Sjostrom. I would also thank all of the candidates that ran in this election and congratulate the incumbents, in-coming Councillor Ron Paull and in-coming Mayor Bob Simpson. To the staff at the City of Quesnel, I look forward to working with you over the next four years.

To Industry, Business, Not-for-Profits, Local Government, Provincial and Federal Service Partners, and all Community Members, let us face the challenges and opportunities over the next four years together with meaningful and constructive action.

I believe our focus over the next four years can include:

- Meaningful improvement projects for seniors, youth, aboriginal people, and families;
- Industry transition planning and economic substitution from all sectors of the economy;
- Maintaining/increasing our population;

- Completion of the West Fraser Centre;
- Moving our Public Works out of the flood plain and into a new facility;
- Improving and replacing school facilities;
- Completion of the Lions Club Seniors' Housing Project and plan other affordable housing choices;
- Celebrating the improvements in Communications and Connectivity Infrastructure, including the new fiber optics installation by Telus;
- Continued support for CNC's Centre for Trades Excellence;



- A completed Parks Plan and sustainable parks;
- Maintaining and improving Water, Sewer and Waste Management, and encouraging bio-energy investment;
- Continued support of local food supply and agri-business;
- West Quesnel Land Stability Phases 2 and 3;
- Engaging in proactive Social and Economic Transition Planning and Implementation;
- A plan and start on the east/west and south/north truck routes;
- Installing safe commuter trails from Dragon Lake Hill to Lebourdais Park and Two Mile Flat.

Ed Coleman

Councillor Scott Elliott

I'm excited to be back for another four years to work for the City of Quesnel.

I'm very proud to be a part of this new team and I look forward to the challenges that we will be facing. I believe the City is in

good hands with this Council and the staff that is already in place!

The West Quesnel Land Stability project needs to keep moving forward with funding from other levels of government. We need to get closure for the many families affected.

In the last term I was able to get a Tourism Committee started. Working closely with Economic Development and local stakeholders, we will continue to look at a Hotel Tax. This 2% tax on hotel rooms is in place in every other area of the Province and will bring revenue to the City specifically for tourism initiatives.

So many projects and events coming our way this term:

- Breaking ground on the new West Fraser Centre;
- SkyFest will be back again this year;
- Working proactively with the BIA's to help them keep our business areas vibrant. Accessible washrooms are on the list for discussion;
- The Province is looking at transportation infrastructure and a ten year plan.



- We have to keep lobbying for a bypass for trucks and dangerous goods to go around our City;
- Panhandling issues - although we have aggressive rules in place, more needs to be done. Associated with that is homelessness. We need to ensure that we are doing all we can to assist our social service resources;
- A look at solutions to the reduced Annual Allowable Cut post pine beetle;
- Industrial taxation and how that could change in relation to residential taxation rates.

This is such a great City and we are at a crucial time. We must make wise choices in the next four years. We need to work as a unit for the betterment of all. I will continue to be an independent voice on Council while working as a member of a dynamic group of Councillors and staff.

Scott Elliott

Councillor Ron Paull

After missing a few shifts, it is good to be back at work. Thank you to those who made it happen, especially Pat.



I congratulate everyone, those successful and those not. And, speaking from experience three times over, not getting elected is tough. So a very special thank you and best wishes to Mary, Ernest, Kyle and Shawna. I hope you'll stay engaged and keep our feet to the fire!

I am looking forward to getting down to work right away as we transition to proactive action on urgent files such as the alternate truck route, federal funding for the arena, land stability projects, and post mountain pine beetle diversification.

Throughout my four year mandate, I will be advocating for a long overdue subregional master recreation plan, a highway network plan, the resurrection of the air-shed monitoring committee, and renewed emphasis on fostering volunteerism in our community.

My main issue in past elections has always been about spending, particularly in view of the looming changes in our industrial and business tax base in the wake of the beetle timber downfall. We will need to do more with less. We will need to forge new partnerships in the interests

of stretching tax dollars to maximum efficiency. We must sort our strengths and weaknesses and strategically mold them into opportunities for the future. We will be faced with tough, unpopular decisions. We must think outside of the box.

The good and caring people of Quesnel are resilient and creative with a relentless community spirit that has made us the envy of many.

Other issues include getting Council meetings live on the web, and taking a look at our governance model as it relates to maximizing efficiencies and minimizing duplication between local governments, business groups and non-profits.

Crime is a issue we can take an honest and hard look at. And last, but certainly not least, is health and housing care for our seniors and youth.

Ron Paull

Councillor John Brisco

I said at the All Candidates Forum that I was excited and I wasn't kidding. Now, after all that work walking and talking to folks for



weeks and I managed to get re-elected, I'm afraid I might have a twister. I'm so revved up and I can't wait to get started! I just want to get on with it and work with this team of dedicated people, make a fresh start, and make as few of the electorate that voted for us, sorry that they did. Everybody can't like you, and as long as we are seeking the best for the whole community, we're doing our job. Thanks for the votes and the confidence and trust that we will do our work with integrity.

I would like to thank Mary Sjostrom for her kind assistance when I needed help

with process, policy, or protocol. She was very patient with a new Councillor.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Michael Cave well, a wise young man, and always encouraging. Hope to see you back in the future after you rest a little.

I promise to take care of Quesnel and work like everything depends on me.

John Brisco

A Message from the RCMP

Quesnel RCMP wishes residents of Quesnel a safe and very happy 2015.

As this new year begins, the Quesnel RCMP are asking the public to do their part in reducing property crime in our community by locking their doors and removing valuables from plain sight.

The majority of property crime CAN be prevented by locking the doors to vehicles and residences and by ensuring that valuables are stored out of view of passersby. Don't make your home or your vehicle a target for criminal activity. Do your part by locking your doors, securing your valuables and reporting any suspicious or criminal activity to police.

Prepared for an Emergency?

Personal preparedness. It's everyone's business. The City of Quesnel is prepared. Are you?

You can never schedule an emergency, but you can plan ways to cope with one. The City, along with fire, police, other emergency personnel and support agencies have an emergency plan that can be set in motion for large-scale emergencies and disasters.

Our website at <http://www.quesnel.ca/EmergencyPreparedness.html> is designed to assist you in achieving your level of personal preparedness. Included are links to information pages and other websites.

Remember, personal preparedness is everybody's business! For more information, please contact the City's Emergency Services Director, [Sylvain Gauthier](mailto:Sylvain.Gauthier@quesnel.ca) at 250-992-5121 or sgauthier@quesnel.ca.