

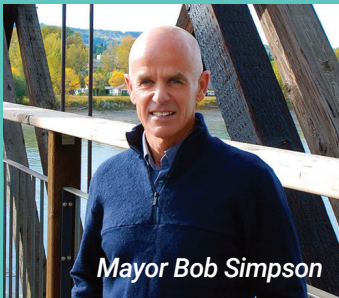
September 2020

# City News

City projects and updates

CITY OF  
**Quesnel**

## Message from the Mayor



*Mayor Bob Simpson*

We live in “Interesting Times”.

In a 1966 speech, Robert F. Kennedy said: “There is a Chinese curse which says ‘May he live in interesting times.’ Like it or not we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty; but they are

also more open to the creative energy of men than any other time in history.” The Chinese curse he referred to is most often used ironically, suggesting that it is much better to live during ‘uninteresting’ times.

It’s an understatement to say that Quesnel residents have been living in interesting times for much of this 21<sup>st</sup> century, starting with the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic that showed its unprecedented growth curve as early as 2002. We’ve now experienced the fourth year in a row of significant socio-economic disruption, with the wildfires of 2017 and 2018, the mill closures of 2019, and now the global COVID-19 pandemic.

However, as Robert F. Kennedy pointed out in his speech: unprecedented, challenging, or “interesting” times can be a time

of creative transformation, and that is how Quesnel City Council is approaching this period of dramatic transition. In its vision, plans, and actions, Council has been, and will continue to be, focused on ensuring Quesnel remains a resilient, sustainable, and thriving community to visit, and to live and invest in.

In this householder, you’ll see the range and depth of initiatives we have underway to transform our community while still respecting its past. All of our initiatives and investments are aimed at creating the kind of fun, interesting, and attractive community that today’s generation desires, while providing the stability and quality public services and amenities that our long-term residents have come to expect.

We recognize that change is difficult for some, but standing still is simply not an option; we need to continue to be creative, dynamic, and aggressive in our response to the unprecedented challenges confronting our community and its residents.

On behalf of Quesnel City Council, I hope you will take the time to read through this flyer and dig deeper into our transition strategy and the initiatives that most interest you by engaging with us online. Please take the time to register for updates so we can keep you informed as we lead Quesnel through these interesting times.

- Mayor Bob Simpson

## Planning for our Future

Although 2020 has proven to have its challenges, the City of Quesnel and City Council are continually looking to the future and planning for what is to come.

Due to the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had globally, the City of Quesnel will not be conducting in-person public engagement sessions within the 2020 calendar year. Engagement sessions will be re-evaluated in 2021.

The City of Quesnel will continue to take measures to help ensure the safety of residents, staff and council, and will continue follow the safety protocols and actions that conform to Provincial directives on physical distancing, avoiding prolonged and intentional contact and gathering restrictions.

The City of Quesnel would like to ensure its residents that we are working hard to move key initiatives, projects and programs forward.

We encourage you all to sign up for email notifications, and to follow our social media channels for the latest updates on major initiatives, building and development information, bylaw information, financial reviews, public works updates and much more.

**Subscribe to our email list:** [www.quesnel.ca/subscribe](http://www.quesnel.ca/subscribe)

**Website:** [www.quesnel.ca](http://www.quesnel.ca)

**Facebook:** [@cityofquesnel](https://www.facebook.com/cityofquesnel)

**Twitter:** [@cityofquesnel](https://twitter.com/cityofquesnel)

# Learn more about our Community Vision

The City of Quesnel's Official Community Plan (OCP), which is the City's long term vision of the community, and Zoning Bylaws were adopted on December 17, 2019. These documents will guide us through to 2030. They include strategies for transportation, housing, sustainability and the impacts of climate change in Quesnel.

To learn more about the OCP and Zoning changes visit [www.quesnel.ca/ocp](http://www.quesnel.ca/ocp). The major areas of change include:

- Addition of First Nations collaboration and reconciliation policies.
- New housing opportunities. Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/ADU](http://www.quesnel.ca/ADU)
- Urban Agriculture – Hobby Beekeeping and Backyard Hens now permitted under Section 4.28 of the Zoning Bylaw. Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/zoning-and-land-use](http://www.quesnel.ca/zoning-and-land-use)
- Addition of FireSmart Policies. Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/forestry](http://www.quesnel.ca/forestry)

## Development Permit changes:

- One Development Permit for all commercial areas with reference to specific guidelines for the Northern Gateway, Downtown Core, West Quesnel and South Quesnel.
- New Development Permit Areas to guide development in hazardous areas (Floodplain and Hillside).
- New Sensitive Ecosystem development permit area providing guidelines for developing near environmentally sensitive areas.

## Expanding Opportunities for Affordable Quality Housing in Quesnel

The City of Quesnel lead a housing initiative over the past several years in order to face the housing stock challenges in the region and identify the type of housing that is in demand. This initiative included creating a secondary suite policy, developing a minimum rental standards bylaw, and completing a needs assessment gap analysis and action plan. Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/housing-initiative](http://www.quesnel.ca/housing-initiative).

### Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

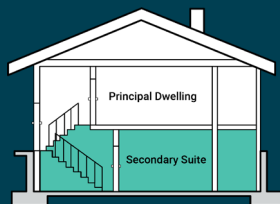
Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) help create a variety of housing options within our community. ADU's include secondary suites, carriage houses, and secondary dwellings. Learn more:

[www.quesnel.ca/getting-started-accessory-dwellings](http://www.quesnel.ca/getting-started-accessory-dwellings)

#### Secondary Suite

A secondary suite is a separate, self-contained living area contained within a single-family home.

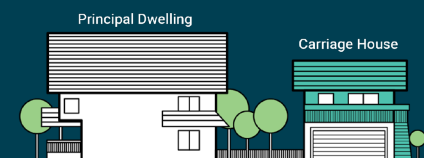
Only one suite per principal dwelling is permitted.



#### Carriage Homes

A carriage home is an attached home located in conjunction with an accessory building (e.g. a garage).

It must have access to a lane-way.



#### Secondary Dwellings

A secondary dwelling is a freestanding detached single-family home located on the same parcel as the principal dwelling (sometimes called a coach house).



### Helpful information:

#### 2019 Zoning Bylaw

- The zoning bylaw was updated in December 2019, which permits suites in residential zones.
- To view the zoning bylaw, go to [www.quesnel.ca/zoning-and-land-use](http://www.quesnel.ca/zoning-and-land-use)

#### Website Update

- The City's Building and Development web-pages were updated in January 2020.
- They are easy to navigate and include all of the answers to your questions: [www.quesnel.ca/building-development](http://www.quesnel.ca/building-development)

#### Building Permit Fee Exemption

- On February 25, 2020, City Council waived building permit fees for new secondary suites until the end of 2022.

#### ADU How-To Guide

- Development Services created an Accessory Dwelling Unit How-To Guide, released in January 2020. [www.quesnel.ca/getting-started-accessory-dwellings](http://www.quesnel.ca/getting-started-accessory-dwellings)

#### Accommodation Business Licence

- If you own a two or more rental units, you need an Accommodation Business License. [www.quesnel.ca/accommodation-business-licence](http://www.quesnel.ca/accommodation-business-licence)

# Creating a Thriving Community

The City of Quesnel's Economic Development Transition Strategy has had many successes this past year while focusing on projects that support business retention and expansion, resident, visitor, and business attraction, workforce development and attraction, and occasional sector specific projects. Because of the work that has been done we can all enjoy so much more of what Quesnel has to offer, while also helping better improve our City to make it a great place to live, visit and invest in.

The City of Quesnel's Economic Development Transition Strategy includes a number of strategies supporting three pillars:



**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**



**INNOVATIVE RESOURCE INDUSTRIES**



**RESIDENT AND BUSINESS RETENTION & ATTRACTION**

Over the past year, progress has been made on several projects:



*Wonderland trail*

The City of Quesnel has been working with the Cariboo Regional District and Gold Rush Cycling Club to develop new **mountain biking trails** in the Wonderland Recreation Area and Dragon Mountain Provincial Park. Additional trail planning is being done to connect the Arts & Recreation Centre with West Fraser Timber Park. A new trail map has also been developed to highlight legal trails in the area.

Following completion of a community **wayfinding strategy**, pedestrian wayfinding and park signs have been installed throughout the community, with vehicular wayfinding and City gateway signs coming soon. This signage makes Quesnel more visitor friendly, improving the overall experience when travelling to or through Quesnel.

Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/wayfinding](http://www.quesnel.ca/wayfinding)

The City's **Waterfront Plan**, a 20 year plan completed with significant public consultation between 2019-2020, has been awarded the Planning Institute of British Columbia Gold Award for Excellence in Planning Practice. The City is actively seeking grants to support implementation and is moving forward with the next phase of planning a downtown RV park at the site of the current public works yard.

Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/waterfront-plan](http://www.quesnel.ca/waterfront-plan)



*Pedestrian Wayfinding signage*





*Spirit Square stage - current configuration*

With the completion of the **Hosting Precinct** between the arenas and curling club, the City is working with the Quesnel Downtown Association to develop Spirit Square into a better equipped location for live music and community events.

Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/Alive-After-Five](http://www.quesnel.ca/Alive-After-Five)

Through the Forestry Initiatives Program, the City has worked to implement the **Quesnel and Surrounding Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan**, completing 52 hectares of fuel management in the area this year, and has been encouraging private property owners to FireSmart their properties.

Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/CWPP](http://www.quesnel.ca/CWPP)

The City of Quesnel has been awarded \$500,000 from the Ministry of Agriculture and \$250,000 from Northern Development Initiative Trust to develop a **food hub** in Quesnel. The hub will support food processors to start or expand operations in the region as part of a provincial network.

Learn more: [www.sproutkitchen.ca](http://www.sproutkitchen.ca)



*Fuel management project on Sugar Loaf*

The City's successful bid to host **Minerals North** in Quesnel in 2020 has been deferred to 2022. This conference could bring more than 300 delegates from the **mining industry** into Quesnel, providing us an opportunity to showcase our community as a base for mining operations in northern BC.

The City of Quesnel, Lhtako Dene, Nazko, ?Esdilagh, Lhoosk'uz First Nations, and Cariboo Regional District have met to discuss next steps in obtaining a **community forest** agreement through the provincial program.



Working to make Quesnel a more **livable community**, the City has completed a **Childcare Inventory and Action Plan**, identifying the need for 86 new child care spaces to be added in the Quesnel area over the next five years. The City has also received a poverty reduction grant to support adult literacy in partnership with Literacy Quesnel. The Healthcare Recruitment program remains an active initiative to ensure residents are able to find a family doctor.

Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/child-care-inventory](http://www.quesnel.ca/child-care-inventory)



The City of Quesnel jumped into action with Community Futures North Cariboo, Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce, West Quesnel Business Association, Quesnel Downtown Association and District of Wells to support businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic with the **Quesnel Business Support Hotline**. The hotline helped businesses to access more than \$4.1 million in financial supports.

Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/support](http://www.quesnel.ca/support)



The City has received two **Community Workforce Response Grants** from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, with training delivered through the College of New Caledonia. These programs benefit workers impacted by recent mill closures and curtailments in the community.

The City is actively promoting visitor and resident attraction through **@ExploreQuesnel** on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube with positive results. Our Hello, Quesnel! Resident Attraction campaign won the British Columbia Economic Development Association Marketing Innovation Award in 2020.

The City of Quesnel is participating in the **BC Provincial Nominee Program Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot** as one tactic to attract new business to Quesnel. Since the program launched in spring 2019, we have fielded 199 inquiries, received 75 eligible business proposals, and completed 10 community tours with interested applicants. The tours are a provincial requirement for the program but are currently on hold due to COVID-19.

To learn more about the Transition Strategy visit:  
[www.quesnel.ca/transition](http://www.quesnel.ca/transition)

# Capital Investments

## Coming Soon!

We have many great projects coming your way next year. Watch the City of Quesnel website and social media for updates on the waterfront development, West Fraser walking bridge updates, Quesnel RV Park and campground development, new lighting, paving projects and much more. Advancing our growing City is always a priority and we look forward to supporting our community moving into 2021.

## Public Works Facility Construction

Construction is currently underway at the new Public Works facility at Sword Avenue and is expected to be complete in November of 2020.

Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/PW-construction](http://www.quesnel.ca/PW-construction)

## Museum & Visitor Centre Renovation

Renovations have begun at the Quesnel and District Museum & Archives and Visitor Information Centre. The project is planned to be completed the spring of 2021.

Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/museum-visitor-renovation](http://www.quesnel.ca/museum-visitor-renovation)

## Building in West Quesnel

In December of 2019, the City of Quesnel created a Hillside Hazard Development Permit Area. The guidelines provide some exemptions to allow for limited development within the West Quesnel Land Stability Area (WQLSA) where there is minimal risk.

Most new development does still require a qualified professional to undertake a geotechnical and/or geohazard assessment to confirm that the conditions of development are safe in the West Quesnel Land Stability Area.

To learn more about building in the West Quesnel Land Stability Area visit:

[www.quesnel.ca/Land-Hazards-exemptions](http://www.quesnel.ca/Land-Hazards-exemptions)



*Exterior Public Works rendering*



*Exterior Museum rendering*

# Reminder: Property Tax due date

Property taxes are due **Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 4:30 pm.**

A 10% penalty will be applied on unpaid taxes and unclaimed home owner grants effective October 1, 2020.

### Paying your property taxes:

Online through most financial institutions.

Mail or courier a cheque or money order to City Hall –  
410 Kinchant Street, Quesnel B.C. V2J 7J5

### Claim your Home Owner Grant:

Online at [ehog.quesnel.ca](http://ehog.quesnel.ca)

Learn more: [www.quesnel.ca/property-taxes](http://www.quesnel.ca/property-taxes)

**Give us input for next year's budget!** The City of Quesnel will be performing the Annual Budget Survey this fall. Please take the time to have your say. Watch our social media, and website for distribution of the survey in October, 2020.

T: 250-992-2111 • F: 250-992-1512 • [quesnel.ca](http://quesnel.ca)

City Hall • 410 Kinchant Street • Quesnel • British Columbia • V2J 7J5

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