

Mayor and Council,  
City of Prince George  
1100 Patricia Blvd.  
Prince George BC V2L 3V9

September 9, 2021

His Worship the Mayor and Members of Council,

The Prince George Playhouse – Looking Forward

We wish to thank Mayor and Council for your decision in June to make the Prince George Playhouse a useable facility for at least the foreseeable future.

As you are no doubt aware, the facility plays a key and in fact a unique role as a performance venue, especially for locally produced events. We expect that it is unlikely that such a mid-sized and “community friendly” facility would be replaced by the City. If this expectation is correct, we would urge you to take what steps you might think appropriate to maintain the option of rejuvenating the Playhouse, even if this must be done in increments over a number of years. Mr. Blake McIntosh’s estimate of \$7,171,500 to completely restore the Playhouse is a moderate sum compared to replacing it.

We would ask Council to consider what an impressive return on investment the facility represents since it was rebuilt in 1996. At that time the city contributed a modest \$300,000; with community donations, fundraising, and local grantsmanship contributing \$1.5 million towards a budget of \$1.8 million. When the amortized costs to the City of Prince George over this 25 year period are compared to other capital projects, the Playhouse is remarkable.

The City has also enjoyed a recent benefit from its investment by selling the facility’s 70 stall main parking lot to Broadstreet Properties as part of the purchase of the adjacent land.

Its operating expenses are also a part of the exceptional economies of the Playhouse. As cited in Mr. McIntosh’s June 4<sup>th</sup> report to Council, “annual operating costs have been approximately \$34,000.” (Page 4, Paragraph 2.) A survey of Prince George’s Operational Financial Plan shows that, of all indoor facilities, there is only one operating at a lower cost to the City- the Livestock Arena.

To continue to enjoy the long standing social and cultural benefits from such a modest investment we would urge Council to consider an Incremental 5+ Year Capital Plan to restore and upgrade the Playhouse for community use.

We request that should the City receive the \$25 million lump-sum payment from FortisBC a portion of these funds be allocated to such a plan.

Sincerely,

Danny Bell  
Gina Bialuski  
Sadie Bialuski  
Amy Blanding  
Carol Brain  
Keith Brain  
James Cluff  
Colin Dix  
Judy Dix  
David Dunlop  
Krista Dunlop  
Margaret Dunlop  
Terry Fedorkiw  
Conway Fisher  
Kym Gouchie

Anna Harrop  
Tony Harrop  
Robert Hodgkinson  
Gerry Jackson  
Siona Jackson  
Teresa Jackson  
Naomi Kavka  
Anne Laughlin  
Ev Lee  
Norm Lee  
Raghu Lokanathan  
Joy McKellar  
Britt Meierhofer  
Miss Mieke  
Paul Murray  
Kris Nellis

Phil Nellis  
Jody Newham  
Bridgid O'Bierne  
Noel O'Bierne  
Susan O'Bierne  
Michael O'Malley  
Jeremy Pahl  
Ted Price  
Michael Rawluk  
Nancy Spensley  
Peter Stevenson  
Katherine Trepanier  
Mairead Veitch  
Ann Walsh  
Brian Walsh

cc. Walter Babicz, City Manager