January 10, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Agenda Item E.7 - Handout 3



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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January 10, 2022

The Honourable Adrien Dix, M.L.A., Minister of Health <u>HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca</u>

Dear Minister Dix:

I am writing today on behalf of Prince George City Council.

At the December 20, 2021 meeting of Council, a resolution was passed "that Council advocates to the Provincial Government, the Provincial Health Officer, and the Northern Health Authority by way of written correspondence that the current and future Covid-19 Public Health Restrictions in the City of Prince George be fair, equitable, and in-line with the rest of the province."

While vaccination rates in much of the Northern Health region, particularly in the Northeast, lag well behind provincial averages, Prince George has consistently been ahead of neighboring communities in its vaccination rates.

As provincial health orders changed to allow for increased capacity to 100% at events and businesses in the autumn of 2021, Prince George as a community was faced with the region-specific orders that were targeted at communities with much lower vaccination rates and significant community spread of COVID-19. At the time of this writing, Prince George has a second dose vaccination rate in its 18+ population of 85%, a vaccination rate similar to that of communities in the Northwest of the province that were exempted from region-specific public health orders introduced by Northern Health in October, 2021.

Looking forward beyond the current Omicron wave to a future loosening of restrictions, Council is requesting that Prince George be considered alongside communities with comparable rates of vaccination, such as those in the Northwest, when implementing any COVID-19 regional health orders.

Prince George City Council supports the safe restart of communities and the implementation of proven restrictions that support public health and safety. We will continue to encourage all members of our community who are eligible, to get vaccinated.

Sincerely,

Mayor Lyn Hall City of Prince George

Cc: Office of the Provincial Health Officer Ministry of Health PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT Victoria BC V8W 9P4

Tanis Hampe VP Pandemic Response Northern Health Authority