



October 12, 2021

Ref: 249620

His Worship Lyn Hall  
Mayor of the City of Prince George  
**Email: [mayor@princegeorge.ca](mailto:mayor@princegeorge.ca)**

Dear Mayor Hall:

I am writing to thank you for meeting with me via conference call on September 7, 2021. It is unfortunate that we were unable to meet in person. I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you in person next time.

All levels of government have faced challenges never experienced before the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been inspiring to see the innovation, collaboration, and nimbleness undertaken to ensure that communities and families across the province have the supports required to navigate through these unfamiliar times.

I appreciate you sharing your concerns about the roles of school districts in the provision of childcare, both now and in the future as responsibility of this program shifts from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) over to the Ministry of Education. As indicated during our meeting, I have asked staff to follow up with their colleagues at MCFD to further investigate options that may be available to address cost pressures associated with delivery of the local child care project we discussed.

If you have any questions or concerns related to education at the local level, I encourage you to reach out and contact your local School District.

Thank you again for meeting and sharing your concerns. Your support and commitment to students in your community is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Whiteside  
Minister

pc: Shirley Bond, MLA (Prince George-Valemount)  
Mike Morris, MLA (Prince George-Mackenzie)



Ref: 43155

November 1, 2021

His Worship Mayor Lyn Hall  
Councillors Cori Ramsay, Frank Everitt and Susan Scott  
Acting City Manager Walter Babicz  
Director of Community Services and Public Safety Adam Davey  
City of Prince George  
1100 Patricia Boulevard  
Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

Dear Mayor, Acting City Manager, Director, and Councillors:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me during this year's virtual Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention process.

I am grateful for the ongoing collaboration and partnerships between the Provincial Government and municipalities, as we continue to support British Columbians through this difficult period. With persistent dedication and collective effort, we have responded to the needs and changing circumstances in our communities and proven our collective commitment to the recovery and resiliency of our Province.

I appreciate the topics you raised during our conference call about Prince George hosting major events such as the World Women's Curling Championships (WWCC) and 2022 BC Summer Games.

I appreciate that WWCC was one of the first events to be postponed because of the pandemic. I commend everyone in the community who helped bring the event together, despite the disappointment of having to postpone the event at the last minute.

As you noted, many WWCC preparations have been supported by previous Ministry funding of \$213,000 from the Tourism Events Program and \$100,000 from the Major Sport Event Hosting program. I was pleased to learn that the City has applied to the Fairs, Festivals and Events Recovery Fund, as well as the Major Sport Event Hosting program, to support the event in 2022.

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Mayor, Acting City Manager, Director, and Councillors  
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The City is following all the right processes, and I look forward to learning the results of these efforts. If you have any specific questions regarding the Fairs, Festivals and Events Recovery Program, please contact Project Director Laird McLachlin by email to:

[Laird.McLachlin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Laird.McLachlin@gov.bc.ca).

I look forward to invitations for the WWCC and 2022 BC Summer Games and hope my schedule will allow me to attend.

Thank you again for your interest and engagement with me as part of the UBCM Annual Convention this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Mark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melanie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Mark".

Melanie Mark  
Hli Haykwhl Wii Xsgaak  
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

pc: Shirley Bond, MLA  
Prince George-Mount Robson



November 8, 2021

Ref: 268062

Their Worship Mayor Lyn Hall  
and Members of Council  
City of Prince George  
1100 Patricia Blvd  
Prince George BC V2L 3V9

Dear Mayor Hall and Councillors:

Thank you to your delegation for meeting with me during this year's virtual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention two-week process. It was a pleasure to hear from you in my first UBCM Convention experience as Minister, and the issues you brought forward were of great interest to me.

Topics raised during our virtual meeting included the City of Prince George's arenas and lagoon upgrade grant applications and the 1st Avenue health and housing development partnership between the City, Northern Health and BC Housing.

At our meeting we discussed the City's application for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)-CleanBC Communities Fund (CCF), a collaboration between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. **Redacted**

**Redacted**  
**Redacted** understand that funding for the Kin Centre Arenas refrigeration and energy recovery upgrades project under the ICIP-CCF would assist the City in investing in your hub of four arenas, which are a focal point for your community. Final approval decisions for ICIP-CCF are anticipated in fall 2021.

We also discussed the City's application for Western Acres lagoon upgrades-new pump stations and forcemain, under the ICIP-Environmental Quality (EQ) Program. All of our capital funding programs are over-subscribed, which unfortunately means that there are always good projects that do not receive funding. You may be interested to know that the third intake of the EQ Program is accepting applications until January 26, 2022. As you know, the EQ Program provides support for reliable drinking water and wastewater systems that meet legislated standards or projects that result in legislative standards being met. It will also support projects that remediate contaminated sites and divert solid waste from landfill.

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I encourage you to continue to work with ministry staff on any future applications; they can help you to strengthen your application, discuss your project with you and help explore other options. Please contact Madelaine Martin, Director, Infrastructure and Engineering, by email at: [Madelaine.Martin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Madelaine.Martin@gov.bc.ca).

I appreciate you bringing to my attention the combined health-care facility and affordable housing development projects underway, particularly the second project for 100 new units. You expressed the importance of this project and how fundamental it is in addressing homelessness in the region and your concerns around its timing. I understand the tremendous amount of work that has been put into this development and your efforts to bring multiple agencies together. I greatly appreciate you taking the time to explain the challenges and issues that you are facing.

The emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted BC Housing's timelines, but the team will continue to work with the City on the timeline of the design and construction commencement. You also have my commitment to bring this issue to the attention my colleagues, the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and the Honourable David Eby, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing.

I found it very valuable to hear from you and other communities directly at the UBCM Convention. Meetings such as this help me better understand the issues or opportunities your community is facing.

Thank you again to your delegation for taking the time to meet with me. I look forward to seeing you—hopefully in person—at UBCM Convention next year.

Sincerely,



Josie Osborne  
Minister

pc: Honourable David Eby, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing  
Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health  
Madelaine Martin, Director, Infrastructure and Engineering



November 1, 2021

VIA E-MAIL  
Ref: 263633

His Worship Mayor Lyn Hall  
Members of Council  
City of Prince George  
E-mail: [mayor@princegeorge.ca](mailto:mayor@princegeorge.ca)

Dear Mayor Hall and Council:

I am writing to thank you for meeting with me virtually on September 13, 2021, during the 2021 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention.

The theme for this year's convention was *Obstacles to Opportunities*, which seems fitting in the landscape of today. As we all look ahead to this next phase through the pandemic, we must be open to diverse perspectives on how to approach the urgent issues that remain a constant for communities – climate, infrastructure, housing – while juggling economic recovery and reopening. Although the format of this convention was different for the second year in a row, it was reassuring to come together to discuss so many important topics with leaders across the province.

In our meeting, we discussed the need for child care spaces in Prince George and your request to partner with the province to ensure child care projects are built within budget. The Ministry of Children and Family Development is working to address the need for more child care spaces through initiatives such as the [New Spaces Fund](#) to support municipalities with funding for child care projects, and applications for the 2021-22 New Spaces Fund are now open. We are also working to increase Early Childhood Educator (ECE) wages through the ECE Wage Enhancement, which increases wages by \$4 per hour. Our government is working towards supporting projects that are experiencing unanticipated increases to construction budgets through continuing the dialogue with municipal partners, and we know there is still more work to do.

You mentioned in our meeting that the City of Prince George will be receiving further information about estimated cost overruns in December, and we would appreciate receiving a copy when it is available. In the meantime, if you have any further questions regarding child care space and programs, you may contact Jonathan Barry, Executive Director, Child Care Capital, Community and ECE Registry Services, at [Jonathan.Barry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jonathan.Barry@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you again for your input and participation. Your support and commitment to serving children, youth and families in your community is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Katrina Chen  
Minister of State for Child Care

pc: Jonathan Barry

Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development

Office of the  
Minister

Mailing Address:  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Location:  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria



1208699

January 18, 2022

Via email: [mayor@princegeorge.ca](mailto:mayor@princegeorge.ca)

Their Worship Lyn Hall  
and Members of Council  
City of Prince George  
1100 Patricia Boulevard  
Prince George BC V2L 3V

Dear Mayor Hall and Council:

Thank you for meeting with me at the virtual Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention in September.

It was a pleasure to hear from you during my first UBCM Convention as Minister, and I learned a lot.

In our meeting, we discussed the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue supportive housing project and the incredible impact that will have on vulnerable and marginalized people living in Prince George.

You also took the time to tell me about some of the challenges you have faced, including the need for expanded mental health and substance use supports, like a sobering centre, and the added strain on resources Prince George feels as the healthcare service hub for many northern communities.

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions is working hard across government to create an accessible, robust, and culturally safe system of mental health and addictions care that meets people where they are. For your convenience and interest, I have attached a list of local mental health and substance use resources in your community.

I would also like to bring your attention to [wellbeing.gov.bc.ca](http://wellbeing.gov.bc.ca), our recently released navigation tool to help British Columbians connect with the right provincial mental health and/or substance use resources, quickly and easily.

It was so helpful to hear from you and communities like yours throughout the week. Meetings like this help me better understand the challenges people and communities across BC face on a daily basis.

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Thank you again for your leadership. I look forward to continuing to work with you as we move forward to improve mental health and substance use care for all British Columbians.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SM', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Sheila Malcolmson  
Minister

Attachment





## **Mental Health and Substance Use Services in Prince George**

### **Overview**

Below is a list of mental health and substance use services and supports in your own community.

### **Locally Available Mental Health and Substance Use Resources**

Prince George offers a variety of mental health and substance use services that span the continuum of care, from youth, to adult, to services for older adults, including:

- Community services for youth and adults:
  - Youth community outpatient service
  - Eating disorder clinic
  - Early psychosis intervention
  - Youth treatment center for mental health and addictions
  - Adult mental health and addiction community programs
  - Community Acute Stabilization Team (CAST)
  - Community Outreach and Assertive Services Team (COAST)
  - Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
  - Intensive Case Management team (ICM)
  - Adult addiction day treatment program
  - Opiate Agonist Treatment (OAT) program
  - Developmental disabilities mental health
  - Acquired brain injury
  - Elderly services
  - There is also a well-established and very successful Car 60 model in Prince George, staffed by a mental health clinician and RCMP, which has fostered other integration of RCMP staff with Northern Health mental health and substance use teams to work with unpredictable and challenging individuals living on or near the streets
- Adult tertiary bed-based services include short-term and long-term intensive rehabilitation services
  - These services are available at a number of locations and provide varying levels of care for adults with complex mental health and/or substance use needs.
- Inpatient services for youth and adults include:
  - Adolescent Psychiatric Assessment Unit
  - Adult Psychiatric Inpatient Unit
  - Adult Withdrawal Management Unit (aka detox)
- Mental health and substance use community programs and specialized services also work with a long list of community partners, some of whom are funded by Northern Health

- Provincial/regional and community partner agencies that also provide mental health and substance use supports:
  - Foundry Prince George, in partnership with the YMCA of Northern BC
  - RCMP
  - Northern Interior NH (PG) ACT and ICM teams partner with the RCMP's Downtown Services Unit (embedded RCMP member working with those teams, in uniform or plainclothes, depending on the approach that is most beneficial to a particular client)
  - Canadian Mental Health Association
  - BC Schizophrenia Society
  - Prince George Brain Injured Group
  - Activity Centre for Empowerment (ACE) Prince George
  - Central Interior Native Health Society
  - Prince George Native Friendship Centre
  - Ketso Yoh Center
  - AWAC Shelter (Advocating for Women & Children)
  - Phoenix Transition House
  - Harmony House
  - Positive Living North
  - St. Patrick's House
  - John Howard Society
- The Prince George AIDS Prevention Program/Needle Exchange, a program under Northern Health's Public Health Protection, also offers services along the mental health and substance use continuum of care in the form of harm reduction and overdose prevention
- Service statistics/snapshot:
  - In an average month in Prince George:
    - About 220 naloxone kits are ordered from BCCDC;
    - There are about 400 visits to the Overdose Prevention Site;
    - There are approximately 330 active Opioid Agonist Therapy clients.