



# MAYOR REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** March 17, 2023

**TO:** COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Mayor Simon Yu

**SUBJECT:** Update on Council Resolution to Engage with Provincial Ministries

**ATTACHMENTS:** Letter to Premier Eby dated January 3, 2023  
Letter to Premier Eby dated January 31, 2023  
Draft Letter to Premier Eby

## RECOMMENDATION:

That Council APPROVES the draft letter to Premier Eby attached to the report dated March 17, 2023 from Mayor Simon Yu titled "Update on Council Resolution to Engage with Provincial Ministries."

## PURPOSE:

At its December 5, 2022 Regular Meeting, Council discussed Councillor Sampson's November 28, 2022 Notice of Motion requesting a meeting with Provincial ministries to discuss priorities related to housing, health, and public safety. A motion to formally invite representatives from several ministries to attend a Prince George meeting with Council as well as key agencies and individuals, was carried. This report summarizes actions undertaken to schedule a meeting which have not been successful to date, and recommends a next step, given the urgency to collaboratively respond to these issues.

## BACKGROUND:

Immediately following the December 5, 2022 Council meeting, Premier Eby publicly accepted City Council's request to have him and provincial ministers come to Prince George to discuss the community's social issues. This, together with related discussions at the December 20, 2022 Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs meeting, informed my January 3, 2023 correspondence to Premier Eby, a copy of which is attached to this report. MLA Bond and MLA Morris, as well as MP Doherty and MP Zimmer, have expressed their support for Council's initiative to host such a meeting and have confirmed their interest in participating.

No response to my letter of January 3, 2023 was received, but Premier Eby did meet with me in late January during his attendance at the Natural Resources Forum. Following this meeting I sent another letter, dated January 31, 2023, a copy of which is attached to this report, reiterating the City's interest in hosting an in-person session with all involved Ministers and key community leaders to discuss how we could work together to address shared public safety, health, and housing priorities. No response has been received to my letter of January 31, 2023.

The City does not have the mandate, jurisdiction, or resources necessary to address humanitarian, health and safety concerns associated with homeless encampments. For this reason, I am proposing a third letter be sent to Premier Eby signed by all members of Council. The draft letter attached to this report emphasizes the urgency of a multi-ministry meeting involving the City, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, the Prince George Native Friendship Centre, and our local elected provincial and federal representatives.

With Council's consent and willingness, the draft letter attached to this report will be prepared for signatures and sent to the Premier's Office.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Simon Yu, Mayor

Meeting Date: 2023/03/27