

DATE: May 1, 2024

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Garth Frizzell, Chair, Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

SUBJECT: Provincial Advocacy Delegation

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT Council RECIEVES FOR INFORMATION the report titled Provincial Advocacy Delegation from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs dated May 1, 2024.

PURPOSE:

To provide Council with information on recent provincial advocacy.

BACKGROUND:

From April 29th to May 1st, 2024, a delegation from Prince George attended the legislature to advocate on pressing issues prioritized by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs. Where appropriate these meetings were approached in partnership with representation from the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation (LTFN).

In attendance, LTFN Councillor Robert Gagnon with staff support from LTFN Director of Engineering & Operations. Members present from the City of Prince George were Councillor's Garth Frizzell and Kyle Sampson with staff support from the City Manager and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee Liaison.

Nine meetings were coordinated for the delegation:

1. Local MLAs (MLA Bond, Morris, and neighboring MLA Oakes) to discuss regional issues.
2. Minister of Mental Health and Addictions regarding proposed projects in the region and the cost of municipal support to medical calls and how these costs may be shared / mitigated.
3. Minister of Housing regarding HEART & HEARTH MOU developments and STR legislation.
4. The Premier regarding topics discussed with government ministers, specifically challenges related to homelessness, housing, and local projects.

5. Solicitor General and Minister of Public Safety regarding policing issues of municipal interest including cannabis revenue sharing, SITE, PACT, and the recent request for an exemption around drug consumption in public spaces.
6. Attorney General regarding encampments and the recent request for an exemption around drug consumption in public spaces.
7. Minister of Health regarding proposed projects in the region and the cost of municipal support to medical calls and how these costs may be shared / mitigated.
8. Opposition Caucus members to share topics raised with government.
9. Minister of Transportation regarding shared interest with LTFN in advancing the paving of Landooz Road and exploring a bridge over the Fraser River.
10. The Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia regarding interest in exploring membership in the Human Trafficking Prevention Network.

The delegation was also able to join in on activities related to mining week at the legislature and attended question period to hear first-hand the latest developments around consumption in public spaces.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The delegation touched on topics ranging from health and safety to infrastructure and may be viewed succinctly as advancing the strategic priority of maximizing the quality of life for all residents.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no financial implications related to receiving this report. Funding for this activity was approved through a previous motion of Council. Expenses related to the delegation are being compiled at this time and are anticipated to be within the approved budget.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

This report provides an update on recent provincial advocacy.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Garth Frizzell, Chair, Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
Supported by, Kyle Sampson, Committee Member / Attendee.

Prepared by: Eric Depenau, Acting Director, Administrative Services

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2024/05/06