



Mayor Report to Council

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Date: August 13, 2024

To: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Name and title: Mayor Simon Yu

Subject: The Need for a Joint, Regional Response to Local Challenges - Update

Attachment(s):

Recommendation(s):

1. THAT Council APPROVES the Mayor:
 - (a) signing on behalf of Council, and
 - (b) inviting representatives from other orders of government to sign, an MOU in substantially the same form as the draft MOU set out in the report dated August 13, 2024, titled, "The Need for a Joint, Regional Response to Local Challenges - Update" from the Mayor.

Purpose:

The following report provides Council with an update on meetings and conversations that have taken place to organize local representatives from all orders of government (MLA's, MP's, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and City Council) to advocate on local challenges and to share the draft document that has come about from those conversations.

Background:

The City of Prince George regularly meets with local representatives from each order of government. Consistently in these conversations the need for joint advocacy to address pressing local issues is raised. Following Council support at the 22 July regular Council meeting language for a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been circulated and is being brought to Council for a more formal review.

Steps have been taken to build consensus around the items and language included in this draft. Should another order of government request a substantial change to the language following Council support for moving forward with a signing I ask Council for discretion in approving those amendments if they are of a general nature or if they are in line with existing Council advocacy initiatives. If an amendment is not of this nature the language would be brought back to Council for further consideration.

Pending confirmation from other orders of government a signing would be organized ahead of the 2024 September UBCM so that this document could be used to demonstrate regional commitment to the items that the City of Prince George, Regional District Fraser Fort George and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation may raise in their independent and joint meetings with government.

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Draft MOU text:

We, the undersigned, recognize the challenges our region faces as compounding crises in healthcare, mental health, addictions and natural disasters continue to impact Canada, British Columbia and our region. We recognize that these issues overlap with all levels of jurisdiction and need joint leadership. We commit to working together as representatives from five orders of government to address these issues. Taking a regional approach, we commit our efforts to establishing the necessary regional services for the area to flourish.

Revising these priorities annually we will seek to establish:

- 1. Expanded addiction treatment options with interest in a regional treatment center;*
- 2. Enhanced regional healthcare services with a focus on staffing;*
- 3. Timely public safety responses that address immediate needs and root causes; and*
- 4. Economic development opportunities, including tools to address local infrastructure.*

MP

MP

MLA

MLA

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation

City of Prince George

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

We share this framework with our colleagues openly so that they too may explore advancing regional priorities together for the betterment of their own communities

Summary and conclusion:

With Council's approval of the above recommendation my office, with the support of administration, will proceed with an invitation to other orders of government to sign on to the MOU and work to arrange a signing ceremony fitting of the occasion.

Respectfully submitted:

Mayor Simon Yu

Meeting Date: 19 August 2024

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