

Good Afternoon City Council of Prince George,

I would first like to thank all the members of council and anyone that was involved with application process of the 2019 Student Mentorship program. It was my great honor and pleasure to attend the Union of British Columbia Municipalities which went from September 22nd to September 27th. During this time I had the pleasure to be mentored by Lyn Hall, Frank Everitt, Garth Frizzell, Murray Krause, Cori Ramsey, Kyle Sampson, and Brian Skakun. I would like to personally thank all of you for your time and effort with this program.

This program gave me the insights on how to start my journey into local government. It is a surprise to me that other municipalities do not take part in such a great program. In my time in Vancouver it was my aim to encourage other municipalities to operate a program like this in their community. I encouraged and got the support of a few communities in the Okanagan and Vancouver Island. I was able to meet and make new friends in different communities all across our beautiful province.

I had the pleasure to participate in some tours while attending the UBCM. The most notable tour was the “Modular Housing Tour”. During this half day tour I was able to look into one of Vancouver’s newest methods of combatting homelessness in an urban center. These homes provided shelter, counselling, warm meals, and a community of growth. In hopes to provide the stability necessary for these individuals to find independence.

I was able to meet the Ministers of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Environment and Climate Strategy, and Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources. All of which spoke to the city council positively about the successes Prince George has been able to achieve in the past year. These meetings gave me confidence in my City’s council in providing a tremendous service to our community.

It was a great pleasure that I was able to sit in on our provinces Premier John Horgan’s closing remarks of the UBCM. It was truly inspiring to hear him speak about what a municipal leader has to go through, what our province has been able to accomplish in the past couple years, and also the many jokes that he had while he was presenting. It was definitely a highlight of my trip at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

Finally, I would like to thank you for giving me a glimpse of what it is like to be a City Councilor for a week. I can honestly say you have inspired me with what you guys do and one day when I am ready, I am planning to run for a spot on council. I cannot thank everyone enough for everything you guys have done. I wish you all a great remainder of your term on council and congratulation Lyn Hall on winning the draw.

Thank you,

Ethan Lewis Fredeen
Student Delegate UBCM 2019