

Date: October 17, 2024

To: **Mayor and Council.**

Name and title: Eric Depenau, Director of Administrative Services

Subject: 2024 Mental Health and Addictions Accord

Attachment(s): 2024 Mental Health and Addictions Accord  
Symposium Media Release

## Recommendation(s):

That Council SUPPORTS the Mental Health and Addictions Accord as set out in the document from North Central Local Government Association and attached to the staff report dated October 17, 2024 from the Director of Administrative Services titled “2024 Mental Health and Addictions Accord”; and AUTHORIZES the Mayor to sign the Accord on behalf of Council.

## Purpose:

This report is presented for Council consideration to advance joint advocacy efforts between the cohosts of the November 2024, Mental Health and Addictions Symposium (Lheidli Tenneh First Nation, Regional District Fraser Fort George, North Central Local Government Association and the City). Specifically, this report recommends signing the Mental Health and Addictions Accord that is contemplated as part of the event.

## Background:

The Mental Health and Addictions Accord is a high-level commitment document developed for local governments, mental health agencies and service organizations across Central and Northern BC. It outlines shared principles and actions for partners to endorse and commit to, emphasizing areas of agreement and joint responsibility.

This living document is being developed in advance of the Mental Health and Addictions Symposium on November 13 and 14, 2024 by the event co-hosts City of Prince George, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, Lheidli Tenneh and North Central Local Government Association.

The Accord recognizes the urgent need to address the mental health and addictions crisis affecting communities in Central and Northern British Columbia and aspires to a future where all residents can thrive in body, mind and spirit.

Representatives from Indigenous governments, local governments and partner organizations and individuals who sign the Accord are affirming their dedication to working collaboratively, taking

decisive action, and advocating for positive change. The Accord is a living document and will be flexible to evolve in the future to respond to changing conditions and needs.

If Council approves signing the document, staff will make arrangements for the City's inclusion in a signing event during the November symposium.

#### Strategic Priorities:

Advocacy efforts to enhance supports around mental health and addictions can be viewed as connected to the strategic pillar of Social Health and Well Being.

#### Summary and conclusion:

This report recommends Council approve the Mayor signing the attached Mental Health and Addictions Accord on behalf of the City of Prince George.

#### Respectfully submitted:

Eric Depenau, Director of Administrative Services

#### Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2024 / 11 / 04