



# NOTICE OF MOTION

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Date: October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

To: Mayor and Council

From: Councillor Kyle Sampson; supported by Councillors Bennett and Ramsay

Subject: Celebrating Prince George Residents:  
Establishing an Annual Citizen Recognition Medal Program

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## RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council **DIRECTS** Administration to establish a Select Committee, composed of 4 members of Council and 3 external members from the public, with the mandate to develop a framework and plan for an annual City of Prince George citizen recognition program. Administration is to provide a draft term of reference, and the committee will present a report to Council by the end of Q3 2025, aiming to launch the program for the 2026 cycle. The program will honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the community in areas such as, but not limited to, arts, sports, volunteerism, philanthropy, social services, or heroism. City employees and Council members would be excluded from eligibility.
2. That Council **DIRECTS** Administration to review and enhance the existing employee Service Recognition Awards program to further recognize City employees for their long service and dedication to our community, and report back to Council with the results of that review.

## DISCUSSION:

Prince George rocks... why? Because we have a community full of ~~kick-ass~~ extraordinary people doing incredible things that make our city a great place to live! We need to recognize these amazing people!

While "Freedom of the City" is the highest honour the Council can bestow on someone, it is generally reserved for extremely rare and unique circumstances. That doesn't mean there aren't folks who are regularly making our community better in all sorts of ways that shouldn't be meaningfully recognized. An annual recognition medal program would give the City of PG the opportunity to consistently celebrate and acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of those who go above and beyond, often without expecting anything in return. This program would be designed to shine a spotlight on those folks who truly embody the spirit of Prince George and inspire others to get involved, make a difference, or simply excel at what they do!

The idea is to recognize a limited number of recipients each year, with a suggested cap of five. A restrictive annual allotment would ensure that we celebrate an array of folks annually, but that there's a special significance or prestige attached to being one of the few selected. The Committee will hammer out the program details, with a focus on things like the name of the program, criteria/eligibility, nomination process, selection requirements, annual presentation of the awards, and how the award selection committee will be

put together, among other details. The awards selection committee should be comprised of extraordinary individuals from diverse backgrounds representing some of the different possible backgrounds of which a nominee may be eligible, to bring a broad range of perspectives to the selection process. The goal is to make sure the program aligns with the Council's strategic plan around boosting community pride and engagement. The Committee would determine the best physical 'award' be it a medal or otherwise.

The public nomination process for the award will allow the community to bring forward and recommend local heroes – whether they're well-known or previously unsung. This should help generate an increase in civic pride, and community involvement. Additionally, the program will provide a chance for the City to celebrate the diverse talents and dedication found across Prince George, making sure our community's unique stories and efforts are front and centre and shared widely!

The recognition will go beyond just handing out a medal, which should be a custom-designed program specific medal. The Committee should consider what the program recipients will receive. Beyond the medal, additional gestures should also be considered to further honour recipients. Inspired by the Winnipeg 150 Medal program, one idea could be to plant a tree in each recipient's honour in a City park – something to reflect Prince George's beautiful parks and outdoor spaces, and recreational amenities. The Committee will explore options that are meaningful but not overly costly, to make sure the recognition is impactful.

City employees and Council members would be excluded from eligibility. However, the City of PG has an incredible team of employees, well deserving of recognition for their long service to our community. Council should support Administration reviewing and enhancing the existing Service Recognition Awards program which recognizes employees who complete milestone lengths of service, including, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service. This would enhance the existing service recognition program and help further boost morale and promoting a positive work culture at the City.

There's also the potential opportunity to tie this medal program into the City's annual volunteer recognition event, creating a more inclusive and elevated platform that celebrates not just volunteers, but all who make exceptional contributions in areas like the arts, sports, volunteerism, philanthropy, social services, or heroism. The Committee will explore the best approach for presenting the awards on an annual basis.

Creating a Committee to lead this process will ensure the program is meeting the goals of celebrating Prince George residents through an annual and distinguished award that truly reflects the spirit of our community. It is intended that the three signing Councillors be included as members of this committee with the addition of one other member of Council to join.

It is intended that this motion be considered by Council at the November 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Councillor Kyle Sampson

  
Councillor Tim Bennett

  
Councillor Cori Ramsay