



NOTICE OF MOTION

Date: August 11, 2025
To: Mayor and Council
From: Councillor Trudy Klassen and Councillor Bennett
Subject: Riverfront Vitality
Attachments: <https://www.pibc.bc.ca/sites/default/files/2019-06/PlanningWest-v59-No3-Summer2017.pdf>

The date for this motion to be considered is at the September 3, 2025 regular council meeting.

The Nechako and Fraser Rivers are central to Prince George's identity and offer significant potential for economic, recreational, and cultural development. A collaborative, well-designed waterfront plan, aligned with the City's Strategic Plan and building on prior work such as the *Smart Growth on the Ground* report (2009), will enhance public access, boost tourism, support local businesses, and ensure the sustainable use of these vital resources for future generations. Engaging UNBC leverages its expertise and fosters community-driven solutions through stakeholder collaboration.

Recommendation:

BE IT RESOLVED that Council directs staff to:

1. Request the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) to lead the development of a comprehensive Nechako and Fraser River Waterfront Plan, in collaboration with stakeholders as suitable, including but not limited to local businesses, interested members of the public, potential investors, community organizations, Indigenous governments, and relevant provincial and federal government agencies.
2. Ensure the plan aligns with the City's Strategic Plan and builds upon previous reports to Council, including the *Smart Growth on the Ground* report (2009), to protect and enhance public and tourism access to and enjoyment of the Nechako and Fraser River waterfronts within city limits, including but not limited to:
 - Opportunities for the development of restaurants, accommodation and hospitality services;
 - Facilities and infrastructure to support sporting activities, fishing, and other recreational uses;
 - Measures to preserve and enhance the environmental, cultural, and historical integrity of the riverfronts;
 - Strategies to promote sustainable tourism and community engagement.

3. Instruct staff to work with UNBC to establish a timeline for the development of the plan, assist with documentation as needed, with a target completion date no later than December 31, 2026 and to provide quarterly progress updates to Council.
4. Allocate necessary resources and support to facilitate stakeholder engagement and ensure the plan reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of the Prince George community.

The plan, once developed, be presented to Council for review and approval, with recommendations for implementation and public and private funding considerations.

Rationale:

1. The Nechako and Fraser Rivers are vital natural, cultural, and economic assets to the City of Prince George, contributing significantly to the quality of life, tourism, and community identity;
2. The waterfronts along these rivers within city limits present unique opportunities for enhancing public access, recreation, heritage, and tourism, while preserving their environmental and cultural significance;
3. The development of a comprehensive waterfront plan aligns with the City of Prince George's Strategic Plan, which emphasizes sustainable growth, community vibrancy, and economic development;
 - a. previous reports to Council, including the *Smart Growth on the Ground* report (2009), provide valuable insights and foundational work that can inform and expedite the development of a waterfront plan;
4. Collaboration with stakeholders, including the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), local businesses, interested residents, community groups, Indigenous governments, and other levels of government, is essential to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to waterfront development;

Signed:



Councillor Trudy Klassen



Councillor Tim Bennett

August 11, 2025