



# Committee Progress Report

Standing Committee  
on Public Safety





## Committee membership

Eight individuals have contributed their time and talent to the committee since its inception.

### Current members

- Mayor Yu
- Councillor Klassen
- Councillor Polillo
- Councillor Skakun
- Karmjeet Manhas\*
- Miranda Seymour\*
- John Zukowski\*

### Past members

- Robert Gagnon\*

\*Member of the public, appointed by Mayor Yu



## Delegations

The committee has received 13 delegations which helped provide the committee with valuable information.

- Crisis Response Community Led (CRCL)
- Saint Vincent De Paul
- Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society (IMSS)
- BC Housing
- Connective
- Prince George Regional Correctional Centre
- Save on Foods Store #2266 (Pine Centre) Manager
- John Greco
- Garret Dobson
- Brad Gustofson
- Prince George RCMP Detachment
- BC First Nations Justice Council
- Dr. Amelia Merrick and Daniel Roy



## Meetings

The committee has held 18 meetings, only cancelling two planned engagements to accommodate time needed for agenda topics to be thoroughly researched.



## Recommendations to Council

The committee has referred information to Council on several occasions. In addition to these referrals the committee has provided recommendations to Council on 10 occasions.

1. The committee recommended the Downtown Prince George and Chamber of Commerce Security Camera Pilot Program Proposal, be shared with Council for consideration and provided a favorable recommendation in support of the program. This proposal was supported with the establishment of a service agreement and a contribution of \$40,000.
2. In response to correspondence from the Executive Director of Downtown Prince George regarding the Securing Small Business Rebates program the Committee recommended to Council that a letter to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, with a copy to all City of Prince George Members of the Legislative Assembly, be sent, requesting that the Securing Small Business Rebate program funding be renewed. Letters to this effect were distributed.
3. Regarding the promotion of the Block Watch and Citizens on Patrol programs the Committee referred a staff report to Council and offered support for additional investment in the programs. Council received this report and staff facilitated a number of small internal projects to help expand these initiatives reach.
4. Further, regarding Block Watch, the Committee recommended to Council to support the Block Watch events with a financial contribution of up to \$7500 from the Council Contingency fund. This funding was approved and contributed to four positive events in the community during the month of September 2025.
5. The Committee recommended to Council to direct Administration to research Bylaw 018-2024 from the Town of Cobourg and report back to Council on aspects of that Bylaw that the City would be able to accomplish. This work is planned for 2026.

6. A verbal presentation from the Owner of Crossroads Brewing & Distillery, which was recently lost to a fire, was received by the committee. The owner was invited to provide a letter for Council, sharing their experiences as a downtown business owner and highlighting the ongoing safety concerns affecting their business, staff, and patrons, with the intent that Council shares this letter with relevant provincial ministries for consideration during the Union of BC Municipalities convention. This recommendation was supported, and correspondence was shared with the Province, including directly with the Premier of British Columbia.
7. The Standing Committee on Public Safety has directed Administration to return a report to Council on options to strengthen regulations for vacant premises, including consideration of monitored alarm systems. This work is planned for 2026.
8. The Committee has directed Administration to return a report to Council regarding options for a Local Area Service to support overnight security patrols of the Downtown: C1 zone and east of Queensway, including financial consideration and process options by the end of December 2025. This report is set to be discussed at the 15 December meeting of Council.
9. On the topic of graffiti remediation options, the Committee received a report and provided a recommendation to Council to proceed with a grant program that would incorporate graffiti removal and other Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design related projects. This item is anticipated at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Council.
10. The Standing Committee on Public Safety has recommended that Council direct Administration to review the Permissive Tax Exemption Policy and provide options to implement criteria set out in the “PG Hope and Health Network Code of Conduct” as attached to the December 18, 2025, committee meeting agenda. Follow up on this item is expected in 2026.





## Items intended for future committee work

Going forward, there are five resolutions currently listed as in progress which are intended to be undertaken by staff or scheduled for future meeting of the committee.

1. That the Standing Committee on Public Safety REQUESTS Administration to collaborate with Downtown Prince George to explore opportunities for improving street lighting in the downtown area.
2. That the Standing Committee on Public Safety DIRECTS Administration to return a report to the Committee on the application of the “City of Prince George Nuisance Abatement and Cost Recovery Bylaw No. 8940, 2018” to non-profit organizations.
3. That the Committee RECOMMENDS to Council to DIRECT Administration to research Bylaw 018-2024 from the Town of Cobourg and report back to Council on aspects of that Bylaw that the City would be able to accomplish.
4. That the Standing Committee on Public Safety REFERS to Council consideration of a potential revision to “Security Alarm System Bylaw, No. 6358, 1995” to establish an appeal process for fines incurred as a result of false security alarms requiring police attendance.
5. That the Standing Committee on Public Safety RECOMMENDS that Council DIRECT Administration to review the Permissive Tax Exemption Policy and provide options to implement criteria set out in the “PG Hope and Health Network Code of Conduct” as attached to December 18, 2025, committee meeting agenda.



# Meeting highlights

## May 2024

- May 2024 was the inaugural meeting of the committee. An introduction for committee members was held, and committee resources were explained. This included an overview of municipal committees, commissions and boards and a review of the Terms of Reference for this specific committee. As well a Vice Chair was appointed from the committee's membership.
- The first topic discussed was related to the Crime Severity Index. Statistics Canada put in place several initiatives prior to the release of the 2023 crime statistics. These initiatives were intended to provide more information and ensure greater awareness among the media, municipalities, communities and users in general of how the CSI is calculated, how it is to be used, and the context users should consider when using this metric. Additionally, the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics determined it would no longer be producing a ranked list of police services according to CSI values, which was a point of advocacy from several communities in Canada at the time.
- Two items that had been referred to the committee were explored. First, a report titled, "Illicit Drug Decriminalization Changes" was received for information. The report explained that an exemption under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act had become effective in January 2023, related to personal possession of certain controlled substances in the province of British Columbia. The pilot project was planned to be in effect until January 31, 2026, and two amendments to this initial exemption were made in September 2023 and May 2024.
- The Committee also reviewed a referral from Council regarding a new liquor primary license proposed for an address on 3rd Avenue before receiving the report for information.

## June 2024

- At the June committee meeting a delegation was received from the Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society. In response the committee referred to Administration to return a report at the following meeting, identifying potential locations for food distribution services to vulnerable populations and options for long and short-term increased security in the downtown area. A second delegation from a community member, Brad Gustafson, was also received titled, “a foundational framework for building society”.
- Continuing with orientation the Committee received a presentation regarding municipal meeting protocols and a presentation regarding Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and its application to volunteers of Council Committees in relation to their work on the Committee.
- Following discussion, the Committee requested that downtown security cameras systems be included on the next agenda for conversation.



## July 2024

- A delegation from a community member, Garrett Dobson, on the topic of “Public Safety and Homelessness Issues in the Downtown Core” was received.
- Following discussion regarding the merits and considerations of downtown camera usage the Committee motioned that staff provide a report to Council to discuss subsidies and financial support for the existing CCTV Registration Program.
- A follow-up report on the June IMSS delegation was provided and received for information. The report explained the Local Area Service (LAS) process in response to the request that

additional security resources be deployed downtown. Specifically, it was shared that an LAS project is a neighbourhood improvement paid for by the owners of the benefiting properties in order to deliver specific engineering infrastructure or other services. Typical services accommodated under the LAS program are curb and gutters, sidewalks, streetlights, water mains, storm sewers or sanitary sewers. However, initial review suggests security could be contemplated under such an agreement.

- An LAS project can be initiated either by petition or by Council initiative and must be approved by the benefiting properties and City Council. LAS projects are carried out on actual cost basis, which is determined at the completion of the project. The individual property's share is determined and then added to the property tax. In the usual process, to initiate an LAS project, property owners who would be affected by the project can complete and submit an LAS Expression of Interest form.
- Looking at the LAS system as a model, additional contracted security in the downtown may be able to be facilitated through a similar program where benefiting business could split the cost of the service and have a group (like the City, or an appropriate association) hold the contract with the service provider.
- The report also provided information on food services in the downtown and the City's ongoing engagement in support of social issues.
- The Committee Work Plan for 2024 and Proposed Action Plan was raised and postponed for further conversation in August.
- The Committee directed administration to provide a report at the following meeting detailing background information, options for grants, and training opportunities for Neighbourhood Watches. The Committee also received a verbal report on RCMP and Bylaw Crime files from staff and Superintendent Shaun Wright.
- Conversation ensued regarding collaboration with the Downtown Business Improvement Association (DBIA) commonly referred to as Downtown Prince Georger (DPG) and the committee regarding ideas for improvements in public safety.





## August 2024

- A delegation from a community member, John Greco, was received on the topic of parking.
- Additional conversation on the Crime Severity Index was held. Updates on advocacy occurring from multiple municipalities to Statistics Canada were shared. Specifically, that the 2023 Crime Severity Index was released and no longer contained CSI rankings for communities with populations of 10,000 and 100,000 or more. Also, references in the index, which indicated that the Crime Severity Index should be used as the measure of a community's overall safety had been removed.
- The proposed Committee Work Plan was discussed and adopted with minor amendments.

## September 2024

- A delegation was received from the BC First Nations Justice Council on the topic of the groups Diversion Pilot Program as well as an overview of the BC First Nations Justice Council's work and purpose.
- The Committee received a report on common file types and calls for service actioned by work units within protective services, namely fire and bylaw. The committee referred this report to Council for information and shared their desire to have the "Who to Call" and "When to Call" information sheets made available through the DBIA to be more widely distributed.
- The Committee received a report on release procedures used by BC Corrections. Following the report, which was based on publicly available information, a motion was made to invite

representatives from the Prince George Regional Correction Centre to provide a delegation to the Committee, regarding release procedures, to further explore the topic.

- Conversation related to RCMP and Bylaw collaboration and roles ensued following a report on the subject.
- The Committee discussed a Security Camera Pilot Program Proposal by the Prince George Downtown Business Improvement Association and the Prince George Chamber of Commerce and referred the topic to Council for consideration. The Committee also directed that this referral provide information to Council on potential funding sources, obstacles and opportunities, as well as the feasibility of using a Partnering Agreement to deliver the program in relation to the Security Camera Pilot Program.



## October 2024

- A report providing an overview of the City of Prince George Outreach Program, housed at the time within Bylaw Services, was received. A related report with an inventory of non-government organizations that provide outreach services was received and referred to Council for information. Also, a report on the Downtown Safety Hub and coordination between outreach services was received.
- A Community Policing/Block Watch Supplemental Report was presented. The Committee then directed Administration to discuss with the RCMP opportunities that the City of Prince George can promote the RCMP Community Policing's Block Watch and Citizens on Patrol programs and to return a report to the Committee on possible actions.



## November 2024

- A report on options related to overnight patrols was received. The Committee discussed the value of a map depicting the area described and directed Administration to prepare an overhead map for reference at future Committee meetings of the area. There was also specific direction to include labels/identification of the City Parkades. This map was made available at the following meeting.
- A report on service levels provided by the PG Fire Rescue Service was received.

## December 2024

- The Committee held space for engagement with the Officer in Command (OIC) of the Prince George RCMP Detachment and were provided with a presentation from the OIC and Cpl. Jennifer Cooper regarding RCMP Body-worn Cameras.
- The Committee Work Plan was approved for 2025.

## January 2025

- A report on the topic of street lighting was presented. The Committee directed Administration to collaborate with DPG to explore opportunities for improving street lighting in the downtown area.
- The Committee also referred the consideration of advocacy opportunities seeking improved lighting along highway corridors through Prince George, including Highway 97N (Hart Highway) and Highway 16E (1st Avenue), to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs.

## February 2025

- Discussion on vacant buildings ensued following a report on the subject. The Committee directed Administration to return a report to the Committee outlining options to enhance beautification efforts regarding vacant buildings and property, including the possibility of allocating a percentage of proceeds from the Development Permit application process to support beautification projects.
- The Committee also directed Administration to return a report to the Committee outlining options to strengthen regulations for vacant buildings, including the potential requirement for installing monitored security alarm systems.
- The Committee discussed the 2025 work plan and directed staff to solicit presentations from St. Vincent de Paul Society, BC Housing; and the Peer Assisted Care Team (PACT) Program to help advance committee business. PACT had since been renamed CRCL.
- The Committee discussed the option of conducting outreach, such as a survey, to community members for input on the topic of public safety and the work plan.
- Discussion regarding a proposed report to Council on the work conducted thus far by the Committee was held.



## March 2025

- A report on options to increase overnight patrols was received.
- A handout from the Executive Director of Downtown Prince George was reviewed regarding the Securing Small Business Rebates and the Committee recommended to Council that a letter to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, with a copy to all City of Prince George Members of the Legislative Assembly, be sent, requesting that the Securing Small Business Rebate Program funding be renewed.



## April 2025

- A delegation from the Save on Foods Store #2266 (Pine Centre) Manager was received. They provided a verbal presentation noting concerns regarding retail theft and the increasing complexity related to recurring thefts.
- A report on the promotion of Block Watch and Citizens on Patrol programs was received. The Committee referred the staff report to a future regular Council meeting for consideration on opportunities to promote the programs.

## May 2025

- A delegation from BC Housing and Connective was received. BC Housing provided a PowerPoint presentation as an update on operations at 3rd Avenue and Victoria Street including information on the delivery of HEART & HEARTH in Prince George, community safety, and coordinated access and assessment. Connective provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the supportive and transitional housing work that Connective supports in Prince George. These presentations were referred to a regular Council meeting for information.
- The Committee also directed Administration to return a report to the Committee on the application of the “City of Prince George Nuisance Abatement and Cost Recovery Bylaw No. 8940, 2018” to non-profit organizations. A formal report on the topic is pending currently. However, it is staffs understanding that the Nuisance Abatement and Cost Recovery Bylaw is applicable to all manners of property including residential, commercial and institutional so long as the criterion of the bylaw is met.



## June 2025

- A delegation from CRCL (an acronym standing for Crisis Response Community Led) presented on their program, a service under the umbrella of the Native Friendship Centre, via a presentation to the committee on the Peer Assisted Care model—a mobile crisis response service that supports individuals, families, and communities during mental health or substance use crises.
- A delegation from St. Vincent de Paul was received, they delivered a presentation highlighting St. Vincent de Paul's key programs including a thrift store, soup kitchen, and food hamper services. They also reported a rise in the number of individuals seeking support and stressed the increasing need for funding, volunteers, and donations to meet growing demand.
- A delegation from the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre delivered a presentation on the "Providers Working Together" initiative at Prince George Regional Correctional Centre. The presentation highlighted coordinated support systems that begin at the point of incarceration and continue through reintegration into the community.
- The Committee held conversations on several items of interest including the downtown video camera initiatives, downtown security patrols, vacant lots/buildings, provincial secure care initiative, and housing and related supports.

## August 2025

- Following receipt of correspondence, which included an invitation to upcoming Block Watch events, the Committee recommended to Council to support the Block Watch events with a financial contribution of up to \$7500 from the Council Contingency fund. The Committee also directed Administration to provide a report to the Committee following the Block Watch events including information on expenditures, participation, and feedback received from participants.
- A committee member submission was reviewed which included the topics of the City of Prince George Safe Streets Bylaw No. 9209, 2021, Bylaws related to Alarm Systems and False Alarms. Following conversation, it was motioned that the Committee direct Administration to return a report to the Committee regarding statistics of false alarm calls received by the City from January 2024 to the time of the motion.
- On the topic of the “Security Camera Pilot Program Agreement between the City of Prince George and Prince George Downtown Business Improvement Association”, the DPG Executive Director, provided a verbal update regarding the status of the program.
- The Committee revisited the topic of surveys, as well as “Provincial and Federal Government Drug Policies”, “Busking Opportunities in the Downtown”, “Broken Windows Theory in C1 Zone” and deferred these subjects for consideration at a future meeting.
- A report on “Vacant Premise and Related Subjects” was received by the committee. As well, a submission from a member of the public, a document titled, “Crime / Incivilities Harms Prevention and Reduction” was received as correspondence.

## September 2025

- Topics from the previous meeting were revisited including “Provincial and Federal Government Drug Policies” and “Busking Opportunities in the Downtown”. On the subject of the “Broken Windows Theory in the C1 Zone”, the Committee directed Administration to return a report to the Committee regarding options and costs to remediate graffiti in downtown Prince George.
- Revisiting a submission from a Committee Member conversation on the City of Prince George Safe Streets Bylaw ensued. The Committee discussed amending the Safe Streets Bylaw to include less legal jargon. Administration offered to review the eight bullet points under prohibition to receive the committee’s feedback on how to alternatively frame those items. As an outcome of the conversation, the Committee recommended to Council to direct Administration to research Bylaw 018-2024 from the Town of Cobourg and report back to

Council on aspects of that Bylaw that the City would be able to accomplish. This work is planned for 2026.

- Committee surveys were raised but deferred for consideration to a future committee meeting, as were, “Provincial and Federal Government Drug Policies” and “Busking Opportunities in the Downtown”.
- A verbal presentation from the owner of Crossroads Brewing & Distillery, which was recently lost to a fire, was received by the Committee. The owner was invited to provide a letter for Council, sharing their experiences as a downtown business owner and highlighting the ongoing safety concerns affecting their business, staff, and patrons, with the intent that Council share this letter with relevant provincial ministries for consideration during the Union of BC Municipalities convention.
- On the topic of “Vacant Premise and Related Subjects” the Committee directed Administration to return a report to Council on options to strengthen regulations for vacant premises, including consideration of monitored alarm systems.
- On the topic of Local Area Service agreements, and the possibility of this option being used to support overnight security patrols of the Downtown C1 zone and east of Queensway, the Committee directed staff to share a report with Council by the end of December 2025.
- The Committee also received and chose to refer correspondence from the Executive Director of Downtown Prince George, regarding the Security Camera Pilot Project for inclusion as an agenda item at the upcoming regular Council meeting.



## October 2025

- The Committee discussed the previous submission regarding “Provincial and Federal Government Drug Policies” and “Busking Opportunities in the Downtown”.
- On the topic of “Graffiti Remediation Options”, the Committee received a report and provided a recommendation to Council to proceed with a grant program that would incorporate graffiti removal and other Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design related projects.
- The information requested regarding the volume of false alarms actioned by the RCMP and Prince George Fire Rescue was received.
- The follow-up report on the Block Watch Events was received for information.
- The Committee held conversation on opportunities for indigenous input into the committee, the committees Terms of Reference, interest in a report to Council to share the Committees progress, as well as the status of Community Safety Officers and how this does and doesn’t differ from Bylaw Enforcement Officers.

## December 2025

- The Committee received a delegation from Dr. Ameila Merrick and Daniel Roy on the topic of tools to increase and incentive collaboration and service delivery amongst social service agencies providing shelter and other forms of support. As a result of the presentation the Committee recommended to Council that Administration review the Permissive Tax Exemption Policy and provide options to implement the criteria set out in the “PG Hope and Health Network Code of Conduct” as discussed at the meeting.
- The Committee also reviewed and requested amendments to a draft of the Committee’s Progress Report. The committee asked that the December meeting information be added and the report forwarded onto Council for awareness.
- The Committee approved a work plan to solidify dates for the first quarter of 2026 with further discussion on agenda topics to take place at a future date.
- The Committee also referred correspondence from one of its members, and the update received from Administration, regarding the Prince George Fire Rescue Services roll out of a medical response unit to Council.



The City of Prince George  
1100 Patricia Boulevard,  
Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

[www.princegeorge.ca](http://www.princegeorge.ca)  
[311@princegeorge.ca](mailto:311@princegeorge.ca)

Telephone: 250-561-7600 or 311  
Fax: 250-561-7724