



NOTICE OF MOTION

DATE: April 17th, 2026
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Councillors Kyle Sampson, Brian Skakun, & Cori Ramsay
SUBJECT: Enhanced Parking Accessibility for Seniors & Harry Loder Park

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council **DIRECTS** Administration to undertake the necessary planning work to create additional parking space adjacent to the outdoor basketball court at Harry Loder Park, as generally identified in the attached image, with the intent of increasing parking capacity for seniors accessing adjacent resources, and other park users; and further that administration report back to Council with all options and considerations in time for Council's consideration as part of the 2027 Financial Plan and Capital Plan budget deliberations.
2. And that Council **DIRECTS** Administration to engage with Northern Health Authority leadership to explore potential cost sharing opportunities for the project, recognizing existing parking capacity challenges associated with Rainbow Lodge and its tenant, Spruce Capital Seniors, and that considerations be included in the report presented for budget consideration.

DISCUSSION:

Seniors are an incredibly important part of our community, and ensuring they are able to safely and reasonably access recreational and social opportunities and services is critical to supporting overall health, wellbeing, and quality of life. Opportunities for light physical activity, social connection, and time outdoors are strongly linked to positive physical and mental health outcomes, particularly for older adults.

Right now, the parking situation in this area has proven to be inadequate. Seniors accessing the Spruce Capital Seniors Centre are often required to park on surrounding streets and walk down a steep driveway in order to attend the centre due to parking being consumed by staff and guests of the Rainbow Lodge. This presents mobility challenges and safety concerns, particularly during winter conditions or for those using walkers or other mobility aids.

Additionally, Harry Loder Park itself currently offers limited formal parking despite providing several recreational amenities, including a baseball diamond, outdoor basketball court, and open green space. The lack of parking limits the ability for many residents to comfortably utilize this public amenity.

Developing additional parking in the identified location would help address overlapping needs:

- Improve accessibility for seniors accessing nearby recreational services
- Provide functional parking capacity for users of Harry Loder Park amenities
- Reduce spillover parking pressures onto neighbouring residential streets
- Improve safety by reducing the need for pedestrians, particularly seniors to navigate steep terrain
- Support inclusive access to public recreation space for residents of all ages and mobility levels

The intent of the motion is not to pre-determine construction, but to direct Administration to review feasibility, design considerations, cost implications, and potential partnership opportunities. Given the proximity of Northern Health operated facilities, and that the Seniors Centre is within their facility, there may be opportunity for collaboration or shared investment, recognizing that parking pressures are impacting both healthcare related uses, the senior tenants in their building, and park users in this area. It is crucial that this new parking lot have an appropriate number of designated Accessible Parking stalls.

Exploring partnership opportunities with Northern Health Authority may allow the City to advance a practical accessibility improvement while distributing the cost among all potential users of the space.

Ultimately, this motion is about improving accessibility, supporting seniors, and ensuring that one of our neighbourhood parks is more usable for the broader community. Small infrastructure improvements like this can have a meaningful impact on day to day quality of life for residents who rely on nearby amenities and services.

We have heard from residents, including seniors, that the current parking situation presents accessibility challenges. Improving accessibility for seniors supports Council's broader goal of ensuring Prince George remains an age-friendly community where residents can remain active and independent for as long as possible; and this is a practical improvement that could contribute towards Councils strategic goals.

It is intended that this motion be considered by Council at the May 11th Regular Council Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Councillor Kyle Sampson



Councillor Brian Skakun



Councillor Cori Ramsay

Attachment – Location of Proposed New Parking:

