

Date: April 29, 2026
To: Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
Name and title: Councillor Garth Frizzell, Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
Subject: Endorsement of Dawson Creek Mental Health Accord Letter
Attachment(s): 1. Joint Advocacy Letter from Dawson Creek

Recommendation(s):

That the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs:

1. RECOMMENDS that Council endorse the letter from the City of Dawson Creek regarding the Request for an Independent Expert Led Review of Universal Mental Health Care in British Columbia; and
2. AUTHORIZES the Mayor to co-sign the letter on behalf of Council.

Purpose:

This report supports discussions to endorse the joint advocacy letter from the City of Dawson Creek regarding mental health care.

Background:

This request is being brought forward in the wake of the February 10, 2026, tragedy in Tumbler Ridge, where nine lives were lost and several others were injured in one of the deadliest school shootings in Canadian history.

The City of Dawson Creek is proposing an independent expert led review to examine the feasibility and design of universal, publicly funded mental health care in British Columbia, which would contribute meaningfully to long term system sustainability and equitable access for all British Columbians, regardless of geography or socioeconomic status. The letter is attached for reference.

Strategic Priorities:

This aligns with councils' strategic priority to support social health and well-being.

Summary and conclusion:

The Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs recommends that Council endorse the City of Dawson Creek's letter requesting an independent expert-led review of universal mental health care in British Columbia and authorize the Mayor to co-sign the letter on behalf of Council. Endorsing the letter would demonstrate Council's support for collaborative intermunicipal advocacy and efforts to improve mental health outcomes for residents across British Columbia.

Respectfully submitted:

Councillor Garth Frizzell, Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

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Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2026/05/08

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