

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: August 16, 2021

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Adam Davey, Director of Community Services & Public Safety

SUBJECT: Reopening of the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report titled, "Reopening of the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre," dated August 16, 2021, from the Director of Community Services & Public Safety.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the reopening of the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre (PGCCC).

BACKGROUND:

At the June 28 Regular Council Meeting, a resumption of indoor recreation services was approved. As the PGCCC is currently being used as Northern Health's mass vaccination clinic, a reopening date for the PGCCC was then unknown. Following the ongoing success of the vaccine campaign, we can now announce **November 1** as the tentative reopening date for the PGCCC. However, it should be noted that this is subject to change depending on the overall Covid situation, and is at the prerogative of Northern Health. Further, the Province is scheduled to enter phase 4 ("return to normal") of the Provincial Restart Plan not before September 7. If this is delayed, it may affect the civic centre's reopening plans. In other words, this plan is subject to change and the City – and our customers – ought to remain flexible and adapt to the changing situation.

The City will now begin to take bookings for November 1 onward. Interested customers may book the facility online at <https://www.princegeorgeciviccentre.ca/en/index.aspx> or by calling **311** (the civic centre's main phone line, **250-561-7723**, will not be staffed until late September). The City will provide regular updates via our communications platforms on the resumption of services at the PGCCC, based upon Northern Health's mass vaccination clinic conclusion, Public Health Orders and the Provincial Restart Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

As presented at the June 28 Council Meeting, the estimated approximate net cost of returning all indoor recreational facilities to service for the remainder of 2021 was \$110,000. This includes the PGCCC.

See Report here: <https://pub-princegeorge.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=96ac7b4e-ce4e-49bd-be3d-913d497b405a&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=38>, Item E5

The PGCCC, on average, carries an annual operational subsidy of approximately \$750,000. In 2022, we ought to expect this to increase to the \$1M range. This is an order of magnitude approximation based upon the assumption of “fewer conferences with fewer attendees.”

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

At present, the plan is to reopen the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre for public use on November 1, 2021. Staffing levels are being ramped back up and will be on site by late September to assist client bookings. This tentative reopening date is dependent upon the completion of Northern Health’s mass vaccination clinic, and the assumption that the Province will move forward with their phase 4 (“return to normal”) on or around September 7, 2021. Regular updates shall be publicly communicated on the City’s various communications platforms.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Adam Davey, Director of Community Services & Public Safety

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: [2021/08/30]