



2023 Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023


Prepared and produced by *Corporate Services of the City of Quesnel* | Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada

The City of Quesnel is located on the traditional territory of the Lhtako Dene.



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Message from the Mayor



Council, with the guidance and support of our dedicated staff and community partners, is living up to our corporate vision - A naturally vibrant, accessible and innovative community.

Reflecting on the first year into this four year term, our 2023 Annual Report is chockablock full of so many positives! From an impressive list of completed capital projects (p. 13), to progress on our multi-faceted housing file (p. 14), to advancing economic development opportunities (p. 11), to confronting the challenges of climate change (p. 17), to the complexities of community safety and aiding our vulnerable populations with care and compassion (p. 15), our work is so demandingly different than ever before. In keeping with the spirit of our vision, we are driven to confront our challenges with care, purpose and with innovation.

In the wake of ongoing climate change threats to our vast forestry land base, Quesnel forest companies continue to seek sustainable fiber supply as they transition from a volume-based to a value-based model. We are forging ahead with acquiring our Three Rivers Community Forest license in partnership with our four neighbouring First Nations communities (p. 16).

Quesnel is front and centre, surrounded by ever-expanding, large scale mining operations that provide local employment and benefits of locally sourced goods and services. Successfully hosting our 2023 Minerals North conference brought major attention to our growing regional mining industry, with an economic impact of over \$600,000 and a financial legacy of \$84,000 for our community. Well done!

Our housing file is ever-expanding, as we welcome new residents and their families to our community. Those new residents, as well as the many wishing to continue to call Quesnel home through their retirement, are spurring new residential development demand at all levels. Although we have much work ahead, our strategic housing initiatives are paying off, with many new housing units completed, while others are under construction or are being approved. Our accessory dwelling unit (ADU) strategy, including laneway and coach houses is garnering interest of other local governments as they take notice in asking how they can do the same. As mayor, and particularly as a senior, I am often reminded of the need for increased gated community capacity. Many of our seniors, my wife and I included, wish to downsize and live out our retirement right here at home. We are also working to ensure needed supply of community-accepted assisted and supportive living accommodation for the future. We are exploring the benefits of a proposed Housing Solutions Roundtable to propose and implement a diversified range of future housing options and opportunities (p. 14).

We continue to move forward in meaningful reconciliation and partnerships with our First Nations neighbours (p. 12). Look for major new developments at Lhtako Dene Park at the confluence of our two great rivers. Another first in reconciliation is that as hosts of the Lhtako Quesnel 2024 BC Winter Games, with our community partners, we are the first of any BC Games ever to officially co-name and co-host our Games with the First Nation on whose territory we share residency.

I could go on... about how we continue to ensure viability of our airport, how good we are at attracting grant funding (\$10.9 million in 2023!), extending the life of our landfill, retaining and attracting healthcare workers, much needed Highway 97 Interconnector and road and bridge improvements, water treatment and so much more! Oh yes... our 2028 City of Quesnel Centennial year is coming up fast!

- Mayor Ron Paull

City Council | 2022 - 2026

QUESNEL CITY COUNCIL



*Back L-R: Councillor Scott Elliott, Councillor Tony Goulet, Councillor Martin Runge, Councillor Mitch Vik
Front L-R: Councillor Debra McKelvie, Mayor Ron Paull, Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg*

Mayor and Council were elected in the 2022 Local Government Election for a 4-year term to provide leadership and establish priorities for the community.

In 2023, past and present Council represented our community at the following tables

- Regular Council Meetings
- Accessibility Committee
- Financial Sustainability & Audit Standing Committee
- Policy and Bylaws Standing Committee
- Public Safety and Policing Standing Committee
- Cariboo Regional District Board
- Airport Advisory Committee
- NDIT Regional Advisory Committee
- Chamber of Commerce
- Housing Committee
- Business Improvement Associations
- North Cariboo Joint Advisory Committee
- Indigenous Partnerships

Our Vision and Mission

COMMUNITY VISION

“A naturally vibrant, accessible, and innovative community”

CORPORATE MISSION

The City of Quesnel delivers responsive, dynamic, and cost effective public services and programs which serve as the foundation for a resilient and accessible community that retains and attracts residents, visitors, and investment.

PRINCIPLES

- Sustainability in all areas of governance
- Proactive and innovative responses to transition challenges
- Open and responsive government
- Quality municipal services and infrastructure
- Indigenous Reconciliation and Relations
- Cultural diversity and heritage
- Active and livable neighbourhoods
- Economic vitality
- Environmental protection and preservation
- Community based solutions
- Public safety and security
- An accessible and inclusive community

VALUES

- Fiscal prudence
- Proactive planning
- Accountability
- Openness and transparency
- Responsiveness
- Partnerships
- Creativity and innovation
- Integrity and respect
- Fairness and inclusivity

Message from the City Manager

On behalf of Council, attached is the City of Quesnel's 2023 Annual Report. The Annual Report is a review of the past year and a chance to highlight the City's accomplishments. It is also an opportunity to outline the City's goals for the future.

Our employees continue to work to ensure our city remains a thriving community. I thank them for their dedication and effort to provide high quality services to our citizens. I would also like to thank Council for their leadership.

The City was fortunate to receive significant grant funding the last few years and in 2023 completed some needed updates and additions to our infrastructure including the renovation of Fire Hall #1, a runway rehabilitation project at the airport, and a new child care centre. The City's capital reinvestment fund was also used to fund infrastructure projects including work on Patchett street, repaving around town and various maintenance projects required in City buildings. The City continues planning work on Johnston Bridge Rebuild and water sustainability initiatives.

The City continued developing First Nation partnerships. In 2023, it was announced that Quesnel would be the first community to host a BC Games where a City and a First Nations community would partner for the Lhtako Quesnel 2024 BC Winter Games. Work continues on the community forest and in 2023 the Three Rivers Community Forest Limited Partnership was formed to continue this effort, a partnership between Lhtako Dene Nation, ?Esdilagh First Nation, Nazko First Nation, and City of Quesnel. Work continues on Lhtako Dene Park with a territorial welcome sign installed and sculptures being fabricated. In August, the Lhtako Dene Mountain Bike Festival was hosted at the Quesnel bike park, a chance to showcase the amazing trail network built behind the Arts and Recreation Centre.

The City's commitment to economic development continues. In 2023, the City hosted the Minerals North Conference, attended by 310 exhibitors and delegates which highlighted the city's hosting capacity for future events. The City continues to build relationships with the mining sector to support the success of projects in the area. Work continues to enhance the Food Hub to better support small-scale food processing and innovation. The City's Healthcare recruitment program has been funded for an additional five years. Working with local employers, the City completed a Workforce Strategy, outlining initiatives to help train, attract, and retain people to fill local workforce needs.

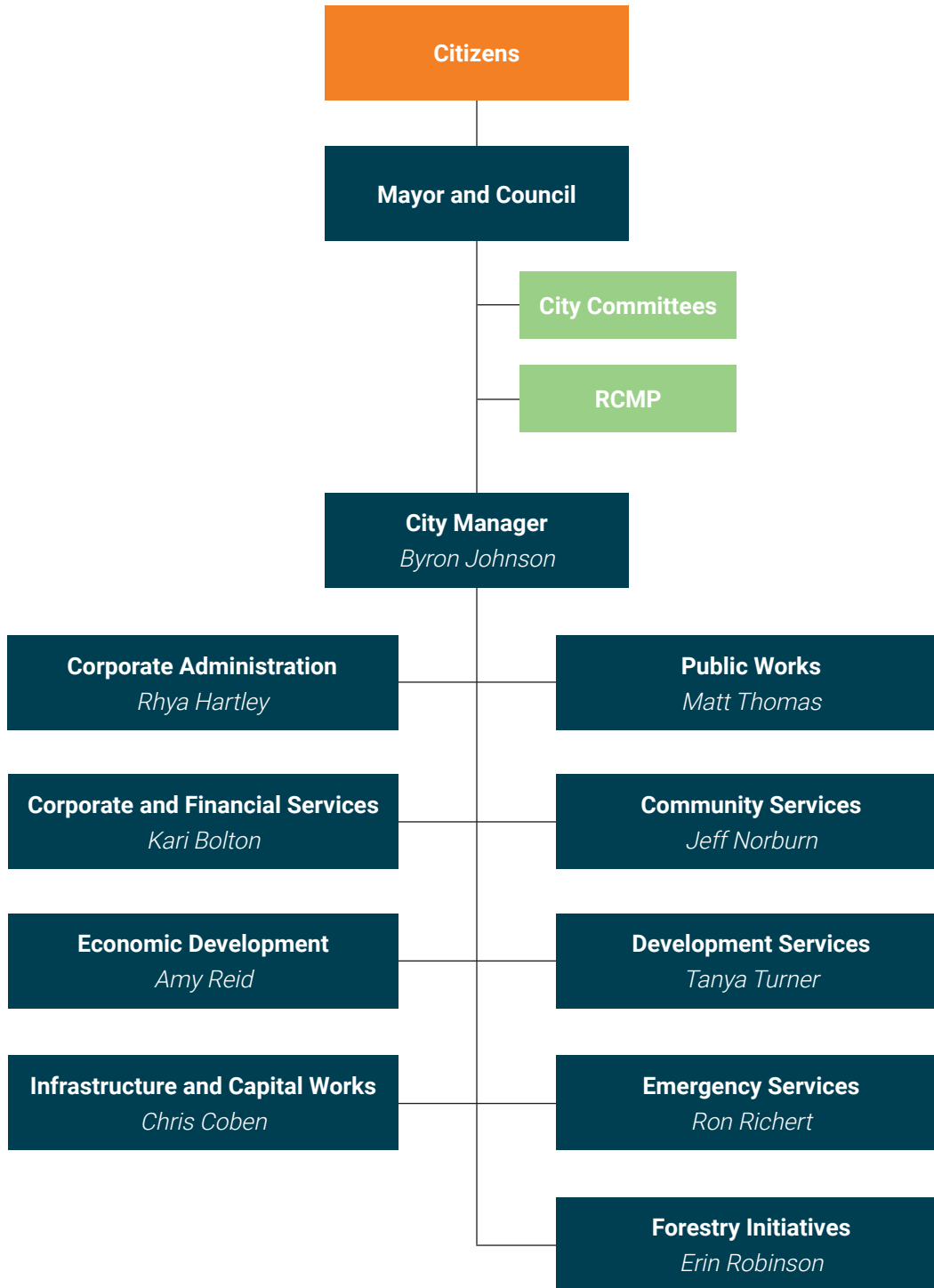
The City continues to work to facilitate the development of new housing. In 2023, the multi-unit incentive program was renewed. The City continued to promote the development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to promote density within neighbourhoods. The City is monitoring the new provincial initiatives on housing to ensure the City leverages all opportunities for additional housing.

The City recognizes the ongoing challenge of climate change and our Emergency Management team is always ready to respond when necessary. The City supports projects to reduce our carbon footprint such as updating our Active Transportation plans, looking to review our waste diversion options, exploring electric vehicles for the City's fleet and participating in a District Heating Feasibility study.

Please take the time to read this annual report and learn more about the projects and initiatives that happened in 2023 and that are planned for the future.

Deputy City Manager – Kari Bolton

Organization



City Services



Arts and Recreation*



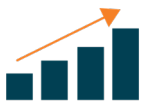
Airport



Bylaw Enforcement



Cemetery



Economic Development



Emergency Management



Fire/Rescue



Garbage and Recycling Collection



Landfill



Museum and Heritage



Parks and Playgrounds



Planning and Development



Policing



Public Transit



Snow Removal



Streets and Sidewalks



Storm water, Sewer and Water

** Funded through North Cariboo Parks and Recreation*

2023 City Stats



WATER CONSUMPTION
2022: 2.4 BILLION LITRES
2023: 2.4 BILLION LITRES



**745
FIRE
CALLS**



**BUILDING
CONSTRUCTION
VALUES**
2022: \$18,392,735
2023: \$11,645,460



**12% INCREASE IN
TRANSIT RIDERS**



**8,166 PEOPLE
ACCESSED THE
VISITOR CENTRE
VS 7,825 IN 2022.**



**BUILDING
PERMIT FEES**
2022: \$114,070
2023: \$86,600



**11% INCREASE
IN AIRLINE
PASSENGERS**



**128,500
FACEBOOK
PAGE REACH
IN 2023**



**\$10.9 MILLION
GRANT
FUNDING
RECEIVED**



PROPERTY FOLIOS
2022: 4762
2023: 4773



**INVESTED IN CITY
INFRASTRUCTURE**
2022: \$17.3 MILLION
2023: \$13.2 MILLION

BYLAW STATS

COMPLAINTS	2022	2023
Dogs	71	124
Noise	22	30
Sign	21	5
NUISANCE RESPONSES		
Unightly properties	155	111
Nuisance behaviour	725	543
TICKETS		
Municipal	3	5
Parking	313	361



2023 Highlights

Economic Development

quesnel.ca/transition

The City's Economic Development Transition Strategy includes three pillars, Destination Development, Innovative Resource Industries, and Business and Resident Attraction and Retention.

Under Destination Development, the City aims to be a community known for hosting excellent events. In 2023, Minerals North was held in Quesnel, with attendees providing positive reviews of the venue, catering, and overall community experience. The three day event held in the shoulder season is estimated to have had a net economic impact of \$610,899, and generated an \$84,000 legacy for the community.

Part of the Innovative Resource Industries pillar is strengthening the local agriculture sector. Sprout Kitchen continues to add

members, including several local producers who utilize the cold and freezer storage space. In 2023, Sprout Kitchen added a refrigerated delivery vehicle that makes trips from Williams Lake to Prince George, broadening the reach of small scale food producers and processors.

www.sproutkitchen.ca

In 2023, the City also worked closely with local employers to finalize a Workforce Strategy. The strategy will provide direction on future City initiatives to help employers attract the workforce they need in order to succeed. Largely supported by available grant funding, the City continues to market the community as a great place to visit and live through the @explorequesnel social media channels.



Sprout Kitchen's refrigerated delivery van

First Nations Partnerships

- In partnership with the Lhtako Dene Nation, and following the renaming of Ceal Tingley Park in 2022, a new park sign was installed at Lhtako Dene Park to welcome visitors to the Territory of the Lhtako Dene Nation.
- Indigenous crosswalks were installed in each of the three Business Improvement Areas (BIAs); a 20-metre crosswalk in both West Quesnel and South Quesnel and a 10-metre crosswalk in the downtown area. The BIAs funded the installation costs, and the City is responsible for the associated costs to maintain the integrity of the crosswalks.
- For the first time in the history of the BC Games, a city and a First Nations community partnered to recognize and celebrate Indigenous culture in the planning and hosting of the Games. The Lhtako Quesnel 2024 BC Winter Games planning commenced in 2023; a partnership between Lhtako Dene Nation, Cariboo Regional District, Quesnel School District and City of Quesnel.
- Through collaborative land management, the Lhtako Dene, Nazko, ?Esdilagh, and Lhoosk'uz Dené Nations, and the City of Quesnel, have proposed the Three Rivers Community Forest. In 2023, an application was submitted through the provincial government Community Forest Agreement process.



New sign at Lhtako Dene Park

Major Capital Projects

quesnel.ca/capital-projects

The City of Quesnel crews were busy in 2023 with multiple projects throughout Quesnel. Some major projects included:

- Paving
 - Vaughan St/St Laurent Ave parking lot
 - Ritchie Ave
 - Robertson Ave
 - Reynard St
 - Ryder St
 - Dyke Rd
- New sidewalks at Memorial Park
- Patchett St storm drain replacement and curb and paving upgrade
- Lhtako Dene Park Phase I & II
- Dragon Hill Reservoir replacement
- Quesnel Airport Runway Rehabilitation
- Downtown Fire Hall renovation
- New Child Care Centre construction
- LeBourdais Park shade installation
- Fraser River Footbridge landing upgrade and Riverfront Trail lighting
- Riverfront Trail - Golden Centre upgrade
- Quesnel Downtown RV Park & Campground (opened May 2023)
- Bike Park Phase II



Quesnel's downtown Fire Hall renovation

Housing Initiatives

quesnel.ca/housing-initiatives

The City of Quesnel moved forward with housing initiatives throughout 2023, to meet the strategies of the Housing Needs Assessment, Gap Analysis and Action Plan:

- In 2023, the City received many inquiries about the pre-reviewed, energy-efficient design plans for accessory dwelling units (ADUs), including other northern communities interested in adopting the plans. There were 3,197 unique visits to the design plans webpage. View the plans: quesnel.ca/adus
- With funding from Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT), the City extended the building incentives program that offers free building permits and energy audits for ADUs.
- The City obtained \$200,000 in dollars per door funding from NDIT to encourage the development of multi-unit housing.
- The City entered into an agreement with BC Housing for the provision of land for a 24-unit Women's Transition Housing facility currently in planning.
- In 2023, an approved Development Permit was issued for a 34-unit apartment on North Fraser Drive, and the City finalized the sale of land and development approvals for the construction of a 57-unit market rental apartment on Kinchant Street, next to City Hall.
- 4 permits were issued for the completion or legalization of secondary suites.
- The City responded to 11 new complaints under the Minimum Rental Standards Bylaw.



Construction of 20 units of new market rental in South Quesnel – occupancy fall 2024

Safer Quesnel

quesnel.ca/bylaw-enforcement

The City of Quesnel partnered with Northern Health in the provision of a Decriminalization Coordinator that works with community partners and reports on the impacts of decriminalization locally. The Coordinator continued to manage a clean team program, consisting of peer workers providing clean-up services to the community.

A review of services and housing options for vulnerable populations in Quesnel was completed in 2023. The next steps include strategic planning with Lhtako Dene Nation, Nazko First Nation, ?Esdilagh First Nation, and Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation to develop an action plan based on the findings.

In 2023, RCMP and Bylaw increased foot patrols downtown, and a Municipal Traffic RCMP position was created to increase focus on impaired driving, prolific driving offenses, proactive enforcement, and overall visibility in the community.

RCMP initiated conversations with First Nation partners to investigate establishing an Indigenous Restorative Justice program. The purpose of the program would be to increase Indigenous community involvement in the administration of justice and to decrease court caseloads.



Bylaw vehicle

Forestry Initiatives

quesnel.ca/forestry

The Forestry Initiatives team continued to address the forestry challenges facing our community throughout 2023. To date (2019-2023), the Forestry Initiatives Program has brought in over \$3.9 million worth of funding.

The Community Forest Agreement (CFA) initiative continued to move forward in collaboration with representatives from Lhtako Dene Nation, Nazko First Nation, ?Esdilagh First Nation, Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation, the City of Quesnel, and staff from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), and the BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA). The proposed community forest area was established and named Three Rivers Community Forest (TRCF). An application for TRCF was finalized and submitted in November 2023 through the provincial government CFA process.

To date, over 485 hectares of fuel management projects have been completed under the Quesnel and Surrounding Area Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The FireSmart team has reached an estimated 6,000 residents through community outreach to educate and encourage citizens to FireSmart their properties. In 2023, 28 FireSmart home assessments were completed, 13 FireSmart rebates were issued, and a new FireSmart campaign billboard was installed south of Quesnel.

2023 was the first year of a unique two-year pilot project using the help of goats for fuel management to reduce the threat of wildfires. 132 goats grazed on vegetation in the Fuel Management Trail system for one month.



Goats grazing on vegetation in the Fuel Management Trail system to reduce the threat of wildfires.

Climate Action

quesnel.ca/climate-action-plan

The City continued to follow the Climate Action Plan:

- Public Works continued to use trenchless technology where possible, estimating 70-90% reduction in emissions from traditional methods.
- Telematics were installed on new City vehicles. Using telematics allows the City to identify inefficient vehicles and could result in substantial fuel savings.
- Development staff continued to promote the pre-reviewed FREE building plans for accessory dwelling units that meet Step 3 energy code. quesnel.ca/adus
- Staff continued to stay informed about the BC Step Code and promoted and supported educational opportunities from the Community Energy Association and the Building Officials Association of BC.
- Development Services continued to support and encourage projects that increase density in serviced areas close to amenities, contributing to climate action objectives in the Official Community Plan.
- The City continued replacing old vehicles with new, energy efficient vehicles through its Fleet Replacement Program, including one EV vehicle.
- The Community Wildfire Protection Plan enables the reduction of carbon emissions from catastrophic wildfires.
- The City used Local Government Climate Action Program funding to advance projects in the Climate Action Plan and a small portion went towards staff hours for climate action initiatives.



The City's new electric vehicle

Grants for the City

Every year, the City applies for grants to help fund projects that would otherwise be impossible for the City to fund itself.

In 2023, the City received \$10.9 million in grant funding. This funding included regular yearly grants such as Canada Community-Building Fund, casino revenue, the small community grant, traffic fine sharing, economy capacity grant, grant writer grant, façade improvement grant and the victim services grant.

Grants supported capital projects including the Fraser River Footbridge landing upgrade and Riverfront Trail lighting, the

Riverfront Trail - Golden Centre upgrade, and the Child Care Centre.

The Forestry Initiatives Program received grants for community FireSmart initiatives, community outreach and education for disaster reduction, and fuel management on Crown lands through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The City also received \$3.217 million from the Province of BC under the Growing Communities Fund. The objective of this fund is to invest in community infrastructure and amenities.



Riverfront Trail - Golden Centre connector and lookout



2023 Strategic Plan and Measures

Housing Initiatives

	STRATEGIC ACTION	PROGRESS
1.1	Facilitate the development of new housing	
1.1.1	Review municipal best practices	Reviewed Multi-unit Incentive Program; amended bylaw and recommended continuation for an additional four years.
1.1.2	Work with local stakeholders to understand the projected job growth & housing demand growth.	Had numerous discussions with employers regarding housing need. Identified need for short-term rentals to facilitate term employees.
1.1.3	Encourage the development of vacant parcels of land within City boundaries	Master Infrastructure Plan initiated
1.1.4	Consider the development opportunities for City-owned lands.	57-unit apartment Initiated discussion with province on identifying parcel on under utilized provincial lands.
1.1.5	Consider how to encourage infill development in established neighbourhoods.	Continued to promote ADU development Extended ADU Incentives for an additional 2 years
1.2	Facilitate connected, walkable, low carbon footprint neighbourhoods.	
1.2.1	Assist with the rollout and adoption of the BC Building Code step code	Building staff participated in over 15 workshops on step-code with specific focus on its implementation in the north.
1.3	Encourage the development of innovative housing technologies	Use of Mass Timber discussed in relation to proposed large institutional project. Not financially feasible in North for smaller projects.
1.4	Work with the Province to maximize housing opportunities in Quesnel.	Participated in numerous workshops and research regarding the Homes for People 2023 Housing Plan and associated policy amendments. Initiated Housing Solutions Table

Community Development

STRATEGIC ACTION	PROGRESS
2.1 Continue to research and develop new recreation amenities, working with the Cariboo Regional District, to attract and retain residents.	A feasibility study and cost estimates for a Disc Golf Course in WFTP was completed in 2023. Feasibility study for the indoor court facility completed in 2022. Grant submitted in June 2022 for Gymnastics Facility.
2.2 Community trails development.	Pioneer Park, Kostas Cove, Claymine, Fuel Management Trail system, and WFTP saw trail development. Completed long-term maintenance plan and data collection.
2.3 Continue with Bike Park development	Expansion of Quesnel Bike Park trail systems including 4 new green trails, 2 new blue trails and 1 black trail. Lhtako Dene partnered with Gold Rush Cycling Club to host the Lhtako Dene Mountain Bike Festival.
2.4 Develop and Implement a new process for recognizing and energizing volunteers.	The Lhtako Quesnel BC Winter Games was successful in their search for over 1200 volunteers.

Community Health and Safety

STRATEGIC ACTION		PROGRESS
3.1	Emergency Services	
3.1.1	Emergency Management	Developed an Extreme Heat Plan Initiated a warming centre during the extreme cold event.
3.1.2	Increased RCMP / Bylaw enforcement	Supported expansion of the Mobile Crisis Intervention Team to full time. Bylaw staff provided education and enforcement of new temporary shelter policy.
3.1.3	Safer Quesnel Initiative	Reviewed and monitored policy and legislation updates. Redistributed the "Who Do You Call?" information brochure
3.2	Manage Homelessness / Services to Vulnerable Populations	Continued to coordinate with partnering agencies on the provision of services to vulnerable persons.
3.2.1	Manage and Participate in RFP re: Servicing and Housing Options for Vulnerable Population	Completed Quesnel Service and Housing Options Review for Vulnerable Populations
3.2.2	Determine long term sustainability for Clean Team	Partnered with Northern Health in the provision of a Decriminalization Coordinator to supervise clean team and liaise with provincial network on impacts of decriminalization.

Environmental Leadership

	STRATEGIC ACTION	PROGRESS
4.1	Complete a strategic review of landfilling and recycling practices.	
4.1.1	Working with the CRD, start planning the development of an Waste Diversion Centre facility in Quesnel.	
4.2	Local climate change strategy	Implementing aspects of Climate Action Plan using LGCAP funding. Searched for grants to implement.
4.3	Active Transportation Planning	Received grant to update Active Transportation Plan - Hired engineering consultant to complete project. Conducted public survey with interactive map.
4.4	Actively participate in the District Heating System study	

Governance

	STRATEGIC ACTION	PROGRESS
5.1	First Nations partnerships	
5.1.1	Work with Lhtako Dene Nation to find funding for Lhtako Dene Trails Master Plan.	Funding approved
5.1.2	Working with ?Esdilagh and Lhtako Dene First Nations, develop a concept for a commemorative site for the War Chiefs.	Land transfer in progress
5.1.3	Working collaboratively with FN bands, develop a permanent memorial to commemorate Residential schools.	
5.1.4	Work collaboratively with LDFN to develop Lhtako Dene Park into a park that showcases FN culture.	Site prep to clear settler artifacts. Territorial welcome signage installed and first sculptures fabricated.
5.2	Continue with the First Nation Leadership Roundtable meetings. Identify with this group how reconciliation can be meaningfully implemented at a local level.	
5.3	Succession Planning for the Corporation	New Superintendent and Supervisors in place.

Infrastructure Reinvestment

	STRATEGIC ACTION	PROGRESS
6.1	Water system sustainability initiatives.	Finalize treatment pre-design to develop to a grant-ready project and prepare for public and NH update on progress. New reservoir completed at Dragon Hill.
6.1.1	Planning for higher capacity wells to meet objectives of sustainability, population growth, and redundancy)	New well planning, design, adherence to EA exemption conditions.
6.2	Downtown Fire Hall Rebuild	Downtown Fire Hall Rebuild complete and operational.
6.3	Johnston Bridge Rebuild	City Utilities replacement design ongoing. Telus relocation design off of bridge progressing.
6.4	Continue to work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to move the Interconnector project forward.	
6.5	Upgrading of RCMP building	Work continued on potential options for a renovation to the RCMP building to meet needs outlined in space needs analysis.
6.6	Develop long range plan for Moffat Bridge	
6.7	Secondary Sewage treatment long range planning	Revisited initial study with consideration of additional land requirements.
6.8	Review funding for capital replacements with consideration for the addition of buildings upgrades from reserves, and the additional new infrastructure that has been added.	Received funding for Infrastructure Master Plan.
6.9	Review the fleet replacement plan.	Review completed

Economic Development & Transition Planning

STRATEGIC ACTION		PROGRESS
7.1	Destination Development	Participated in CCCTA Destination Development Strategy review for Gold Rush Trail
7.1.1	Ensure the regional MRDT is working effectively for Quesnel and area.	Cooperative marketing program continued. Applied in 2023 and received funding support through CCCTMA MRDT for 2024 Consumer Show, Explore Cariboo project, and BC Games promotion.
7.1.2	Trail Marketing	Trail map update and bike park/rentals promotion started. Photography assets acquired from bike park.
7.1.3	Focus on Economic Development through hosting events and tournaments	Minerals North was successfully hosted with \$84,000 surplus. Support provided throughout planning of Lhtako Quesnel 2024 BC Winter Games.
7.1.4	Plan waterfront development including First Nations Cultural Centre	RV Park digital marketing and print campaigns started. Photography assets acquired of RV Park.
7.1.5	Wayfinding	Interpretive sign installation complete.
7.2	Innovative Resource Industries	
7.2.1	Agriculture sector development	HAACP-ready business case completed. Grant funding sought for improvements.
7.2.2	Mining Sector	Continued participation in Blackwater Community Liaison Committee meetings. Met with Osisko regarding workforce needs.
7.3	Resident & Investment Retention and Attraction	
7.3.1	City brand development	Visitor Guide content changes approved, with updates to occur in 2024. Funding sought to modernize Community Profile to a digital platform.
7.3.2	Business Retention, Expansion, and Attraction	Workforce Strategy completed; applied for funding for implementation. Love Quesnel transferred to City of Quesnel following input from the business community. Continued participation in PNP Entrepreneur Immigration Regional Pilot.
7.3.3	Health Care Recruitment	Received 5 year renewal of funding for Healthcare Recruitment Program.
7.4	Update the Economic Development strategy	Applied for funding to complete this update.

Forestry Initiatives

	STRATEGIC ACTION	PROGRESS
8.1	Community Forest	Management Board established. Application submitted in November 2023.
8.2	Community Wildfire Protection Plan and FireSmart	Four fuel management prescriptions completed and three fuel management projects actioned. Community Wildfire Roundtable set up in Quesnel with participants from First Nation governments, CRD, MoF, BCWS, industry, Parks, Rec Sites and Trails and local volunteer fire departments.
8.3	Landscape Management and Ecosystem Restoration	City participated in Forestry Landscape Planning Table and was the co-chair of the Public Advisory Group, and a member on the Wildfire Technical Working Group. Continued our work with national research project, Silva21, with 12 forestry projects based in the Quesnel area. The Forestry Innovation Centre hosted researchers from UofA, Carlton and UBC. One peer-reviewed co-authored journal article was published.
8.4	Labour Force re-development	Hosted third Future of Forestry Think Tank. City signed an MOU with North Karelia Finland to advance the sustainable development in forest management and forest bioeconomy, knowledge exchange, research and innovation and positioning Quesnel as a training hub for alternate forest management.
8.5	Manufacturing analysis and business case development	Participated in the Biomass Scoping project workshop hosted by Lhtako and Nazko. Partnered with West Fraser on a District Heating feasibility study. Collaborated with Three Rivers Community Forest on the Bioeconomy Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone investment risk rating project. Worked with West Fraser Mills on advocacy for moving the Lignin plant to Quesnel.



2024 Strategic Plan

Housing Initiatives

	STRATEGIC ACTION	2024 GOALS	FUTURE GOALS
1.1	Facilitate the development of new housing		
1.1.1	Review municipal best practices	Continue to market Multi-unit Incentive Program. Develop and propose a downtown revitalization plan. Actively seek out and identify opportunities to utilize under utilized properties.	Review the Multi-unit Incentives Program to determine its effectiveness; Identify new programs to renovate buildings in the downtown for additional housing. Review density housing policies to encourage higher density developments.
1.1.2	Work with local stakeholders to understand the projected job growth & housing demand growth	Develop Workforce Housing Development Package Link employers to housing projects in development in the community.	Continue to encourage community employers to communicate housing needs that can be shared with prospective developers. Develop a workforce housing strategy.
1.1.3	Encourage the development of vacant parcels of land within City boundaries	Have draft Master Infrastructure Plan completed.	Coordinate the recommendations of the Master Infrastructure Plan with Capital Planning and land use goals and targets.
1.1.4	Consider the development opportunities for City-owned lands	Continue to identify lands for additional developments.	Look for opportunities on other city parcels. Work with Province on lands inventory.
1.1.5	Consider how to encourage infill development in established neighbourhoods	Identify opportunities to promote ADUs under the SSMUH roll out.	Following Infrastructure master plan identify additional opportunities to encourage densification of underutilized properties on services (i.e. subdivision of large lots).
1.2	Facilitate connected, walkable, low carbon footprint neighbourhoods	Carry out a complete communities assessment process.	Utilize complete communities planning based on housing needs assessment in development of Official Community Plan.
1.2.1	Assist with the roll-out and adoption of the BC Building Code step code	Building Inspector to provide update report to Council on the Building Code Changes and Step Code.	Actively participate in the Step Code rollout and engage local building industry on Step Code training.
1.3	Encourage the development of innovative housing technologies	Monitor progress on financial feasibility of Mass Timber.	Continue to monitor the progression of housing technologies and their applicability in our area.
1.4	Work with the Province to maximize housing opportunities in Quesnel	Complete SSMUH zoning amendment by June 2024. Update Housing Needs Report by end of Dec 2024. Initiate OCP update required for Dec 31, 2025.	Continue to partner with the province in the establishment of needed housing in the community including development of a Womens Transition Facility, new supportive housing and additional affordable housing units.

Community Development

	STRATEGIC ACTION	2024 GOALS	FUTURE GOALS
2.1	Continue to research and develop new recreation amenities, working with the Regional District, to attract and retain residents	Continue seeking funding sources, then build.	Continue seeking funding sources, then build.
2.2	Community trails development	Completion of WFTP trail development, including feasibility planning for link between WFTP and Rec Centre. Completion of Pioneer Park, Quesnel Bike Park, and WFTP trail development. Long-term solution for trail maintenance and data collection.	Implement projects identified in Trails Report and Strategy. Continue collaborating with Gold Rush Cycling Club on projects and events.
2.3	Continue with Quesnel Bike Park development	Completion of Phase 3, including two black trails, mini kiosks in skills area, map updates, and increasing amenities (tools stand, bike wash station, etc).	Determine next development and expansion plan for Bike Park.
2.4	Develop and Implement a new process for recognizing and energizing volunteers	Review any learnings from the Lhtako Quesnel BC Winter Games.	Develop and Implement a new process for recognizing and energizing volunteers.

Community Health and Safety

	STRATEGIC ACTION	2024 GOALS	FUTURE GOALS
3.1	Emergency Services		
3.1.1	Emergency Management	Host Emergency Operations Centre Training for staff and an Emergency Table Top with community partners to strengthen coordination and communications in emergency management.	Conduct Additional Training with a focus on strengthening communication and collaboration with the region (Cariboo Regional District, First Nations, and other Community Partners).
3.1.2	Increased RCMP / Bylaw enforcement	Stay informed on proposed amendments to Police Act to determine opportunities and options for the City.	Identify new crime prevention initiatives. Stay informed on proposed amendments to Police Act to determine opportunities and options for the City.
3.1.3	Safer Quesnel Initiative	Continue to encourage public to report.	Review Safer Initiatives. Continue to promote Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
3.2	Manage Homelessness / Services to Vulnerable Populations	Work with BC Housing in the development of new supportive housing.	Update Safer Quesnel initiatives.
3.2.1	Manage and Participate in RFP re: Servicing and Housing Options for Vulnerable Population	Consult with stakeholders and partnering agencies on reviews recommendations.	Work with community partners in implementing the plans recommendations for vulnerable populations for Housing and Services.
3.2.2	Determine long term sustainability for Clean Team	Assess Clean Team needs due to declining needle usage as consumption moves to inhalation and evaluate continuation of program with Northern Health.	Continue to work with Northern Health and the Province to encourage funding for dealing with impacts of drug use in community.

Environmental Leadership

	STRATEGIC ACTION	2024 GOALS	FUTURE GOALS
4.1	Complete a strategic review of landfilling and recycling practices	Update to Landfill Strategic Plan in 2024.	Continue with landfill berm construction to extend life of landfill.
4.1.1	Working with the CRD, start planning the development of an Waste Diversion Centre facility in Quesnel	Secure site for potential Waste Diversion Centre.	Working with the CRD, start planning the development of an Waste Diversion Centre facility in Quesnel.
4.2	Local climate change strategy	Conduct a Community EV Charging Network Plan. Apply for GHG Reduction Feasibility grant for a portfolio of community buildings. Continue projects identified in Climate Action Plan.	Complete a Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment. Update Climate Action Plan.
4.3	Active Transportation Planning	Complete Active Transportation Plan Update and Expansion. Apply for active transportation infrastructure grant. Increase use of active transportation network.	Source funding and implement priority projects from revised plan. Increase use of active transportation networks through marketing and/or programming.
4.4	Actively participate in the District Heating System study	Review feasibility work.	If this project is feasible, determine funding, ownership, construction timelines, etc. Lobby funding partners.

Governance

	STRATEGIC ACTION	2024 GOALS	FUTURE GOALS
5.1	First Nations partnerships	The Lhtako Cultural Centre project is waiting for funding to proceed.	The Lhtako Cultural Centre project is waiting for funding to proceed.
5.1.1	Work with Lhtako Dene Nation to find funding for Lhtako Dene Trails Master Plan	Assist Lhtako Dene with completion of Lhtako Dene Trails Master Plan	Assist Lhtako Dene with implementing projects from Master Plan, pending funding.
5.1.2	Working with Tsilhqot'in National Government and Lhtako Dene First Nations to develop a concept for a commemorative site for the War Chiefs	Revisit design with Tsilhqot'in National Government. Find funding for project.	Finalize design and seek funding, then complete construction.
5.1.3	Working collaboratively with FN bands, develop a permanent memorial to commemorate Residential schools	Seeks funding for project build, potentially on a phased basis.	Seeks funding for project build, potentially on a phased basis.
5.1.4	Work collaboratively with LDFN to develop Lhtako Dene Park into a park that showcases FN culture	Sculptures to be installed. Native perennial planting complete. Monuments, benches and large interpretive signs fabricated and installed.	Continue development as planned build out.
5.2	Continue with the First Nation Leadership Roundtable meetings. Identify with this group how reconciliation can be meaningfully implemented at a local level	Continue to build closer working relationships with local Chiefs, Council, managers, and Elders. Continue with Roundtable meetings with local Chiefs and Council appointed Indigenous Liaison.	Continue to develop closer working relationships with local band chiefs and managers. Continue with Roundtable meetings and progress reconciliation initiatives and projects.
5.3	Succession Planning for the Corporation	Succession Plan for Director of Public Works Operations.	Hiring of skilled employees and mid-level to senior managers continues to be very challenging.

Infrastructure Reinvestment

	STRATEGIC ACTION	2024 GOALS	FUTURE GOALS
6.1	Water system sustainability initiatives	Update treatment costs based upon final pre-design and present to public.	Seek funding, construct when financially feasible.
6.1.1	Planning for higher capacity wells to meet objectives of sustainability, population growth, and redundancy)	Drill new well at Baker Dr. site.	
6.2	Downtown Fire Hall Rebuild	N/A - Project Complete.	N/A - Project Complete.
6.3	Johnston Bridge Rebuild	Telus to move fibre infrastructure off of bridge so bridge repairs can proceed. Complete City utility crossing under CN Rail to prepare for bridge crossing renewal.	Construction of upgrades to the bridge.
6.4	Continue to work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to move the Interconnector project forward		Continue to work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to move the Interconnector project forward.
6.5	Upgrading of RCMP building	Complete Study and Conceptual Designs and Present to Council for Consideration.	Determine funding for upgrades needed, plan and implement the upgrading.
6.6	Develop long range plan for Moffat Bridge		Work with the Province regarding the Moffat Bridge including, funding strategy for replacement and/or major upgrades, development to Province, etc.
6.7	Secondary Sewage treatment long range planning		Risk manage - unfunded liability.
6.8	Review funding for capital replacements with consideration for the addition of buildings upgrades from reserves, and the additional new infrastructure that has been added	Complete infrastructure master plan which will include project descriptions & estimates for existing and future improvements to infrastructure systems and projects that City could prioritize to encourage investment.	Once the Infrastructure Master Plan is completed, update the 20 year Capital Plan and projects to be funded through development cost charges to determine future required funding.
6.9	Review the fleet replacement plan	Continue with fleet replacement plan update of equipment.	2028 is final year of plan. Assess prior for creation of plan renewal.

Economic Development & Transition Planning

	STRATEGIC ACTION	2024 GOALS	FUTURE GOALS
7.1	Destination Development	Develop Hotel Revitalization Tax Exemption to encourage new hotel development/renovation	Consider developing a Quesnel Tourism Plan or North Cariboo Destination Development Plan.
7.1.1	Ensure the regional MRDT is working effectively for Quesnel and area.	Work with CCCTMA on Mountain Biking video project.	Monitor success of CCCTMA MRDT up to renewal in 2027.
7.1.2	Trail Marketing	Complete trail map update; complete bike park/ rentals promotion with funding support from NDIT. Bring mountain biking influencer to Quesnel.	Continue to promote trails as a reason to visit/move to Quesnel.
7.1.3	Focus on Economic Development through hosting events and tournaments	Host a successful BC Winter Games; targeted campaign to attract visitors back to Quesnel during Games. Develop bid packages for future events in Quesnel.	Continue to seek hosting opportunities that will positively impact Quesnel. Consider best practices in supporting external organizations to host events in Quesnel.
7.1.4	Plan waterfront development including First Nations Cultural Centre	Complete RV Park promotion with funding support from NDIT.	Revisit Waterfront Plan with Council to determine next priorities.
7.1.5	Wayfinding	Update vehicular wayfinding signs to new assets. Work with Museum Manager to complete update of kiosk signage and historical walking tour signs.	Maintain wayfinding signs and update as new destinations arise.
7.2	Innovative Resource Industries		
7.2.1	Agriculture sector development	Explore purchase of the Food Hub building. Continue to seek funding to support operations and facility expansion.	Continue to support Food Hub.
7.2.2	Mining Sector	Continue to build relationship with Artemis and Osisko Development Corporation.	Work to maximize the local economic impact of mines in the region.
7.3	Resident & Investment Retention and Attraction		
7.3.1	City brand development	Update Visitor Guide in accordance with approved changes. Implement digital Community Profile.	Continue to ensure brand guidelines are met; Consider brand audit and updating brand communication matrix in 2027 (10 years).
7.3.2	Business Retention, Expansion, and Attraction	Implement new business communication tool; Complete BRE Survey development and implementation. Implement revamped Love Quesnel program. Continue to engage with PNP program.	Utilize new business communication tool to keep business community apprised of various programs, opportunities to provide feedback. Continue implementation of Workforce Strategy. Consider Business Walks/short form survey on semi-annual basis.
7.3.3	Health Care Recruitment	Continue Healthcare Recruitment and Retention program.	Continue program as funded.
7.4	Update the Economic Development strategy	Update Economic Development Strategy with input from business community.	Implementation.

Forestry Initiatives

	STRATEGIC ACTION	2024 GOALS	FUTURE GOALS
8.1	Community Forest	Hire a manager. Begin policy development. Create first strategic plan. Determine how the fuel management of CFA articulates with City's CWPP, BCWS and MoF Tactical Plans and the First Nation Government CWRP/ CWPPs.	Transition from planning to operations by creating a Forest Stewardship Plan or Forest Landscape plan. Create a comprehensive wildfire risk reduction plan with all other land managers.
8.2	Community Wildfire Protection Plan and FireSmart	Complete the current CWPP and begin the process of starting a new Community Wildfire Resilience Plan (CWRP). Continue robust FireSmart education and outreach.	Complete a new CWRP in 2025 (new plan will last from 2025-2030) as nested within the Community Forest operational plans, the Quesnel Land Management Strategy and the Forest Landscape Planning Pilot. The new plan will articulate with CFA, Provincial Tactical Plan, and First Nation Governments' CWPP/CWRPs.
8.3	Landscape Management and Ecosystem Restoration	Participate in the FLP Planning Table, Advisory Group, and the Technical Working Group. Connect CFA and FLP activities. Foster various research projects in the Quesnel landscape and assist with correlating outreach activities.	Continue support of Land Management Strategy and the Forest Landscape Planning Pilot (implementation phase scheduled for Summer 2024). Continue to work with academic partners on landscape level research. Continue to utilize Forestry Innovation Centre as a hub for research.
8.4	Labour Force re-development	Continue advancing the alternate harvesting training school. Continue working with Council of Forest Industries and School District 28 on "re-branding forestry" for youth.	Continue working with training partners, industry and professional associations on curriculum and programming and on youth attraction strategies.
8.5	Manufacturing analysis and business case development	Continue collaboration with other governments on biomass opportunities. Work with Ecostrat to promote the rating and respond to investment inquiries. Continue supporting West Fraser to relocate lignin plant and advance district heating.	Continue to identify knowledge gaps and attract research and partnerships to answer them, to support the continual improvement of Quesnel's wood manufacturing sector.

Consolidated Financial Statements 2023

Find the full report at quesnel.ca/financial-statements



FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

PREPARED BY THE CITY OF QUESNEL FINANCE DEPARTMENT
QUESNEL, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

2023 PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTIONS

Charitable, philanthropic or other not-for-profit corporations

ROLL #	ORGANIZATION	EXEMPTION AMOUNT
87.000	Quesnel Masonic Temple Society	\$1,396
135.000	City of Quesnel (Spirit Centre - Bylaw/Non Profits)	\$2,581
218.000	Quesnel & District Child Dev Centre	\$20,011
247.000	Quesnel Womens Resource Centre	\$1,503
248.000	Quesnel Womens Resource Centre	\$2,385
267.000	Amata Transition House Society	\$4,402
332.000	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 94	\$12,481
418.010	Quesnel & District Seniors Society	\$22,693
419.000	Quesnel Curling Club	\$14,260
1550.080	Quesnel & District SPCA	\$7,367
2147.001	Echen Healing Society	\$1,950
2148.000	Echen Healing Society	\$59
2189.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$10,632
2193.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$263
2194.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$250
2195.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$131
2197.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$2,051
2205.000	Quesnel Tillicum Society	\$3,649
3944.000	Sprout Kitchen	\$4,866
4013.083	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 94	\$12,496
4210.000	Quesnel Elks Club	\$1,222
5862.500	Quesnel Auto Racing Association	\$2,068

Church, land and land surrounding statutory exemptions

ROLL #	ORGANIZATION	EXEMPTION AMOUNT
<i>Church Owned Lands - 224 (2)(f)</i>		
220.000	Fraser Basin	\$2,521
328.000	United Church of Canada	\$341
329.000	United Church of Canada	\$1,733
961.000	Roman Catholic Bishop	\$1,930
1200.890	Northstar Fellowship Baptist Church	\$908
2025.000	Trinity Luthern Church	\$1,031
2602.000	Cariboo Gur Sikh Temple Society	\$82
2703.000	Guru Dabar Society	\$210
3600.000	Congregation of Quesnel Jehovah's Witnesses	\$265
4211.000	Victory Way Baptist Church	\$121
4659.000	Lighthouse Pentecostal Church of Quesnel	\$268
5047.309	Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle of Quesnel	\$3,476

Revitalization Tax Exemptions

ROLL #	ORGANIZATION	EXEMPTION AMOUNT
214.000	Dakelh & Quesnel Community Housing	\$2,323
257.550	Quesnel Lions Housing Society	\$2,261
850.500	Dakelh & Quesnel Community Housing	\$1,554