



Town of Norman Wells Community Newsletter

November, 2019

BOX 5, NORMAN WELLS, NT
XOE OVO
867-587-3700

Message from Mayor and Council

True democracy starts at the municipal level of government. In many respects local government is the level of government closest to the people and the state of democracy in the country as a whole is closely related to the state of democracy at the local level.

People seek positions in local government for various reasons. It is a chance to work collaboratively with others in the community to help form their vision of what the community should be. It is a chance to be more intrinsically involved in the community they love. We thank you for the opportunity to work for you. We take the weight of our responsibility to you seriously. As we move into

budget season the following are our priorities moving forward:

- Managing increasing citizen expectations
- Providing transparent and open government
- Management of our assets
- Community planning issues
- Adhering to our strategic plan and Council's vision
- Any existing or potential operational inefficiencies
- Community growth within the context of our changing environment
- Recruitment and retention of talented and creative staff.



Community Growth and Engagement, increasing Citizen Engagement

Working toward growing and expanding our community is important for a variety of reasons. Organizing and planning within our community creates opportunities for training, employment and boosting the economy. Community growth incorporates the community's goals for our society, economy, culture and environment. All of these issues help citizens develop well-rounded and healthy lifestyles.

We presently have three active committees for the purpose of receiving community views and perspective for our decision making:

- Recreation Committee
- Economic Development Committee
- Planning Committee

Public input is an important part of the democratic decision-making process and it often influences public decisions that impact the community's future. The public provides new ideas and an exchange of information that builds mutual responsibility and accountability for the Council and the public.

We are working productively on community partnerships in program delivery. We are proud to be working with Mackenzie Mountain School on their flex start program. We also partnered with Enbridge and Imperial on our recent Halloween fireworks

event. We are actively working on further community partnerships.

Public Participation

We are accountable to our residents and stakeholders. Residents have opportunities to be involved in municipal decision-making including:

- Open meetings of Council
- Access to information, Council minutes
- Petitions, letters, phone calls to your Council members
- Committee participation

We have directed staff to make community engagement a priority.



The Budget

The budget links to a broad view of the community's goals and focuses on getting the best outcome-based value.

Budget challenges include:

- Balancing short and long-term perspectives and creating openness and transparency to the public on how Council is working toward reaching its goals
- Moving our community forward while maintaining a balance between delivery of services, taxes and user fees
- A need to balance our infrastructure needs with service delivery
- Increased communication with our community members
- Active engagement with the business community
- Finding new and consistent reliable ways of engaging our community

Most importantly a budget should have a long-range perspective as it is not just an exercise in balancing revenues and expenditures one year at a time. Decision makers should have an understanding of the financial implications of spending options being considered because the cheapest possible solution today

may well end up costing in the long run.

It is our job to represent the public and to consider the well-being and interests of our community. Ours is a departmental based budget.

The departments of the Town are as follows:

- Corporate Operations and Council services, committees, advocacy and partnerships
- Financial and accounting management
- Parks, recreation, programs and facilities
- Public Works, landfill (solid waste management), quarry, roads maintenance, contractors and beautification

- Emergency Services and Bylaw Enforcement
- Utilities



Next Steps:

- Capital Budget discussion: November 5th, Regular Council meeting
- Committee of the Whole discussion on Operational and Capital Budgets November 12th
- Regular Council meeting November 19th First and Second reading of budget and Mill Rate Bylaw
- Administration will make requisite changes
- Regular Council meeting December 3rd, Third reading of budget and Mill Rate Bylaw

Advocacy Efforts

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, one of the leading causes of climate change is fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes that emit greenhouse gases (GHGs), such as carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere. The Northwest Territories is a small emitter of GHGs. In 2013, it was responsible for about 0.2 percent of Canada's total GHG emissions, according to Environment and Climate Change Canada.

While the Northwest Territories is a small emitter of GHGs, it is

particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Climate change is affecting critical infrastructure, as well as residents' food and fuel security and their ability to get in and out of their communities.

Our territorial roads are critical to our economic and social security by bringing in needed supplies and services to communities and businesses. Winter roads have been identified as areas of greatest risk in the territorial transportation network. We must manage the higher costs of living in the North.

Governments must stop talking and immediately develop an action plan to assist Northern communities in combatting the speedy impacts of climate change.

Access to healthcare and education reflect the strong social value of equality. That access is not the same for people residing in Northern Canada. We need physicians, nurses, dentists, experienced mental health professionals, managers and teachers. There are perceived and real challenges which prohibit the attraction and retention of workers to the North. These

Advocacy Efforts continued...

challenges include: long working hours, a lack of colleagues to share the workload, the lack of access to lifelong learning , challenges in obtaining routine continuing education and a perceived lack of opportunities and support for spouses and children, living in fly-in only

communities. There is also limited access to the south for vacation and business.

A community's accessibility network and cost of living are strong indicators of a healthy community.

Council for the Town of Norman Wells will be actively advocating at the local, regional, territorial and Federal level for solutions to our uniquely Northern issues.

Welcome to Our New Staff



Randy Sinasac
Fire Chief/By-Law Officer



Jennifer Waterhouse
Governance /
Community Engagement



Alex Millette
Recreation Manager



Shawn Donahue
Public Works Manager



Dan Rayner
Public Works Foreman



Gary Mickalyk
Landfill Coordinator

Mayor's Musings...

I have watched our community with pride and would like to take the opportunity to give a special "shout out" to the following people:

- *Black Bear Jamboree volunteers!*
- *Joe Caidler Jr. who is constantly picking up garbage and keeping our community clean!*
- *Our Volunteer Fire Department members for fighting three fires this year!*

We are seeing more and more garbage around town, much of which blows out of the back of vehicles along with bottles and cans thrown out of vehicles. We ask that you show more pride in your community and curb these activities.

Council intends to hold another Open House allowing residents to question Council and senior staff as to future plans for our community.

We have also made where feasible, the training and hiring of local residents a priority.

*As your current Council approaches completion of their first year in office, I feel confident saying we are getting back on an even keel, we are fiscally sound, and the next two years should see many positive changes and improvements for our community. By working together we **CAN** reach our goals.*

THANK-YOU

Mayor Frank Pope