



CITY OF
PRINCE GEORGE

MEDIA RELEASE

City of Prince George

1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

April 27, 2010
For Immediate Release

“April 26 Council Highlights”

Celebrating Success:

The City of Prince George and Regional District of Fraser Fort George team received two awards in the 2009 United Way workplace campaign.

- “Top 25 Employee Campaign” which acknowledges the campaign donation total of \$36,725.65 as one of the top 25 grossing employee campaigns in the Northern BC region for the third year in a row
- “2009 Campaign Team of the Year Award”

The Regional United Way campaign raised a total of \$760,460.00:

- The CPG/RDFFG employees raised over 4.83% of the grand total
- The City Employees raised \$24037.55 and RDFFG raised \$12688.10

River Road Construction Contract Award:

City Council approved River Road improvement work to IDL Projects Inc. (the lowest qualified bidder), for a total tendered amount of \$2,627,937.00 not including taxes.

Key elements include road widening and reconstruction, focusing on upgrades to achieve a collector standard, storm drainage improvements, ground water collection, bicycle lanes, street lighting, left hand turning movements into the Intermodal Facility and Lakeland Mills, access driveways into existing properties, and raising of the existing road profile to meet recommended 200 year flood plain levels.

Work is expected to be completed in 84 days from the official Notice to Proceed.

Bike to Work Week:

The City of Prince George will be participating in the 2010 event to be held the week of May 31st to June 6th. The 2010 event planning is being organized by the Prince George Cycling Club and supported by City staff.

In support of Bike to Work Week:

- The City of Prince George’s Transit Services will provide free bus rides for those displaying BTWW stickers on their helmets
- City staff will establish team leaders for various City departments in order to encourage staff Participation
- Any revisions to the BTWW bike route map that was prepared in 2009 would be provided by City staff
- City staff will work with the Transportation Division to ensure the bike routes for BTWW are well swept

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Downtown Partnership Recommendation:

Council endorsed that Administration pursue the creation of a Residential Wood Innovation Comprehensive District as a result of the Downtown Partnership recommendation. Council directed Administration to:

- Consult with the public on amendments to the objectives and policies of the Crescents Neighbourhood Plan, Smart Growth on the Ground Downtown Prince George Concept Plan, Official Community Plan, and Zoning Bylaw in accordance with the Community Consultation Plan.
- Prepare the necessary amendments to those plans and provide them to Council for consideration.

New Rules for UBCM Wildfire Mitigation Program Funding

New UBCM program changes and rules to be applied immediately to funding applications into the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative will start having an impact on the City's wildfire mitigation program this fall and winter. Reduced funding, new criteria for assessing and approving applications, and timing rules are the key changes that will affect the City's program. Staff will continue to apply for the maximum allowable funding and make changes to the operations according to approved levels of funding from UBCM. As a result of a motion from Council, a letter to UBCM will be sent from the Mayor's Office asking for clarification on the criteria in the report. Additionally, the issue will be raised with both the Provincial and Federal Governments through letters from the Mayor's Office.

Spring Clean Up Initiatives

With the sooner than expected arrival of spring in Prince George, City crews have had an early start with clean up and beautification efforts throughout the community.

Clean up initiatives include:

- Mechanical street cleaning- commenced February 22, 2010
 - All City crews utilize water trucks which spray the surface prior to sweeping activities to help eliminate road dust.
- Annual Spring Clean Up event- April 25, 2010
- Cutbanks Clean Up event- May 16, 2010

The Parks and Solid Waste Services Division also provide a variety of spring clean-up activities in the community. Parks is responsible for parking lot and boulevard sweeping activities which follow the same protocol as the mechanical street cleaning activities. Solid Waste Services has the Mad-Vac unit which provides mechanical litter pickup for two hours each morning during the spring through fall season. Other clean-up activities include: litter pick up on boulevards and in parks, downed limb and tree removal from parks and green space, tennis court washing, seasonal change out of the banners in Gateway, cleanup around tree grates in the downtown, and spring tree pruning activities.

Next Council meeting:

Monday, May 10, 2010

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For further information:

Mike Davis
Manager, Communications and Citizen Engagement
City of Prince George
250.561.7619