



CITY OF
PRINCE GEORGE

MEDIA RELEASE

City of Prince George

1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

May 18, 2010

For Immediate Release

“May 17 Council Highlights”

Revitalization Tax Exemption:

Council received the Revitalization Tax Exemption Program Downtown Prince George Report.

In November of 2009, Council approved for immediate action the Downtown Partnership recommendation that the City of Prince George “advocate for changes to the Community Charter for revitalization tax exemptions beyond the current limit of 10 years to 20, 30, or 40 years; or equivalent measures that will aid in the achievement of the desired downtown revitalization outcomes”.

Stakeholders are invited to provide written submissions to Council regarding the findings presented in the Revitalization Tax Exemption Program Downtown Report by 5:00 p.m. July 12, 2010. Submissions can be mailed to the City of Prince George, or sent via email to RTesubmissions@city.pg.bc.ca

Prince George Fire Rescue - Emergency Medical Responder Pilot Program:

Council received a report outlining the opportunity to participate in a one year pilot project for the provision of an enhanced level of pre-hospital patient care and approved to enter into an agreement with the Emergency and Health Services Commission for the pilot project.

2015 Canada Winter Games Update:

The hosting of the Canada Games brings significant benefits to the host community. Since 2003, previous Games have realized financial economic impact figures ranging from \$70 million to \$90 million. Prince George and the north will benefit through improved infrastructure, national exposure, and major impact to the tourism and hospitality industry as well as increased employment through construction and Games operations. Most importantly, the Canada Games movement will bring opportunity for increased health and sport development legacies for our youth in Prince George and the region.

The Prince George 2015 Canada Winter Games Bid Committee has entered a competitive process with Kamloops and Kelowna in order to gain the rights to host the 2015 Canada Winter Games. Due to this competitive nature of the bid process, the Prince George 2015 Bid Committee will be in a position to share more information about the plans for the Games in Prince George after all community bids have been submitted on May 28, 2010. During the week of May 31st the 2015 Prince George Bid Committee will launch their Community Engagement Plan, inviting media and the public to learn more about the plan moving forward.

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TIMELINES AND KEY DATES:

- May 28, 2010 – the Bid Proposal is delivered to the Canada Games Council in Ottawa.
- Week of May 31, 2010 – the 2015 Canada Winter Games Committee will launch a community engagement plan that will lead up to the Site Visit by the Canada Games Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC).
- August 9, 2010 – the BEC will be in Prince George evaluating the capacity of Prince George to host the 2015 Canada Winter Games.
- September 2010 – the announcement of the award of the Games to the selected Bid Community.

Council approved the following resolution:

The City of Prince George;

- will achieve the hosting standards outlined in the *Canada Winter Games Bid Procedure and Hosting Standards* document, and as presented in the Bid Proposal;
- will assume responsibility for a financial deficit associated with hosting the Games, if any;
- approves the proposed capital and operating budgets contained in the Bid Proposal;
- confirms that the Bid Proposal operating budget includes the Rights Fee payable to the Canada Games Council, in the amount of \$400,000;
- confirms that surplus monies will be contributed to the Financial Legacy reflected in the Bid Proposal in accordance with the Canada Games hosting standard, recognizing that final surplus funds realized will be determined once the City of Prince George has reduced its deficit obligation, if any; and
- will, if awarded the 2015 Canada Winter Games, enter into an *Agreement of Undertake* which reflects the commitments of the Bid Proposal.

Downtown Canopy Removal:

Council approved that the “Downtown Sidewalk Canopy Local Area Service Termination Bylaw No. 8289, 2010”, terminating the local area service established under the “1973 Sidewalk Canopy Construction Bylaw No. 2555, 1973”, be granted first, second, and third readings.

Additionally, Council approved that subject to final reading and adoption of Bylaw 8289, 2010, the removal of George Street sidewalk canopies and associated works, with the exception of new street light installation, be funded by the 2010 Downtown Initiatives Council Contingency up to \$63,250.

Next Council meeting:

Monday June 7, 2010

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For further information:

Lori Tidsbury
Communications Assistant
City of Prince George
250.561.7655