

Councillor Colleen Ross  
Report for March 12, 2018

After viewing the Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, I would request mayor and council to revisit the following resolution:

### SolarNow

## **Recommendation**

**RESOLVED THAT Council approves a 2018 project budget of \$65,000 for the SolarNow project and directs staff to include the project budget in the 2018-2022 Financial Plan bylaw.**

### Rationale:

The funds (Grand Forks contribution) for this project would be coming directly out of account that the city *must* set aside for carbon offsetting, through our commitment to CARIP. (see below and additional information provided) We must pay into this account on a yearly basis, as an investment into our commitment, as part of the Climate Action Agreement. This is therefore, not taking anything away for the general budget, and does *not* increase the financial burden to the taxpayer. The funds in question, (\$45,000) *must* be used for projects that specifically demonstrate our ongoing commitment and participation in environmentally responsible planning, foresight, and development.

The AGLA, AKBLG, UBCM and FCM has been focusing on, and encouraging communities across BC and Canada to show “Climate Leadership” and join the program. The CARIP program was rolled out by the federal government, and communities across the country have begun working towards carbon neutrality. A project such as SolarNow, which is relatively small in scope, makes perfect sense for our unique region, since we are indeed situated in one of the sunniest valleys in the entire province. It shows forward thinking, and common sense to capture the energy from the sun in this place.

This project and program is so much more than needing to generate revenue, and it is not intended for that purpose. Rather, it is a legacy and example to our children, young people interested in future power generation possibilities, and families that are seeking to relocate to forward thinking communities. It is an opportunity for all of us to learn more about the possibilities and advances in alternative energies. If situated in Gyro Park (my preference) it is in a very public place, visited by our community members throughout the year, and seen by tourists and would be residents driving through. It can be a site for students in our city to learn, and be inspired to pursue careers in sciences that better serve future energy needs.

I will be asking Mayor and Council to revisit, and reconsider this decision at the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Regular Meeting.

## **Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP)**

Climate action is a key provincial priority and local governments are key partners in helping to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and create complete, compact and energy-efficient communities.

The Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) is a conditional grant program that provides funding to [BC Climate Action Charter](#) (Charter) signatories equivalent to one hundred percent of the carbon taxes they pay directly. This funding supports local governments in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move forward on achieving their Charter goals.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for the conditional grant, local governments must:

- Be signed on to the Charter, and by doing so commit to take actions and develop strategies to achieve the following three goals:
  - being carbon neutral in their corporate operations;
  - measure and report on their community GHG emissions profile; and,
  - create complete, compact, more energy-efficient rural and urban communities.
- Fulfill the CARIP reporting requirements by June 1, 2018, as noted below.

### **Amount of Grant**

Under the CARIP, each eligible local government will receive a grant equal to one hundred percent of the carbon tax paid as a direct expenditure.