

## January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Councilor's Report

There are three critical and emergent issues I would like to report on at this meeting.

The first issue is the construction of the river bank armoring in South Ruckle. This is a complicated task and potentially quite expensive. I am pleased to report that city staff has been able to get this essential preparation underway. The required environmental permit has been issued. The surveying of the properties involved was completed in December. Rock has been ordered from a local quarry. First nations consultation is underway. Adjacent land owners are being consulted and asked to cede property rights for the new riparian area and rock wall. Funding for most of the project has been assured by the provincial government through different grants. Although the timelines are short, I have confidence that our staff is getting on top of this challenge.

Another issue is the planning for 2019 freshet. This too is being handled by staff. Paul Edmonds through EMBC approval is working with the RDKB emergency staff and with our emergency staff to put together a cohesive plan. There will be opportunity for community involvement with those plans in the coming weeks and I hope to report more details at the next regular meeting.

The third issue is also critical: housing. Grand Forks was hard pressed to provide an adequate range of supported, subsidized and low-cost housing before the flood. Spurred on by our needs and as part of a provincial investment in low cost housing BC Housing has offered two projects to our community. This follows the almost completed Woman's shelter scheduled to open this year. For better or worse, these buildings will shape our community for years. If there is going to be community support that will sustain these new neighborhoods and the people in them, Council must be involved in planning their location and size. Without community involvement BC Housing may be wasting their investment. Hopefully, BC Housing will consider our vision and work with us as we recreate our city. At this meeting I would like to report their answers to my questions:

What is the data to support the need for such a large structure?

Can we get a count in the Grand Forks area first? Will you help us do it?

Are you open to alternate locations?

Is your time line set?

What has gone wrong here in the past 7 years? What has gone right?

What additional social services will come with these new neighborhoods?

Are you willing to participate with Councils attempt to recreate our city?