

REPORT TO COUNCIL

FROM: Councillor Christine Thompson

DATE: October 7, 2019

SUBJECT: Report to Council

Wednesday and Thursday, September 18th and 19th. I attended a comprehensive workshop on Flood Recovery: Lessons Learned. This workshop included Emergency Management BC representatives from different departments within their organization; Red Cross, Flood Recovery Team members, consultants that provided services to our community; Boundary Family Services, Community Futures, and local politicians. I found this workshop very enlightening, and an excellent opportunity to express some opinions and concerns I had. It is my understanding that the Province will be revising the Emergency Management Act, and that they intend to utilize some of the “lessons learned” here in this revision.

Friday, September 20th, I attend Rockwool’s celebration of their 20th anniversary in Grand Forks. We were given a tour of their plant and were invited to stay for refreshments.

The week of September 23rd thru September 27th, I attended the UBCM Annual Convention. Council met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Selena Robinson; the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Judy Darcy; and Premier Horgan. I feel that we were heard. This was confirmed for me during a workshop I attended when I spoke to a staff member of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing about funding assistance that might be available to our City in relocating water and sewer services that will be removed from North Ruckle. I was advised that Minister Robinson’s Deputy had already discussed this matter with him and that they will be working with our staff in this regard. Of the 4 resolutions our Council put forward, 3 were passed during the resolution sessions, and the 4th was referred to the UBCM Executive (along with others) as the time for resolutions had ended. Those that passed related to funding additional detox and rehabilitation centres in rural BC; a review of insurance practices during and after disasters; and, changing the requirements under the Disaster Financial Assistance for small businesses.

Monday, September 30, 2019, I attended a meeting of the Grand Forks Community Action Team. I found this to be a very informative and interactive meeting. Attendees included representation from IHA, RCMP, Council, BFSS, WoH, ANKORS, Fire Department, and concerned citizens.

Wednesday, October 2, 2019, I attended a reception to honour and thank the Mennonite Disaster Services members for the assistance they provided to some of our residents who suffered losses during the flood.

October 4th, I attended the opening of the 52-unit affordable housing development on 19th Street by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Selena Robinson.

Sadly, I attended the service for the late Jacob Noseworthy on Saturday, October 5th. Jacob was a good friend, with an insatiable appetite for politics and sports. He will be missed.

Respectfully,

Christine Thompson, Councillor