

Photo credit: Cindy Williams

City Council raised community priorities at UBCM

All members of Penticton City Council attended this year's Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) event in Vancouver with the objective of raising several priority issues with senior government officials. Held annually, UBCM provides a voice for local governments of all sizes and from all areas of the province to come together and discuss issues and opportunities of common or emerging interest. Positions developed by attending cities assist in the formulation of new policies, both at the local and provincial level.

For the 2019 UBCM event, Council scheduled the following meetings:

- Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, Hon. Judy Darcy
- Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, Hon. David Eby
- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Hon. Mike Farnworth
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Selina Robinson



Penticton City Council stands with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Honourable Selina Robinson at the UBCM event in September 2019.

In addition to the four Minister meetings, members of Council also registered at several convention programs on topics including: financing reconciliation, funding resources for local government and the mid size city forums.

"This was Council's first UBCM event since being elected in 2018," said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki. "With Council having provided

input on their priorities, staff put together a full schedule of meetings and events to attend over the course of the week. The information shared and the conversations held provided insight and feedback on matters that all communities across BC are considering, while also allowing interests specific to Penticton to be heard."

Policy signals engagement milestone

The City of Penticton is about to formalize its commitment to engaging with the community in decisions that matter to residents. A draft policy on Community Engagement has been developed and was recently made available for residents to review and comment on before its presented to Council during their meeting on November 5th.

"This policy reflects the lessons we have learned over the past few years as well as the best practices of other communities," says Engagement Strategist, JoAnne Kleb. "We are really formalizing what we have been doing to ensure we aspire to the same standards for years to come."

The policy includes a commitment to conduct engagement activities in accordance with the standards set by the globally recognized leader in community engagement, the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2). It lists the key principles that will guide Penticton's efforts such as a commitment to being open and transparent as well as accountable to the citizens.



The City has achieved another major engagement milestone in addition to the policy. Registration on the City's engagement website shapeyourcitypenticton.ca has surpassed 5,000 members representing nearly 15 per cent of the population.

"This is a significant achievement for a City of our size," says Kleb. "It's a reflection of the growing interest of residents in influencing the direction of the community and the role of this website as a vehicle to provide feedback to Council."

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City now accepting credit cards for online utility payments

Residents wishing to use credit cards to pay their utility bill can now do so online. The new option is accessed through the City's Online Services page by clicking on the payment button.

"Adding the ability of taking credit card payment for utilities is an option that residents have been seeking for some time", said Revenue Supervisor, Amber Coates. "All they will need to have ready is their utility customer-account number, credit card, and balance owing".

A third party provider fee of 1.75 per cent of the amount being paid is charged to users, with a maximum payment amount set at \$5,000.



Annual 'Skate with the Vees' off to a cool start

Recreation Penticton and the Penticton Vees are inviting the community to skate with their favourite Penticton Vee during the upcoming season of 'Skate with the Vees', over the first couple months of the winter.

"The community is proud of our Penticton Vees," says Recreation Business Supervisor, Kelsey Johnson. "This is an exciting opportunity for

everyone to get down to ice level and meet the Vees and also for the Vees to get to meet some of their biggest supporters and fans."

The first 'Skate with the Vees' of the season took place on October 2 at McLaren Park Arena.

The community can skate with the Penticton Vees two more times from 7:15-8:30pm on December 19, 2019

and January 22, 2020.

Come and enjoy a public skate or play a game of Stick 'N Puck. Gloves and helmets are mandatory for Stick 'N Puck and regular admission rates apply.

For a complete 2019-2020 public skating schedule at McLaren Park Arena, visit www.penticton.ca/mclarenarena.



Council Highlights

Council highlights are intended to provide a brief summary of recent Council meetings. To view the official meeting minutes and other council related information, visit penticton.ca/council.

Plastic Use Reduction

In response to a delegation made by a student at Penticton Secondary School on May 7, 2019 and direction from Council, the City will support the Province of British Columbia's CleanBC single-use plastics action plan, by providing a formal submission to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, supporting the initiative to limit single-use plastics.

Civic Event Delivery Method

Council directed staff to issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) to seek opportunities for delivery of civic events with local service organizations or non-profit societies, and report back to Council with options.

2020 Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw

Council defeated the motion to adopt Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw and directed staff to amend the percentage of permissive exemptions being granted to 100 per cent and review the Permissive Tax Exemption Policy before the next October 2020 deadline.

