

CASTLEGAR 2024 Review



From Mayor McFaddin

Reflecting on 2024, I am proud to share the progress we've made as a community, guided by Council's six strategic priorities. These priorities have shaped our decisions and actions, building a foundation for a vibrant and sustainable future.

These achievements would not be possible without the dedication of our Council, staff, volunteers, and community partners. Your efforts are essential to turning our vision into reality, and I sincerely thank you for helping build a stronger, more vibrant Castlegar.

I encourage you to review our priorities and accomplishments, which reflect our commitment to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and addressing key community needs. Together, we will continue to build on our successes and embrace new opportunities to strengthen our city.



Installed a new UV disinfection system at the North Treatment Lagoons to kill viruses and bacteria in treated wastewater.

Principles & Accomplishments

PRINCIPLE 1

Governance & Service Excellence

City Council makes difficult decisions in the best long-term interest of the community. We manage assets and infrastructure with fiscal prudence, using business-minded and long-term perspectives. Our actions are guided by community-informed master plans, which provide clarity of what we do and when and why.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Adopted Community Plan 2033 after engaging 800+ residents.
- Administered the School District 20 Trustee Area 2 By-election.
- Installed a Geotube biosolids management system at the South Sewage Treatment Plant.
- Secured a \$10,000 grant to assess the North Well's viability as a backup water supply, supporting emergency operations and redundancy planning.
- Approved a five-year agreement with Recycle BC, increasing incentives and reducing costs for residents.
- Purchased a loader and vacuum truck to enhance Civic Works operations.

PRINCIPLE 2

A Future with Affordable Homes for All

We are in a housing crisis. The City of Castlegar is committed to doing everything it can to ensure the mix of housing the community needs. The City has the courage to step outside of our traditional role and

take action to make housing happen. We continually minimize and reduce barriers and bureaucracy to support development.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Launched and funded an Accessory Dwelling Program to support infill development and increased housing options.
- Adopted a new zoning bylaw to broaden housing opportunities.
- Implemented provincial requirements for short-term accommodations.
- Council visited the City of Salmon Arm to observe shelter services and supportive housing, gaining insights and lessons learned.
- Extended the temporary-use permit for the emergency winter shelter for an additional season.
- Completed the Interim Housing Needs Report, ensuring alignment with new provincial methodology.
- Issued development approvals for 163 new housing units, of which 117 are non-market affordable units.



Council in Salmon Arm

PRINCIPLE 3

Quality of Life

Castlegar is a community that values an exceptional quality of life. With a small-town feel, we strive to be a place that people are proud to call home, conduct their business in, and have fun in. Our community embraces diversity, and values volunteerism and social service agencies. We celebrate a natural environment that offers world-class recreational opportunities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed public engagement for the Brandson Neighbourhood Park Renewal, incorporating community feedback to finalize the park's design.
- Developed comprehensive Dog Park Best Practices guidelines, addressing noise, trespass, and safety concerns while improving design, signage, and enforcement strategies to enhance user experience and neighbour relations.
- Completed construction of Canada's tallest castle play structure at Millennium Park & Ponds, funded partly by a \$1.2 million grant.
- Applied for a \$50,000 grant to support the development of a Transportation Master Plan to create a roadmap for sustainable and efficient multi-modal transportation.
- Enhanced the community group funding process to align with Council's strategic priorities, ensuring efficiency, transparency, and targeted support.
- Secured an \$85,000 FireSmart grant and completed 34 property assessments, enabling residents to access \$39,000 in rebates for FireSmart improvements.
- Initiated a comprehensive Fire Services Review to support new provincial requirements.
- Council hosted community events for Canada Day and Winter Wonderland.
- Donated the 1952 Mercury Fire Engine, Castlegar's first brand-new fire apparatus, to the Castlegar & District Heritage Society for display at the Railway Museum.



Airport Manager Maciej Habrych and Mayor McFaddin receiving William Templeton Airport Award.

PRINCIPLE 4

WK Regional Airport Excellence

West Kootenay Regional Airport is the gateway between the West Kootenay and the world. It is a catalyst for regional economic growth and opportunities. Focused on growing and improving services, West Kootenay Regional Airport will be the choice for air travel to the West Kootenay area. We are committed to improving reliability and moving beyond the reputation of Cancelgar.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received the BC Aviation Council William Templeton Airport Award, recognizing advancements in airport development and service improvements.
- Continued to promote Air Canada's Flight Disruption Shuttle, ensuring reliable travel options for passengers affected by weather-related cancellations.
- Advanced the Required Navigational Performance (RNP) approach to improve flight reliability, accessibility and safety.
- Supported the Southeast Fire Centre's expansion at the airport, strengthening wildfire response and regional emergency preparedness.
- Completion of apron expansion and taxiway rehabilitation, increasing operational capacity to accommodate larger aircraft.
- Purchased two airfield maintenance vehicles and one airfield tractor to improve reliability and maintain regulatory compliance.

PRINCIPLE 5

Access to Healthcare

Castlegar residents have an inherent right to healthcare. The City is dedicated to stepping outside its traditional role to ensure all residents have access to the healthcare they need – now and in the future. The City is committed to advocating for healthcare in the community and addressing emerging issues.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided low-cost, secure space to the Kootenay Emergency Response Physicians Association (KERPA) at the airport to support regional emergency medical services.
- Continued to support ongoing physician recruitment efforts.
- Collaborated with local physicians to design future primary care facilities.
- Advocated for increased funding for primary care services.

PRINCIPLE 6

A Prosperous City

Our position as the centre of the West Kootenay creates opportunities for diverse economic growth that benefits Castlegar and the region. We are committed to creating an environment where all sizes of industry and businesses can be successful. We will carefully plan for growth and development and build strategic partnerships.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Welcomed Kalesnikoff's new pre-manufacturing facility to expand mass timber pre-modular production.
- Established the Castlegar District Economic Development Program, fostering collaboration and coordinating regional growth.
- Supported the Confluence, a new \$8.7 million, 8,300-square-foot multi-use building designed to drive economic growth, boost tourism, support local businesses and serve as the West Kootenay Gateway Visitor Centre.
- Achieved consistent growth in business licenses, reflecting increased business activity in the community.

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