

City of  
NELSON

2015-2018 Strategic Plan

A YEAR IN REVIEW... 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The City of Nelson's Strategic Plan for 2015-2018 clearly sets out the City's direction and priorities for the next three years. The work that we do every day at the City is based on solid planning which provides guidance and direction for our staff to ensure that your tax dollars are spent in a sustainable, coordinated and efficient way.



Mayor  
Deb Kozak

We have an opportunity, as Council, to set goals that we know are important to the residents of Nelson. Through sound planning we have the ability to strengthen our neighbourhoods, expand local jobs and prosperity, achieve

excellence in City governance and deliver sustainable services and infrastructure. We want all of the residents of Nelson, including businesses and community groups, to be part of the strategic planning process and play a role in how our city ultimately grows.

We have made solid progress in 2016 and it will be with great pleasure to see how this Strategic Plan continues to unfold over the next two years. I am convinced, that we, as a community, will evolve and prosper like never before.

Mayor Deb Kozak

STRENGTHEN NEIGHBOURHOODS

Strategy: Develop Complete, Well Connected Neighbourhoods

Creating a connection between the waterfront and the downtown along Hall Street is a key strategy in the Councils' goal of strengthening neighbourhoods. Final touches are being added to Phase I of the Hall Street project, including a public washroom and water fountain. Planning for Phase II of the project is underway.



The Downtown Urban Strategy Design Project brought together the community to identify ideas to further enhance our downtown. The plan includes initial renderings of revitalized amenity areas, among other ideas.



The Railtown Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan has been finalized and is the blueprint for an exciting new sustainable downtown neighbourhood. The CP Stationhouse restoration and planned investments in Cottonwood Park are first steps in this renewal.

Strategy: Encourage a Suitable Mix of New Housing

The Crossing at Granite Point is a 3-phase multi-unit development that will add 30 new modestly priced homes on the former golf course lands. (See photo right)



BC Housing has awarded \$6.3m in funding to Nelson CARES Lakeside Place redevelopment project. Nelson CARES will rebuild on the existing site and the 48 units are intended for seniors, adults with disabilities and those in risk of being homeless.

ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY OF CITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Strategy: Develop a Safe and Adequate Water Supply



Conservation is a key element of this strategy. Council has set a goal of reducing usage by 20% from 2009 levels. A class from the Wildflower program won a national award for their work in promoting the City's Water Conservation program and educating the public on the benefit of the Toilet Tank bags in reducing water consumption in Nelson. Even with the recent higher levels of development, the city has reduced its water use by approximately 10%.

Strategy: Create an Energy Efficient Community



The Community Solar Garden has been a big success in moving Council towards creating an energy-efficient community. Primarily funded by subscribers and grants, Nelson is being recognized as a leader right across Canada. The project will come on-line in the spring of 2017.



The 4th Annual Green Home & Energy Show was another full house and showcased the City's EcoSave Program. Nelson's Eco-Save program is one of the most successful home energy-retrofit programs in the country.

Strategy: Improve the City's Emergency Management Capabilities



Disaster Day brought together local agencies to show how they effectively work together during a disaster. Council also updated the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in 2016.

The CWPP has identified Nelson as a high-risk community; it acknowledges the great work Nelson has done to date and makes 32 recommendations to reduce our community's risk from wildfire.

Strategy: Improve our Aging Infrastructure



The City renewed 1150 meters of water lines and 2900 meters of sanitary sewer lines in 2016. Plans and funding strategies are also being developed for our facilities, roads and sidewalks.

The City has replaced over 21 kms of water lines and relined or replaced over 23 kms of sewer lines since 2005. This represents approximately 25% of the system.

EXPAND LOCAL JOBS, LOCAL PROSPERITY

Strategy: Leverage Community Assets

Nelson is a Gigabyte Community. A major goal of Nelson's Broadband project is to help local businesses take advantage of Nelson's broadband network to achieve their business' full potential.

Nelson was recently named one of the world's Smart21 communities and is currently competing to be number one. The world's 2017 Intelligent Community will be announced in New York City in June 2017 and Nelson is in the running.



Strategy: Enhance Community Vibrancy through Sport, Culture and Recreation

The Hall Street Plaza is full of Christmas revelers from the Santa on Baker Street parade. Creating additional vibrancy in the downtown by developing amenity areas for events and festivals is a key strategy of Council.



Strategy: Support Retention and Attraction of New Businesses

Cartolina – A local business on Baker Street was the winner of the 2015 Heritage Award and a 2016 Chamber of Commerce Business Award.



Strategy: Encourage Development in Downtown and Waterfront

The City welcomed Nelson Commons to the downtown. It includes 54 condo units and is home to the new Kootenay Co-op grocery store. This is the first new development in the downtown core in over 30 years.



ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE IN CITY GOVERNANCE

Strategy: Encourage Citizen & Neighbourhood Engagement

City residents participated in the recent Downtown Urban Design Strategy. Council will look for additional opportunities to engage citizens in 2017.



Strategy: Improve Customer Service Through Innovation, High Standards and Continuous Improvement

Coming in February, the City will launch a new on-line pet licensing program which will allow residents to order and receive their pet licenses from home. This program has other benefits for pet owners, including a rewards system and lost pet protection.



Strategy: Support, Encourage and Empower City Employees

Training programs are focused on achieving the strategic goals of Council.



City employees (seen above) take part in Emergency Operations planning.

Strategy: Develop and Implement Prudent Financial Management Policies

Council continues to focus on asset renewal and building reserves. Solid progress has been realized for water, sewer, hydro and equipment. A strategy for roads, sidewalks and facilities is being developed.

ASSETS VERSUS RESERVES - 2015

