



# YOUR COUNCIL IN THE COMMUNITY

**Mayor and Council are actively involved in our community and they represent the City at local events, openings, tours and meetings with senior levels of government and other stakeholders.**

## Bring your concerns to the right level of government

It's City Council's duty to make sure residents' concerns are heard and to address the issues within their jurisdiction that matter most to them. That's why it's important that residents reach out to Council when they think there's an opportunity for Council to improve the way services are delivered to the community.

Council is grateful to receive a lot of messages in-person, over the phone and online. Last year 933 emails filled Council's inbox. While Council is able to speak to many of the issues raised by residents, sometimes they fall outside of municipal jurisdiction.

City Council can affect change on areas that are within the City's responsibility. But other times, residents' questions are best addressed to other levels of government or the Regional District. Here is a breakdown of government responsibilities:

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

[www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca)

Contact your local Member of Parliament (MP) if you have questions

- Banking & interest rates
- Canadian Heritage
- Child tax benefits
- Citizenship and immigration
- Climate & disaster planning/funding
- Creation of new Federal legislation
- Criminal law & RCMP
- Employment Insurance & Canada Pension Plan
- Environment concerns
- Federal courts
- First Nations land and title issues
- Fisheries
- Foreign affairs
- Immigration & citizenship
- Income tax
- International travel & borders
- Military
- National parks
- Student loans

### PROVINCIAL

[www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

Contact your local Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) if you have questions about:

- Agricultural Land Regulations
- BC Assessment and property assessment notices
- Child Protection, adoptions and foster care
- Creation of new Provincial legislation
- Gas tax
- Health care (including homeless outreach and social services)
- Heritage Conservation
- Highway maintenance and snow clearing on highways (including highways within City boundaries)
- Hospitals
- Housing & tenancy (including affordable & social/homeless housing, rent assistance)

### REGIONAL DISTRICT

[www.fvrd.ca](http://www.fvrd.ca)

Contact the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) if you have questions about:

- Air quality
- Animal control
- Regional parks
- Regional and rural transit
- Rural area planning and development
- Solid waste management (landfill, recycling depot and transfer stations)

### MUNICIPAL

[www.abbotsford.ca](http://www.abbotsford.ca)

Contact the City of Abbotsford if you have questions about:

- Abbotsford International Airport
- Abbotsford Police (call 911 for emergencies)
- Building Permits
- Burn Permits
- Business Licences
- Bylaws
- Cemeteries
- City Hall
- Development Permits
- Filming Permits
- Fire Rescue (call 911 for emergencies)
- Local road maintenance & potholes
- Municipal property tax
- Parks, trails and playgrounds
- Recreation facilities
- Sewer/storm waste water management
- Snow removal
- Solid waste collection
- Special Events Permits
- Traffic Calming
- Tree Removal Permits
- Water supply/bills
- Zoning and Community Planning

### SCHOOL DISTRICT

[www.abbyschools.ca](http://www.abbyschools.ca)

Contact the Board of Education if you have questions about:

- Catchment areas and busing
- Local programs/courses and school calendars
- Management and operations of public schools and facilities
- Operating budgets and capital plans
- Staffing

## Abbotsford resolution for more detox beds endorsed by Union of BC Municipalities

Abbotsford led the way in advocating for more detox and treatment options for people in BC at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) conference in Vancouver on Sept. 18.

City Council is grateful for the support they received for their resolution, and pleased that UBCM will now be calling on the BC government to expand rapid access to those services across the province.

The City's resolution originally asked for more detox beds in the Fraser Health Region. This is because, despite its size and population, Fraser Health has only one publicly-funded facility that offers rapid access to detox. And that facility only has 24 beds.

However, as the resolution gained support from communities outside of Fraser Health, the wording was amended to call for more access to

detox across BC given the need for those services province wide.

Utilizing funds from a SparcBC Homelessness Community Action Grant, the City of Abbotsford partnered with UBC's Centre for Advancing Health Outcomes to conduct a collaborative research initiative that would identify and address barriers that exist for unhoused individuals in Abbotsford in accessing detox and treatment.

Combatting addiction in our community is complex and requires collaboration and coordination with multiple agencies at multiple levels. Through this City-commissioned research and the endorsed UBCM resolution for more detox beds, Council is taking action to better understand and address drug addiction challenges that are felt across BC and hopes this can help bring much needed support so no more lives are lost.

## YOUR CITY COUNCIL



MAYOR  
ROSS SIEMENS



COUNCILLOR  
LES BARKMAN



COUNCILLOR  
KELLY CHAHAL



COUNCILLOR  
PATRICIA DRIESSEN



COUNCILLOR  
SIMON GIBSON



COUNCILLOR  
DAVE LOEWEN



COUNCILLOR  
PATRICIA ROSS



COUNCILLOR  
DAVE SIDHU



COUNCILLOR  
MARK WARKENTIN

As your elected representatives, Council also sets policy and governance direction for the growth and development of our community. To stay informed on important work being done by your City Council, visit [abbotsford.ca/councilinthecommunity](http://abbotsford.ca/councilinthecommunity).

# COUNCIL UPDATE

October 2024

## Congratulations to our Let's Talk Community contest winner!

In August we asked community members to send in a photo, picture or story telling us what community means to them and what it takes to create a community. Congratulations to Stephanie Gonzalez for her winning entry! She received an Abbotsford community prize pack full of coupons, local products and items to celebrate our community spirit.

For Stephanie, community means feeling emotionally connected enough to her neighbours that she can lean on them for support, for example when it comes to last-minute childcare, sharing meals or taking care of each other's plants when someone goes away.

Community to her also means knowing your neighbours' names and traits and feeling comfortable enough to say hello when you pass each other on walks around the neighbourhood, growing things together like community gardens, feeling personally invested in caring for the environment by picking up garbage and keeping spaces clean, and inter-generational living and support.

Thank you to all the entrants for your submissions. It was great to hear about the importance of community from the members of our community.



Stephanie Gonzalez is the winner of the Let's Talk Community contest.

## COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



On Aug. 2, Mayor Siemens and Councillors Driessen, Loewen, Warkentin, Gibson, Ross and Barkman welcomed folks to the 115th annual Abbotsford Agrifair.



On Aug. 14, Mayor Siemens and Premier Eby announced Highway 1 will be expanded from Mt. Lehman Road to Highway 11/Sumas Way.



On Aug. 24, Mayor Siemens, Councillors Gibson and Ross (not pictured) visited the Taste Around the World celebrating the importance of diverse cultures.



On Sept. 9, the 13U Abbotsford Angels AA and AAA minor baseball teams unveiled their Western and National champion banners with Mayor Siemens and Councillor Barkman.



On Sept. 13, local food and drink was on the menu at the Taste of Abby Night Market. Mayor Siemens, Councillors Ross and Warkentin joined in the festivities.



On Sept. 14, Fraser Valley Recovery Day celebrated those who have triumphed over addictions. Mayor Siemens and Councillor Gibson (not pictured) met with service providers.



On Sept. 19, Councillor Chahal spoke at Archway Community Services' Welcome Day, celebrating newcomers who call Abbotsford home.



On Sept. 21, Councillors Loewen, Chahal and Gibson helped kick off the festivities at the 39th annual Mt. Lehman Fall Fair.

## STAY CONNECTED