



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.

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.

COUNCIL UPDATE

March 2024

Council secures \$76.6M in provincial funding for Barrowtown upgrades

The past three years of advocating for vital flood infrastructure funding by Abbotsford City Council has finally resulted in the Province providing some initial community resilience funding. But more still needs to be done.

On February 14th Mayor Siemens was joined by Premier David Eby, Minister of Emergency Management Bowinn Ma, Minister of Agriculture Pam Alexis and Semá:th Councillor Troy Ganzveld to announce \$76.6 million in provincial funding to upgrade the Barrowtown Pump Station.

The funds will cover several key improvements to better equip the pump station to withstand severe floodwaters from the nearby Sumas and Nooksack rivers. These include adding a six-metre flood wall, upgrading the debris screens and replacing the pump motors. These upgrades will ensure that the pump is better equipped to protect against flooding and other threats, like debris from the Nooksack and Sumas rivers and power outages in the surrounding area.

Being able to start this capacity building work is a significant step and we are grateful to the Province for this important investment in our community, in our residents and in our businesses.



On February 14, Mayor Siemens and City Council joined Premier Eby, Minister of Emergency Management Ma, Minister of Agriculture Alexis and Semá:th Councillor Ganzveld for a significant funding announcement for flood-resiliency upgrades for the Barrowtown Pump Station.



Council approves 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Update

On January 30th, City Council approved the updated 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

The directions identified in the Strategic Plan are the strategic focus for Council and City of Abbotsford staff for the four-year term of City Council 2022-2026. The Strategic Plan is the City's roadmap for the delivery of services, projects and programs. As part of the update for the first year of service delivery, the City Manager advised Council that a number of the priorities identified in the four-year plan have already advanced or been completed.

Completed items include introducing the McKee Neighbourhood Plan and securing funding for the Montrose Transit exchange (which will be completed by the end of the summer 2024), as well as conducting a review of Council Committees. See the plan at abbotsford.ca/strategic.

Official Community Plan Update moves to Stage 2

On January 30th, City Council endorsed the Stage 1 update work completed on the Official Community Plan (OCP) as well as the community engagement strategy, and directed staff to begin work on Stage 2.

The OCP is the City's key municipal planning tool and outlines the long-term vision of our community. It is a statement of objectives and policies that guide decisions on municipal planning and land use management, which impact a community's sustainability and resilience. It was last updated in 2016. Updating the OCP is a priority under Council's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, and will help to meet Council's direction to "ensure development decisions are based on our long-term strategies and are not swayed from our community vision by short-term goals."

The Province's new housing legislation also prompts OCP changes, and staff's report addressed how the OCP will be in line with those changes as well. Check out letstalkabbotsford.ca/ocp to get involved over the course of the project with engagement opportunities beginning in Spring 2024.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

February 22, Mayor Siemens visited his old school Margaret Stenersen Elementary to talk to Grade 5 French immersion students about the municipal government.

On February 23 Councillor Driessen, as Deputy Mayor, spoke during the opening ceremonies of Yale Secondary's annual Live to Give fundraiser, this year supporting the BC Children's Hospital.

On February 2, Councillor Driessen, as Deputy Mayor, shared a pizza lunch with some of the winners of CityStudio Hub.

On February 23, Mayor Siemens addressed students and discussed the importance of public service at the closing of the Model UN conference at Abbotsford Christian School.

Councillor Barkman, as Deputy Mayor, joined members of the Mainland Milk Producers Association for their Annual General Meeting at the Clarion Hotel on January 12.

On February 12, Mayor Siemens and Councillors Barkman, Driessen, Gibson and Warkentin joined Minister Sajjan to announce an agreement to fast-track over more than 730 new housing units over the next three years.

On February 25, Councillor Driessen, as Deputy Mayor, spoke at the Step Up 4 Cardiac Health stair-climb fundraiser, and Councillor Warkentin joined participants to tackle the 751+ steps at Abbotsford Centre.

YOUR CITY COUNCIL

Abbotsford City Council was sworn in on November 5, 2022 and will serve the community of Abbotsford until the next municipal election in October 2026.



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

OUR MISSION: We strive to continually improve the quality of life within our community by delivering key services for current and future generations.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

Information from the latest City Council meetings is available every week on the City's website at abbotsford.ca.

City Council meetings are broadcast live on the website every second Monday and can be viewed online at abbotsford.ca/watchcouncilonline.