

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.

Feds and Province commit to partnering on Sumas Prairie flood mitigation

The Government of Canada has recognized the significance of Sumas Prairie and has pledged to work alongside the City and the Province of BC on flood mitigation and disaster recovery solutions.

This announcement came following a meeting Mayor Siemens, BC Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Minister Kelly Greene, and Semá:th First Nation Chief Dalton Silver had with federal Housing and Infrastructure Minister Gregor Robertson and federal Emergency Management and Community Resilience Minister Eleanor Olszewski in Ottawa on Feb. 4.

During the meeting, Mayor Siemens detailed the impacts flooding has had on our community, residents, economy and provincial food security and reiterated the national importance of safeguarding Sumas Prairie. He also emphasized that the federal government's own energy corridor infrastructure running through the prairie remains vulnerable.

Following the meeting, the federal and provincial ministers issued a joint statement, calling our region a "critical corridor for national transportation and energy infrastructure" containing "some of the most productive farmland in the world," and that protecting this region requires action from all levels of government.

The ministers added that the federal and provincial governments will work together through the updated Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement, which can now support provincial investments in long-term flood risk mitigation and resilience. And, significantly, they also announced that the federal government will now be participating in the Sumas Prairie Watershed Table and did so Feb. 20.

The visit to Ottawa and subsequent meeting with the Sumas Prairie Watershed Table was promising. City Council is thankful to Chief Silver and Minister Greene for their continued support and partnership, and to Ministers Robertson and Olszewski for their time and for agreeing to take action. However, City Council will continue to advocate to senior levels of government until the vital funding needed to keep the community safe is solidly in place.



Mayor Siemens, BC Minister Kelly Greene and Semá:th First Nation Chief Dalton Silver met with federal Ministers Gregor Robertson and Eleanor Olszewski in Ottawa last month to discuss the impacts of the December 2025 flood and the need for long-term flood mitigation funding.

Council approves 2026-2030 Financial Plan

At their Feb. 10 and 11 Financial Plan meetings, City Council endorsed the 2026-2030 Financial Plan, including a 2026 property tax increase of 4.44 per cent, plus a 0.50 per cent infrastructure levy for a total of 4.94 per cent.

In their presentation to Council, staff explained that the increase is due to rising cost pressures felt across the region as well as market conditions including the labour market, contractual obligations, and the cost of capital projects.

The budget prioritizes investments in public safety, transportation and utilities, roads, parks and community amenities. Staff mentioned that the Financial Plan is fiscally responsible, affordable and well-positioned given current market conditions, and that the proposed infrastructure levy will maintain and sustain City infrastructure.

The public had the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw at the conclusion of each of the public meetings. After the meetings, residents were still able submit feedback electronically to the Finance Department.

View the staff presentation at abbotsford.ca/draftfinancialplan2026

Council votes “yea” and “nay” on pair of BC Housing agreements

At their Feb. 24 meeting, City Council deliberated on two supportive housing agreements from BC Housing, opting to proceed with one of them.

The first housing agreement they considered was a five-storey, 48-unit apartment at the northwest corner of Gladys Avenue and George Ferguson Way in downtown Abbotsford. Archway Community Services, which operates Hearthstone Place next door, would also manage this building and select the residents. Services include daily meals, health care referrals, wellness checks, financial support and individual and group programming. This housing agreement passed third reading to be voted on at a future Council meeting.

The second housing agreement was a 42-unit modular building at 2270 Martens Ave. across the street from Abbotsford Traditional School. Connective Support Society would manage the building, which would offering temporary housing to adults at least 45 years old and provide daily meals, health care checks, outreach, life skills training and employment assistance. Council declined to proceed with this housing agreement.

Council approves Strategic Plan update

At their Feb. 10 meeting, City Council approved an update to their 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan outlines Council's strategic focus for staff during their 2022-26 term, with priorities divided into four categories: Inclusive and Connected Community, Sustainable and Safe City, Vibrant and Growing Economy, and Organizational Excellence and Integrity. In his presentation to Council, the city manager summarized Council's advanced and completed priority items. Some of these include the following:

- **Inclusive and Connected Community:** Implemented Culture Connect Strategy, completed Arena Strategy and Montrose Transit Exchange, developed Aquatics Services and Facilities Strategy, introduced McKee Neighbourhood Plan; updated Official Community Plan, infrastructure master plans and joint-use agreements with School District 34; advanced park amenities and land development opportunities, and secured funding for Highstreet Transit Exchange.
- **Sustainable and Safe City:** Implemented the Homelessness Action Plan, Affordable Housing Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy; applied to receive additional federal Reaching Home Funding and advocated for funding for Flood Mitigation Strategy.
- **Vibrant and Growing Economy:** Updated the Truck Parking Strategy, Intergovernmental Advocacy Strategy, and Business Retention and Expansion Strategy; developed the Ambassador Program and continued to develop Abbotsford International Airport.
- **Organizational Excellence and Integrity:** Implemented the Asset Management Plan, developed the Safety Culture Strategy, continued to review resource needs and modernize City services, and updated the Employee Engagement Strategy, Retention Strategy and Long-Term Financial Plan.



View the staff presentation at abbotsford.ca/strategicplanupdate2026

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



On Jan. 15, Mayor Siemens spoke at the Abbotsford Police Foundation's 2026 grant showcase event.

On Jan. 21, Mayor Siemens and the city manager (not pictured) attended a BC Dairy and BC Poultry post-flood animal producers' roundtable event.

On Jan. 22, Councillors Barkman and Gibson (not pictured) stopped by the City of Abbotsford's booth at the Pacific Agriculture Show.

On Jan. 24, Councillor Gibson as Deputy Mayor and Councillor Driessen (not pictured) attended the Abbotsford Seniors Expo.



On Jan. 29, Councillor Gibson as Deputy Mayor spoke at the 66th annual BC Firefighters Curling Championship and Abbotsford Fire Chief Peterson threw the ceremonial first stone.

On Feb. 7, Councillor Driessen as Deputy Mayor and Councillor Barkman (not pictured) were at the opening of the 2026 Judo BC Provincial Championships.

On Feb. 7, Councillor Driessen as Deputy Mayor attended a Black History Month celebration at Clearbrook Library.

On Feb. 18, Mayor and Council visited Castle Fun Park and learned about their renovation plans during their Business Spotlight tour.

YOUR CITY COUNCIL



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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