



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

May 2024

BC Mayors call for change after federal government denies flood mitigation funding

On June 3, Mayor Siemens, Merritt Mayor Michael G. Goetz and Princeton Mayor Spencer Coyne held a joint press conference after the federal government denied all three communities critical flood infrastructure funding through the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF). Each mayor shared their frustration and are left feeling like their community has been abandoned. Former Abbotsford Mayor Henry Braun, who led the community during the 2021 flood, also spoke at the news conference.

The DMAF is a \$3.375-billion federal funding package that the Government of Canada has committed to allocating to communities across the country over the next nine years. However, its competitive requirements mean that every municipality has to compete for the funding with all other communities across Canada. Each community was encouraged to apply for this funding by senior government officials leading them to believe that funding support was inevitable.

The three mayors, as well as regional industry and business leaders, are calling on the federal government to change the way it funds climate change disaster prevention. It's not the first time DMAF has received criticism.

The 2021 floods have been called the most expensive natural disaster in Canadian history, leaving the three mayors wondering, if work to protect against this level of disaster doesn't qualify for federal support, then what does.



Mayors Siemens, Goetz, Coyne and former mayor Braun held a joint press conference calling for changes to DMAF funding.

Council sends housing target update to provincial government

On May 14, City Council directed staff to submit its first interim Housing Target Report to the BC Minister of Housing. The interim report covers the first quarter of 2024 and includes units in stream in Abbotsford to March 31, 2024.

In total, the Province has set a target for the City of Abbotsford to generate 7,240 new housing units over the next five years, with reporting periods spanning from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 annually.

The Province's Year 1 target for Abbotsford is 1,022 new units. As of March 31 of this year, 403 units have been built and an additional 710 units have already been approved. A further 2,615 units have been approved in principle.

'Building community' on menu at inaugural Mayor's Luncheon

On May 23 the inaugural Mayor's address to the business community luncheon was held at the University of the Fraser Valley Abbotsford campus.

The theme of the event was "building community." Mayor Siemens spoke about his personal history as a life-long resident and small business owner in Abbotsford, and covered some of the actions the City is taking to address the key issues facing our community. UFV president Joanne MacLean joined the Mayor on stage for a questions-and-answers segment to wrap up the event.



Mayor Siemens took questions from UFV president Joanne MacLean as part of the inaugural Mayor's Luncheon.

\$48.8M-agreement with Province brings more than 220 shelter spaces to Abbotsford

On April 26, Mayor Siemens met with Housing Minister Ravi Kahlon and Agriculture Minister and Abbotsford-Mission MLA Pam Alexis at Kinghaven Peardonville House to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and announce a suite of investments in Abbotsford to help those who are unhoused in our community.

The MOU, signed between the City and Province, reaffirms our shared commitment to working together to support people experiencing homelessness. It includes the development of new shelter and housing options through BC Housing's Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) program and providing increased support to people currently living in encampments through the Homeless Encampment Action Response Team (HEART) program.

The Province, through BC Housing, is providing approximately \$48.8 million in capital and operating funding toward projects that will bring more than 220 new shelter spaces and supported homes to Abbotsford.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



On April 18, Mayor Siemens attended the 2024 Indigenous Role Model Ceremony at the Semá:th Longhouse.



On April 24, Mayor Siemens and AbbyPD Chief Watson toured the progress of the new police headquarters.



On April 28, Councillors Chahal and Sidhu (not pictured) attended the inaugural Run for Abbotsford.



On May 5, Councillor Loewen joined members of the Fraser Valley Métis Association for a Red Dress Day ceremony.



On May 7, the Abbotsford Youth Commission Youth Council were "Decision Makers for the Day" and met with Mayor and Council.



On May 8, Mayor Siemens and Councillor Driessen participated in McHappy Day.



On May 11, Councillor Gibson attended the Official Community Plan engagement session at Sevenoaks Mall.

YOUR CITY COUNCIL

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



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

HUB of the fraser valley

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

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