



## 3,100 citizens committed to engagement

The City of Penticton reached a major milestone in June attaining over 3,100 registered members on the online platform [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca). Registration is now nearing the City's goal of having approximately 10 per cent of the population represented.

"People often ask why they need to register and provide their postal code," says JoAnne Kleb, Engagement Strategist. "This extra step improves the reliability of the data and feedback we collect. It allows us to confirm that we are hearing from Penticton residents when we need to and that we are not receiving multiple surveys or forms from the same individuals."

The City has hosted 35 surveys for 22 different projects since the

tool was launched in 2016. Some of the projects hosted on the site include determining a vision for the arenas, developing a parking strategy, evaluating support for development involving the Skaha Bluffs and to encourage involvement in the creation of the next Official Community Plan.

"The feedback we gather through the system and through our other engagement activities is making a difference too," says Kleb. "Council's decision to continue to provide free parking along the beaches and the City's successful application for a \$6 million grant towards the vision for Penticton's arenas are just two examples of how community involvement has influenced a decision or created value for the city."

### Why register?

When you register, you will receive an email approximately every two weeks letting you know what topics the City is looking for feedback on and what surveys, open houses or other engagement activities are underway or coming up. You will also receive updates on how your feedback is influencing decisions and you will have access to great prizes like free parking downtown and payments on your utility bills for taking the time to provide your feedback.

### Engagement numbers

Here are some of the key facts and figures since the City established its engagement program in September 2016.

- 22 projects hosted on [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca) with varying levels of involvement
- 40+ opportunities to discuss decisions with staff in person
- Over 3,000 registrations on [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca)
- 38,000 visits to [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca)
- 5,600 documents downloaded
- 35 different surveys

For steps on how to register for Shape Your City, please see the reverse side of this newsletter.



The City hosted two drop-in sessions for residents to preview the concept to convert Memorial Arena into a 'fieldhouse' capable of supporting tennis, lacrosse, pickleball, roller derby and more. Residents not able to attend the sessions had the opportunity to view the display materials on [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca) and provide comments.





### Go to [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca) and follow these steps:

1. Click on the word **Register** in the blue banner on the top right. (Do not click on **Sign In** as that link is for existing members).
2. Provide a username, email and create a password. **Passwords** must be at least 8 characters and contain a combination of numbers and letters, with at least one lower case letter and one upper case letter. An example would be Password1 or Test1234.
3. Re-enter your password and then provide your **Postal Code**.
4. **Review** the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy and check the box.
5. Click on the red **Register** button.
6. Watch for an email from the system in your inbox. When it arrives, **click on the link** to activate your account.

You are now registered! Next time you enter the system, use the Sign-in button.

## FireSmart your property and reduce the risk from wildfire

Research has shown that a house with both a fire resistant roof and a FireSmart zone surrounding it is 85% more likely to survive a wildfire.

The following preventative measures will increase the likelihood of your home surviving a wildfire event:

1. If you are replacing your roof, choose a Class A or fire resistant product. Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your house in a wildfire because of its large size and its susceptibility to flying embers (firebrands).
2. Dead pine needles are fuel. Keep them off your roof, out of your gutters and away from the foundation of your house.
3. Prune your shrubs, removing all dead branches. De-limb trees up to 2-3 metres from the ground. Take the green waste to a local disposal site.
4. If branches are hanging over your roof, trim them back. Then clear your roof of leaf or needle litter.
5. Keep your lawn mowed and watered, as fire moves quickly through dry grass and weeds.

6. Store firewood at least 10 metres from your house, especially during fire season.

### FireSmart Begins at Home

Below are the 3 priority zones to consider when it comes to fire prevention and fire safety.

Priority Zone 1 (within 10 meters of the building - the most critical area to consider for fire protection)

- Shrubs, trees, deadfall, unnecessary storage and woodpiles should be removed
- Keep grass watered and mowed
- Trees remain should be pruned at least 2 meters up from the ground

from the building)

- Surrounding trees should be pruned and thinned around all buildings/structures on your property

Priority Zone 3 (from 30 to 100 meters and beyond from the building)

- Surrounding trees should be thinned

For more information, please visit [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca).

