



## Debt retired on SOEC construction cost

Funds borrowed by the City of Penticton to pay for the construction of the South Okanagan Events Centre (SOEC) have now been paid back in full to the lender - the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (MFABC).

Completed in 2008, the SOEC is home to a 5,000 seat multi-purpose arena and smaller community rink which, according to the 2018 SOEC Economic Impact Report, generated approximately \$10.2M in spending by event participants last year.

Financing through MFABC was divided into three individual loans, with the first loan totalling \$8M paid down in 2012, the second loan totalling \$8M paid down in 2017 and the third loan totalling \$10M paid down in 2018.

“The successful completion of a project of this scale and magnitude for a community of 33 thousand people was a notable achievement when the South Okanagan Events Centre opened,” said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki. “That achievement has continued forward to today thanks to prudent financial planning that enabled the construction of the SOEC to be paid in full only ten years later.”

MFABC financing, totalling \$39.2M, was one of four major funding sources used by the City to pay for the



Photo (left to right) Peter Urbanc, CAO with Municipal Finance Authority; Katie Robinson, Councillor; Jack Kler, former Director of Corporate Services/CFO; John Vassilaki, Mayor; Jake Kimberley, Councillor; Frank Regehr, Councillor.

project’s entire scope. The remaining money was acquired through \$22.5M in provincial funding, \$13.9M from City reserves, and \$5.6M from other sources, for a total project cost of \$81.2M. As of the end of 2018, \$35.8M of the debt has now been retired, including all debt related directly to the construction of the SOEC building itself and another \$7M used to relocate sports fields to Queens Park.

## Council endorses City Safety and Security Task Force

With a mandate to assist Penticton City Council and the business community in creating a safe and secure City, a recently established Safety and Security Taskforce was endorsed by Council through the appointment of Mayor Vassilaki and Councillors Robinson and Kimberley.

“The origin of this task force started with steps taken last summer when a variety of groups came together at City Hall to action solutions against crime and inappropriate behaviour facing our downtown,” said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki. “The task force’s priorities are supported by Council. We’re confident this group has a clear and collaborative mandate to tackle safety and security as we head into 2019. Their membership includes the key organizations and agencies needed to address the challenging safety and security issues our residents and businesses have strongly stated are no longer tolerable.”

The task force is comprised of representatives from the Downtown Penticton Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the Penticton Industrial Association,



Bylaw and RCMP pose for photo in July 2018.

BC Housing, the Community Action Support Table, a community member, City Bylaw, the RCMP, the City’s CAO and three Council members.



## Snap Your City ready for voting

Last month, the City of Penticton launched its 'Snap Your City' photo contest to seek feature shots to display on the updated [www.penticton.ca](http://www.penticton.ca).

Hobby photographers were invited to submit their best snapshots of Penticton in the following five categories: Recreation and Sports; Arts, Culture and Events; Amenities and Places; Nature and Parks; and Innovation and Economy.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the level of participation and the quality of the photo submissions," says JoAnne Kleb, Engagement Strategist. "Thank you to everyone who has contributed a photo. The new website will truly showcase what residents love about living in Penticton."

All photos shortlisted are candidates to be used on the website or in City publications. **Residents are now invited to vote for their favourites from Feb. 13 to 27.** The photographer of the photo that receives the most votes in each of the categories will receive a one-month family pass to the Community Centre (fitness room and pool). In exchange for the use of photos the



City will provide a photo credit.

To vote for your favourite photos from Feb. 13 to 27, visit [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca).

## Recreation Penticton to share the love this Valentine's Day



# Share the Love

*This Valentine's Day!*

February 14th is a day to celebrate love and Recreation Penticton wants to share the love! As a thank-you and appreciation of the many patrons who visit the Community Centre, Recreation Penticton is having a social media contest for the

community to nominate someone they love to win a sweet Valentine's Day prize.

Follow Recreation Penticton on social media and look for the Share the Love promotional post to enter your loved one into a contest to

receive four drop-in passes.

Continue checking out Recreation Penticton's Facebook and Instagram accounts for other promotions and to see the variety of programs offered through the Community Centre.

## 6 tips to help reduce hot water use

1. Install water-efficient faucet aerators, which reduce water flow, with no loss of water pressure.
2. Install a water-efficient showerhead. They can save you about \$38 a year on your water heating costs.\*\*
3. Fix leaky faucets. A drip can usually be repaired by replacing the washer.
4. Wash laundry in cold water.
5. Run the dishwasher only when it's full to save hot water.
6. Shorten shower time by one to three minutes

Learn more at [fortisbc.com](http://fortisbc.com).

Energy at work  FORTIS BC™

\* Natural Resources Canada, Comprehensive Energy Use Database, residential sector, BC, Table 2: Secondary Energy Use, 2014; 2012 FortisBC Residential End-Use Survey for Electric-Only Single-Family Dwellings.

\*\* By switching from a standard 9.5 litre per minute (LPM) showerhead to a water-efficient 6.5 LPM model, a family of four with a standard efficiency natural gas water heater, each taking a daily five-minute shower, can save 15,330 litres of hot water and about 4.7 gigajoules of natural gas per year. Dollar savings is based on January 2018 FortisBC natural gas residential rate of \$8.15 per gigajoule, including carbon tax. Cost does not include basic charge or other applicable taxes.

[penticton.ca](http://penticton.ca)

