

## City to receive funding to help construct new childcare facility

The City of Penticton is pleased to announce that plans to replace the Edmonton Avenue Centre with a new childcare facility have taken an important step forward following news that the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund has approved a capital grant application totalling \$2.9 million.

In partnership with the City, OneSky Community Resources will lead the design, construction and operation of the new building, which will add up to 116 additional childcare spaces in Penticton.

“On behalf of Penticton City Council and parents of children who will benefit from the added childcare spaces, I’d like to thank the Province for this grant and the economic value it will bring through the construction of a new facility,” said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki.

“OneSky is thrilled to be a part of this initiative with the City of Penticton and to support our community,” said OneSky Executive Director,



Tanya Behardien. “Before COVID, we knew that more quality, affordable child care was an important need for families. We appreciate the support of the Province of BC to help improve this vital resource for families in Penticton.”

With the success of the grant, the City is preparing to initiate the process for a zoning amendment to add ‘daycare’ as a permitted

use in Kiwanis Park. Although Kiwanis Park has been home to two childcare facilities for the past 30 years, childcare is currently not a permitted use in the park. As part of this process, the City will also review the proposal for the new childcare facility with interested community members. More information about opportunities to get involved will be shared as they are confirmed.

## City seeks PTCC hotel through sale of 903 Vernon Ave

The City of Penticton recently sought Expressions of Interest (EOI) from respondents wishing to purchase 903 Vernon Avenue for the select purpose of constructing and operating a premium business standard hotel with a minimum of 90 rooms.

The property, approximately 1.5 acres in size, is adjacent to the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre (PTCC) and the South Okanagan Events Centre (SOEC) and is bordered by Westminster Avenue, Vernon Avenue and



Alberni Street. Penticton’s Official Community Plan (OCP) identifies this area as the ‘North Gateway’, one of four strategic investment zones in the city.

“By issuing this EOI, we can formally explore the level of interest from developers in constructing and operating a hotel at this key location,” said the City’s Director of Development Services, Blake Laven.

Ideally, the City wishes to see a deal struck and construction underway within the next 24 months. The sale of the property will be contingent on the applicant achieving certain milestones and timelines to ensure the completion of the hotel occurs.

“It’s no secret that Penticton has been wanting a new hotel constructed in this area for many years,” said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki. “Business and tourist accommodation in close proximity to both the PTCC and SOEC carries many advantages, including the ability to attract bigger, multi-day events that typically prefer booking venues located alongside hotels. On behalf of Penticton City Council, we looked forward to this process getting underway and seeing what’s possible.”

# Council supports advisory committee's recommendation to contribute to downtown mural project

City Council has supported a recommendation from the Arts, Creative & Cultural Innovations Advisory Committee to contribute \$5,000 to the Downtown Penticton Association's 200-block Main Street breezeway mural project. This funding will ensure local artists receive fair payment for their work.

The breezeway project involves beautifying the passageway with a collection of murals, giving it a welcoming, family- and tourist-friendly look. The artwork will be printed on vinyl anti-graffiti wraps.

The project has received a Tweed Collective grant of \$10,000. However, the DPA needed an additional \$5,000 to cover the artist payments. The advisory committee recommended to Council that the City contribute the funds, which was approved Oct. 6.

The DPA is now working with the Penticton Arts Council to send out a call for artists, aiming for a grand reveal in November.



The Arts, Creative & Cultural Innovations Committee meets quarterly or as required, providing feedback and recommendations on issues to be decided upon by City Council. Due to the pandemic, recent meetings have been held over Zoom, generally taking 1.5 hours.

If you are interested in learning more about applying to become a committee member, visit [Penticton.ca/committees](http://Penticton.ca/committees).

## Customized Fitness Plans from our experienced professionals

With the Community Centre continuing to restart programming during their phased reopening, Recreation Penticton staff are excited to launch a new service geared towards designing a custom three-month health program through the Fitness Room.

For \$199, one of the Community Centre's experienced fitness professionals will meet with you to ask a series of questions garnering your input, to design a three-month program that is specifically catered to your life, goals and needs and will help break down any challenges

formerly faced when it comes to fitness.

The individual specific plan is designed for the person in mind, focusing on activities you enjoy, workout length, location, injury prevention, muscle building and weight loss goals.



Included in the custom plan is one orientation and three drop-ins to go over the specifics of the program and for using the Fitness Room.

Those interested in working with staff to develop a custom exercise plan can contact our Recreation Coordinator of Fitness, Joshua Bibbs, by either phoning 250-490-2575 or emailing [joshua.bibbs@penticton.ca](mailto:joshua.bibbs@penticton.ca).

## Council Highlights

Council highlights are intended to provide a brief summary of recent Council meetings. To view the official meeting minutes and other council related information, visit [penticton.ca/council](http://penticton.ca/council).

### Lake-to-Lake AAA Bicycle Route Proposed Preferred Options

Council directed staff to proceed to the next phase of engagement in the Lake-to-Lake AAA Bicycle Route project and review with the community the proposed preferred route including Section 1 – South Main Street, Section 2 – Atkinson Street, Section 3 – Fairview Road and Section 4 – Martin Street.

### Metered Parking Expansion – Capital Request and Revenue Projections

Council, after receiving the financial analysis of expanding the pay parking throughout the commercial

areas of the downtown and increasing rates to \$2.00 an hour, directed staff to proceed with amending the fees and charges bylaw to establish the new hourly rate and include the estimated revenue into the 2021 budget.

### New Changes at Penticton Arts Council & the Local Art Community

Tim Tweed provided Council with an update on the new initiatives and partnerships that they have undertaken since the beginning of COVID-19, the importance of the arts for the community's mental health and financial wellbeing, and how they have worked together with local artists.