FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 26, 2018



Community Safety Bulletin

The City of Terrace considers public safety a top priority within our community and is actively responding to current issues. The City is implementing a variety of projects in partnership with service organizations to ensure any gaps in information or services are being proactively addressed.

Rapid Response to Homelessness Housing Project

The City of Terrace has partnered with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as well as the Ksan Housing Society to build the 52-unit Rapid Response to Homelessness Housing Project located on Olson Avenue.

The homes are funded through the Building BC Rapid Response to Homelessness program, part of a province-wide investment of \$291 million to build 2,000 homes throughout B.C., and more than \$170 million over three years for 24/7 staffing and support services.

The project will be run by the Ksan Housing Society and will provide 24-hour on-site services by staff.

A ground-breaking ceremony will take place on August 2, 2018 with the project to have an estimated completion of Winter 2018.

New Task Force for Drug Paraphernalia

Mayor and Council have requested that an Emergency Task Force be created to develop a plan for managing the incidents of drug paraphernalia being found within the City of Terrace. City staff will be initiating the task force and looking to local stakeholders including Northern Health for their participation. The intended outcome of the task force is to establish procedures to ensure safe disposal of items which may pose a concern to public safety.

What if I find drug paraphernalia?

If you find drug paraphernalia, such as a needle, on public or private property within the City of Terrace please contact the Leisure Services Department at 250-615-3000 and a staff member will be dispatched to safely dispose of the item.

If this occurs outside of regular business hours take the following steps if you are comfortable doing so:

- DO NOT try to put the cap back on the needle, snap, remove, or bend needles.
- Pick the needle up carefully with tongs or pliers. Ensure the needle tip is pointing down and away from you.
- Put the needle in a hard plastic container, tightly seal and label it.
- Take the plastic container to the Terrace Public Health Unit at 3412 Kalum Street or the Emergency Room at Mills Memorial Hospital.

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Increase in RCMP Members

The City of Terrace is initiating the process to request additional municipal RCMP members for the Terrace Detachment. Under the Municipal Police Unit Agreement the City has with the Province, the current number of municipal RCMP members assigned to Terrace Detachment is 25.

Senior staff will be making the request to the Provincial Ministry of Public Safety to increase the authorized strength to 28. The request is then forwarded to the Federal Ministry of Public Safety and it can take up to a year to complete the process. As part of the request, the City must confirm the incremental financial commitment for the costs of the requested increase. This will be discussed further during the 2019 budget deliberations. The primary purpose of initiating the request is to increase the capacity of our Crime Reduction Unit and provide the ability to be more proactive in enhancing public safety in the downtown.

Downtown Initiatives

The revised Downtown Plan and Design Guidelines are currently in the final draft stage. The updated 2018 plan incorporates extensive feedback from the community and focuses on several fundamental objectives that prioritize pedestrian connectivity, comfort and safety in downtown spaces.

The City is actively pursuing grant funding to leverage current downtown beautification funding – if successful, the funding will provide additional staffing resources for summer 2019 to promote downtown events and safety as well as place making projects such as parklets and wayfinding signage.

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