



Mayor's Report

February 14, 2022

Happy Valentine's Day! I hope everyone was able to spend some time with a loved one today... and will carry this through every day in 2022.

It has been three weeks since our last Council meeting and there has been a lot going on, but I would like to bring a few to your attention.

On February 2, I and other Southern Interior mayors attended a regular meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs Josie Osbourne. UBCM President Laurey-Anne Roodenburg also attended this session. We were asked to speak to what we were doing to ensure a smooth transition from the current Council to the next this fall: Long-term projects that will not yet be completed, progress on particular projects, and initiatives that will be completed (or substantially so) before the fall local government election. I spoke to the 2023 referendum for the proposed recreation centre; our work in strengthening our relationship with the Penticton Indian Band and supporting attainable housing; and the Memorial Park playground upgrades. As always, it was really interesting to hear the responses from our local government colleagues.

I attended an emergency meeting of SILGA on February 9 to discuss a letter being sent to the Province that provides comments and recommendations on emergency response, particularly as experienced by SILGA members Princeton and Merritt.

On February 11, I attended the first meeting for elected officials of the newly formed BC Chapter of the Climate Caucus. Following the series of climate-related emergencies in BC last year, there was unanimous appreciation for a smaller, closer-knit group that can hear about local government initiatives underway and discuss possible ways to collaborate to strengthen our voice to the Province.

Finally, and also on February 11, I was honoured to be selected to act as a judge for the Real Estate Foundation of BC's Land Awards. The awards program "recognizes outstanding projects and standout leaders who work to strengthen BC communities and protect our shared land and water". Awards are given to projects in five categories—I was judging the nominations for the Food Lands category—as well as two awards for individuals. The winners and three finalists in each category will be announced at the Land Awards Gala on June 9, 2022 in New Westminster.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni J. Boot