



## Mayor's Report

May 9, 2022

A belated Happy Mother's Day to all Summerland mothers and mothers-to-be. As my sister said to me yesterday, "Thank you for having babies!" Babies mean children filling the seats in our schools, employees for local businesses, young voices adding to community decisions, diversity in our population and valued contributors to our community.

According to the 2021 Census, the data on age demographics in Summerland show 28.7% of the population is 0 to 34 years old and 39.4% is between 35 and 64 years of age. The remaining 31.9% are over the age of 64.

The last week of April I, along with Councillor Barkwill and CAO Statt, attended the Southern Interior Local Government Association conference. One of the presentations I attended was on missing middle housing – housing the addresses intensification, complete communities, housing choices, and housing affordability. Housing choices—both rental and market—may include duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, rowhouses, townhouses and, apartments and condos.

At Council's meeting with SD#67 May 2, the matter of attainable housing was part of our discussion. High quality education is available in Summerland schools, but if families cannot afford to live here the entire community is missing out for the very reasons I spoke of in my opening.

Later that day, CAO Statt and I attended a pre-conference event with the BC Manufactured Housing Association. I knew that homes built off-site in a controlled environment (such as at Moduline in Penticton) are more affordable than stick-built construction, but I also learned that manufactured homes have much lower greenhouse gas emissions: as much as 43% less.

Homes manufactured off-site do not work in all scenarios and certainly it has to be a decision made by a developer, but perhaps the affordability and sustainability aspects of this style of build is an option that bears consideration.

On May 3, I attended a presentation by Councillor Tim Lezard of the Penticton Indian Band at the BCMHA convention. Councillor Lezard spoke of the issues the Band is having on housing their members—their waiting list is at 200. Both Councillor Lezard and the representatives from BCMHA spoke about how all communities can benefit from collaborating and forming partnerships.

Other items of special interest at the SILGA Convention included the impacts of our changing climate, particularly the 2021 heat dome presented by Interior Health; a tour of the Salmon Arm food hub and Makerspace, and Minister Municipal Affairs and Immigration Nathan Cullen who spoke briefly and took

questions from the floor. Some 30 resolutions were passed by the SILGA membership and will be sent on to UBCM for the September annual general meeting.

The most impactful session was the Keynote Speaker, Jesse Wenthe, who told a very personal story about an ongoing medical situation he is facing: How he learned about it; how he reacted emotionally; his treatment; the continuing impacts. Mr. Wenthe, who is an Objibwe member of Serpent Rivers First Nation, then compared his medical diagnosis to the impacts felt by Indigenous peoples when European settlers arrived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and early politicians created policies that continue to impact their lives some 500 years later.

There is always much to learn at local government conferences, and this year was no exception. It was especially nice to be able to re-connect with colleagues and share challenges and accomplishments.

And finally, the District of Summerland received a Community Excellence Award in the category of Social Responsibility for the George Ryga Arts + Cultural Centre. CAO Statt will also speak to this in his Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni J. Boot