

Mayor's Report – May 26, 2026

Earlier today, May 26, Deputy Mayor Trainer, CAO Statt and I met with School District 67 Chair James Palanio and Administrator Todd Manuel, where we discussed a number of items, including forthcoming safety improvements to the Jubilee and Kelly intersection and the possibility of having school crossing guards there. We also discussed logistics for the upcoming fall elections, which we run on behalf of not only ourselves but also the School District.

Yesterday, May 25, I appeared as a delegation at a District of Kent council meeting to present our proposal for an Agricultural Municipalities Initiative. More meetings are being set up with other councils, and I have also been speaking directly with other mayors with the request that they conduct the same kind of analysis that we've done comparing property taxes collected from their agricultural lands with operational and maintenance costs to service those properties. We will collate all the data and forward it to the Minister of Agriculture for discussion at UBCM.

Councillor Barkwill and I attended two recent board meetings of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS), on May 7 and 21.

On the 21st, the Board agreed to sign an agreement with the Okanagan Regional Library (ORL) to permit local library branches within the RDOS to be used as cooling and warming centres during periods of extreme heat or cold. This decision followed a request from ORL CEO Danielle Hubbard who presented to the Board at the meeting on the 7th.

On the 7th, the board also received a delegation from the Ministry of Forests on the establishment of forest landscape plans (FLP) to manage forests and provide requirements for forest harvesting. The plans are being developed by the Province in partnership with First Nations with input from the public, tenure holders and interested parties such as local government. They will replace forest stewardship plans as part of changes to the Forest and Range Practices Act.

On May 20, the Province held its first drought and wildfire briefing of the season for mayors and regional district chairs. We were told that the low snow pack and early snow melt have increased the risk of drought in most of the province. For wildfires, there have been 213 so far this year covering 2,300 hectares, whereas the 20-year average for this time of year is 154 fires covering 13,000 hectares. So there's been lots of small fires, almost all of them human caused.

On May 15, CAO Statt and I met online with the Municipal Affairs Assistant Deputy Minister Tara Faganello and Ministry staff regarding our review of Development Cost Charges and whether any support from senior levels of government to offset DCC's might be forthcoming, as has been reported. We were told nothing from the federal government has yet been determined. We also discussed how our wastewater treatment plant was nearing capacity and we needed support to complete a Liquid Waste Management Plan, with the hope that we would be able to meet with Minister Boyle about it at this year's UBCM.

Development Cost Charges were also the main topic of conversation at a Developers Roundtable held on May 6, which I attended along with Councillors Peake and Barkwill and District staff. The wide-ranging discussion with about a dozen developers also included matters such as building approval processes and new government housing legislation.

- Mayor Doug Holmes