



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

YOUR NEW TOWN COUNCIL was sworn in on November 5, during an evening ceremony at the Recreation Centre. This is a Council that represents our community: men, women, Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. We rolled up our sleeves the very next evening with a Special Council Meeting to appoint the Deputy Mayor, Standing Committee chairs, and Council representatives to Town advisory boards.

Councillor **KEVIN SMITH** is continuing in his role as Deputy Mayor. He is also Chair of the Corporate Services Standing Committee. Councillor **BOB MCARTHUR** will Chair the Community Services Standing Committee. Councillor **CHRIS WESTWELL** is Chair of the Municipal Services Standing Committee and the Council representative on the Sustainable Development Advisory Board. Councillor **LOUISE BEAULIEU** will be the Council representative on the Advisory Board on



From left: Councillors Chris Westwell, Louise Beaulieu, Jessica Cox, Mike Couvrette, Mayor Lynn Napier-Buckley, Deputy Mayor Kevin Smith, Councillors Kevin Campbell, Ann Pischinger and Bob McArthur

Culture, while Councillor **JESSICA COX** will take on this role with the Recreation Advisory Board. Councillor **MIKE COUVRETTE** will be the Council representative on the Tourism and Trade Advisory Board. Councillor **KEVIN CAMPBELL** will be Council's representative to the Fort Smith Housing Authority.

CONTACT THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH AT:

(867) 872-8400 or by email: townoffortsmith@fortsmith.ca

WWW.FORTSMITH.CA

AURORA FOUNDATIONAL REVIEW FOCUS OF PUBLIC MEETING

IN LATE OCTOBER, the territorial Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) announced that it was moving ahead with the Aurora College Foundational Review's recommendation to transform Aurora College into a polytechnic university. The institution's headquarters have not yet been announced. The government said that it will continue maintaining the three campuses in Fort Smith, Yellowknife and Inuvik while it works to establish areas of specialization for each campus.

CAROLINE COCHRANE, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, will be holding a public meeting in Fort Smith on Monday, November 19 at 6 p.m. in the Recreation Centre's gym to discuss the territorial government's response to the Aurora College Foundational Review. She will share the next steps in the college's transformation into a polytechnic university.

THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH submitted a report to ECE in October titled *Looking Forward: Aurora College Transition to Polytechnic University*. This

report calls for the polytechnic university to have its main campus, headquarters and transition team in Fort Smith.

TOWN COUNCIL also wants to ensure that ECE's approach focuses on the needs of local students, communities and families; improves access to post-secondary education for community members; follows current trends in post-secondary education; supports the principle of decentralization; and, allows more resources to be committed to improving education for elementary and high school students. It is calling for Aurora College's governance to remain with the college rather than an Associate Deputy Minister in ECE.

THE TOWN also recommends that ECE undertake a number of steps as part of the transition to a polytechnic university. They include reinstating the suspended degree and diploma programs in Fort Smith; that ECE develop a vision for post-secondary education in the Northwest Territories; and exploring partnerships with other post-secondary institutions.

NO SMOKING ON TOWN PROPERTY

THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH passed the *Smoking and Cannabis Use Bylaw* in October, which strengthens restrictions upon the use of cannabis that are outlined in territorial legislation. People can smoke in their homes, on sidewalks and trails.

HOWEVER, it is now prohibited to smoke on or within Town of Fort Smith property including buildings, parks, playgrounds, green spaces, sports and recreation fields. This includes the Recreation Centre, Fort Smith Centennial Arena, Mary Kaeser Library, Town Hall, Landslide Snowboarding and

Sliding Hill. People also cannot smoke within 30 metres of parks and playgrounds.

THIS BYLAW applies to the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, vaping, cannabis or other weeds, and water pipes. Tobacco may be used as part of cultural or ceremonial events. The Town of Fort Smith bylaw officer will enforce the municipal bylaw, initially giving warnings about the new bylaw. Offenders could be fined up to \$250 for a first offence. A fine of up to \$500 may be imposed for a repeat offence.

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