



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Monday, August 14, 2023 at 12:12 p.m.

Report of a meeting held on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber.
The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Mayor R. Alty,
Councillor S. Arden-Smith,
Councillor G. Cochrane,
Councillor R. Fequet,
Councillor B. Hendriksen,
Councillor C. McGurk,
Councillor T. McLennan,
Councillor S. Payne, and
Councillor R. Warburton (via teleconference).

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Bassi-Kellett,
C. Caljouw,
J. Elliot,
S. Hove,
C. MacLean,
W. Newton,
K. Thistle,
C. White, and
B. Ly.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	(For Information Only) Mayor Alty read the Opening Statement.
2.	(For Information Only) Committee agreed unanimously to amend the agenda to include a presentation regarding the 2023 Wildfire Season Update.



- (For Information Only)

3. There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.
- (For Information Only)

4. Committee tabled a memorandum regarding whether to include and prioritise proposed budget initiatives submitted by Council members to a future Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting.
- (For Information Only)

5. Committee tabled a memorandum regarding whether to endorse the six (6) Priority Actions within the Implementation Plan for 2023 and 2024 to a future Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting.
- (For Information Only)

6. Committee tabled a discussion regarding Access for All to a future Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting.
- (For Information Only)

7. Committee heard a presentation regarding the 2023 Wildfire Season Update.

Committee noted that since May Yellowknife has been Evacuation Centre for Hay River, Kát'odeeche First Nation, Wekweeti and Behchoko. Committee further noted that this has been the most intense wildfire season on record and that fire ban has been in place since July 12, 2023. Committee noted that the City is working collaboratively/meeting with the GNWT Environment and Climate Change (ECC), Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), and Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) since late July on fire status.

Committee further noted that the City's Emergency Operation Centre has been meeting daily since July 25, first on coordinating evacuation centre for Behchoko, and now for proactive protection of Yellowknife. Committee noted that they are working on proactive wildfire protection based on risk and current conditions, developed with expert advice from ECC wildland fire experts. Committee further noted that the City is moving with several important steps:

- Firebreaks west of the sandpits area, and around the Engle Business District;
- Work to remove vegetation along Deh Cho Boulevard to increase wildfire protection; and
- Sprinkler setup around Grace Lake and Kam Lake areas.

Committee noted that at this point there is no risk to Yellowknife, but the situation is fluid based on the latest update from ECC North Slave (August 14, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.). Committee further noted that if an evacuation is necessary, residents will be notified of the location of evacuation centres and the safest route to take to those centres.

8. The meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.