



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Monday, March 18, 2024 at 12:05 p.m.

Report of a meeting held on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber.
The following Committee members were in attendance:

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

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Bassi-Kellett,
C. Caljouw,
C. MacLean,
W. Newton,
K. Pandoo,
K. Thistle,
C. White,
G. White, and
S. Jovic.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
	(For Information Only)
1.	Deputy Mayor Cochrane read the Opening Statement.
	(For Information Only)
2.	There were no disclosures of conflict of interest.
	(For Information Only)
	Committee heard a presentation from Ms. Emily King and Ms. Tara Naugler, representatives from MACA, and Craig MacLean, Director of Public Safety from City of Yellowknife, regarding Emergency Management.



3. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to adopt the recommendations set forth by the Grant Review Committee for the awarding of the 2024 Grant Funding and consideration for the 2024 - 2026 Multi-Year Funding Recipients**

Committee noted that on October 20, 2004, Council established the Grant Review Committee with a mandate to review and make recommendations to Council regarding the annual distribution of the Grant Funding.

The purpose of the Grant Review Committee is to assist the City of Yellowknife in an advisory capacity by making recommendations annually to Council through the Governance and Priorities Committee on which groups will receive Grant Funding and the amount of funding each group should receive.

The closing balance of the Community Grant Reserve for 2023 was \$40,000.

2024	Budget
Budget	\$468,000.00
Multi -Year Funding (Committed in 2022) Year 3 payments	\$139,500.00
Multi-Year Funding (Committed in 2023) Year 2 payments	\$124,000.00
Recommended Allocate in 2024 (subtotal A+B+C)	\$244,500.00
Total	\$508,000.00
Allocate Community Grant Reserve	\$40,000.00
Remaining in Community Grant Reserve	\$0

If funding is approved as recommended by the Grant Review Committee, there will be \$319,500.00 committed to Multi-Year Funding and \$188,500.00 committed to one-time funding.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:
Grant Funding Policy

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:
Cities, Towns and Villages Act.

Procedural Considerations

The Community Services Department prepares written notices for the submission of applications sixty days prior to the deadline. These notices are advertised in the City's Capital Update flyer; on the City of Yellowknife's webpage, social media and on the electronic billboards located by the Multiplex and the intersection of Range Lake Road and



Old Airport Road. In January of 2024, Administration reviewed each application to ensure that criteria were met and provided that information to the Grant Review Committee.

Legislative

Section 123 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* S.N.W.T., 2003 c.22 allows Council to authorize grants for purposes it considers will benefit residents of the municipality, this allocation cannot exceed 2% of total annual expenditures as set out in its annual budget.

Committee noted that during the 2024 budget deliberations, Council identified \$468,000.00 in funding for the Community Grant process. The Grant Review Committee received twenty six (26) applications with a total funding request of \$545,998.00. The Grant Review Committee met on March 5, 2024 to review and deliberate on the applications and arrived at the recommendation presented to Council for considerations.

In keeping with the parameters of the Grant Funding and the Heritage Committee Funding Policies, one of the 26 applications was forwarded to the Heritage Committee for funding consideration.

Committee recommends that Council adopt the following recommendations presented by the Grant Review Committee:

1. To allocate \$40,000.00 from the Community Grant Reserve.
2. To award the 2024 Grant Funding as follows:

Multi-Year	Purpose of Funding	2024	2025	2026
Yellowknife Farmers Market	Weekly Market	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00
Ptarmigan Ptheatrics	Annual Productions	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Canadian Championship Dog Derby	Dog Races	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Previous Funding Groups		\$263,500.00	\$124,000.00	
Subtotal A		\$319,500.00	\$180,000.00	\$56,000.00

Sponsorship	Purpose of Funding	2024
Hockey North/Hockey NWT	Female Hockey Development Weekend	\$15,000.00
NorthWords Writers Festival Society	Festival 2024	\$15,000.00
Territorial Agrifood Association	Showcasing Yellowknife Culture, Food & Culinary	\$15,000.00
Old Town Community Association	The Old Town Ramble and Ride Festival	\$15,000.00
Ptarmicon	Multi-Day Festival	\$15,000.00
Northwest Territories Squash Racquets Association	Junior Squash 3 Day Tournament	\$7,455.00
Music Teachers Association of the NWT	Music Festivals, Music Sundays, and Alumni Concerts	\$8,500.00
Subtotal B		\$90,955.00



Community Service	Purpose of Funding	2024
Yellowknife Choral Society 2003	Spring Concert	\$7,500.00
Special Olympics N.W.T.	Special Olympics Canada	\$10,000.00
Black Advocacy Coalition upNorth	Black History Month Activities	\$10,000.00
Ecology North	Earth Week & Other Events	\$2,920.00
Food Rescue Yellowknife	Ongoing	\$10,000.00
Inclusion Northwest Territories	Summer Program	\$10,000.00
Makerspace YK	Maker Market	\$9,540.00
Music NWT	Workshops and Showcasing	\$4,000.00
NWT Literacy Council	Community Connections Program	\$9,990.00
Tennis NWT	High Performance Tennis Camp	\$2,500.00
The Northern Birthwork Collective - MakeWay Charitable Society	Prenatal Education Program & Networks	\$10,000.00
Yellowknife Live Action Roleplay	Training Days	1,095.00
Yellowknife Ukrainian Association	Aurora Arts Studio	\$10,000.00
Subtotal C		\$97,545.00

MOVE APPROVAL

4. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to direct Administration to bring forward a Memorandum to Committee with respect to changing the name of Franklin (50th) Avenue.**

Committee noted that the City of Yellowknife acknowledges that it is located in Chief Drygeese territory and, from time immemorial, it has been the traditional land of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN).

Council identified Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples as one of its core values in Council's 2019-2022 Goals and Objectives and reconfirmed its commitment to reconciliation when adopting Council Strategic Directions 2023-2026. The City continues to engage with the YKDFN on an ongoing basis and they have indicated their interest in working with the City to advance reconciliation.

Discussion regarding the renaming of Franklin (50th) Avenue took place on February 22, 2024 during a joint Council Meeting, wherein the YKDFN Chiefs and Council requested to rename Franklin Avenue to Chief Drygeese Avenue, and the City undertook to officially bring this matter forward.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:

Strategic Direction #1: People First

Focus Area 1.1

Reconciliation

Continuing to nurture positive and respectful relations with Indigenous governments, organizations and peoples.



Key Initiative 1.1.1	Continuing to strengthen relations with Indigenous governments and peoples.
Focus Area 1.3	<u>Liveable Community</u> Supporting all residents to participate in the social fabric and physical space of our community.
Key Initiative 1.3.2	Pursuing diverse community engagement methods.
Key Initiative 1.3.6	Working with all partners towards a safe, supportive and compassionate community for all.
Strategic Direction #2:	Service Excellence
Focus Area 2.1	<u>Asset Management</u> Planning, implementing and maintaining assets to reliably, safely and cost effectively deliver services for current and future community needs.
Street Naming Policy	Pursuant to Council Policy, residential streets are named after individuals who have made a substantial contribution to the history of Yellowknife.
Council Motion #0324-15	That Council adopt the following recommendations on how to move forward on the actions recommended by the <i>Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action</i> :
Article 43:	Adopt the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i>
Article 47:	The Mayor corresponds with the GNWT to ensure that any and all laws that rely upon the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius are repudiated.
Article 57:	That funding be identified for the provision of skill-based training for all City staff to undergo that will provide a learning experience on the history of Aboriginal peoples relating to residential schools; UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Treaties and Aboriginal Rights, Indigenous Law; and, Aboriginal–Crown relations. Articles 75, 76,
and 77:	The Mayor correspond with the GNWT and School Boards encouraging them to ensure that they provide any and all information pertaining to identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of



residential school cemeteries/sites where residential school children are buried, and for them to provide all known records to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Council Motion #0167-19

That:

1. Council direct Administration to undertake community engagement, using the “Reconciliation: Starting the Conversation” document, as the first step in developing a reconciliation action plan.
2. Council direct Administration to undertake community engagement through various means including:
 - i. Attending meetings/assemblies hosted by Indigenous governments and organizations;
 - ii. Proactive outreach to Indigenous governments and organizations;
 - iii. Hosting gatherings in Yellowknife over the summer; and
 - iv. Providing opportunities for online and written submissions.

Council Motion #119-21

That Council direct Administration to release the Reconciliation Framework and Reconciliation Action Plan for broad public engagement and feedback from Indigenous partners, governments and members of the public.

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:

1. *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* Reconciliation Framework
<https://www.yellowknife.ca/en/living-here/resources/Reconciliation/Reconciliation-Framework.pdf>.
2. *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, SNWT 2003,c.22.
3. By-law No. 3899, a by-law naming certain roadways within the city.

Street Naming Policy

It is the policy of the City of Yellowknife that the renaming of a specific street or park should only be considered in exceptional circumstances; when it will improve the City’s administration of essential services; or would be in the public’s best interest.

When considering renaming a street or park the City shall choose a solution that addresses public safety concerns and shall also have regard for the following:



- a) the potential confusion created for emergency and other municipal services, commercial delivery services, and the traveling public by renaming the street or park;
- b) the number of residential and commercial units affected and potential costs to residents/owners;
- c) the number and type of businesses affected and potential costs to owners/occupiers;
- d) the costs of replacing street and traffic signs or park signs;
- e) the historical significance, if any, of the existing name; and
- f) the appropriateness of the proposed name in that location.

Legislative

Section 86 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* states that Council may, by by-law, provide for the naming or numbering of highways and the numbering of buildings.

Section 88 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* states that Council may, by by-law, provide for the opening or closing of a road.

Section 88 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* further states that prior to Third Reading to open, establish, close, widen, divert or dispose of a highway, Council shall cause public notice of the proposed by-law to be given at least two weeks in advance and hear any person claiming to be affected by the by-law who wishes to be heard.

By-law No. 3899, a by-law naming certain roadways within the city, officially names Franklin as Franklin (50th) Avenue. Amending the name will require a by-law to amend or replace By-law No. 3899.

Past Practice

The City undertook a public consultation process in 2010 when it had been asked to consider renaming a portion of 50th Street as "Angel Street (50th Street)" as part of the Angel Street Project. After receiving input from the public it was initially recommended that a new park in the Niven Lake Subdivision be named "Angel Park"; however, having reviewed the comments received, Council chose to narrow the scope of the consultation and directed Administration to seek further engagement regarding Angel Street versus Angel Park. Further public input was sought and the majority of responses were in favour of renaming a street. Council adopted By-law No. 4598 on September 27, 2010, a by-law to rename a portion of 51st Street from 49th Avenue to 51st Avenue as "Angel Street (51st Street)" effecting this change.



Public Consultation

The renaming of Franklin Avenue has a much larger scope with approximately 300 properties using Franklin Avenue or 50th Avenue in the Canada Post System. This will need to be taken into consideration when conducting public engagement on this matter.

Corporate Impact

The City has several software systems, including Fire Department Management Software, Website, GIS, Financial Systems, and written literature, such as by-laws, Visitor Guides and Transit Routes that will require updating.

Committee noted that the City of Yellowknife has stated it is committed to honouring and recognizing the importance of First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples to the development of the city and recognizes that it must honour the original residents and their significant contributions. Directing Administration to bring forward a Memorandum to Committee respecting whether to rename Franklin Avenue will ensure all considerations can be identified and proactively addressed with respect to implementing the name change.

Committee recommends that, in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, Administration be directed to bring forward a Memorandum to Committee with respect to changing the name of Franklin (50th) Avenue.

MOVE APPROVAL

(For Information Only)

5. Councillor Arden-Smith left the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

(For Information Only)

6. Committee agreed to change the order in which items were considered at the meeting and moved Item No. 8 before Item No. 7.

(For Information Only)

7. Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to present By-law No. 5081, a by-law to declare a one-half (1/2) day civic holiday on Friday, April 5, 2024, to enjoy the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Spring Carnival, for adoption.

Committee noted that By-law No. 4773 (Long John Jamboree Bylaw) declares a one-half day civic holiday on the Friday of Long John Jamboree week each year that the event takes place. The Long John Jamboree Board of Directors has confirmed that, once again, there will not be an event taking place this year. Prior to enactment of the Long John Jamboree By-law, Council passed a bylaw each year it chose to declare a half-day civic holiday for the Jamboree, or previous spring carnivals.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) supports one-half day holiday per year for community-declared events such as carnivals or jamborees and looks to each community to confirm if/when events are happening.



In 2021, the board of the Folk on the Rocks music festival proposed that, as an alternative to the Long John Jamboree civic holiday, Council declare a civic holiday on the Friday afternoon prior to the 2021 Folk on the Rocks festival. Ultimately, Council did not support this proposal. At the April 12, 2021 Council meeting, Council decided they preferred to leave the discretion to businesses and employers regarding whether to permit employees to volunteer at or attend events.

Upon request of the YKDFN leadership in 2023, City Council declared a half-day civic holiday in March 2023 for the Yellowknives Dene Spring Carnival. A similar request has come from Chief Betsina for 2024.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:

Council Goal #3 Ensuring a high quality of life for all, including future generations

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:

1. *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*;
2. By-law No. 4773 (the Long John Jamboree By-law), and
3. By-law No. 5067 (declare a one-half (1/2) day civic holiday on Friday, March 31, 2023)

Legislative

Pursuant to Section 4 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, the City has the general authority to declare a civic holiday. Section 70(1) outlines the general areas within in which a municipality may make by-laws, and includes the authority to declare such a holiday.

Reconciliation

Declaring a civic holiday on the afternoon of Friday, April 5, 2024 when the YKDFN Spring Carnival is scheduled to begin, supports Yellowknifers to participate in YKDFN activities and enhance community relationships. YKDFN leadership supports this proposed action by the City and encourages Yellowknifers to attend the planned Carnival events.

Procedural

The City must declare a civic holiday by by-law. Prior to adopting By-law No. 4773, the City enacted by-laws annually declaring the Friday before the Long John Jamboree, or previously Caribou Carnival, as a civic holiday for each year the event takes place in perpetuity. The City is required to advise the GNWT as soon as a decision is made if there will be a half-day civic holiday in 2024.

Committee noted the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* grants the City the authority to declare a civic holiday. In the past, a one-half day civic holiday was declared to encourage attendance and participation by residents at spring carnival events such as the Long John Jamboree and previously, Caribou Carnival. Since COVID, many community events have been challenged to continue, including Long John Jamboree, thus affecting community spirit



and connection. Supporting a civic holiday in 2024 to encourage Yellowknifers to participate in the YKDFN Spring Carnival will endorse Yellowknifers' ability to actively engage in cultural activities and the northern tradition of spring carnivals.

Committee recommended that By-law No. 5081, a by-law to declare a one-half (1/2) day civic holiday on Friday, April 5, 2024 to enjoy the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) Spring Carnival, be presented for adoption.

(For Information Only)

8. Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to amend By-law No. 5035, the Senior Administrative Officer By-law, to remove the requirement for a one-year probationary period.

Committee noted that the Senior Administrative Officer By-law was updated in 2021 and includes a condition of a mandatory one-year probationary period.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:
Council Strategic Directions 2023-2026

Strategic Direction #2:

Service Excellence

Focus Area 2.3

Organizational Culture

Providing a positive and productive workplace environment for effective governance and service excellence.

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:

1. *Cities Towns and Villages Act* section 41; and
2. Senior Administrative Officer By-law No. 5035.

Committee noted that Council has the flexibility to set terms and conditions of employment for the City Manager within overall best practices for hiring executive leaders.

Committee recommended that By-law No. 5082, a by-law to amend the Senior Administrative Officer By-law No. 5035 by removing section 9, the requirement for a one-year probationary period, be presented for adoption.

(For Information Only)

9. Committee accepted for information a memorandum regarding Mayor Alty's travel to Hay River, NT to attend the NWT Association of Communities Annual General Meeting from February 27 – March 3, 2024.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:

- #0365-93 It is the policy of the City of Yellowknife that:



1. All City sponsored travel by Yellowknife City Council members, inclusive of the Mayor, be approved by formal resolution of Council either prior to commencement of the travel, or at the first regular Council meeting after commencement of the travel; and
2. Yellowknife City Council members, inclusive of the Mayor, be required to table a detailed expense claim for City sponsored travel within three weeks of their return from City travel. This claim is to be supported by a daily diary detailing City business.

(For Information Only)

10. Councillor McLennan moved,
Councillor Hendriksen seconded,

That Committee move in camera at 1:15 p.m. to discuss a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the 2024 City of Yellowknife Board of Revision and a memorandum regarding whether to appoint a member to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(For Information Only)

11. Committee discussed a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the 2024 City of Yellowknife Board of Revision.

(For Information Only)

12. Committee discussed a memorandum regarding whether to appoint a member to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

(For Information Only)

13. Councillor Warburton moved,
Councillor Hendriksen seconded,

That Committee return to an open meeting at 1:18 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Business arising from the in camera session.

14. **Committee read a memorandum regarding memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the 2024 City of Yellowknife Board of Revision.**

Committee noted that in accordance with the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, provisions are made for assessment complaints and appeals to be heard. Under Section



30(2) of the *Act*, City Council is authorized and responsible for the appointment of the members of the municipal Board of Revision.

The 2024 Board of Revision is scheduled to hear complaints on April 11, 2024.

The City of Yellowknife (City) has advertised for members to sit on the Board of Revision in the Capital Update and the City's website and social media sites.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:

Council Goal #1 People First.

Motion #0285-04

That the City amend its Appointments to Municipal Boards and Committees Policy by adding the following under the Policy heading:

5. Appointments to administrative tribunals (i.e. the Development Appeal Board and Board of Revision) should be based on merit, experience and expertise, rather than representation of a specific interest or organization. Advertisements for vacant positions should note the nature of the service and the appointment qualifications.

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include:

Property Assessment and Taxation Act.

Legislation

Pursuant to Section 30 of the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, the minimum number of members that Council may appoint to the Board of Revision is three (3). Section 31 states that a member of the Municipal Board of Revision holds office for not more than three years and that a person may be reappointed in subsequent years.

Consistency

Historically, Council has appointed one (1) member of Council and four (4) members of the public to the Board. A person appointed to a Municipal Board of Revision holds office for not more than one year.

In assigning Council Member portfolios, Councillor Fequet was named as the City's representative on the Board of Revision.

Procedural Considerations

City Council establishes the honoraria which would be provided for the performance of the duties of the Board chairperson and the community members of the Board of Revision. The Honorarium for 2023 was \$250 per day for community members. The Chairperson is selected by the Members of the Board of Revision.



Committee noted that a delay in appointing members to the Board of Revision will delay the hearing dates. The certified assessment roll (Second Revision) cannot be finalized until the Board of Revision has heard all appeals and rendered its decisions. If there is a substantial delay in finalizing the Second Revision, tax bills will be delayed, which will have a significant impact on cash flow and debt servicing cost.

Committee recommends that Council appoint Nancy Lamb, Dave Nickerson and Todd Slack to the 2024 City of Yellowknife Board of Revision, and that an honorarium of \$250 per day be paid to all community board members.

MOVE APPROVAL

15. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to appoint a member to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.**

Committee noted there is a vacancy on the Community Advisory Board (CAB) on Homelessness.

It is the practice of the City of Yellowknife to advertise all vacancies for boards and committees. The City has advertised a vacancy on the Community Advisory Board (CAB) on Homelessness in the Capital Update, the City's website and social media sites.

Committee noted that Council's policies, resolutions or goals include:

Council Goal #1 People First

Motion #0459-96, as amended by #0460-96, #0462-96 and #0273-09:

"The following policy be adopted with respect to appointments to municipal boards and committees:

- i) The maximum consecutive years that an individual may serve on any one board or committee is six.
- ii) Individuals who have served the maximum six-year period on one municipal board or committee shall be eligible to be appointed to another board or committee.
- iii) No individual shall be precluded from serving concurrent terms on more than one municipal board or committee.
- iv) Notwithstanding that an individual appointee has served less than six years on a particular board or committee, Council may, after the expiration of the first or subsequent terms of that appointee, advertise for applicants to fill a vacancy on that board or committee.
- v) Notwithstanding clause (i.) of this policy, should the City receive no applications to fill a vacancy on any particular board or committee, the six year maximum limitation may, at the discretion of City Council, be waived.



- vi) Should the City receive no applications to fill a vacancy on any particular board or committee, City Council may appoint a member of the public at their discretion.

Committee noted that applicable legislation, by-laws, studies or plans include: Council Procedures By-law No. 4975, as amended.

Legislation

Section 122 of Council Procedures By-law No. 4975 states:

Special Committees of Council

122. Where Council deems it necessary to establish a special committee to investigate and consider any matter, Council shall:

- (1) name the committee;
- (2) establish terms of reference;
- (3) appoint members to it;
- (4) establish the term of appointment of members;
- (5) establish requirements for reporting to Council or a standing committee; and
- (6) allocate any necessary budget or other resources to it.

Procedural Considerations

All appointments to Special Committees must be approved by Council.

The composition of the Committee was structured so that various segments of the community are represented.

Committee noted that the Committee members will assist the City in an advisory capacity regarding homelessness issues within the municipal boundaries of the City of Yellowknife. Appointing a full complement of Members will ensure that the work of the committee is completed in a timely fashion.

Committee recommended that Council appoint Bala Tirupathi as a representative from Indigenous Peoples and organizations, Friendship Centres or Indigenous housing organizations to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB) commencing March 26, 2024 and ending March 25, 2026.

MOVE APPROVAL

16. The meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.