



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

## GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

**Monday, August 25, 2025 at 12:05 p.m.**

Report of a meeting held on Monday, August 25, 2025 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber.  
The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Mayor B. Hendriksen,  
Councillor G. Cochrane,  
Councillor R. Fequet,  
Councillor R. Foote,  
Councillor C. McGurk,  
Councillor T. McLennan,  
Councillor R. Warburton.

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

C. Caljouw,  
D. Gillard,  
S. Kean,  
W. Newton,  
K. Pandoo,  
E. Thompson,  
C. White,  
G. White, and  
B. Ly.

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	(For Information Only) Mayor Hendriksen read the Opening Statement.
2.	(For Information Only) There were no disclosures of conflict of interest.
3.	(For Information Only) Committee heard a presentation from Paul Gruner (Tlich Investment Corporation), Mark Lewis (Det'on Cho Group of Companies) and Marc Whitford (North Slave Metis Alliance), representatives from Indigenous Development Corporations, regarding the Economic



Impact of Mine Closures. The group advised that they are also presenting on behalf of the Denesoline Corporation and noted that their representative was unable to attend this meeting. The Indigenous Development Corporations noted that today there are 3 remaining diamond mines still operating in the NWT with planned closure dates of early 2026 for the Diavik Mine (Rio Tinto), 2031 for the Gahcho Kue Mine (DeBeers) and 2028 for the Ekati Mine (Burgundy Diamonds). The Indigenous Development Corporations noted that this will affect the employment of several residents of Yellowknife and the surrounding area and advised that they are looking at ways to keep jobs in the north. The Indigenous Development Corporations made several recommendations to the City, with suggestions on how everyone can work towards this common goal. Recommendations from the Corporations included a collective effort to preserve the value within the NWT (circular economy); the creation of an Indigenous Procurement Policy for the City; review of outsourcing opportunities that the City could pursue for Indigenous groups to participate in; and partnership opportunities with Indigenous groups on infrastructure projects.

(For Information Only)

4. Councillor Cochrane moved,  
Councillor Warburton seconded,

That Committee move in camera at 1:08 p.m. to discuss whether to appoint someone to fill a vacant position on the Audit Committee and whether to appoint members to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(For Information Only)

5. Committee discussed whether to appoint someone to fill a vacant position on the Audit Committee.

(For Information Only)

6. Committee discussed whether to appoint members to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

(For Information Only)

7. Councillor McGurk moved,  
Councillor Warburton seconded,

That Committee return to an open meeting at 1:25 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to appoint someone to fill a vacant position on the Audit Committee.**

Committee noted there is a vacancy on the Audit Committee.



It is the practice of the City to advertise all committee vacancies. The City advertised the vacancy, specifying that it be filled by an engineer on the City's website and social media sites.

Council Strategic Direction/Resolution/Policy include:

Council Goal #1                      People First.

Motion #0459-96:                      "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.

Applicable legislation, by-laws, studies, plans include:

1. *Cities, Towns & Villages Act*; and
2. Audit Committee By-law No. 4217, as amended.

Consistency

The Audit Committee has recommended staggered terms for Committee members.

Legislation

Audit Committee By-law No. 4127 requires outside members to reside in Yellowknife and be independent from City Council, management, auditors, legal counsel and major contractors. Section 4.a.ii(3) states that the currently vacant position must be filled by a Professional Engineer.

Procedural Considerations



The Audit Committee helps to enhance the auditor's real and perceived independence by providing an intermediary link between the auditor and Council. The Audit Committee limits the reliance Council must place on the technical expertise of the independent auditor.

Committee noted that the Audit Committee is intended to function with a full complement of six members. Having the term of a new member expire in three years will conform to the staggered term recommendation.

**Committee recommends that Council appoint Council appoint J. Paul Guy, a Professional Engineer, pursuant to Audit Committee By-law No. 4127, to serve on the City of Yellowknife (City) Audit Committee for a three-year term commencing September 9, 2025 and ending September 8, 2028.**

#### MOVE APPROVAL

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

Committee noted that there are vacancies on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness for: Two (2) representatives who have lived experience of homelessness; One (1) representative from non-government Health organizations, including hospitals or other institutions, and organizations focused on mental health and addiction; One (1) representative from Veterans Affairs Canada or veterans serving organization.

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

Council Strategic Direction/Resolution/Policy 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.

Applicable legislation, by-laws, studies, 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**

120. 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 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 recommends that Council appoint Tony Brushett, a representative from a non-government Health organization, including hospitals or other institutions, and organizations focused on mental health and addiction, to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB) commencing September 9, 2025 and ending September 8, 2027.**

#### **MOVE APPROVAL**



10. The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.