

Chronology

A short history of events and actions in our community

1. **June 2019** - PG Integrated Health and housing development framework agreement with BCH and PRHC, and NH.
2. **2020 and 2022** - City purchases land (\$4M) on 1st Avenue to be used as housing and a health unit operated by BC Housing and Northern Health as part of the above agreement.
3. **2020** - Select Committee Safe, Clean & Inclusive Community formed. Concluded Jan 2021.
4. **2020** - Downtown cleanliness initiative began with funding provided to the Downtown Prince George to address biohazards, waste, and graffiti. Current annual budget \$50,000.
5. **2020 – 2022** - Storage, laundry, and showers were provided in partnership with BC Housing, Aboriginal Housing Management (AMA), and local non-profits and with the assistance of a Strengthening Communities Services grant.
6. **April 2021** - Community Safety Hub opens to address persistent and multi-faceted social issues such as homelessness, substance use, and mental illness.
7. **Spring 2021** - First notable encampment.
8. **2021** - Peers program established. This was a short-term grant opportunity that provided five not-for-profits to provide offered barrier-free and safe employment for peers with living experience of homelessness. The project was short-term and concluded in 2022 when the organizations fulfilled their service agreement terms.
9. **2021** - Enhanced RCMP two-member foot patrol eight hours per day in the downtown core.
10. **2021** - Four additional bylaw officers with patrols 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. downtown were added at a cost of \$342K.
11. **2021** - With grant funding two City outreach workers who work downtown to assist vulnerable citizens to attain the services they need. 2023 - the positions were made permanent and funded under tax levy. \$195,000.
12. **August 2021** - Safe streets bylaw It identifies and prohibits a number of overtly anti-social public behaviours which are not acceptable in our community.
13. **Legal action dates**
 - a. **August 2021** - City seeks a court injunction to remove encampments from public property.
 - b. **October 2021** - BC Supreme Court ruled on two tent city encampments in Prince George (City) v. Stewart, 2021 BCSC 2089. George Street was vacated, and Lower Patricia permitted to stay.
 - c. **November 2021** - Application to the BC Supreme Court to appeal above decision and close the Lower Patricia encampment.
 - d. **February 2022** - BC Supreme Court denied the City's application for a court injunction to remove the Lower Patricia encampment.
 - e. **March 2022** - The City of Prince George withdrew the appeal regarding the legal action to remove the encampment.
14. **June 2022** - A portion of the 1st Ave property leased to BC Housing and 50 units of housing for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness opened.
15. **2023** - Seven new RCMP members added, and 2 support staff were added. And in 2024, four new RCMP members added. Total cost is \$2.5M per year.
16. **April 2023** - Premier Eby met with Council. Council requested to be made a pilot city for any provincial initiatives addressing homelessness.
17. **May 2023** - Parks and Open Spaces bylaw amendment to designate the Lower Patricia Blvd was designated in the bylaw as the city's only encampment site. This site had already been deemed protected by the BC Courts in a previous court action. This bylaw amendment allows the City to remove people who are sheltering on other public properties in the city. Bylaw services staff have been actively doing this work since the bylaw was amended.
18. **May 2023** - Council endorsed in principle an area near Lower Patricia Blvd for a proposed transitional sheltering/support facility and authorized discussions with the Province.
19. **Spring 2023** - Millenium Park encampment formed. City vacated it in September 2023 because of the changes made to the Parks and Open Spaces bylaw.
20. **June 2023** - PG signed MOU with Province to address housing and encampments. First City in BC to have such an agreement.
21. **January 2024** - Council met with Premier Eby to encourage the Province to expedite housing and treatment initiatives.
22. **January 2024** - The City has agreed to provide site preparation and the utility connections needed on a City property so BC Housing could establish a transitional housing facility by Fall 2024. Estimated cost of \$468,126.
23. **April 2024** - Dumpsters, staff and equipment were provided to assist volunteers with an encampment clean-up day.
24. **May 2024** - Standing Committee on Public Safety established.
25. **May 2024** - Downtown safety patrols pilot:
1 Bylaw Officer, 1 RCMP Member, and 1 Firefighter from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. three nights per week for 4-6 weeks.
26. **May 2024** - Victoria Council advocacy trip budget of \$10K.

