



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Victor Smith

The District of Hope has made steady progress in advancing its strategic priorities while maintaining a strong commitment to responsible growth, infrastructure investment, and sound financial management. Over the past year, Council has remained focused on balancing the needs of our community with the long-term sustainability of our services, ensuring that we continue to deliver value while preparing for future demands.

Progress continued on key infrastructure and asset management initiatives, with ongoing investment in roads, utilities, and critical capital projects. These investments are essential to addressing long-standing infrastructure deficits and maintaining reliable service delivery. At the same time, the District has continued to strengthen its approach to long-term planning, recognizing that proactive asset management and sustainable funding strategies are critical to supporting growth and maintaining service levels over time. You will also have seen further improvements in how we communicate and engage with the community, as we continue to prioritize transparency and accessibility in local government.

Emergency management remains a central focus for Council. As provincial expectations evolve and climate-related risks increase, the District has taken further steps to strengthen our preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities. This includes advancing flood hazard and mitigation planning, expanding FireSmart initiatives, and improving coordination with regional and provincial partners. These efforts are not short-term in nature; they represent an ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and resilience of our community in the face of changing conditions.

Council also continues to prioritize First Nations relations and partnerships. Building on the Protocol Agreement with Chawathil First Nation, we have worked to strengthen relationships through respectful dialogue, collaboration, and shared understanding. These partnerships are foundational to the future of our community, and we remain committed to advancing reconciliation in a meaningful and practical way through continued engagement and cooperation with First Nations in our region.

Financial management has remained a guiding principle in all of Council's decisions. We continue to take a disciplined and measured approach, carefully considering the financial impacts on residents and businesses while ensuring that necessary investments in infrastructure and services are made. Maintaining this balance requires focus and prioritization, and Council remains committed to delivering on its strategic objectives while safeguarding the District's long-term financial health.

The past year has also been marked by continued community pride and engagement. Local events, volunteer initiatives, and community-led projects continue to play an important role in shaping the character and vibrancy of Hope. These contributions strengthen our sense of connection and make Hope a welcoming place to live, work, and visit.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the many volunteers, community organizations, and District staff whose dedication and hard work make a meaningful difference every day. Their continued commitment supports the delivery of services, enhances community well-being, and contributes directly to the quality of life we all enjoy.

As we look ahead, Council remains focused on delivering on its strategic priorities, strengthening our infrastructure, enhancing emergency preparedness, and continuing to build strong and respectful relationships throughout our region. We will continue to approach decision-making with care, transparency, and accountability as we work toward a resilient and sustainable future for the District of Hope.

On behalf of Council, thank you to our residents and businesses for your continued support and engagement. Together, we will continue to build a strong, connected, and forward-looking community.

Mayor, Victor Smith