



City of Prince Rupert

AGENDA

For the **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING** of Council to be held on December 11th, 2017 immediately following the Public Hearing scheduled at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 424-3rd Avenue West, Prince Rupert, B.C.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Recommendation:

THAT the Agenda for the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 11th, 2017 be adopted as circulated.

3. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) **Ralph Wieck, President, and Lisa Pirillo, Secretary, Prince Rupert Minor Softball Association (PRMSA) – Re: Softball Field Maintenance and Availability – Doug Kerr.**

b) **Kathleen Palm and Evelyn Basso – Re: CBC Radio One – Update**

Page 2

4. QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC

5. REPORTS, QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

6. ADJOURNMENT TO RECONVENE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 25, 2017
knpalm@gmail.com
845 - 11 Avenue East
Prince Rupert

Prince Rupert City Council:

Here is an update on our progress with CBC Radio One.

3(b)

Well, we have made a difference. And, there is more to do.

Since 1988, when 346 Stiles Place (the custom-built station for CFPR) was closed and sold, the City of Prince Rupert has kept up an ongoing conversation with Canada's public broadcaster. Our group, separate from the city, met first in 2014.

The quality of broadcasting fell to a new low by January 2013, following an earthquake and tsunami warning when there were no special announcements on CBC Radio until too late to be of use to communities. By early 2014 there was no host in Prince Rupert. The same weather was played two days running. No callers chimed in for contests; content was focused on Prince George despite the CBC promise to Northwest B.C. and the CRTC.

To illustrate, I looked at 390 stories generated by "Daybreak North".

Prince George	155
Prince Rupert	36
Smithers	10
Terrace	14
Kitimat	11

Most other stories for South Hazelton, Fraser Lake, Port Edward, and other places, involved crimes and calamities, as if these communities outside Prince George have no other merit. If your town was on Daybreak North, something bad happened.

Now, CBC Radio proved its worth last year with the Fort McMurray fire and evacuation with their broadcast. Albertans depended on the CBC signal as the fire developed. They have made more improvements during the B.C. fires of 2017 using continuous broadcasts and half hour updates. They have shown they are essential. CBC has the ability to provide provincial, national, and international information throughout Canada, importantly, from a Canadian perspective.

Yet March of 2017, the Daybreak crew played the same weather for three days! Hard to fathom this is still going on. Early June 2017, the wrong weather was played again and was not corrected until 2 pm after I called Shirell Tobin in Vancouver. This utter sloppiness erodes the trust of listeners.

"Daybreak North" may yet prove adequate for what is called "Northern B.C." if they talked to people outside of Prince George more; if they stopped labelling all places from Prince Rupert to Valemount "small, northern, and remote"; and if they acknowledge that there is more to each settlement than crimes and fires.

CBC Radio One service is not a given. The June report of the parliamentary committee has an emphasis on digital media, not radio. CBC announcers are forever reminding us there

is more information online. But not everyone is online; or wants to be online. Technology skews out the poor, the elderly, the rural, and the people who want to get things done that do not involve looking at a computer screen. We want the whole story now: we neither need nor want the redirection to online.

Further, advertising on CBC Radio One may begin in 2018 unless the CRTC puts a stop to it again. Radio One has highly Americanized news and programme content on the flagship shows such as "The Current", "Sunday Edition", "Q", and "As It Happens". U.S. programmes are played overnight as if their country is our country. "Public Radio International" is not international, it is U.S. Radio.

All said and done CBC-CFPR has a stronger profile in Northwest B.C. (see Ms. Haeber's letter) but an effort must be made to protect and improve it, especially in this digital age. Radio is a hands free engagement with the rest of the Canadian community, it is affordable.

It is time to make progress again with Radio One. There are ways to make CBC a source of Northwest news, and entertainment; with content of interest to the rest of Canada.

1. Municipalities may offer feedback regarding the emergency broadcasting during the fire season. What has been the value of CBC to citizens of the B.C. interior during this tumultuous summer?

2. The Board of Directors must support the reinstatement of journalists. 140 jobs were lost most recently nationally and it is my sense that because of our advocacy, of the 25 jobs gone in B.C. none were in Rupert or Prince George. Besides the excessive flood of U.S. news, CBC news consists primarily of crime reports. Real journalists are needed to explain our country to us. Bring them back.

3. When CBC Radio One announcers put out a call for story ideas or news items, towns, villages, and settlements need to know how to contact CBC so their community voice is heard. CBC can take collect calls and they also accept calls from rotary telephones, mail and of course, social media.

4. The next job position on "Daybreak North" should be placed in Prince Rupert. Online research may done as well from Rupert as from Prince George. Also, an extra position will make even more unlikely the situation where there is no one broadcasting from Rupert.

Over the years hundreds of Northwest residents and organizations have come together to keep CBC Radio One. This is no time to acquiesce now. Especially in this digital age.

K Palm

Thank you,
From,
Kathleen Palm

*A copy of this letter has
been sent to Nathan Cullen M.P.*



August 19, 2014

Kathleen Palm
845 11th Avenue East
Prince Rupert, BC
V8J 2W7

Dear Kathleen:

Thank you for your letter dated July 23, 2014.

I appreciate the heads up that you've sent a letter to the CRTC outlining several concerns about CBC's coverage of Northwest BC and a request that the staffing level at CBC Prince Rupert be increased from two to four people.

I'm also delighted by your comment "there have been many, and obvious improvements to the Daybreak North program." I met with 14 local residents and community leaders on March 19th and 20th of this year and listened to their concerns and suggestions. Once again, thank you for participating in those meetings. It was very useful and resulted in the development of a plan to strengthen our coverage of Prince Rupert and Northwest BC.

I thought it would be helpful to summarize some of the things we've done, as well as some of our plans for the months ahead:

- Carolina de Ryk returned to the host chair in Prince Rupert in June after a lengthy absence. We've also recently hired Russell Bowers as Carolina's co-host. While Russell is based in Prince George, he has extensive knowledge of Prince Rupert and the surrounding area. He hosted the show from Prince Rupert for several years before moving on to CBC Calgary. We're happy to have him back and recently received this email from a happy Prince Rupert listener:

"Wow! CBC Radio listening Bliss! Carolina is in the Rupert chair and Russell is back on the show! Welcome! Sheila Seidemann, Prince Rupert"

- As well, CBC British Columbia has recently gone through a process where each CBC location has created, or updated, its contingency plan for an emergency whether it be an earthquake, forest fire or some other natural disaster. We're also involved in a series of meetings with the Provincial Emergency Program to ensure we work together effectively, and in the best interest of public safety. As a result, I believe we've made substantial progress to address your concerns about the role of the CBC during an emergency.

- Two of our province-wide shows, BC Almanac and North By Northwest, broadcast live from Haida Gwaii for two days in June 2014. This was, in part, to mark National Aboriginal Day and we were delighted by the wonderful stories and people we were able to feature and introduce to the rest of the province.

- Daybreak aired a special series of in-depth stories in March 2014 about the housing shortage in Northwest BC.

- We've developed a new weekly columnist in Prince Rupert.

- We've increased the number of stories on Daybreak that are specifically relevant to listeners in Prince Rupert and Northwest BC. The numbers you've provided the CRTC were from a period of time before this commitment was made.

- Our afternoon show Radio West will broadcast from Prince Rupert for several days in February 2015. This live coverage is part of our plan to provide increased coverage of one of Prince Rupert's best known events - the 2015 All-Aboriginal Basketball Tournament.

- CBC has returned as a sponsor of several community events in Prince Rupert including Sea Fest and Canada Day.

- We will have a reporter based in Prince Rupert the night of the municipal elections in November to monitor the results from across Northwest BC and they will report into a civic election special.

I also want to take this opportunity to address your concerns about the Marine Weather as mentioned in your letter to the CRTC. While we broadcast a daily Marine Forecast, I want to assure you that should there be urgent information to pass along to our listeners, we would make our best effort to include it in our regular weather updates heard throughout the day.

Thank you for your passionate commitment to the CBC. When I met with you in March, I committed to a return visit this fall and will be in touch when a date is firmed up. I look forward to meeting with you again.

Kind regards,



Lorna Haerber
Program Director
CBC British Columbia
700 Hamilton Street
Vancouver, BC
V6B 4A2

CBC sheds more than 140 jobs in local news

Public broadcaster will add 80 positions to improve online content

CBC News Posted: Mar 26, 2015 1:58 PM ET Last Updated: Mar 26, 2015 8:31 PM ET

CBC English Services has announced that it is shedding more than 140 positions in its local news operations as part of a corporation-wide strategy announced last summer to deal with budget shortfalls.

In making the announcement on Thursday, CBC News general manager and editor in chief Jennifer McGuire said the public broadcaster plans to improve content on the internet and mobile platforms by adding 80 jobs.

"Where we're going with our local services is really prioritizing towards digital," said McGuire. "That's in recognition of where the audience is going – they're migrating to digital, as we know in the news business."

- **CBC announces changes to local supper-hour newscasts**
- **CBC to cut back supper-hour news, in-house productions**
- **CBC to cut 657 jobs, will no longer compete for professional sports rights**

McGuire said that because of factors such as vacancies and unexpected retirements, it's not yet clear how many people will be affected by the 144 job cuts. That will be determined in the next few months through a workplace adjustment process.

Here are the reductions, by province:

- Newfoundland and Labrador: 7
- Nova Scotia: 11
- Prince Edward Island: 2
- New Brunswick: 4
- Quebec: 9
- Ontario: 30
- Manitoba: 3
- Saskatchewan: 11
- Alberta: 37
- British Columbia: 25
- Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut: 5

→ None in Rupert or Prince George.
More cuts scheduled though.

Cuts to save \$15M

The cuts to local news, which will save about \$15 million, are part of a broader "2020 plan" announced last June.

At that time, CBC announced that due to reduced government funding and a drop in advertising revenues, the public broadcaster would be shedding between 1,000 and 1,500 jobs by 2020.

Of the job cuts announced in June 2014, nearly half have been or are in the process of being implemented. By the end of fiscal year 2015-16, two-thirds of the cuts should be in place, with the rest to be announced between 2017 and 2020.

The corporation said that in order to shift its priorities from television and radio to digital and mobile services, it would be undertaking a number of changes, including shortening all of its local supper-hour newscasts beginning in the fall of 2015 and reducing the number of in-house productions.

Radio-Canada, CBC's French-language service, announced today that it is cutting 100 jobs.

Explore CBC

CBC Home	Music	Books	Digital Archives
TV	Kids	Parents	Games
Radio	Local	Aboriginal	Contests
News	Documentaries	Weather	Site Map
Sports	Comedy	CBC Connects	

Stay Connected

Mobile	RSS	Podcasts	Newsletters & Alerts
--------	-----	----------	----------------------

Services and Information

Corporate Info	Reuse & Permission	CBC Shop	Jobs
Public Appearances	Terms of Use	Help	
Commercial Services	Privacy Policy	Contact Us	