

Mayor's Remarks

On a more personal note, I would like to let you know that I will not be putting my name forward for re-election in October.

It has been an absolute privilege to serve as your Mayor for the last four years and to have been part of council since 2014. After eight years of working with council to effect positive change in our community, many of the policies I felt were missing or needed to be updated have been completed or are well underway and I would like to turn my time and energy to new career challenges and opportunities.

I ran for Mayor on a promise to bring thoughtful, collaborative, strategic and calm leadership to the job. I believe I have done that, and those skills have served me well as we responded to the pandemic, ongoing growth pressures, two destructive acts at the gondola, fires, atmospheric rivers, heat domes, a record-breaking transit strike, and a role in which no two weeks are the same.

I will leave office at the end of October proud of my contributions.

- I believe that local government needs to become more diverse and inclusive. At the beginning of the term, I asked staff to bring forward a maternal and parental leave policy. We were only the 3rd or 4th municipality to do so, and I believe this change will encourage younger folks and more women to consider running for office.
- Realizing that I was working with a respectful Council this term, and with the arrival of Bill 26, I asked staff to start to prepare an amended code of conduct. Council will debate this bylaw in June, and I believe, once passed along with its supporting policies and bylaws, will be one of the strongest in the province. I hope this strengthened code of conduct signals to diverse and under-represented people in our community that you can run for office and know, that to the best of our ability, we have created a place for passionate, yet respectful debate.
- During my first term I saw the opportunity for us to be more strategic and efficient with our budget process, and so worked with staff and Council this term to ensure our budget process was completed by December 31. This may seem like a small thing, but it enables our procurement process to be more strategic and gives our staff a whole year to execute on projects rather than waiting for a budget approved in early spring.
- Speaking of procurement, my trip to Oslo in 2019 and speaking with officials there, made me realize that we were missing an opportunity to use social procurement to realize social and environmental benefits from the dollars we spend, in addition to value for money. We have our social procurement policy in place now and I have co-chaired the BC Social Procurement Initiative for the last year, helping more local governments across the province adopt social procurement and build stronger communities.
- My daughters were a huge motivation for me running in 2014 and 2018. So the adoption of an ambitious community climate action plan and a municipal energy and emissions plan that are both built for innovation and success have been proud

moments. We have a reputation for climate leadership in this province and I am proud we are part of that and I hope it will continue.

- I was keen to see our community find a way to marry our sustainability goals with an economic development strategy that builds on the talent, skills and core sectors of this community but also look to the future. It has been exciting to be a member of the Economic Leadership Team that explored new growth sectors and how we grow within our means, using the doughnut economics framework as a guide.
- Our work on affordable housing is ongoing, but we have approved over 800 units of affordable or purpose built rental now built or underway. I am excited that our Housing Society is now launched to accelerate our progress on this file.
- We have a 10-year capital plan for the first time and a real estate facilities strategy that will help guide the replacement and enhancement of key buildings, land and other infrastructure for future Councils.
- Reconciliation with Squamish Nation and improving the relationship between our governments has been a personal focus since I joined council. It is the lived experience of my younger sister, a survivor of the 60's scoop, that motivates me in this regard. The work of unlearning and relearning never ends for me or at the District, but our relationship with the Nation continues to strengthen as we find ways to collaborate and work together on flood mitigation, solid waste and circular economy, servicing agreements, and economic development opportunities.

The term is not over until that last bang of the gavel and our agenda remains jam packed, and I know there will be more our Council will accomplish before October 15th.

Two weeks ago, I hosted a grade six student who won the mayor for a day contest. At the end of the morning, as we sat eating pizza with her classmates, I asked her what she learned that morning that she didn't know about the Mayor's role. She looked at me and said, "you have a lot less power than I thought you had." She is a smart and perceptive young lady.

But it's true, I am one vote and one person. I have had the benefit of working with a great group of colleagues on council for the last four years. And we as a Council have a CAO, senior management team and a staff cohort across the District's operations who are, without a doubt, one of the finest teams in the province. As a community you should never take that for granted.

One of the hardest parts of stepping back from this role is not being part of the energy, drive and commitment that our staff bring to work every day. I thank everyone on Council, staff or in the community who has supported our shared accomplishments.

I look forward to your questions and working hard as your Mayor until the end of my term.

Thank you.