

COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2023-2026

Progress Report on
Council Priority Actions

August 2026



►► CRIME AND SAFETY

- During this Council term, 34 new RCMP officers, 17 Bylaw Enforcement Officers, and 18 firefighters have been added.
- Approved a one per cent community safety levy to provide predictable funding and enable long-term planning for police, bylaw and fire.
- Established the Mayor's Task Force on Crime Reduction, delivering seven recommendations and 19 initiatives focused on prevention, enforcement, and coordinated response.
 - To improve safety, visibility, and support in business areas, enhanced funding provided to support the Uptown Rutland Business Association and Downtown Kelowna Association ambassador programs.
 - Launched a voluntary Business CCTV Registry to support quicker, more efficient police investigations when a crime occurs near a business.
 - Launched the Business Security Enhanced Rebate Program in 2026 which provides a 50% rebate of up to \$3,000 for security enhancements.
 - Relaunched the RCMP Auxiliary Police Program to support community policing, traffic enforcement and visibility and alternative response capacity.
 - Since 2023, more than 200 Crime Prevention through Environmental Design audits have been completed.
 - Increased participation in the City's Block Connector Program (31 to 116).
- Continued to implement the City's five-year (2021-2026) [Community Safety Plan](#) by completing 15 Actions, in collaboration with partners such as the RCMP, Interior Health, social agencies and Okanagan College.
 - Launched the [Crisis Response Community Led \(CRCL\)](#) alternate response model that pairs mental health professionals with people in crisis where appropriate instead of a uniformed
- Completed a Police Service Model Review; an adjunct tiered policing model review will be initiated summer 2026.
- Recalibrated regional policing framework to focus the RCMP Officer in Charge solely on Kelowna, to disaggregate administrative duties regionally, and to forge equitable cost-sharing agreements.
- RCMP established Community Liaison positions for Rutland and Downtown and added School Resource Officers.
- RCMP interactions focused on speeding, impaired driving, and high-risk corridors increased. In 2025 the RCMP speed watch program checked nearly 24,000 vehicles at 34 locations.
- Advanced advocacy "[Chronic Offenders: Closing the Revolving Door](#)" to senior governments on repeat property offenders, bail reform, crown prosecutor resourcing, and secure mandatory care facilities
- Successfully advocated to the Federal Government for bail reform, resulting in the passing of Bill C-14 to provide stricter bail conditions for repeat property offenders.
- Successfully advocated for the Province's decriminalization policies to be revised to protect public spaces and ultimately fully rescinded.
- Broke ground on the Glenmore Protective Services Campus to improve Fire Department response time and provide a long-term home for search and rescue.
- Bylaw Services successfully operationalized a one-of-its kind City-sponsored Outdoor Sheltering Site that supports the expedient transition of people sheltering outdoors to indoor shelter and housing options while restoring the Rail Trail for public use.
- Bylaw Enforcement enhancements were deployed in both Rutland and Downtown Urban Centres to address sense of safety concerns with social disorder in collaboration with the RCMP

►► AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Development Cost Charges reduced by 25% for two years to support housing construction and maintain economic activity during a period of higher construction and financing costs.
- 177 supportive housing units and 715 subsidized rental units were issued development permits (as of August 2026).
- Market rental rates have decreased approximately 5% driven in part by an increase in purpose-built rental housing completions.
- Middle Income Housing Partnership program was developed and has two projects in-stream in Rutland and Glenmore that will provide approximately 195 units with 40 percent of units offered at 20 percent below market rates.
- \$31.5M Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) grant continues to support housing acceleration including the development of affordable housing on City owned land and new housing partnerships.
- Endorsed and implemented the Housing Action Plan to accelerate approvals and enable diverse housing.
- Updated Density Bonus program options to better support affordable housing delivery.
- A new fast track housing program launched in 2024 to accelerate development of infill housing such as 4 plexes and carriage houses.
- Launched [housing dashboard](#) to track progress.
- Fortis advocacy to ensure sufficient electrical distribution to support growth.
- Exceeded our Year 2 Housing Supply Act target by 4,031 units and are now ahead of our Year 4 target.
- Achieved two consecutive years of increased rental vacancy rates (3.8% in 2025 and 6.9% in 2025).



►► HOMELESSNESS

- In partnership with the Province's HEART & HEARTH program, delivered 180 rapid safety net houses across three sites (tiny homes) with more than 125 people moving into permanent or supportive housing.
- Successfully advocated for the creation of 20 complex care beds followed by a Provincial commitment for a new purpose-built complex care facility to create 20 new complex care spaces and 20 supportive housing units.
- Modified service delivery, design and infrastructure elements at the City's designated outdoor sheltering site
- City assumed role of backbone organization for Journey Home Strategy and invested in internal team for both upstream and downstream support in the community.
- Expanded the Community Care cleanup program to Rutland, which pairs people experiencing homelessness with peer support workers.
- Created the [online shelter dashboard](#) to show bed availability in seven shelter facilities.
- Piloted new approaches like warming buses during cold weather events.
- Continued advocacy discussions with Provincial Ministry, Regional municipalities and local First Nations for a facility that follows the Red Fish model and for a compassionate mandatory care facility for those who are a harm to themselves or others.
- \$25,000 in Social Development Grants awarded to four organizations in 2025, with increased allocations planned for 2026 and 2027.
- Launched the new Community Food and Water Resource Map, improving awareness of available support and making it easier for individuals to access food and water resources online or through printed brochures.



►►TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation Accelerator Program investment of \$90M to build more transportation projects, as part of larger accelerated capital delivery program that tripled investment from \$100M to \$300 from 2022 – 2025.
- Delivered major capital projects including Chute Lake Road roundabout, Kane and Valley Road roundabout, and Rutland and Springfield Road roundabout.
- KLO Mission bridge replacement completed, funded in partnership with the provincial and federal governments. The new bridge will limit potential impacts from future high-water events and provides a safer cross for all modes of travel.
- Glenmore Road widening from Union to Snowsell underway with a target completion in 2026.
- Burtch (Byrns to KLO) and Hollywood road extensions underway.
- Burtch Road improvements between Highway 97 and Glenmore Road in coordination with the redevelopment of Parkinson Recreation Centre underway.
- Preliminary design complete for Clement Crosstown Connector from Spall to Hwy 33 to create a new east-west Midtown connection.
- Bertram overpass completion provides a safe and efficient pedestrian and cycling route over Hwy 97, funded in partnership with provincial and federal governments.
- Construction completed on the Leckie ATC and construction underway for the Bertram ATC connecting communities and providing more options for alternative modes of travel
- Transit ridership rebounded to exceed pre-pandemic numbers and reach a record high.
- Expanded transit service delivery to record levels through partnership with BC Transit and regional governments, including a successful pilot of new on-demand service in the Crawford area which lead to subsequent expansion of this service in the Lower Mission.
- Expanded the Emergency Transit Assistance Program in partnership with the United Way to provide free transit to low-income and vulnerable residents.
- Advanced an Affordable Transit Pass program to be implemented in 2027 which will further support travel for residents who face financial barriers.
- Transit exchange improvements at Okanagan College, Rutland, and Mission Rec Centre bus loop, supported by a Provincial/Federal grant contribution.
- UMO electronic fare system implemented so riders can pay fares using a mobile app.
- Continued momentum for the new Kelowna Regional Transit Centre including refined scope and updated cost estimates as well as continued advocacy including meetings with the Premier, Minister of Transportation and Transit and BC Transit.
- Completed Hardy Transit Centre upgrades to advance bus fleet electrification and began receiving the 22 electric buses which will be put into service in 2026.
- Began and subsequently expanded a successful Adaptive Signal Time project which utilizes technology to dynamically adjust and optimize traffic light phases based on real-time traffic and reduce delays.
- Updated the Neighbourhood Traffic Calming policy to ensure on-going success of the program.
- Continued the Shared Micromobility Program with enhanced safety requirements and expanded the pilot in alignment with the Government of BC.

- Implemented a successful Bike Valet program which offers safe, secure, and free place to park your bike downtown.
- [Safe Mobility Action Plan](#) which is grounded in Vision Zero and applies a Safe System Approach was endorsed and provides clear, practical actions to make Kelowna's streets safer today while supporting long-term growth and livability.
- Transportation Accessibility Strategy endorsed which builds on the City's Accessibility strategy and promotes consistent accessible transportation infrastructure throughout the City.
- Advancement of the long-term vision for high frequency bus rapid transit within the City of Kelowna by progressing corridor protection along Highway 97 as well as Richter Street.
- Annual addition of transportation safety and pedestrian infrastructure including, traffic calming measures, crosswalks, and sidewalks.
- Began implementing leading pedestrian intervals at a number of key intersections throughout Kelowna to give pedestrians a head start and provide more visibility of pedestrians to turning vehicles.
- Preliminary design complete and detailed design underway for Commonwealth Road – Jim Bailey Road connection. \$7M grant from Province of BC for Regional Commonwealth Gateway project to connect Hwy 97 to Jim Bailey Road enhancing emergency access, reducing congestion and unlocking residential and industrial lands.



► AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

- Glenmore Ellison Irrigation District integrated into the City of Kelowna to provide reliable and safe water supply as part of the long-term Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan.
- Water Security Plan adopted to ensure a reliable and safe water supply over the long-term.
- \$22M Disaster, Mitigation and Adaptation Fund grant continues to mitigate flood risks on Mill Creek.
- The [Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy](#) was adopted in Q3 2024 to advance climate mitigation and adaptation actions.
- The Sustainable Urban Forest Strategy was endorsed by Council in Q3 2024 to help manage and expand the urban forest.
- 3,000 trees planted in 2025 through Neighbourwoods tree sales, and through development permit requirements.
- Strengthened emergency preparedness for flooding, wildfires, extreme heat, and changing water supply conditions including expansion of the FireSmart program.
- Agriculture Land Reserve enforcement increased through a city term Agricultural Planner position.
- Embedded a climate lens into City decision-making processes (e.g., rezoning applications for new developments, sustainability standard for new civic facilities).
- Over 100 participants in the City's Home Energy Navigator program to help residents implement home energy upgrades.
- Successful federal grant for the Okanagan Algae Monitoring Network across jurisdictions to share data.
- New home for Kelowna Farmers Market.
- The only community to win two Climate & Energy Action Awards in 2025 for DeHart Park and the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy. The City also won in 2023 for the FireSmart Community Chipping Program.
- Actively spending over \$2 million of provincial funding through the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP). The program has activated over 34 projects related to climate mitigation and adaptation since 2023.



►► ECONOMY

- Added Economic Prosperity as a formal Council priority during the term in response to changing economic conditions.
- Established a Community Task Force on Economic Prosperity to provide actionable advice to Council.
- Advanced Kelowna International Airport Campus Expansion, including building and opening the new Air Terminal Building expansion, and breaking ground on a new five-star hotel and 1,000 stall parkade development.
- Continued advocacy for economic-enabling investments to unlock the East Lands at YLW Kelowna International Airport.
- Successfully advocated to the Province for an accelerated opt-out timeframe for Short Term Rentals in alignment with summer 2026 sporting events. The Province granted the exemption to be effective June 1, 2026 for Kelowna.
- Endorsed transitioning the economic development model from a regional model to a City-led internal model, supported by an external advisory body.
- Canadian Country Music Awards and Montana's Brier contributed \$30M economic impact.
- Supported the return of the Apple Triathlon and Okanagan Marathon and Kelowna Made Festival.
- In 2026 Kelowna hosted the Memorial Cup (\$22.5M economic impact), the BC Lions for a weeklong Touchdown Kelowna program (\$60 M economic impact), the Canadian Elite Basketball League (Hoopfest), and the BC Summer Games.
- Kelowna announced as host for 2028 Special Olympics.
- Kelowna designated Canada's first UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.
- Hosted the inaugural Canadian Premier League soccer game in 2024.
- Key waterfront property acquired to support world-class downtown hotel development.
- Significant upgrades completed to Prospera Place to prepare for future event hosting including the [2026 Memorial Cup](#), and new facility operator selected for Prospera Place and MNP Place.
- Supported accelerated development of major employment lands, including completion of a Regional Employment Lands Inventory.
- Significant progress on the Building Strong Kelowna capital program that includes a new Parkinson Recreation Centre, activity centres in Glenmore, Mission and Rutland, and key Recreation Centre partnerships with Okanagan College and UBCO.
- Awarded 86 grants totalling \$117 million, which in addition to advancing council priorities, generated local economic activity through planning, design, engineering, construction and long-term operations.



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