

DATE: October 9, 2018

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Councillor Jillian Merrick, Chair of the Select Committee on Student Needs

SUBJECT: 2018 Student Mentorship Recipients and Future of the Select Committee on Student Needs

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. 2018 Student Mentorship Summaries by Kiera Bokvist (NCLGA), Emilio Caputo (FCM), and Brooklyn Seemann (UBCM)
2. Select Committee on Student Needs Terms of Reference

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council:

1. RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION the report dated October 9, 2018, from Councillor Merrick, titled “2018 Student Mentorship Recipients and Future of the Select Committee on Student Needs”; and
2. DISSOLVE the Select Committee on Student Needs as the Committee has achieved the objectives outlined in its mandate as defined in the Committee’s Terms of Reference.

PURPOSE:

The Select Committee on Student Needs was established in 2015 with a mandate to advise the City on matters regarding the priorities, policies and strategies affecting students in Prince George, as set out in the attached Terms of Reference. Throughout the iterations of the Committee, members engaged in discussion and advised on topics of vital importance to students such as transportation, housing, recreation, and representation of students. In 2016, the Committee submitted to Council, a ‘White Paper’ that provided recommended strategies related to the aforementioned student priorities, many of which continue to be a priority of students.

To support representation of students, the Select Committee on Student Needs recommended the creation of student mentorship opportunities to expose students to the regional, provincial, and national local government conferences. These opportunities provide students with unique insights into the operation of local governments within a broader context. As per the requirements of the mentorship program, the 2018 recipients have provided the attached summaries of their experiences as follows:

Kiera Bokvist, UNBC graduate student

Attended the Northern Central Local Government Association convention in Fort Nelson this past May.

Emilio Caputo, UNBC undergraduate student

Attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities convention in Halifax in June.

Brooklyn Seemann, UNBC undergraduate student

Attended the Union of BC Municipalities convention in Whistler in September

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Council established the Select Committee on Student Needs in support of one of Council's focus areas to continue initiatives that relate to youth engagement and education, which is further supported in the 2016-18 Corporate Plan.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The mentorship opportunities were an important outcome of the work of the Select Committee on Student Needs. The summaries provided by the students indicate success in exposing students – who already have an interest in local government – to local government issues and strengthening their interest in pursuing careers in local government.

Identifying other pathways for continued relationship-building with student organizations and engagement on students' identified matters of importance will provide the City an opportunity to support its endeavor in becoming a "Destination for Education".

As the Select Committee on Student Needs has accomplished its mandate, as established in the attached Terms of Reference, the dissolution of the Select Committee on Student Needs is recommended.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Councillor Jillian Merrick, Chair
Select Committee on Student Needs

MEETING DATE: October 15, 2018