



MINUTES OF DISTRICT OF KITIMAT  
**REGULAR MEETING**

MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
606 MOUNTAINVIEW SQUARE, ON MONDAY, MARCH 06, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor: P. Germuth

Present: Councillors: E. Empinado, M. Feldhoff, T. Marleau, M. Martins, G. Pitzel

Via WebEx Councillor: G. Leibel

Present: Staff: K. Enders, Director of Corporate Administration  
A. Ramos-Espinoza, Director of Engineering Services  
W. Tenshak, Director of Economic Development  
A. Hansen, IT Manager

Via WebEx T. Tavares, Deputy Director of Corporate Administration  
Via WebEx M. Penner, Director of Human Resources and Labour Relations  
Via WebEx M. Gould, Director of Leisure Services

**Call to Order**

**Delegations/Presentations**

**Public Input / Questions on Agenda Items**

Mayor Germuth called for any public input. There was no public input.

**Media Inquiries - For Clarification Only**

Mayor Germuth called for any media inquiries.

Media from the Northern Sentinel asked Council a question regarding volunteer commission members.

**Call for New Business / Adoption of the Agenda**

Councillor Marleau – Consent Agenda # 6 – Copy of Correspondence 12 February 2023 – North West Regional Hospital District – Replacement of the Bulkley Valley District Hospital

Councillor Martins – Consent Agenda #2 – District of Kitimat Commission Posting – 01 March 2023

Moved and seconded,

*“THAT the Regular Council Agenda for March 6, 2023, 2023, be adopted as amended.*

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion: R23-049

**Consent Agenda**

Moved and seconded,

*“THAT the Consent Agenda for March 06, 2023, be approved as amended.”*

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion: R23-050



## **Reports and/or Communications**

### **1. Community Recognition of Excellence Program**

Moved and seconded,

*“THAT the report dated February 22, 2023 – Community Recognition of Excellence Program be received for information.”*

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion: R23-053

Community Recognition of Excellence Program (1.1.2.8)

### **2. North Central Local Government Association – Resolutions**

Councillor Empinado declared a conflict of interest as an employee as Northern Health and left the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Moved and seconded,

*“THAT the resolution on the Provincial Vaccine mandate be forwarded to North Central Local Government Association for deliberation and consideration at their 2023 Annual General Meeting:*

*WHEREAS the Covid-19 Provincial vaccine mandate for health care workers continues, directly impacting about 2500 health care workers and their families, while it has been removed in practically all jurisdictions across Canada;*

*AND WHEREAS British Columbia’s health care system is under severe stress, particularly in its rural communities, with thousands of unfilled health care worker positions across the province;*

*AND WHEREAS the societal risks of severe illness and death associated with Covid-19 have been greatly diminished since earlier periods when more lethal Covid strains were predominant and vaccinations had not yet been widely available, and when provincial vaccination uptake and boosters were much lower than at present;*

*AND WHEREAS Covid-19 is currently seen as endemic by many;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government to end the Covid-19 vaccine mandate for health care workers,*

*AND FURTHER THAT the Provincial government be asked to provide the criteria that must be in place for removing the mandate in the event that the province is unwilling to remove the vaccine mandate for health care workers at this time.*

Divide the question:

Moved and seconded,

*“THAT the following resolution be forwarded to North Central Local Government Association for deliberation and consideration at their 2023 Annual General Meeting:*

*WHEREAS the Covid-19 Provincial vaccine mandate for health care workers continues, directly impacting about 2500 health care workers and their families, while it has been removed in practically all jurisdictions across Canada;*

*AND WHEREAS British Columbia’s health care system is under severe stress, particularly in its rural communities, with thousands of unfilled health care worker positions across the province;*

*AND WHEREAS the societal risks of severe illness and death associated with Covid-19 have been greatly diminished since earlier periods when more lethal Covid strains were predominant and vaccinations had not yet been widely available, and when provincial vaccination uptake and boosters were much lower than at present;*

*AND WHEREAS Covid-19 is currently seen as endemic by many;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government to end the Covid-19 vaccine mandate for health care workers.”*

In favour: Mayor Germuth, Councillors Feldhoff and Pitzel

Opposed: Councillors Leibel, Marleau and Martins

Motion **Defeated**

Motion: R23-054

NCLGA resolutions (1.5.2.4)

Moved and seconded,

*“THAT the following resolution be forwarded to North Central Local Government Association for deliberation and consideration at their 2023 Annual General Meeting:*

*AND FURTHER THAT the Provincial government be asked to provide the criteria that must be in place for removing the mandate in the event that the province is unwilling to remove the vaccine mandate for health care workers at this time.”*

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion: R23-055

NCLGA resolutions (1.5.2.4)

Councillor Empinado returned to the meeting at 7:35pm

## **New Business**

### **1. Councillor Marleau –Consent Agenda # 6 – Copy of Correspondence 12 February 2023 – North West Regional Hospital District – Replacement of the Bulkley Valley District Hospital**

Councillor Empinado declared a conflict of interest as an employee of Northern Health and left the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Moved and seconded,

*“THAT a letter of support be written to the Minister of Health regarding the replacement of the Bulkley Valley District Hospital in Smithers.”*

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion: R23-056

Letter of Support – North West Regional Hospital District (1.5.1.7)

Councillor Empinado returned to the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

### **2. Councillor Martins –Consent Agenda # 2 – District of Kitimat Commission Posting – 01 March 2023**

Council discussed challenges and efforts in recruiting volunteers to the Energy, Emissions and Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

## **Mayor and Council Reports**

### **Call for New Business / Adoption of the Closed Agenda**

Moved and seconded,

*“THAT the March 06, 2023, Closed agenda be adopted and Council deal with these matters in a closed session.”*

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion: IC23-041

Meeting recessed into the Closed meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:46 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

Moved and seconded,

*“THAT this meeting adjourn.”*

Motion Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

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Mayor

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Corporate Officer