

FREEDOM OF THE CITY POLICY
Council Policy No. 102/23

POLICY:

To establish a policy that outlines the procedure involved to bestow the honour of “Freedom of the City” to an individual or group.

The Freedom of the City is the highest award that the City can bestow on an individual or group to recognize their contributions/achievements.

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with the *Community Charter* Section 158:

- (1) *A council may, by unanimous vote, confer freedom of the municipality on*
 - (a) *a distinguished person, or*
 - (b) *a distinguished unit of the armed forces of Canada or another nation.*

- (2) *Unless the council revokes the honour, a person given freedom of the municipality or the commander of the armed forces unit, as applicable,*
 - (a) *is deemed to be an elector of the municipality and is eligible to be registered as such as and to vote in an election for mayor or councillor, and*
 - (b) *despite any other enactment, if the person is a Canadian citizen, is deemed to be qualified to be nominated, be elected and hold office on the council.*

LIST OF RECIPIENTS

Charles “Bud” Hamilton	December 7, 1979
2276 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corp.	April 10, 2006
Mayor Jim Eglinski	June 24, 2019
Senator Richard Neufeld	June 24, 2019
Jean Leahy	September 9, 2019
Sue Popesku	April 27, 2020

Recipients receiving this honour by resolution will be added to this policy.

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PROCESS:

- (1) City Council may, by unanimous vote, pass a resolution bestowing an individual or group with the distinguished honour of “Freedom of the City”. The resolution will include the following rationale for the designation.
 - a) The individual or group must have made outstanding, long-term contributions to the Community of Fort St. John.
 - b) The individual or group must have made significant improvement to city life and culture.
 - c) The individual or group must be recognized by peers inside the City and provincially, nationally, or internationally.
 - d) The individual or group must have brought recognition to the City through their achievements.
- (2) Staff will consult with the honouree or honouree’s family to identify an appropriate location for the special event.
- (3) A press release is issued announcing the date, time, and location of the special event to acknowledge the honouree(s).
- (4) During the special event, the Mayor will read the proclamation to the audience and the event will include the opportunity for local elected officials and Council to speak. Council may invite special guests to speak.
- (5) Council presents the honouree(s) with a framed proclamation that is signed by all members of Council announcing this designation.
- (6) A picture of the recipient with the brief description of their accomplishments will be prominently displayed in City Hall.

FREEDOM OF THE CITY



AWARDED TO

CLICK TO ENTER NAME OF RECIPIENT

At a Regular Council meeting, Fort St. John City Council duly convened in Council Chambers in City Hall, in the City of Fort St. John, Province of British Columbia, on [Click to enter month and day](#), [Click to enter year](#) at which all members of Council were present, the following resolution was passed by unanimous vote:

“THAT, in accordance with the powers vested in the City Council by the *Community Charter*, [Click here to enter name of Recipient](#), in recognition and appreciation of [Click to enter reason for bestowing honour](#) be awarded with the Freedom of the Municipality designation.

Councillor Bolin

Councillor Klassen

Councillor MacDougall

Councillor Stewart

Councillor Zabinsky

Councillor Lequiere

Lilia Hansen
Mayor