

June 18, 2021

City of Fort St John
10631 100 Street
Fort St John, BC
V1J 3Z5

Attention: Milo MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer

RE: NPCC Management Services Agreement

Dear Milo,

In response to your letter dated June 11, 2021 and received by email on June 14, 2021 you state the City does not intend to renew the agreement that expired November 30, 2020. You also state the City will continue to honor the terms of the agreement. Please refer to Section 16 of the Cultural Services Agreement:

16. Termination without Reason – Either party may, without reason, terminate this Agreement upon 12 months' notice to the other party.

The City of Fort St John was responsible for initiating a new agreement and allowing time for negotiations prior to the Cultural Services Agreement expiring on November 30, 2020. This should have started in June, 2020 to provide enough time for negotiations, finalize terms and conditions and sign a new agreement before November 30, 2020. This did not happen and if the City of Fort St John did not intend to renew the agreement, you should have issued the 12 months' notice at that time. The North Peace Cultural Society received the draft Management Services Agreement after November 30, 2020 for a further 5-year term and with the same funding and service deliverables as the previous agreement. I was in discussions by email and phone with Karin Carlson and final changes to the T&C's were in progress when Margaret May and I met with you and the Mayor on March 9, 2021. New ideas were presented to us and reasons given were the Library was having financial difficulties and you wanted to remove the rent burden by entering in two separate lease agreements with the Library and NPCS.

Subsequent discussions with the NPCS board took place with you as to how this could be achieved and one of the suggestions I made was to have the City directly pay the NPCC utilities which was equivalent in value of \$80,000 rental revenue received from the Library. I said this would be the least disruptive process and would achieve the results desired of removing the \$80K burden from the Library. You seemed amenable to this idea at that meeting but came back at the next meeting saying the City wasn't interested in doing that but wanted to take over the operations of the Centre. We provided you with information and I was in the process of finalizing the list of user groups that you requested when I received the above-mentioned letter.



"Promoting the art in Fort St. John and the region."

You also assured us you wanted to take time with this process and working towards developing an agreement. You didn't provide anything in writing or present a new draft Management Services Agreement articulating the proposed changes brought forward by you and the Mayor. Nor did you provide details around a proposed fee for services model and any proposed funding NPCS would receive from the City.

The media release on June 15, 2021 was not factual and added uncertainty and anxiety to the NPCC user groups, arts community, greater community and our staff and board members. We are deeply disappointed and troubled by the way in which, not only the North Peace Cultural Society has been treated this week, but the lack of regard and consideration for the arts community and the community as a whole. We ask Mayor and Council to reconsider their decision and allow negotiations to continue in good faith, otherwise, a 12 months' notice needs to be issued.

On behalf of the North Peace Cultural Society Board of Directors,



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