

# AN OPEN LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL AND FELLOW RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF QUESNEL

## My name is Dan Weiman.

For the past 12 years I have worked for the City of Quesnel in several departments. I am currently an arena attendant.

Quesnel has 150 city workers, members of CUPE 1050 and CUPE 3176. We provide a wide variety of quality public services that keep our city clean, safe and well-maintained.

You can find us everywhere – at the City Hall, museum, arena and recreation centers, airport, landfill, Public Works and RCMP – maintaining flower beds, performing road maintenance and repair, collecting garbage, inspecting buildings, clearing sidewalks, removing snow, administrating records, and ensuring playgrounds are safe for our children.

### **OUR JOBS KEEP OUR COMMUNITY WORKING, AND WE'RE PROUD OF THAT.**

If we don't act now, however, Quesnel may go the way of other surrounding cities such as Prince George and Williams Lake. After high-priced consultant reviews and cost-cutting budgets, the residents of those towns have paid the price with seriously reduced services and dozens of job cuts to city workers that mean countless problems such as unplowed roads and unclean facilities.

**Quesnel's City Council is planning to cut over 1 million dollars from city services over the next three years – over two thirds of that within the next year!**

In addition to that, the City Manager has commissioned a "core services review" aimed at finding "efficiencies" in city services. There is no doubt that what they mean by "efficiencies" is even further cuts to city services and our jobs. It comes as no surprise that the high-priced consultant that our Council has hired is the same consultant that did the review for William's Lake.

## Help us keep our community working by urging City Council to:

- stop the cuts to city services
- organize public meetings on the proposed budget
- conduct a referendum on the purchase of the overpriced city hall

### **HOW CAN OUR CITY COUNCIL CRY THE BUDGET BLUES?**

Our city's reserve and surplus funds are in great shape. The federal government has signed a new deal with cities that will see a quarter of a million dollars in GST rebates to our coffers.

Council's push to cut city services is not about money. It is about priorities. City Council thinks that it is more important to:

- Cut the taxes of the "industrial class"
- Spend \$215,000 on a duck pond rather than repair the Johnson Bridge
- Spend \$640,000 on the Shiraoi House (a construct that could have been produced for half its price)
- Spend \$1,000,000 building the seldom used, Civic Plaza
- Purchase the most expensive City Hall in all of the central and northern interior (cost: \$8,200,000!)

In order to prepare for the cuts, City Council wants to introduce an adopt-a-street, adopt-a-garden, adopt-a-tree, adopt-a-road, adopt-a-park program, so that you can volunteer to do the work that we are trained, committed and paid to do. That's no way to run a city!

We are proud of the work we do for our community, and we know that you are too. Council's October 2003 survey proved that, when 95% of residents said they were satisfied with our work.

Together we can get our community back on track. It's not too late. Contact your city councilors and/or mayor today.



**Dan Weiman**  
President of CUPE 1050,  
Quesnel city workers

### **List of names and contact info of mayor and councilors**

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