



Council Priorities 2023-2026

Message from the Mayor

On behalf of Council, I am pleased to share our priorities for 2023 – 2026. The focus areas reflect our response to what citizens are telling us is important to them.

We will do this by focusing on priority actionable items that will deliver results in the short-term. At the same time, we will advocate to senior levels of government for more investments in mental health, addictions, housing and the justice system.

We will report on progress within six, twelve and eighteen months to assess how we are doing, the value of our investments, and how we might do better based on what we learn. We are not afraid to try new things and will be quick to change course if we do not see the results our community needs.

Residents will clearly understand what we believe is most important, what we plan to do and whether our actions are making a difference. To be successful, we will ask citizens and businesses to be part of the solution by getting involved in a variety of focused task forces throughout this Council term.

I believe these Council priorities and actions will contribute to a better quality of life for Kelowna's residents and build a stronger, more attractive community for the future.

Mayor Tom Dyas



Overview of Council Priorities

Crime & Safety



Strategy to address property crime; including break and enters and theft

Provide local Business Improvement Areas support for urban center safety issues (e.g. 'Red Shirts' program)

Establish a safety task force with stakeholders

Partner with Provincial ministries responsible for mental health and problematic substance use on initiatives (i.e. Community Safety Plan) that improve local conditions

Affordable Housing



Acquire city owned land to build affordable housing

Increase number of rental units with below market rents

Partner on the creation of a low-cost affordable housing pilot project

Homelessness



Advocate for additional Complex Care Centre (e.g. Red Fish Healing Center)

Explore partnership opportunities for alternative forms of sheltering

Advocate for purpose-built permanent shelter with 'wrap-around' supports and graduated housing options

Develop an emergency winter shelter program

Transportation



Explore alternative modes of transportation between UBCO/YLW and downtown

Improve transit service including expanding the transit pass program

Improve traffic flow and capacity on major road networks (e.g. Lakeshore Road)

Complete the functional design of the Hwy 33 multi-modal traffic corridor

Enhance traffic safety presence

Agriculture



Facilitate the creation of a permanent home for the farmer's market

Review the Agriculture Plan with respect to secondary uses

Expand Enforcement/Bylaw Officers

Climate & Environment



Include 'Climate Lens' in decision making to assess mitigation and adaptation

Increase urban tree canopy (e.g. tree-lined medians)

Pilot energy concierge program to enable retrofits in buildings

Crime & Safety



Council Priority Actions

1. Strategy to address property crime; including break and enters and theft
2. Provide local Business Improvement Areas support for urban center safety issues (e.g. 'Red Shirts' program)
3. Establish a safety task force with stakeholders
4. Partner with Provincial ministries responsible for mental health and problematic substance use on initiatives (i.e. Community Safety Plan) that improve local conditions

How we measure progress on the priority

- Business break and enters and thefts are decreasing (reported # of property crime)
- Resident sense of safety in our community is increasing (% residents that feels safe).
- Public safety resources are increasing (e.g. police, bylaw and fire)

The results we want to see

- # or % of residents who feel safe in Kelowna increases.
- Decrease in business break and enters and thefts.
- Public safety resources keep pace with community growth (e.g. police, bylaw and fire).

Affordable Housing

Council Priority Actions

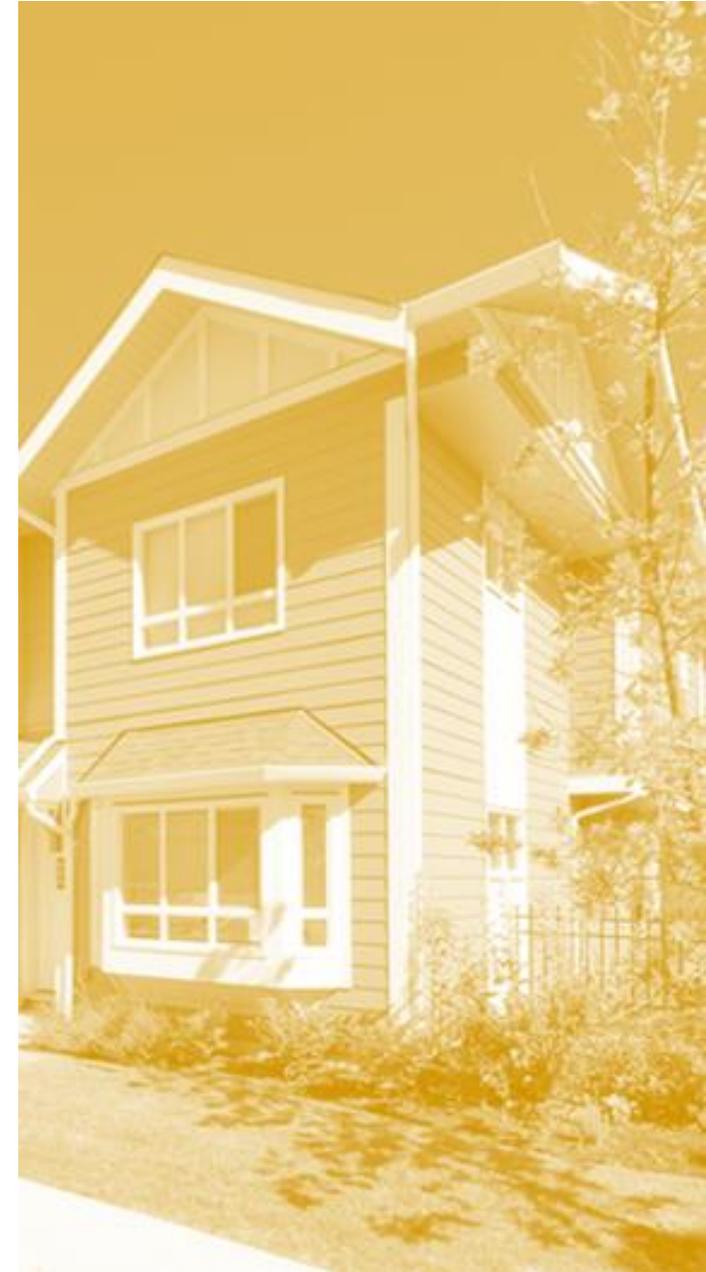
1. Acquire city owned land to build affordable housing
2. Increase number of rental units with below market rents
3. Partner on the creation of a low-cost affordable housing pilot project

How we measure progress on the priority

- The City has a sufficient supply of each housing type (# new housing units by type such as affordable housing)
- Market rental is more affordable (the proportion spending more than 30% to go down compared to previous term)
- Home ownership is more affordable (ratio of median income and median sale price, potentially by housing type)

The results we want to see

- Residents have improved access to affordable housing whether they rent or own.
- The city has an improved housing supply that meets the social and economic needs of the community.
- An increase in the supply of affordable housing options for people with low to moderate incomes.



Homelessness

Council Priority Actions

1. Advocate for additional Complex Care Centre (e.g. Red Fish Healing Center)
2. Explore partnership opportunities for alternative forms of sheltering
3. Advocate for purpose-built permanent shelter with 'wrap-around' supports and graduated housing options
4. Develop an emergency winter shelter program

How we measure progress on the priority

- # of complex care units Interior Health adds to our community
- Progress towards Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) non-market housing targets (measured to be developed through HNA)

The Results We Want to See

- A decrease in the number of people living on our streets who have mental health and/or addictions from the previous term.
- Reduce the impacts of social issues stemming from lack of support for people experiencing poverty, problematic substance use and untreated mental health conditions on the community.

Transportation

Council Priority Actions

1. Explore alternative modes of transportation between UBCO/YLW and downtown.
2. Improve transit service including expanding the transit pass program.
3. Improve traffic flow and capacity on major road networks (e.g. Lakeshore Road)
4. Complete the functional design of the Hwy 33 multi-modal traffic corridor
5. Enhance traffic safety presence

How we measure progress on the priority

- Transit ridership (Transportation Master Plan target)
- Mode Share (Transportation Master Plan target)
- Improved travel choices (Number of trips by walking, biking, transit, rideshare)
- Optimize travel times (Reliable travel times between the five urban hubs)
- Monitor goods movement times (Average goods movement time)
- Promote inclusive transportation (% of low-income residents close to frequent transit and active transportation corridors)
- Central Okanagan Region's Transit Service Guidelines (frequency, service span targets, and performance by route)
- Traffic safety is increasing (Traffic related injuries and fatalities per capita)

The results we want to see

- Capacity and traffic flow is enhanced on major road corridors
- More trips by alternative transportation modes (e.g. transit, rideshare, biking, walking)
- Traffic safety management is increasing (e.g. speed control)



Agriculture

Council Priority Actions

1. Facilitate the creation of a permanent home for the farmer's market
2. Review the Agriculture Plan with respect to secondary uses
3. Expand Enforcement/Bylaw Officers

How we measure progress on the priority

- Farmland is used for permitted farm uses (Number of non-farm use contraventions closed off during Council term)
- Protect agricultural land (# acres excluded from Agricultural Land Reserve, with the exception of those that are planned in OCP 2040; # properties rezoned from agricultural to a non-agricultural zone outside of OCP future land use)
- % of farmland that is being actively farmed in being maintained or is increasing (% of agriculture land that is actively farmed)

The results we want to see

- Increased engagement and support for the agricultural industry as an integral part of our healthy food system, economy and culture.

Climate & Environment

Council Priority Actions

1. Include 'Climate Lens' in decision making to assess mitigation and adaptation
2. Increase urban tree canopy (e.g. tree-lined medians)
3. Pilot energy concierge program to enable retrofits in buildings

How we measure progress on the priority

- Community and corporate GHG emissions are decreasing (e.g. GHG emissions by theme such as buildings, transportation; residential energy use per capita; fuel use data; corporate energy intensity)
- Protect tree canopy (progress on tree canopy cover targets established for each Growth district through the Urban Forest Strategy update)
- Protection of environmentally sensitive land (measure to be confirmed)

The results we want to see

- Reduce corporate and community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (e.g. energy efficient buildings, zero-emission vehicles and charging infrastructure, urban focused growth, alternative transportation modes, renewable energy)
- Protect and restore natural areas (e.g. Okanagan Lake, urban forest, wetlands)
- Include a Climate Lens in City decision making, ensuring we always consider climate impacts
- Enhanced climate emergency planning and response programs (e.g. flooding, wildfires, extreme heat and a changing water supply)



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