



# Council Priorities 2023-2026

Updated June 2025

# Message from the Mayor

On behalf of Council, I am pleased to share our updated priorities for the 2023–2026 term. These priorities reflect our continued commitment to focusing on the issues that matter most to the people of Kelowna—issues you told us were important at the start of our term.

We have made strong progress. We've accomplished many of the original actions, added new actions that we can significantly advance, as well as realigned some of our priority outcomes based on what we've learned. This work has been supported by other levels of government and strengthened by the involvement of local residents, businesses, and community partners—everyone working together to be part of the solution.

This update includes the launch of a new Community Task Force on Economic Prosperity—an initiative that supports Council's economic development priority. The task force will bring together local business leaders, innovators, and stakeholders to explore bold ideas that will strengthen our local economy, attract investment, and support businesses.

As we near the final year of our term, we remain especially focused on two urgent issues—crime and safety, and homelessness. These remain top priorities for Council and for the people of Kelowna.

The updated Council priorities are informed by [regular reporting on progress](#), allowing us to monitor both actions and how they are contributing to the results we want to see. The regular reporting is part of our commitment to transparency and continually seeking opportunities to improve.

These priorities address the big challenges facing our city—keeping your neighbourhood safe, investing in the infrastructure that supports your daily life, and delivering the best value for the municipal services you rely on—all while maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in the province. Kelowna is a city we are proud to call home.

Together, we are building a strong, safe, and resilient community for everyone.

**Mayor Tom Dyas**





# Overview of Council Priorities

## Crime & Safety



Advocate for more crown prosecutors and bail reform to address repeat property offenders.

Advocate for the activation of a regional secure, compassionate care facility.

Sustainable funding model for Business Improvement Areas to enhance public safety programs.

Enhance traffic safety enforcement through RCMP visibility and greater enforcement of traffic violations.

Advance alternate call response and flexible deployment models.

## Affordable Housing

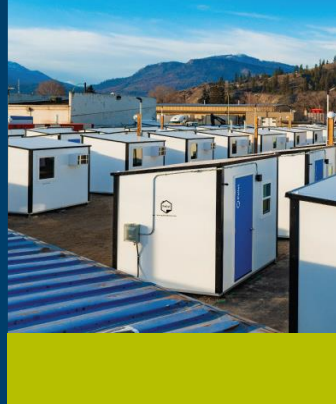


Construct in-progress supportive and affordable housing (e.g., Bertram project) in partnership with BC Housing and through the Housing Accelerator Fund (5 projects).

Advocate for accelerated implementation of electrical distribution infrastructure to support growth.

Implement the Council-approved Housing Action Plan initiatives.

## Homelessness



Facilitate a purpose-built permanent shelter with "wrap-around" supports, in partnership with BC Housing.

Continue to implement the outdoor sheltering strategy.

Advocate for an Indigenous-led regional care facility (e.g., Red Fish Healing Center model).

## Transportation



Complete the functional design of Clement Avenue multi-modal extension corridor.

Advance and secure funding for a new transit operations centre.

Enhance traffic safety infrastructure.

Explore alternative modes of transportation between UBCO/YLW and downtown (e.g. light rail).

Improve transit service.

Improve traffic flow and capacity on major road networks (e.g. roads bundle).

Advance "quick build" model for cycling infrastructure.

## Agriculture & Environment

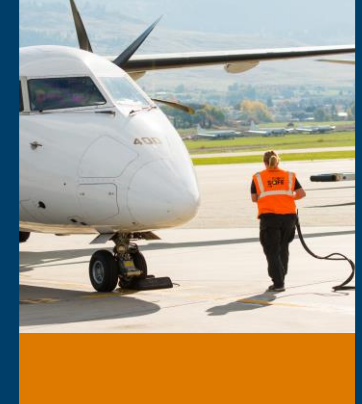


Implement the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy.

Continue to include "Climate Lens" in decision making to assess mitigation and adaptation.

Ensure reliable agricultural water supply.

## Economy



Establish a Community Task Force on Economic Prosperity.

Support accelerated development of major employment lands.

Review the City's current investments into economic development programs.

Enhance sports tourism and recreation development.



# Crime & Safety

## Council Priority Actions

1. Advocate for more crown prosecutors and bail reform to address repeat property offenders.
2. Advocate for the activation of a regional secure, compassionate care facility.
3. Support sustainable funding model for Business Improvement Areas to enhance public safety programs.
4. Enhance traffic safety enforcement through RCMP visibility and greater enforcement of traffic violations.
5. Advance alternate call response and flexible deployment models (e.g., civilian-based response to people experiencing crisis).

## How we measure progress on the priority

- # reported property crime by type
- % residents that feels safe
- Public safety resources are increasing (Total safety and security positions)
- # police traffic enforcement interactions
- Alternative response model (TBC)

## The results we want to see

- % 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).
- Traffic law enforcement is increasing.
- Alternate call response and flexible deployment models are increasing

# Affordable Housing

## Council Priority Actions

1. Construct in-progress supportive and affordable housing (e.g., Bertram project) in partnership with BC Housing and through the Housing Accelerator Fund (5 projects).
2. Advocate for accelerated implementation of electrical distribution infrastructure to support growth.
3. Implement the Council-approved Housing Action Plan initiatives.

## How we measure progress on the priority

- Total residential building permits and housing type split
- % vacancy rate and % renters in core housing need
- Median household income and house prices
- Electrical distribution infrastructure measure (TBC)

## 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.
- Electrical infrastructure is sufficient to support community growth, including housing.





# Homelessness

## Council Priority Actions

1. Facilitate a purpose-built permanent shelter with “wrap-around” supports, in partnership with BC Housing.
2. Continue to implement the outdoor sheltering strategy.
3. Advocate for an Indigenous-led regional care facility (e.g., Red Fish Healing Center model).

## How we measure progress on the priority

- # Interior Health complex care units
- Progress towards Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) non-market housing targets
- # of people experiencing homelessness (Point in time count)

## The Results We Want to See

- 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. Complete the functional design of Clement Avenue multi-modal extension corridor and propose a partnership delivery model to the Province.
2. Advance and secure funding for a new transit operations centre.
3. Enhance traffic safety infrastructure (e.g. traffic calming and pedestrian infrastructure)
4. Explore alternative modes of transportation between UBCO/YLW and downtown (e.g. light rail)
5. Improve transit service including expanding the transit pass program and weekend transit.
6. Improve traffic flow and capacity on major road networks (e.g. roads bundle)
7. Advance “quick build” model for cycling infrastructure and seek design consistency throughout the City.

## 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 & Environment

## Council Priority Actions

1. Implement the Climate Resilient Kelowna Strategy.
2. Continue to include “Climate Lens” in decision making to assess mitigation and adaptation.
3. Ensure reliable agricultural water supply.

## How we measure progress on the priority

- Community and corporate GHG emissions
- Tree canopy compared to OCP targets
- Ecosystem changes (hectares)
- Climate emergency planning and response measure (TBC)
- # days service interruption or # water main breaks in non-potable system

## The results we want to see

- Reduce corporate and community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Protect and restore natural areas.
- 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)
- The quality and availability of the agricultural water supply is sufficient.



# Economy

## Council Priority Actions

1. Establish a Community Task Force on Economic Prosperity.
2. Support accelerated development of major employment lands.
3. Review the City's current investments into economic development programs.
4. Enhance sports tourism and recreation development.

## How we measure progress on the priority

- # business licenses
- Employment lands supply
- # events by category or economic impact

## The results we want to see

- Priority sectors for economic diversification are supported, including the sport and recreation tourism sector through event attraction and facility development.
- The number of businesses is increasing.
- The city has a sufficient supply of suitably located and serviced employment lands.
- Economic development service delivery models and level of investment are evaluated.



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