

Speaking Notes

City of Thompson

Inaugural Meeting

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

Good Evening.

I am honoured to provide greetings and comments at this, the first organizational meeting of City Council for the upcoming term of office from 2014 to 2018.

I would like to welcome all in attendance, including my Council Colleagues, City Administration, residents of Thompson, guests and those viewing from home.

I want to acknowledge all those who let their names stand for election to City Council and to Board of Trustees of the School District of Mystery Lake. It is a true commitment to our community when residents take up the challenge of Public Office. I also want to thank all family members, friends and volunteers who assisted us in our pursuit of having a seat in public office. I am confident that all of us in our elected roles will work in the best interest of the community, to ensure we have a safe, vibrant, sustainable and progressive community.

I personally want to thank the residents of Thompson in providing clear direction as Mayor of this great City as we continue moving forward with many initiatives established over the last four years. I am extremely proud of the progressive moves we have made in the areas of Public Safety, Infrastructure renewal, Quality of life amenities, post secondary education and housing. I look forward to working with returning Councillors, Penny Byer and Judy Kolada and newly elected Councillors Kathy Valintino, Denis Foley, Blake Ellis, Colleen Smook, Duncan Wong and Ron Matechuck. as we continue to keep this momentum moving forward over our term of office.

Decisions made in this term of office will frame the future development and sustainability of our community for many years to come. As Council we will be asked to meet the challenge and provide the leadership required. There will be many debates and discussions over issues and I encourage that debate. We will require input from you, the residents of our community, to ensure we are on track with how you want our community to progress. I invite that input... in fact I would say that is a responsibility of each and every one of you as residents of the community to provide that input in order to help shape our community.

In the coming weeks we will meet as Council to set a strategic plan for the next four years and beyond. We will be looking for input from residents as the plan is developed and I encourage residents to become involved in the process. The Strategic Plan for our term of office will be shared with the Public in the first quarter of 2015

We will continue to develop the Aboriginal Accord that is signed by many partners in our community and surrounding Region.

We will continue to use the Master Parks Plan and the Sustainable Community Plan as templates moving forward in development for our community.

We will continue valuing our most valuable asset and that is our employees of the City of Thompson, their input is vital as we strive to provide the most efficient and effective services to our residents while observing best practices in Safe Operations.

Thompson is a great City with a great deal of diversity. It is seen in our community groups and organizations, in work forces, in volunteer groups. We have our issues, as all communities, do but it is how you deal with those issues that shows the strength of the community. I am confident that we will all work together to ensure that we are an inclusive, caring, progressive community that will offer the best of our community to all of our community and surrounding region.

In closing and on a personal note I was deeply humbled in being elected as your 7<sup>th</sup> Mayor of the City of Thompson. I accept the privilege and the challenge in providing leadership as we move forward over the next four years.

Thank you, Merci Beaucoup and Tansi

I remind everyone there will be a brief reception immediately following the conclusion of the official business of the Organizational meeting.