

January 2026

# Quarterly Newsletter

## A Message from the Mayor

The biggest story of 2025 is undoubtedly the progress of the BIG project. We are now past the midpoint of this decade-long effort to rebuild our century-old water system. It has not been easy. Reconstructing our dams secured our long-term water supply, but it also meant several years of repeated boil water advisories. Now, as we're replacing failing pipes beneath our streets, residents are experiencing new traffic delays and more boil-water notices.

For Council, the focus has shifted to the final and most significant phase of building an (anticipated) \$60-million water treatment and filtration plant. Nearly every conversation we have with senior governments comes back to this goal. Whether we're advocating for changes to the tax cap, working to resolve PILT issues, or pushing to attract new development, all roads lead to securing the funding needed for treatment.

But water infrastructure isn't the only story unfolding in Prince Rupert. We have worked closely with Northern Health to attract new physicians and restore full Emergency Room services. Our development processes have been streamlined and every possible fee waived. Housing is finally moving. Twenty new townhouses and two apartment buildings are nearing completion. A third apartment building is just getting underway.

Growth is showing in other ways. The ILWU has moved into its new home, a new middle school is taking shape, and construction is progressing on both an auto service centre and a new A&W. This is the unprecedented expansion of the Port of Prince Rupert spilling into the surrounding community—and this is only the beginning.

## Budget 2026



In December, Council gave first three readings to the Budget for 2026 so that staff could start planning for capital works and projects. Once the final property assessment values are received by BC Assessment, the Budget can be formally approved in March/April of 2026.

Our Budget document includes a comprehensive overview of projects, debt projections, the proposed tax rate, and much more! Check it out at [princerupert.ca/budget](http://princerupert.ca/budget), or pick up a copy at City Hall.



## Upcoming Events & Council Meetings

### Council Meetings

Council Meetings are held at 7 pm at City Hall the following dates of the first quarter of 2026

- January 12th & 26th
- February 9th & 23rd
- March 9th & 23rd

For the full schedule go to [princerupert.ca](http://princerupert.ca)



### Municipal Election

2026 is an Election year! Stay tuned for additional information. Voting day is October 17th, 2026



### Recreation Events

Unplug and Play - January 19-25th (sponsored by Northern Savings)

All Native Tournament  
February 14th - 21st



## Where else can you learn about events?

- [visitprincerupert.com/events](http://visitprincerupert.com/events)
- Active Living Guide
- Arts Council Newsletter



Sign up for email updates and engagement opportunities at Rupert Talks!

[engage.princerupert.ca/register](http://engage.princerupert.ca/register)



# Major Project Updates

## Water Quality

There is nothing more important to staff and Council at the moment than addressing water quality. In the 2026 Budget, Council approved an additional chlorination site on Kaien Island to help improve overall water quality in the community. Currently, water is only treated through chlorination at our treatment station across the harbour where our lake-source water supplies are also located (see map, right). Work on the engineering/design for a secondary form of treatment, to address colour and other water quality parameters is also ongoing through 2026. This longer term goal towards secondary treatment will take multiple years to complete. The City must still secure additional funding to build a new treatment plant given cost increases since the facility was initially proposed. We appreciate the community's continued patience while we work on this critically important goal.

In the interim, we are also completing major overhauls of water distribution pipes through the BIG Project, and continuing to replace one of the water lines that carries our potable water beneath the harbour from our lake source on the mainland.

## The BIG Project

The BIG Project to replace failing water and sewer lines is well under way. With Bacon St and Crestview Dr now complete, work continues on 9th Ave West (near complete), as well as Alfred St (also near complete). Work also started in October to replace the water line from our reservoir down Victoria St, which will eventually move to Conrad St and onto 11th Avenue East. Future corridors are in the design process and will be announced as they are confirmed.

## Waterfront Redevelopment

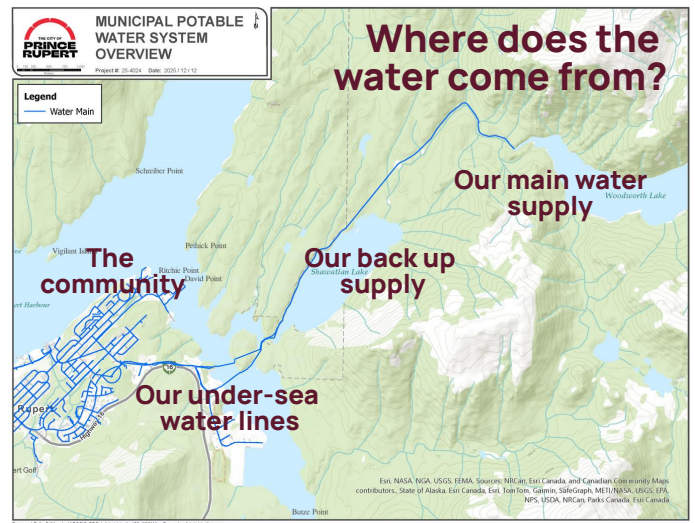
Over the past few years, we have been slowly moving forward with the redesign and revitalization of the waterfront park area at the base of Bill Murray Way, in partnership with Gitxaała Enterprises and with funding from the Province of BC. The project aims to improve public access to the waterfront, integrate opportunities for highlighting of Ts'msyen arts and culture, create a more vibrant, welcoming space for residents, and support growing tourism and cruise activity and associated opportunities for local businesses to benefit from that activity. For more information, check out our engagement page at [engagement.princ Rupert.ca/waterfront](https://engagement.princ Rupert.ca/waterfront).

## Wastewater Treatment

The first wetland wastewater treatment project to get us on track for wastewater treatment is proposed for the area between Park Avenue and Moresby Trail on the former site of a WWII era fuel tank. The technology will treat wastewater within a contained metal cylinder through natural processes. All that will be visible at the top of the tank are wetland plants, with all treatment processes occurring under multiple layers of soil and treatment medium. Construction starts early in January, with some limited impacts to the nearby trail anticipated over the course of the project. For additional details on the project, scan the QR code, right, or find the video on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/tHZX9SkDyHo>



Understanding our water supply



## Development Statistics

### Multi Family Housing Projects



40 units on 9th Ave W  
70 units on 11th Ave E  
38 units on 3rd Ave W

Since 2021, 185 new units have received building permits. An additional 209 units are at varying stages of their development and building permit approval process.

### Commercial Projects



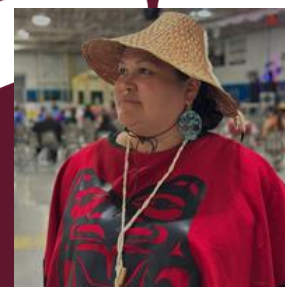
ILWU Hall on 1st Ave West (complete)  
A&W at 3rd Ave W + McBride (Under way)

In the downtown alone, in 2025 an additional 11 projects have approved development and planning permits, and 34 projects have building permits approved. These permits had fees waived as part of our ongoing incentive program to support revitalization.

### Industrial Projects



\$1.35 BN REEF Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) Project



## Community Pots of Gold

Do you know Marlena? Because you should! A mother, business owner, and recipient of last year's Civic Merit award, Marlena Joseph Clayton is an active volunteer and community leader supporting activities at the Gitmaxmakay Nisga'a Society like the Nisga'a Cultural dancers amongst many other gatherings. She is also a founding member of the Lax Kxeen All Nations Society, who host frequent North Coast Night cultural gatherings and markets. If you see Marlena, give her a high five for being one of the many 'pots of gold' in our City of Rainbows.

