

Summer 2026

Quarterly Newsletter

A Message from Mayor Herb Pond

The October election is now on the horizon, and the term for your current Council is drawing to a close. Personally, it's been an exciting time to be back at the helm of your local government. There is much more to do, but also a lot to celebrate.

Through the hard work of successive Councils and staff, we've managed to get additional revenues from the Resource Benefits Agreement. We've negotiated a 10-year agreement on Payments in Lieu of Taxes with the Port Authority. We've also brought in more tenants to Watson Island, and associated dividend payments from Prince Rupert Legacy Inc.

These are all ways that we are stabilizing our financial position so we can reinvest in our failing infrastructure. In the next term, we know that will have to remain a main focus and especially implementing a secondary form of water treatment to ensure water quality for residents. That has been our priority and we are seeing more support coming from higher levels of government acknowledging the need.

We're also seeing building owners take more initiative to upgrade downtown. We've put incentives in place to help, and slowly we are seeing progress on that front. Although our focus is these major infrastructure projects like water treatment, utility line replacement, wastewater treatment and bridge upgrades, we also know attention is needed to make sure Prince Rupert has livability at the forefront. We do that with incentives, with a new bylaw that helps us better regulate vacant and derelict buildings, and also by getting out of the way of partners that want to make things happen here.

We're enthusiastic about the future of the City of Rainbows, and we hope you are, too.



Upcoming Events & Council Meetings



Council Meetings

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

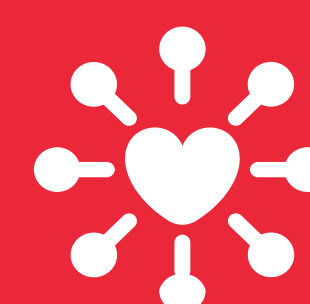
- July 27th
- August 24th
- September 8th
- September 28th

For the full schedule go to princerupert.ca



Municipal Election

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



Recreation + Community Events

August 21st - Fun Friday. Free youth event for ages 13-18, dinner at six and a free public swim. No registration needed.

July 29th-August 9th - Gym closure for floor refinishing project.

September 5th - 10 am - 1 pm - Community Registration Day.

August 24th - September 8th Annual Aquatic Centre Maintenance Shutdown.

Where else can you learn about events?



visitprincerupert.ca/events



Active Living Guide



Arts Council Newsletter



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

engage.princerupert.ca/register



Major Project Updates

BIG Project Updates

11th Avenue East, Conrad,
Victoria/Crestview

This project began construction in October 2025 and is well underway. Completion is anticipated in the coming months following remaining tie in work and paving.

9th Ave West

This project is now fully completed with new asphalt and curbing installed.

Alfred Street

Alfred Street is now paved, with future plans for the completion of utility tie ins at the intersection of 8th Ave East, 11th Ave East and Hays Cove Ave. These will be minor disruptions at a future date, once valve rerouting designs have been complete.

11th Avenue East between Alfred St and Prince Rupert Blvd

The City has awarded a contract to Infracon for the next section of water line replacement. Construction is anticipated to start this summer on this next section of the BIG Project.

For more details on this ongoing push to renew failing water/sewer infrastructure, head to engage.princerupert.ca/big

Park Ave Wastewater Treatment Wetland System

This project began construction in January and has been progressing since then, with anticipated completion this Fall.

2nd Avenue Bridge

Contractors have started the 2nd Avenue Bridge replacement project, which is anticipated to take approximately 2 months. For additional information on the project and alternative traffic patterns, head to our website.



3rd + 4th Ave West Staircase

This project is now resuming following a slowdown due to prolonged winter conditions, and is anticipated to be complete in the Summer or Fall.

Additional Chlorination Site

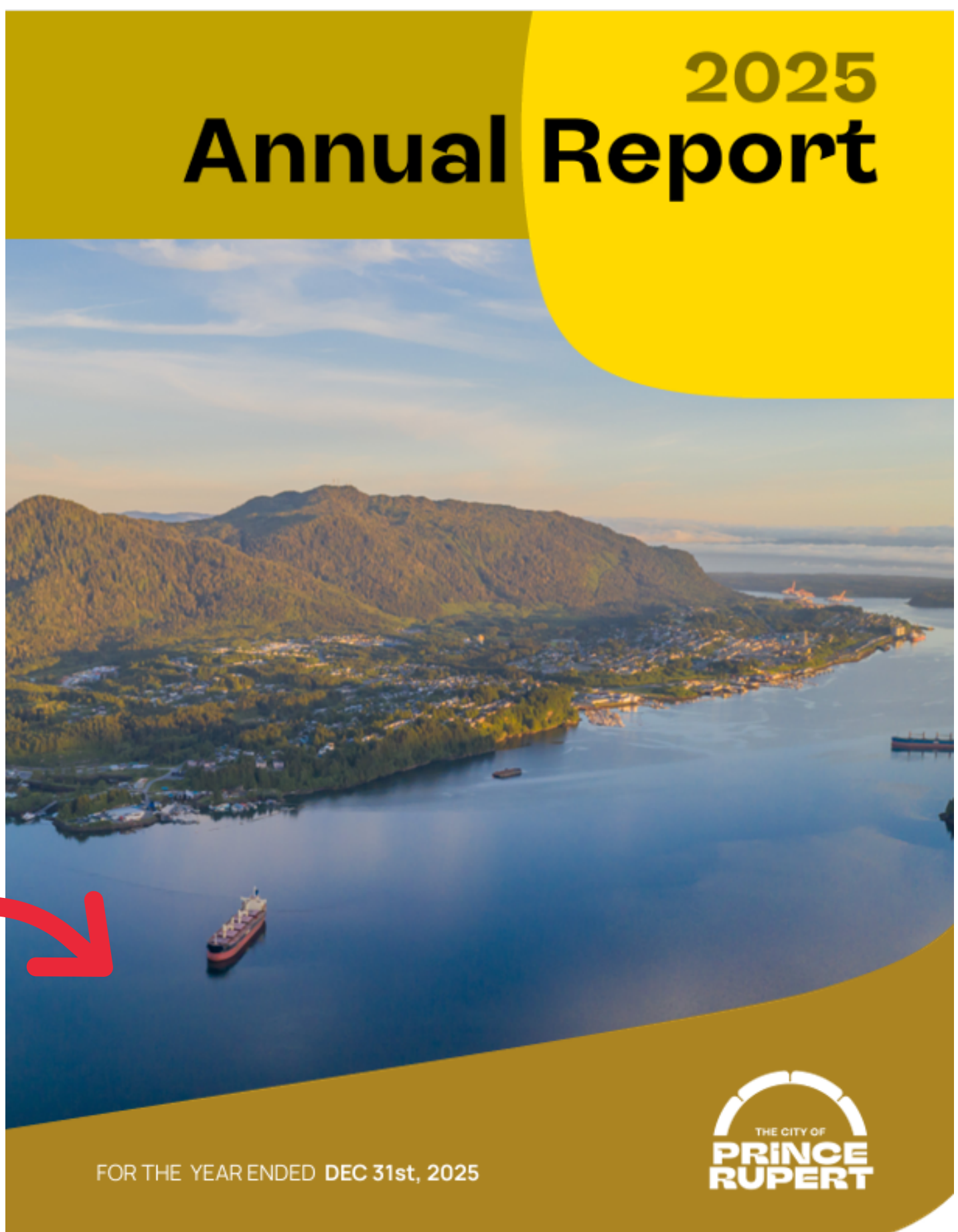
The City has obtained additional equipment for chlorination to enhance the effectiveness of the current water treatment system while work continues toward a secondary form of treatment. Development of the new site is anticipated over 2026/2027.

New Public Works facility

We've moved in! Public Works has moved their operations primarily to the new facility in June of 2026.

But wait there's more!

Interested in learning more about the projects we worked on over 2025 and what's ahead for 2026? Check out our Annual Report, adopted at the end of June. It's available on our website and at City Hall. Plus, watch the video to learn more!



Municipal Election

Important Dates/Reminders

Deadline for Voter Registration with Elections BC (but not to fret, you can still register locally!) - August 25th

Nomination Period - Sept 1st - 11th

Campaign Period - Sept 19th - October 17th

Advanced Voting Opportunities - October 7th and 14th

General Voting Day - Oct 17th, 2026

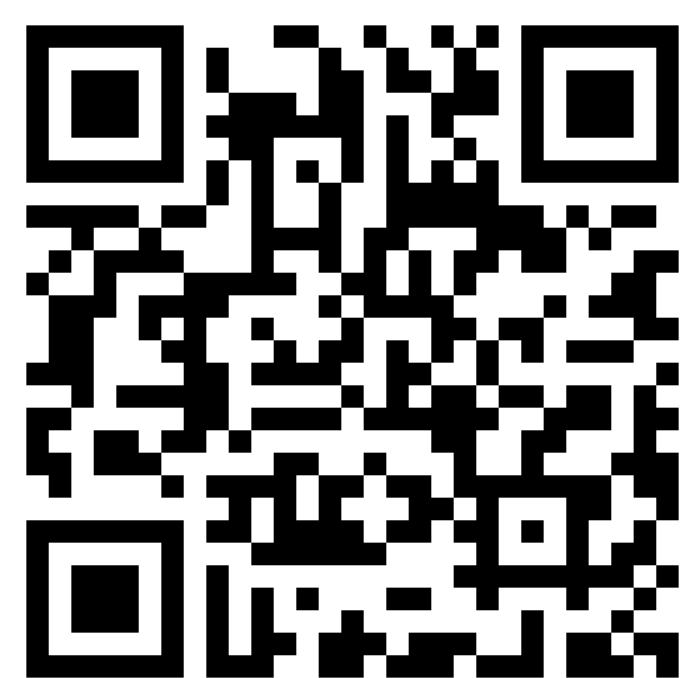
What to bring to the polls

A positive attitude about democracy!

Two pieces of ID. For instance, you can use your BC Drivers License, BC ID, status card, Care Card, etc., and official mail (utility bill, property tax notice, for eg.) with your current address (proof of residency) will also be accepted.

RUPERT VOTES

2026 Municipal Election Information



Scan the QR code or head to princerupert.ca/election for information and resources for voters, candidates and their representatives



The City, alongside the Port Authority met with Provincial Officials to advocate for Prince Rupert this past Spring.

Advocating for a Continued Resource Benefits Agreement (RBA)

Formed in 2014, the RBA is a regional association of 21 local governments, including three regional districts (North Coast, Bulkley-Nechako, Kitimat-Stikine), and its 18 member municipalities, including Prince Rupert. Since 2015, the RBA has worked closely with the BC government to address the unique challenges facing the Northwest. In 2024, the Province signed a 5-year \$250 million agreement to inject funding back into our communities. This has been a huge benefit to Prince Rupert.

RBA projects funded in 2026 for our community include:

- Rehabilitation of 2nd Avenue Bridge
- Relocation of Public Works
- City contributions to sewer works associated with the BIG Project
- The ongoing wetland wastewater treatment system being installed off of Park Avenue
- Elimination of local outfalls as we move towards wastewater treatment
- Resurfacing of Mariners Park Playground
- Activities of the Indigenous Relations Committee
- Additional leachate treatment at our landfill lagoon on Ridley Island
- Replacement of filtration systems at the pool
- And more

As the community can see, this funding is supporting many of our most critical initiatives. It is important that we maintain this funding through further negotiations with the Province and with community support and awareness.



New Good Neighbour Bylaw In Effect

Prince Rupert City Council has adopted the Good Neighbour Bylaw, a new bylaw designed to support community safety, neighbourhood livability, responsible property ownership, and civic pride throughout the city. The bylaw specifically responds both to requests from Council, and to the types of complaints that the City receives most frequently through our bylaw department.

The bylaw modernizes and consolidates regulations related to property maintenance, nuisance conditions, noise, vacant buildings, graffiti, unsightly properties, and recreational vehicle storage.

The Good Neighbour Bylaw establishes clear standards for property upkeep, helping ensure properties are maintained free of excessive rubbish, discarded materials, graffiti, overgrown vegetation, and other conditions that can negatively affect surrounding neighbourhoods. It also provides tools to address nuisance activities in public spaces and regulates noise through established quiet hours, while allowing exemptions for emergencies, municipal operations, approved events, and certain construction activities.

A key feature of the bylaw is its focus on vacant buildings - something that we have heard from the community is a particular concern. Where vacancies aren't occurring due to renovation or during meaningful attempts to sell or rent a property, owners may be required to register vacant buildings with a permit and ensure they are secured, maintained, inspected, and insured to reduce risks such as vandalism, fire, illegal occupancy, and other neighbourhood impacts.

The bylaw also introduces regulations for recreational vehicle storage on private property and restrictions on storing recreational vehicles on City property, boulevards, lanes, and highways. This helps to ensure that limited on-street parking is available for vehicle parking first, rather than for recreational vehicles.

Overall, the Good Neighbour Bylaw provides the City with modern tools to address property maintenance concerns, nuisance issues, and vacant buildings, helping create a safer, cleaner, and more welcoming Prince Rupert for everyone. We look forward to working together to maintain a vibrant and livable community.

Bylaw Reminders

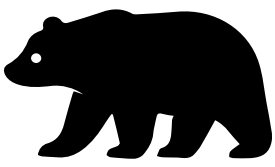


A friendly reminder to pet owners (and pet neighbours)

If you witness suspected animal cruelty or neglect, please report it directly to the BC SPCA. They are the appropriate agency to investigate and respond to animal welfare concerns.

And while we're talking pets — all dogs within the City require a valid dog license. Licensing helps reunite lost pets with their families faster and supports responsible pet ownership in our community.

Your dog may think they run the house, but they still need paperwork.



Tips for staying 'bear aware'

Food attractants are one of the biggest reasons bears enter neighborhoods. Garbage, fish waste, bird seed, pet food, and unclean BBQs can all attract wildlife into residential areas.

Help keep both residents and bears safe by:

- Securing garbage until collection day
- Cleaning BBQs regularly
- Removing outdoor food sources
- Disposing of fish waste properly
- Never feeding wildlife

A fed bear quickly becomes a problem bear. Let's work together to keep wildlife wild.

Have a Bylaw concern to report?

There have never been more ways to get in touch.

- ✓ Call (250) 624 6852 or email bylaw@princerupert.ca
- ✓ File a report on our website at princerupert.ca/bylaw
- ✓ Submit a form through our local government app. (Search "Prince Rupert in your app store).

Meet Phil Nyakas

Our brilliant City landscaping labourer and local adventurer

If you haven't met Phil, you've probably seen him - but he jokes it's maybe only from behind - working hard on one of our beautiful local garden beds. If you have met Phil, you know why we singled him out as one of our staff to highlight. He's one of our many talented Parks crew staff in charge of landscaping for the City, and among the cheeriest of us. Chatting to him, you can tell he has real passion for his work. He gets excited talking about when the plant catalogues show up and he can see what's available for next season. He calls it his 'candy store'. But his favourite thing? The thing we love to see in our fellow City employees, a drive to bring joy to the community we serve.

"I think I love almost every part of my job, but my favourite is the interaction with the community - our friends, our neighbours that are out there. I do take pride in people noticing [the gardens]," Phil says. "That's why you do what you're doing. For your community to enjoy something that you do that they may not have noticed before."

Tending to the gardens is one aspect of the job, and so is mentoring the next generation of plant enthusiasts. His role includes overseeing many of the summer students that do seasonal work in the Parks department. It's another one of his favourite parts.

"I've so lucked out with the students over the years," Phil says. "Probably one of my favourite parts of working with them is when you observe and see those that really enjoy what they're doing and pay attention."

He learns from them, too, when they show talent for laying out the beds. Some of them are naturals at it. And they keep in touch - reaching out for advice about their own gardens.

We're lucky to say that Phil has been with the City since moving home 14 years ago to be closer to family. In his spare time, he loves to be outdoors, and is an avid hiker and trail runner with his two dogs. He was born and raised in Prince Rupert, but had relocated to Tofino, where he also worked in landscaping at a resort. He was often relied on as an unofficial 'concierge' for visitors in the area to share local intel, and he's carried that skill with him here. He loves interacting with visitors that he meets when he's out and about. He sees similarity between the two coastal communities, with Prince Rupert starting to see more people that want to take advantage of all that the wild North Coast has to offer.

"It made it easy to move home," Phil says. And we're glad he did.



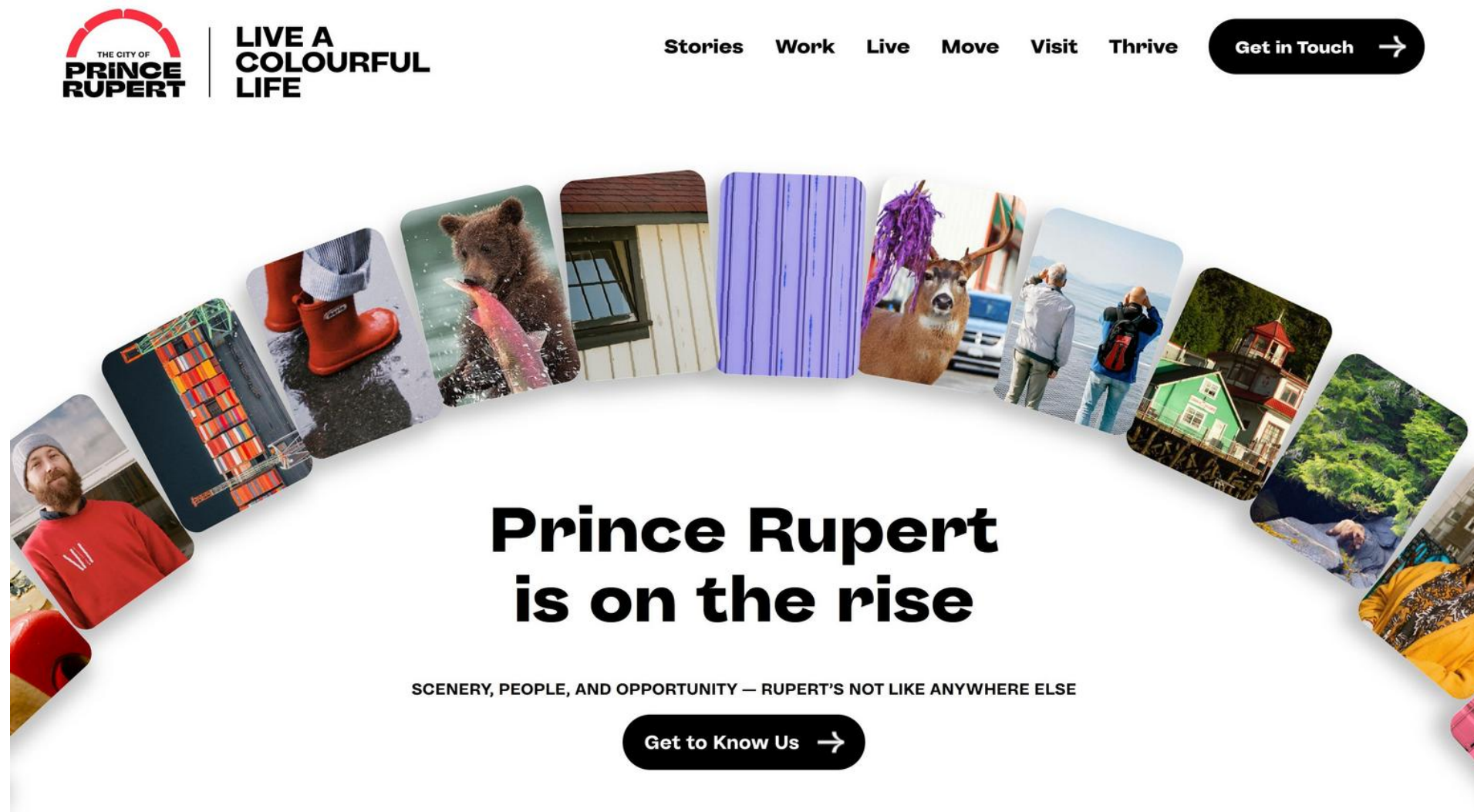
Live a Colourful Life

Attraction and Retention Campaign going live this Fall

Anyone who lives here and works in health care, child care, education, the service sector, and industry (so almost anywhere) knows that attracting staff is a challenge. We know Rupert has a lot to offer, but the competition for skilled labour is tough right now. That's why the City, Community Futures, and the Prince Rupert Port Authority have teamed up to launch a revitalized attraction and retention campaign that speaks to the unique strengths of our rainy, but colourful, community. We will be spotlighting a number of residents with local tales to tell, and we will be looking to add more in the coming months.

The development of the website and associated advertising campaign to come over the next few years is wholly funded by the Rural Economic Diversification Infrastructure Fund, the Prince Rupert Port Authority, and Community Futures, with the City providing in-kind support for management of the project.

Meanwhile, we know too that we need to provide for the people that live here. Part of this campaign is also to attract folks interested in developing new housing that will help support both existing and new residents. Work to attract housing and support those looking to develop has had successes to date - and more is on the way. We know there is more to do, but at last count, since 2022 we have issued building permits for 252 new housing units, 138 of those have received occupancy, and 110 units are currently under construction. This campaign will help to build on that success by highlighting all of the reasons our community is one to watch, and worth investing in.



As we develop our campaign, we'll be looking for local participation - because who better to convince people about the value of Prince Rupert than our very own 'Rupert Boosters'? If that is something that you may be interested in participating in - either though being featured on the website or as a Community Ambassador willing to take a call or email answering questions for potential new residents - reach out to Leandri Kleinhans, City Economic Development Officer at leandri.kleinhans@princerupert.ca or call (250) 627 2840.

